



HEALTH



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KYELA TO BUILD MODERN MARKET **PAGE 7**

Cash transfer levy to be 'friendly'



President Samia Suluhu Hassan consoles former President Ali Hassan Mwinyi following the death of his son Hassan Ali Mwinyi, at the home of the deceased Chukwani in Zanzibar yesterday. Left is Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCE and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba yesterday acknowledged diverse sentiments on financial transaction levies and pledged a 'friendly' implementation model. Leading a cabinet team at a special press briefing in Dodoma yesterday, the minister said the government was open to suggestions from the public on the how the levies can be improved, and will report back on what model is more suited to these demands. Admitting the risk of double taxation, with dues in transacting at the bank and then on the phone, he said there is indeed a problem that needs to be examined. Views aired by the general public would help to improve administration of the levies established to facilitate implementation of systematic social service delivery. He said transaction levies are a burden which every Tanzanian is supposed to carry to ensure that vital social service engagements are implemented. The levies were introduced in 2021/22 financial year with the minister saying more 200bn/- has been collected and used to implement various development projects. The 221bn/- generated from the levies

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Bill protecting personal data now in final stages

By Francis Kajubi

INFORMATION, Communication and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye yesterday said that drafting the personal data protection bill is being finalised. Officiating at the launch of fifth-generation (5G) internet technology by Vodacom (T) Plc in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the minister said the bill seeks to give Tanzanians legal protection of private data, citing cases of private information being shared online without consent. This destroys reputations and affects people psychologically, he said, noting that the envisioned law will set limitations on accessing

and sharing of private information, "plus penalties to offenders who currently walk scot-free." Developments in the internet of things are threatening people's privacy by sharing personal data and the government can't keep silent on the matter, he said. Speaking on 5G technology introduction, the minister said that it is going to be a game changer for efficiency, simplifying how things are done in different economic activities. Tanzania is third in the East African region to adopt the 5G technology after Kenya

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Govt sets out emissions cut by 150m tons 2030

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA intends to cut greenhouse gas emission by 30 to 35 per cent by 2030. Dr Selemani Jafu, the minister responsible for environmental issues, made this observation when officiating at a climate change and development meeting yesterday in Dar es Salaam. The plan involves cutting between 138 and 153 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, which is equivalent to a third of emissions, between 30 and 35 per cent of annual totals, he said. The target was set in accordance with protocols for nationally determined contributions, postulating that \$19.2bn is

needed for implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures for five years, from 2021 to 2026. In that sum, \$275m is directed at forest preservation and land use remedies, he said. In view of this goal, the government has developed various frameworks geared at mobilizing climate finance to address adverse impacts of climate change experienced in the country. These include the National Environment Policy (2021), the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2021-2026), the Zanzibar Climate Change Strategy (2014) and the National Environment Master Plan for Strategic Interventions (2022-2032). Tanzania has received \$136m to implement 40 climate resilience projects between 2016 and 2022, while the government spends \$500m annually on climate change mitigation measures. He expressed satisfaction with efforts in enabling access to climate finance through multilateral and bilateral institutions, he said, noting that the meeting was strategic in providing valuable input in addressing the

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Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba addresses a press conference in Dodoma yesterday about levies on bank and mobile phone cash transfers. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

LHRC urging police oversight, criminal procedure redrafting

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has called for the establishment of an independent police oversight agency to curb excesses of law enforcers. Executive director Anna Henga told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the watchdog would improve the conduct of police officers and enhance justice for suspects. The criminal justice system faces many challenges that in end create an atmosphere of injustice and unfairness in how crime suspects are handled, resulting in the infringement of human

Lack of evidence in cases involving 1,840 accused persons had to be dropped since the sixth phase govt came into office

rights including the use of torture to extract evidence, along with interminable waiting for trial to start, or a court ruling made, she said. "Before taking someone into custody, the police must determine if they can establish a case that person committed an offence," she said, underlining that the police need evidence that reasonably demonstrates the suspect is linked with such offence before arresting him. A study conducted by LHRC showed that 53 percent of those remanded in prisons across the country were inmates and not prisoners as

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LHRC urging police oversight, criminal procedure redrafting

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was expected, she said, affirming that this is an additional reason to set up an oversight agency.

It will hold the police accountable to the public in carrying out their duties, she said, underlining that at times hatred and jealousy by a police officer leads to long periods of remand prison.

The Kenya government formed a special watchdog agency to oversee police operations and it has functioned successfully," the activist intoned, hinting that justice would be accessible to the family or to the victim of human rights violations and excessive delay of justice.

The government also needs to overhaul the Criminal Procedure Act to entrench human rights as provisions of the Act infringe on the rights of suspected offenders, she stated,

remarking that corruption remains a formidable impediment to good governance and social development generally.

"In assuring proper and fair administration of criminal justice in Tanzania, substantive and procedural justice is vital in any society for ensuring a protected, peaceful and free society," the law executive declared.

On Tuesday this week, President Hassan directed Director of Criminal Investigations Ramadhan Kingai to ensure that thorough investigations are conducted for evidence before arresting anyone.

Lack of evidence in cases involving 1,840 accused persons had to be dropped since the sixth phase government came into office, she stated. By arresting them the government incurred costs aimlessly, she added.

Cash transfer levy to be 'friendly'

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went to support higher learning students and 177bn/- went to construct health centres, he stated.

Levies are not taxes on profits but are derived from the need for an inclusive levy for collectively uniting to contribute to national development, he said.

Money transfer levies were retained in the 2022/23 budget as there are unique objectives which the government cannot postpone, he declared, urging the general public to comprehend the vital strategic need

for the levies.

The levies leave the government with enough budgetary resources unique projects and issues which cannot be postponed like the Julius Nyerere hydropower project and the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), thus levies solve social service needs while strategic projects are implemented by regular development funds.

This year the government plans to construct 8,000 classrooms for pupils and students who are supposed to join form one in 2023 so that they learn peacefully, he added.

Bill protecting personal data now in final stages

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and Uganda, altering work formats in tourism, energy, agriculture, health and education by simplifying ordinary modes of operation, he said.

Innovators and startups need to make good use of technological advancements by innovating to solve daily life challenges, he said, asserting that the government is creating a safer space for digital economy inclusion.

The national information and communications technology broadband backbone (NICTBB) was allocated 2.4bn/- to extend internet accessibility in the current financial year, envisaging fibre optic network increase along with power and transmission equipment.

It is expected to improve the quality of internet connectivity and penetration, as the government aims to build 150 telecommunication towers of 3G internet speed, upgrading 350 telecommunication towers to access 3G and 4G from 2G, he said.

Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda said 5G technology adoption will help students to access online studies easily.

Connecting public universities and colleges to the NICTBB is also lined up, where adopting 5G technology will

facilitate fast internet connectivity.

"Teachers will be supplied with census tablets to enable them to shift methods of keeping notes, accessing learning materials and other requirements," the minister noted.

Hilda Bujiku, Vodacom (T) Plc acting managing director said earlier that the adopted 5G allows 3D hologram technology and double hologram technologies.

Hologram is a unique method of photography whereby 3D objects are recorded using a laser, restored to match originally recorded objects. "When illuminated via a laser, holograms are able to form an exact 3D clone of the object and duplicate its features," she explained.

"Through the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) Vodacom has managed to utilize the national broadband by 66 percent and therefore offering 4G and 3G internet services to over 10 million people. The target is to utilize broadband by 90 percent come the year 2024," the top executive noted.

To spread out 5G technology Vodacom will install 205 telecom sites in Mwanza, Arusha, Dodoma, Njombe, Mbeya, Iringa, Kilimanjaro and Tanga and follow up with other regions later, she added.

President Mwinyi showers praise on Zanzibar NGOs

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said the involvement of non-government Organisations (NGOs) in boosting social services was important, considering that the government has no capacity to reach out to all people.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks at Zanzibar state House here yesterday when he met with and held discussions with officials of Milele Zanzibar Foundation and IFRAJ who visited him for introduction.

He said for a very long time now NGOs have been working hard to assist the government, especially in improving the social services sectors.

He showered praise on the NGOs that perform excellently in the country in assisting the government in boosting social services including health, education, water and empowering small traders.

He said Zanzibar faces acute shortage of safe and clean water; hence the step taken by the NGOs to assist in supplying water pumps and well drilling is highly commendable.

Head of Milele Zanzibar Foundation Projects, Khadija Ameir Shariff said the organisation is at the forefront of assisting the community through various sectors.

IFRAJ manager, Abdallah Said Abdallah said the organisation is engaged in the construction of houses for lower income groups, and at the moment they are finalising the building of 500 houses costing over 7.5bn/-.

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi talks with Cuba ambassador to Tanzania Yordenis Despaigne at the State House yesterday. Photo: State House

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challenges of climate financing.

Enhancing effective administration of the carbon credit business needs an increase in strategic ventures to enhance fiscal space and attain emissions reduction ambitions, he said.

The government had reviewed the national carbon trading guidelines and set out new national carbon trading

Govt sets out emissions cut by 150m tons 2030

regulations, which the meeting would examine as part of sharing experience in addressing the various challenges, he explained, expressing gratitude for the UK government for sponsoring the meeting.

UK High Commissioner David Concar said the meeting was a key platform to bring together different

countries to discuss how to deal with the effects of climate change.

At the Glasgow climate change global conference late last year, agreement was reached that countries move to implement those resolutions after the meeting, he said.

Zanzibar First Vice President's Office permanent secretary Dr Omar

Dadi Shajak said 143 localities show severe effects of climate change, with intrusion of salt water from the sea, affecting rice cultivation and harvests.

The conference will help to set sustainable strategies including finding alternative ways to solve agro-sector and other problems arising from climate change effects, he added.



Health minister Umyy Mwalimu briefs journalists in Dodoma yesterday about the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) services and the challenges facing it. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Government outlines measures to rescue NHIF

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

MINISTER for Health, Umyy Mwalimu has outlined three measures which the government will take to rescue the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) which is at risk of collapse including controlling the multiplication of treatment.

Addressing reporters yesterday in Dodoma, Mwalimu assured the beneficiaries of the health scheme that the government was working hard to ensure the insurance scheme operates as it was intended.

She mentioned other measures as improving interventions of Non Communicable Disease (NCDs) to be diagnosed at early stages, increase enrollment of new members as a way of increasing the pool which will bring

new breath into the fund, and control of unfaithful staff tempering with the system.

Mwalimu said for the public servants there were no problems except to those who are from the public sector where in every 100 people, 99 have NCDs.

Official data, produced by the Health ministry in May this year, showed that until December 2021, it was only a total of 9,094 million Tanzanians, representing about 15 percent of the population, that were under a health insurance plan.

Thus, initiatives to save NHIF would positively impact the lives of millions of Tanzanians who have subscribed to the fund. "It is surprising that a patient who is attending Ocean Road Cancer Institute (OCRCI) is transferred to an

unknown clinic in the street. This is what is mostly done daily leading to multiplication of treatment. It is not acceptable," she said.

She said: "Despite the fact that NHIF is facing some challenges threatening to collapse, it will continue to offer quality health services but there are some issues that need to be addressed that led to it to shake."

She said failure to save the fund would have catastrophic outcomes on people who undergo costly treatment procedures such as dialysis and others if they cannot pay from their pockets.

On August 30, this year, the government admitted that the cash-strapped National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) was facing imminent collapse, and urgent measures were needed to pull it from the brink.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, Mwalimu said NHIF was overwhelmed by claims. "Our health insurance fund may collapse as it is overwhelmed by a sharp rise in claims related to non-communicable diseases," she said.

NCDs represent a group of chronic conditions, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes, which account for 41 million deaths - or 71 percent of all deaths - worldwide annually.

Mwalimu said Tanzania needs to embark on a public awareness campaign meant to detect early signs and symptoms of diseases, and how to prevent them.

"This plays a key role in helping to stop the spread of diseases. I know we can eliminate cholera from our respective countries," she said.



Defence and National Service minister Dr Stergomena Tax exchanges greetings with her counterpart Indian Defence minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi India to discuss bilateral defence cooperation recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

New HIV outreach drive checks stigma in villages

By Henry Mwangonde

A NEW approach to reach people living with HIV in rural areas headed by faith-based organisations has largely succeeded in overcoming fear, despair and stigma.

Sister Kate Costigan, a senior coordinating official for the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles conducting the campaign in liaison with the Ministry of Health, said in a recent interview that there is increasing evidence that stigma and fear has been reduced in many areas.

Dubbed 'test and treat', the national campaign which kicked off six years ago employed aggressive HIV testing followed by antiretroviral (ARV) treatment.

Sharing their experiences in an interview recently, healthcare providers in the campaign said they saw first-hand progress in villages, especially in parts of Simiyu and Shinyanga regions.

Faith-based organizations teamed up with local government authorities to accelerate the campaign, with the coordinating officer working in the Lake Zone delivering HIV care.

She told The Guardian that the success of HIV testing and immediate ARV treatment in rural parts of the country is a success story that remains untold to date.

This approach has enabled health care providers to maximize the use of resources in rural areas, with HIV screening and care away being broadened from special units in hospitals to nursing services in community health facilities.

Having religious leaders reaching out to communities on the issue was a game-changer, affirmed Harald Nusser, head of global patient solutions at Gilead Sciences, a California-based biopharmaceutical firm commercializing innovative medicines.

"We know faith-based groups are uniquely positioned to care for their communities and continue providing resources," he said.

Local Catholic ministries have helped test upwards of 340,000 people, treated an estimated 4,000 adults and children, as most expectant mothers admitted in the delivery units tested started ARV treatment last year.

"The test-and-treat program is a great example of the importance of public-private partnerships," the expert noted. The government has been an essential partner in the program, funding medicines and facilitating collaboration with local authorities in the campaign, he elaborated.

Doctors at major hospitals said the test and treat strategy has helped reduce stigma and cut down the

number of patients who used to report to health facilities with complications such as kidney failure as a result of AIDS.

Dr Elisha Osati, a specialist in Internal Medicine at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), said HIV patients coming to hospital these days are healthier because starting ARVs immediately after knowing their status helps to improve the quality of life.

People are no longer living in fear of the disease, and can live life like any other person, he stated, while researchers evaluating the strategy testify that it has helped address the barriers often impeding access to testing and treatment.

A study summed up as 'My Happiness!' creatively showing antiretroviral therapy (ART) as a solution to fears around what life would be like after a positive HIV diagnosis, he said.

The study noted that the barriers included a fear of testing positive, the desire to belong, control what to say and reinvent themselves to achieve their dreams and live a happy life.

The study published back in March focused on development, implementation and scaling up of the happiness campaign to promote the HIV test and treat services especially among men.

The United Nations Agency on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) says in a recent report that among those aged 15 - 49 years old in 2019, HIV prevalence was 4.6 percent, with 58,000 new HIV infections.

PIC unsatisfied by TBA's construction pace of staff houses

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PARLIAMENTARY Investment and Public Capital Committee (PIC) has displayed its reservations on the speed of Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) in the implementation of its responsibilities including construction of quarters for public employees.

Briefing reporters here on Wednesday soon after meeting

with TBA officials, the Committee's Chairman, Jerry Silaa said his panel has observed slow pace by the agency whereby it targeted to construct 1,181 commercial buildings, but so far only 254 have been completed, equivalent to 22 per cent.

He said TBA has the responsibility to provide houses to public employees as they aim to build 10,250 housing units, but only 408 have been built, equivalent to four per cent.

He further said TBA aimed to collect 160bn/- in rent arrears but so far only 60.6bn/- has been collected.

In regard to the standard of houses built by the agency, Silaa said it is still disappointing especially in their outside appearance.

"If you are told that this house was built by TBA for a judge or regional commissioner, it will be hard to believe," he said.

He said the committee directs for

the increase of the pace in regard to the implementation of the agency's responsibilities and it should also consider the appearance of the buildings it constructs to go in tandem with the fast growth of urban areas.

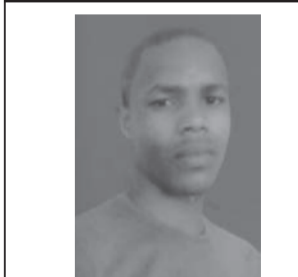
"When the government decided to shift to Dodoma, we expected it to be providing better accommodation to its staff that moved to the capital, had TBA been implementing its responsibilities fittingly, it would

have reduced inconveniences facing government workers at the moment," he added.

He said the appearance of the houses built does not reflect the statuses of government officials to occupy them and that the committee expects that TBA should lead others by constructing attractive buildings.

"All built houses resemble, reflecting lack of creativity on the part of TBA," Silaa added.

ANATAFUTWA



Ndugu SHAMTE MOHAMED anatafutwa na polisi kwa tuhuma za kujihusisha na vitendo vya kinyume na maadili na Wizi wa kuaminwa, Taarifa imeripotiwa polisi No. UBUNG/RB/174/22 Yeyote mwenye taarifa zake anaombwa atoe taarifa polisi kituo cha karibu naye



EXCITING JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN AN AID FOR TRADE ORGANISATION IN AFRICA

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Position	Job Grade	No. of posts	Duty Station
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Results Manager	JG6	1	Any of TMEA offices

Application details

The detailed job profiles for these posts can be accessed on our website www.trademarka.com These positions are available on contract to 30 June 2025 with the possibility of renewal. Please apply online through <http://www.trademarka.com/work-with-us/> by Friday, 16 September 2022. Attach your cover letter and detailed CV as one document, including details of your qualifications, experience, and present position. Your application should also include a working e-mail address, daytime telephone contacts, and names and contact details of three referees. Interviews will be conducted in October 2022.

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THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Executive Officer will be overseeing projects, programmes and day to day activities within the office of the Associate Regional Vice Provost, Tanzania and the Associate Dean, SONAM-Tanzania. This position is based in Dar es Salaam.

Areas of responsibilities:

- Supporting the Associate Regional Vice Provost Office and/or development of AKU's overall Academic Strategy, including assisting with academic governance committees, ad hoc task forces or working groups set up to prepare minutes (when needed) and follow up with implementation of action items.
- Oversee, and manage, the day-to-day administrative functions within the office of the Associate Vice Provost, including staff supervision, and document control, dissemination, and approvals.
- Undertake, oversee, and monitor Projects as may be required from time to time to ensure successful and timely delivery
- Working in consultation with the Associate Regional Vice Provost, facilitate periodic (quarterly and annual) monitoring and evaluation of performance against annual plan goals and deliverables of units that report to the Associate Vice Provost
- Support and oversee the development of annual budget and activity plans for the Associate Dean-SONAM & Associate Regional Vice Provost's office, supporting the delivery of the Academic Strategy and its implementation Plans
- Coordinating the high-level searches for the Associate Dean-SONAM & Associate Vice Provost's Office including searches for Projects/Research Assistants and other staff
- Help drive, oversee, and create databases to collect relevant university wide statistics as required by regulatory bodies

Requirements:

- Master's degree from a reputable institution
- At least 5 years' management experience in higher education and/or non-profit sector: experience working with organizations internationally and /or in Africa
- Ability to review, analyze and present complex ideas concisely and clearly in writing and orally
- Capacity for agile, flexible, and intellectual analysis of complex issues
- Creative problem solving and excellent interpersonal and team working skills
- Ability to demonstrate possession of a single-minded pursuit of excellence in all activities and passionate about education.
- Ability to work effectively with all constituencies and stakeholders of the university.
- A high sense of confidentiality and excellent management and organizational skills
- Multi-lingual, with the highest level of fluency in English and Swahili
- Experience with writing grant proposals, Board papers, and other complex documents.
- Ability to synthesize complex information and present ideas in a succinct manner
- Strong grasp of trends, complex regulatory environment in AKU's regions and international trends in higher education.
- Ability to demonstrate sound judgment in dealing with challenging, sensitive, and complex situations.
- Strong time management skills and ability to work well under tight deadlines, heavy workloads and with a high degree of individual responsibility.
- Willingness to travel to all AKU sites and AKDN locations (Tanzania)

How to Apply

If you meet the requirements of this position, please send your application package which should include an application letter, an updated CV to hr.recruitment@aku.edu not later than 18th September 2022.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. For further information, please visit: <http://www.aku.edu>

Tanzania receives recognition in accounting, auditing profession

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA has been listed as one of the best countries in Africa in the accounting and auditing profession by adhering well to the international standards and thus receiving global recognition.

Managing Director of National Board of Accountancy and Auditing (NBAA), CPA Pius Maneno said this yesterday when speaking about the 50th anniversary of the board.

He said the anniversary's celebration started in August and is expected to reach the climax in November; this year the board will conduct a series of activities.

CPA Maneno said among the achievements of the board is international praise and recognition where some countries use Tanzania as the centre of excellence in the field and send their officials to come to learn in Tanzania concerning accountancy and auditing practices.

"Among the achievements we are proud of is international recognition, we are members of International Federation of Accountancy (IFAC) and the Pan African Federation of Accountancy (PAFA). Tanzania is among the respected countries over the world when it comes to accountancy and auditing issues," said Maneno.

"In Africa there are only two countries; Tanzania and Nigeria which are using international standards in accountancy and when there is an issue in IFAC meeting you may be told go and learn in Tanzania," he said.

Maneno said because of its competence in accountancy and auditing, Tanzania has signed a five years memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Mozambique to train its officials about good conduct in accountancy and auditing.

He said Tanzania experts have been providing the training for Mozambique officials here in the country and sometimes travel to their country for the same.

"We have entered into agreement to train them because they respect what

we are doing in this field and they want to improve, Malawi and Zambia have informed us that they also need the training so as to get experience," CPA Maneno added.

He said in the 50th year's anniversary, NBAA will conduct various activities including a competition whereby the institutions, district councils, companies, department or agencies that will manage to prepare good financial reports will be awarded.

The director also expects to conduct an annual general meeting involving its members who are accountants and auditors to discuss various issues concerning their profession.

"We are going to discuss various issues of public interest, our code of conduct and how to develop our profession and come up with resolutions to move forward," said Maneno.

He said in its 50 years, NBAA has done a commendable job in registering accountants and auditors and their statistics show that now there are 26,000 accountants who have passed the board's examinations and among them, 12,000 are Certified Public Accountants (CPA) holders.

"We have also managed to register 450 firms that deal with auditing and accountancy and we have also produced financial audit standards, code of conduct for accountants and auditors. This is a big achievement for us within 50 years since NBAA was established," he said.

He said the board managed to organize various local and international meetings adding that only last year they conducted 17 meetings to its members which also involved Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

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Shabiby bus ticket officer Lukas Jeremiya, issues online tickets to passengers at Magufuli bus station in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Govt dishes out 4.72bn/- for expansion of Tumbi hospital

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

THE government has dispensed 4.72bn/- to facilitate expansion and rehabilitation of the Tumbi Referral Hospital in Coast Region.

This was said by the regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge during the launch of the Desire Charitable Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre (DCHRC) at Misugusu area.

He said the funds have been spent in rehabilitating various infrastructures at the hospital as well as expansion of the emergency unit, procurement of a CT-SCAN as well as installation of oxygen production plants.

He said that the government has

invested heavily in improving health infrastructures for smooth service provision whereby apart from funding the expansion of the Tumbi Hospital, it has also dished out funds for the construction of health centres in various areas in the region.

Kunenge commended the investors of the newly launched hospital for putting efforts to support the government's plans of improving provision of health services in the country.

He called well-off people to extend their support to the people who lost their body parts and thus needed help to get alternative ones such as legs and hands.

He commended the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan for putting conducive investment and business environment something which attracts a number of investors in the health sector.

"We will not attain our development goals if we do not invest in services that touch people in the grassroots, sectors of health, education, water and energy are important and need heavy investments for the country's development," he said.

He said other opportunities which health servants for their hard work in serving Tanzanians reminding them to continue adhering to professional ethics.

"A number of people have been abandoning their relatives in hospitals, but our health attendants have been doing a good thing by supporting these people as their blood relatives until their condition improves," he noted.

DCHRC chief executive Stela Kitali said the hospital was built entirely by Swiss Limbs and it offers modern and innovative rehabilitation services.

"It includes two operating rooms, a medical laboratory, an orthopedic workshop, physical therapy, a training centre and 26 beds among many others," she said.

She said the core zeal is to support the government's efforts towards enabling provision of quality health services to people in the country.

During the opening, free medical services were offered to the local population including diabetes and HIV tests, blood pressure measurements, blood tests and counseling.



Call for Proposal to Design Biometric Signature System

Introduction

World Wide Funds for nature (WWF) Tanzania country office is an international non-governmental organization which is working to ensure that humans live in harmony with nature. In Tanzania WWF performs various projects and programs in the priority landscapes i.e., SOKNOT, Water Tower, Ruvuma, and RUMAKI Seascape. In programs and projects execution WWF is working with various stakeholders i.e., governments at different tiers which includes local, regional and central, communities, private sectors, media and civil society organizations. WWF Tanzania, aims at procuring a Biometric system that will automate the process of Registration of participants who will be attending our field activities, it is envisioned that the system should be able Capture various details and generate reports thereof. Specific objectives of the project are not limited to only developing a new system that can meet the needs but also look at systems which are currently existing and can be adapted to suit the WWF environment. The project looks at developing a system that will be highly customized to fit into the WWF Tanzania environment, which will be installed in the WWF Tanzania server and will be fully owned and controlled by WWF Tanzania.

Objective of the Assignment

The main objective of the assignment is to improve our processes during stakeholders' meetings and workshops. The assignment will focus on automating and speeding up time taken in recording participants' attendance which will also include automations around recording, storing and summarizing meeting and/or workshop costs.

Expected Deliverables

The consultant(s) selected to undertake this project will be expected to deliver the following; i. Get in-depth understanding of WWF Tanzania processes ii. Demonstration of the proposed system prior to engagement iii. Development and customization of the system iv. Web based system with at-least two additional client-side options to connect the biometric gadgets: 1) Smartphone app (Android, iOS) 2) Windows v. Installation of the system in WWF Server and Biometric Gadgets vi. Training to users vii. Users' acceptance test (UAT) viii. System signoff certificate ix. User manual x. After sales services/support

Qualification and Skills

A registered Information Technology Companies and/or individuals with minimum, Bachelor's Degree in computer and database programming related fields a) At least 5 years of Internet of Things (IoT) systems, software and/or application development preferably in international organizations b) Proven track records in database designing c) Tangible reference and portfolio of previous similar assignments is a must.

Application procedure & Submission of Applications

WWF TCO invites applications from competent, qualified and experienced consultant(s) through the following address:

Secretary, Procurement Committee
WWF Tanzania
Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikocheni
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077

All applicants should direct their electronic copy to the procurement: e-mail at procurement@wwftz.org. Interested applicants may get the detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) through the following websites: https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/

All applications should reach us by or before 1700hrs Tanzania local time on Friday, 16th September 2022.

WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such incident, report by sending an email to fccl@wwftz.org

Country's envoy to Brazil lists opportunities for Tanzanians

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's ambassador to Brazil, Prof Adelarou Kilangi has named various opportunities found in the country and calling upon Tanzanians to utilise them for their own and the nation's development.

Briefing reporters virtually from the South American country, Prof Kilangi said there are plenty of opportunities in various sectors for Tanzanians to grab and that the embassy has already held talks with relevant stakeholders aimed at boost economic diplomacy.

He cited some of the sectors as farming, livestock and fishing, energy and gas, tourism, industry and trade, sports and Kiswahili language.

Ambassador Kilangi said big opportunities where Tanzanians can put efforts include soya beans, millet and yellow maize.

"Also our Tanzanian farmers will

get the opportunity of learning application of new technology and modern expertise in the cultivation of soya, millet and yellow maize," he said.

He added that another area in the farming sector is equipment and that Brazil is among countries producing larger and better quantities of farming equipment compared to those produced in many other countries.

"The embassy visited this year's exhibition of farming equipment and talked with several firms manufacturing farm equipment including those for clearing of farming areas, uprooting tree stumps, tilling the land, planting, weeding, irrigation and harvesting, hence Tanzanians will get an opportunity to benefit from this," he said.

Kilangi said another area which Tanzanians can benefit from Brazil is irrigation technology, which he said the country has made great strides

and that already he has communicated with some firms that will come to Tanzania to implement some projects using modern technology.

He further said already the companies have made initial contact with the National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) through the embassy and have shown interest to provide them the Malagarasi area in Kigoma Region, Mweamakundi in Katavi Region, Kasimbe, Kamsamba and Kombe in Songwe Region.

He said other opportunities which investors from Brazil can utilize include cattle keeping and veterinary drugs thereof, meat processing and dairy products and that they were holding talks with various firms to invest in the country.

In regard to tourism, he said the Embassy has communicated with three firms and that what are needed are direct flights from Brazil to Tanzania to ferry in tourists.

He said in the health sector, they have initiated cooperation with human medicines manufacturers and that they have already established the desk for such cooperation.



Tanga Regional Commissioner Omari Mgumba talks with World Vision director general Filbert Komanga (C) during the launch of the school food project funded by World Vision and Save the Children. About 28, 110 children have benefited in the primary schools in Mkinga and Handeni districts. Left is Save the Children director general Bester Malauzi. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalia

Wanna peer into the future?

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'Govt committed to improve post abortion care services'

By Friday Simbaya, Iringa

The government has expressed commitment to improve services aimed at allowing girls access to lifesaving post abortion care (PAC) as a means of reducing maternal mortality.

The In-charge for Iringa Referral Hospital Alfred Mwakalebela said in an interview with this paper that unsafe abortion has been the main cause of deaths among girls and women due to lack of proper after care.

According to Mwakalebela in addition to immediate complications such as organ failure and sepsis, which sometimes result in death, unsafe abortion often has several later health consequences, including secondary infertility and chronic reproductive tract infections.

She advised women and girls in Iringa region to go to health facilities immediately anytime they have miscarriage or induced abortion, so that they can be given medical attention.

He said in order to reduce complications from unsafe abortions such as maternal deaths and injuries it is necessary to expand access to post-abortion care services at facility level.

Dr Mwakalebela explained that the hospital provides a post abortion care service through the social welfare unit and there are a total of four specialist doctors providing that service.

"When the cervix is open after abortion, it is prone to infection and when a person does not clean the cervix medically, there is a possibility of losing the uterus or life," he stated.

He added that when they provide the post abortion care after a miscarriage or unsafe abortion, they provide contraceptive education to reduce unwanted pregnancies.

"A mother can choose which method of contraceptive will suit her and which day she needs to get pregnant," he said.

Dr Mwakalebela added that PAC should be provided alongside contraceptive services and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and that will reduce unintended pregnancies and maternal deaths.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights are crucial entitlements relating to women and girls' sexual and reproductive health.

These rights address the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, gender-based violence, maternal mortality and provision of essential health services.

In Tanzania abortion is prohibited but the only way to prevent abortion is to emphasize on sexual reproductive health education (SRH) in schools and colleges as well as other places.

Sexual reproductive health education if given carefully will reduce unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and maternal deaths.



Godson Rugazama the chairman of business community at Majengo main market in Dodoma city talks at the meeting to provide income and expenditure information from April to August 2022 held yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Tarime man faces life imprisonment after sodomising 11-year-old child

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

ROBHI Mwita Gikuri, resident of Kimusi Village, Ingwe Division, Tarime District in Mara Region has been sentenced for life after being found guilty of sodomising an 11-year-old child.

Meanwhile, two other accused persons - Charwi Getarengi and Jacob Paulo were sentenced 30 years each for armed robbery and causing bodily harm.

The judgement was given on Tuesday this week by Tarime District Magistrate, Yohana Myombo.

Earlier, in criminal case 84/22 facing Robhi Mwita Gikuri, it was alleged in court by public

prosecutor, Police Inspector Muhuna Kombo that the accused committed the crime on April 11 2022 at Kimusi Village.

In the case, the prosecution side brought in four witnesses including the child himself, the doctor who examined him, PF 3 Form and parents of the child while on the defence side, the accused defended himself, while pleading for forgiveness from the court.

However, Inspector Muhuna begged the court to mete out a harsh punishment to the accused saying these acts were unacceptable in the community.

The magistrate concurred with the evidence tendered without any

reasonable doubt and found the accused guilty as charged.

He consequently sentenced him to life imprisonment to act as a deterrent to others.

In the other criminal case no 301/2021 before the same court and same Magistrate, two accused -Charwi Chacha Getarengi (49) and Jacob Simion Paulo (28) both residents of Gwitiryio Village in Gwitiryio Ward were sentenced to 30 years in jail after being found guilty of armed robbery and causing bodily harm.

Earlier, Prosecutor Muhuna Kombo alleged in court that the duo, on the night of January 30 this year at Gwitiryio village while in possession

of machetes and clubs attacked one Charles John Marwa and inflicted injuries to various parts of his body after which they made away with 83,000/-, but were later apprehended by the people on the same night of the incident.

In the case, the prosecution side brought in four witnesses, including the victim, Charles Marwa, the doctor who examined him, PF 3 Form and police detectives.

Reading judgement, District Magistrate Myombo said from the evidence tendered, he sided with the prosecution and found the accused guilty as charged, hence sentenced them to 30 years in jail each to act as deterrent to others.

Uhuru Torch Race to inspect 29 development projects in Iringa

By Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE Uhuru Torch race 2022 is expected to inspect the implantation of 29 development projects worth over 9.2bn/- in Iringa Region, a senior official said yesterday.

Regional Commissioner Halima Dendego said the projects are in the education, health, water, natural resources and infrastructure sectors.

She asked residents to come out in large numbers to welcome the Uhuru Torch where it will be received in Mapanda Village in Mufindi district today.

"In the projects, citizens have contributed more than 27m/-, central government more than 6.3bn/-, district councils 700.9m/-, stakeholders 476m/- and other partners more than 1bn/-," she said.

This year's message is 'Census is the foundation and plan of development; participate in being counted so that we can achieve the development of the nation.'

The goal of the message is to ensure

that the government gets accurate statistics on people and resources to enable the government to implement development plans based on needs.

"Once received, the torch will commence its journey in Mufindi DC on September 2, and then Iringa municipal council on September 3, Kilolo district will receive it on September 4, Iringa DC will receive it on September 5 and on September 6, it will be in Mafinga town council before being handed over to Mbeya Region," she explained.

The Uhuru Torch (literally "Torch of Freedom") is one of the National Symbols of Tanzania. It is a kerosene torch. It symbolizes freedom and light. It was first lit on top of Mount Kilimanjaro on December 9, 1961.

Symbolically to shine the country and across the borders to bring hope where there is despair, love where there is enmity and respect where there is hatred. The Uhuru Torch race takes place every year starting from different places throughout the country.

Kahama residents given 30 days to remove permanent structures inside road reserves

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

TANZANIA Roads Agency (TANROADS) in Shinyanga Region has issued 30 days to people who have built permanent settlements and business huts within the road reserve to remove them.

Shinyanga Region TANROADS manager, Mibala Ndilimbi issued the ultimatum here on Tuesday when giving education to transporters on road weight control for vehicles and to residents regarding illegal invasion of road reserves.

"This involves those who have constructed permanent structures and businesses inside 30-metres of either side of the road and no one will be compensated. Those who will fail to respond to this, stern legal measures will be taken against them," he said.

Ndilimbi claimed that road destruction also stems from construction of structures within the road reserve along which huge trucks park and destroy the pavement thereby incurring great loss to the government in refurbishing.

"We give 30 days to remove these illegal structures and thereafter if we find a truck parked on the roadside, we shall impose a 200,000/- fine thereon," he stressed.

He also called on drivers of huge

trucks ferrying goods to neighbouring countries of Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Congo to make sure they carry the goods according to the capability of existing roads, as many of them have been overloading their trucks thereby causing destruction to the roads.

Kahama Municipal Road Traffic Commander Flora Nangwe said many accidents occur during the night causing death to innocent people, often through overspending.

She also called on truck owners and drivers to adopt the habit of inspecting their vehicles from time to time, especially in regard to their brake systems, if necessary, she added, they should send their vehicles to police stations for thorough check before proceeding on their journeys.

A senior PCCB official, Masilamba Frank said in order to protect the roads due to vehicles being overweight, it would be better for drivers to stop giving bribes whenever they are found to have overloaded their vehicles, instead they should accept the fine imposed as a lesson to them.

Speaking on behalf of fellow drivers, Juma Shija said the fines being imposed to drivers found to have overloaded their trucks cannot control road destruction and instead the drivers should be placed under custody for three days to act as a lesson.



Manyara Regional Commissioner Charles Makongoro Nyerere (L) explains about the progress reached in the construction of the Tanzanite mineral market building, in the small town of Mirerani, Simanjiro District to the Minister of Mines, Dotto Biteko (C), after his inspection. The government offered 1.5 billion/- for the construction of the market. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Kyela to build modern market

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

KYELA District Council in Mbeya Region has set aside 65m/- for the construction of a modern market at Orofea area in Kyela town.

Council's chairman Katule Kingamkono said this on Wednesday this week that the funds have been

drawn from the council's internal revenues in the current financial year.

He said the new market will serve residents of Kyela town majority of whom cannot access their basic needs at the current market.

He said out of the total amount, 15m/- will be used for building toilet facilities and another 15m/- for the

improvement of other services.

"Already we have the funds and what remains is to start construction work of the big modern market that will serve the people in Kyela, and we believe the market will have all basic infrastructures including roads, toilets and other services," Katule said.

District executive director, Ezekiel

Magehema said the construction of the market will be completed within the scheduled timeframe for the residents to start benefiting from it.

He said he will make sure the market is built to required standards so as to align with the allocated funds.

He said as for now, various development projects were in progress including the maternity wing at Kyela District Hospital as well as four health centres whose construction has been completed and have started operating.

WHO, Qatar join hands to create legacy for sport, health globally

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

WITH Qatar soon to take the centre stage of world sports, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and World Health Organisation (WHO) are driving forward efforts to help make this global celebration of football a beacon for health and safety, and a launch pad for sharing lessons with future mega sporting events.

The partnership, which began last October, is supported by FIFA and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy and is part of a drive to promote health globally through football.

Her Excellency, Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, Minister of Public Health, explained that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ is a unique platform to promote health across the world and to communicate that sport and health go together. "Sport and health are intertwined, and together they play out in a celebration of joy, well-being, and solidarity for billions of people

around the world."

"The partnership on Sport for Health has two main focus areas. First, the partnership is working to help make the 2022 tournament - the first of its kind held in the Middle East - healthy and safe. Second, the partnership will capture all that was learned to share with our partners and organisers of other mega athletic events to channel the power of sport to help improve global public health and security," added H.E Dr Al Kuwari.

She explained that by using the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to promote healthy lifestyles, people around the world can be inspired to play football and other sports. The partners are committed to delivering campaigns to raise awareness of the benefits of physical activity on health, as well as promoting the importance of following a healthy lifestyle through the adoption of healthy food choices during major sporting events.

In the same vein, she explained

that at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, smoke-free stadiums and bans on tobacco marketing are among key protections offered to protect people from this deadly product. Benefits of these measures will help promote and protect the health of sports followers at future mega sporting events.

"Whether you are engaging in high-intensity workouts or even just simple regular activity, every effort counts towards a healthy body and a happy mind. To further promote healthy lives, we are underscoring the importance of nutrition by demonstrating the benefits of offering healthy food choices at mega sporting events," said Dr Al Kuwari.

"As we all know, teamwork is essential for success in sports. The same is true for protecting and promoting health. We are committed to continue striving together, for this year's FIFA World Cup in Qatar, and beyond to leverage the global power of sport to help people lead the healthiest lives possible,"

concluded Dr Al Kuwari.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director general said that by focusing on physical activity, healthy diets and nutrition, tobacco control, mental health, and health security, the partnership strives to provide guidance on how to help improve the physical and mental health of all people globally through sports.

"The goals we've set our sights on are ambitious, so the foundation for our partnership must be solid and based upon three key pillars. These include health promotion through strategic collaboration with governments and sports stakeholders alike, reaching billions of people through football and other sports in order to promote healthy lives. Health security is also important and prioritizes putting safety and security at the centre of all mega sporting events for the benefit of fans, players and staff. Finally, public health communications are critical, which means we must distil

and amplify important information to the public in order to help them make healthy lifestyle choices," added Dr Ghebreyesus.

Under health promotion, the partnership is leveraging this year's FIFA World Cup to promote the health benefits of simple physical activity for all through sport by developing new tools to reach people of all ages, particularly youth. The partners have been busy developing guidance and science through technical engagements in order to communicate the importance of physical activity.

One of the key findings is that good mental health can often be linked to regular physical activity, which includes sports or, again, simply walking and participating in physical activities with others. This can also help to promote a sense of inclusion and community.

"Lastly, keeping sporting events safe through a commitment to health

security is a fundamental pillar of the Healthy World Cup project. From ensuring implementation of mass gathering protocols outside and inside stadiums, to adhering to control measures to protect people from infectious disease outbreaks at mega sporting events, we are committed to working with partners to ensure all necessary steps are taken to make mega sporting events, such as the FIFA World Cup, safe and secure," stated Dr Ghebreyesus.

Since the partnership kicked off, MoPH and WHO have worked in close collaboration to promote physical health and well-being around several key milestones. These include promoting health and nutritional awareness during the Holy Month of Ramadan, engaging in the third edition of the "Walk the Talk: Health for All Challenge" in Geneva, and raising awareness of the harms caused by smoking on World No Tobacco Day.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE PROVISION OF AIR TRAVEL AGENCY SERVICES TO SANDVIK MINING & CONSTRUCTION TANZANIA LTD

Sandvik Mining and Construction Tanzania Limited (THE COMPANY) is located in Mwanza, on the edge of Lake Victoria.

The purpose of this EOI is to explore the market for service providers that possess the requisite skills, knowledge and capacity to provide the required booking of flights and issuing of airline tickets for Sandvik travellers, WITH supporting invoices from Airlines.

Mandatory Pre-Qualification Criteria

1. At least two active air travel agency services contracts from a reputable organization.
2. Minimum of 5 years' experience of providing air travel service to local communities, or foreign companies, including embassies in Tanzania.
3. Compliant with Local Content Regulations.
4. Compliant with all National labour Laws and Regulations
5. Compliant with all required Permits, Certifications and Licenses
6. Insurance Cover
7. Provide financial statements for the previous/past two financial year.
8. Provide affiliated membership and duly registered proof with the relevant air travel agency service authorities. i.e International Air Transport Association (IATA) etc

Scope of Work

The air travel Agent will be required to: -

1. Design a tool and/or platform for on-line booking service covering ticketing and conference booking
2. Be on standby 24/7 to resolve travel issues, complaints, and refund as and when they arise from the client
3. Provide 24/7 services to the client
4. Be in position to provide alternative arrangements if changes arise before or during the trip to the client.

Expression of Interest

If your organization meets the above pre-qualification criteria, and you would like to be invited to tender, please submit your Expression of Interest, Company Profile, Company registration, Staffing policies, CV's for all key personnel and evidence of the above listed pre-qualifications tenders.tanzania@sandvik.com or Submit your Expression of Interest in a sealed envelope to the Tender Box at the reception of Sandvik Mining & Construction Tanzania LTD located at Plot no. 3, Bohari Street, Mkuyuni industrial Area, Nyamagana Mwanza.

The Reference "SMCT/AT01/2022" must be quoted in the subject of the email/ Envelope

Last Date for submission: 23rd September, 2022.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES TO SANDVIK MINING & CONSTRUCTION TANZANIA LTD

Sandvik Mining and Construction Tanzania Limited (THE COMPANY) is located in Mwanza, on the edge of Lake Victoria.

The purpose of this EOI is to explore the market for service providers that possess the requisite skills, knowledge and capacity to provide the required security services to the Company.

Mandatory Pre-Qualification Criteria

1. At least two active security services contracts from a reputable organization.
2. Minimum of 5 years' experience of providing armed and unarmed security services, with experience with diplomatic communities, or foreign companies, including embassies in Tanzania.
3. Compliant with Local Content Regulations.
4. Evidence of valid and current license to provide security services in Tanzania
5. Evidence of valid and current licence to provide armed security services and carry and use firearms and ammunition in Tanzania.
6. Compliant with all National labour Laws and Regulations
7. Compliant with all required Permits, Certifications and Licenses
8. Insurance Cover
9. Ability to provide all equipment, materials, weapons and personnel for execution of the service.
10. Provide financial statements for the previous/past two financial year.

Scope of Work

The security agency shall have to provide security services at all Sandvik offices, that is Mwanza offices, Geita offices and Staff's residences which situated at capri-point, and Isamilo. The agency shall ensure protection of the personnel & property of the Company, prevent trespass with/without arms, perform watch and ward functions including night patrol on the various points and anti-social elements, unauthorized persons and vehicle inside the premises. In case of any incident such as theft, robbery, fight, fire, accident at premises or any untoward incident detrimental to safety & security of assets of the Company, it is the responsibility of Security agency to coordinate with Security Officer or any officer designated by the company in lodging legal proceeding etc.

The Security Agent will be required to: -

1. Overall security arrangements of all assets of the company including offices and Staff's residence.
2. Ensure that all instructions passed by the company from time to time are strictly followed and there is no lapse of any kind.
3. Ensure no items are allowed to be taken out without proper Gate Passes issued by the competent officers as laid down in the contract for in-out movement of stores/premises. The specimen signatures and telephone numbers of the above stated officers will be made available to the Security personnel.
4. Take care of all the lights, water taps, valves, water hydrants etc. installed over the premises.
6. In emergency situations, security staff/supervisor/Senior Security Supervisors deployed shall also participate as per their role defined in the disaster plan, if any, Security personnel should be sensitized for their role in such situations.
7. Ensure the Security Guard on duty shall not leave the premises until his reliever reports for duty
8. Perform any other duties/responsibilities assigned by the Company.

Expression of Interest

If your organization meets the above pre-qualification criteria, and you would like to be invited to tender, please submit your Expression of Interest, Company Profile, Company registration, Certificate firearms license, Staffing policies, CV's for all key personnel and evidence of the above listed pre-qualifications tenders.tanzania@sandvik.com or Submit your Expression of Interest in a sealed envelope to the Tender Box at the reception of Sandvik Mining & Construction Tanzania LTD located at Plot no. 3, Bohari Street, Mkuyuni industrial Area, Nyamagana Mwanza.

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Becoming Africa's bread basket demands easy credit, titled lands

WITH the rising grain supply crisis around the world, and not least in some neighbouring regions in Africa, policy makers are starting to talk about concerted public and private sector actions to take Tanzania to the centre of Africa and global food trade. That projection is a bit on the high side but Tanzania has for a number of years been a net grain exporter within the East African Community (EAC) zone as well as in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) neighbourhood.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the minister responsible for Investments, emphasized this point at the Tanzania agribusiness investment summit 2022 which brings together various agro-sector interests to see if there is consensus for a general thrust of policy. This year organisers were canvassing for 'bold actions for resilient food systems' in the country, a theme amply sheltered by a budgetary revolution in terms of allocations to the agricultural sector as a whole. Still the vision is demanding, even audacious.

The local summit was convened to prepare for the bigger Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2022 scheduled for Kigali next week, with the minister seeking updated ideas for the framework for a national plan ahead of the AGRF summit, citing the fact that President Samia Suluhu Hassan will be a keynote speaker there. At an earlier EAC summit, the president stressed the need to shift to irrigation-based farming; drought arising from climate change makes tradition unworkable.

Laying emphasis on realizing the vision to be a global food supplier and a market leader in agro-industrialization, that it can be achieved by synergies between the public and private sectors

could easily understate the task ahead. Nor is it made easier when it lays stress on working together to benefit smallholder farmers, as in actual fact the sector needs policy shifts where the farmers adapt, not just benefiting from such moves. The issue is to enhance farm sector productivity and credit flows; smallholders don't have ready answers.

There is a chasm between smallholders merely as farmers on small patches of land, and smallholders in the sense of communal farmers on clan land, inherited across generations. The small farm of a woman purchasing land can be lent money, but the small farm of a man inheriting land and bequeathing it to his children is harder to lend money. Such plots can be sold within the clan, not outsiders by the banks.

Bringing most of the country's farmland to irrigation can't just be done by having the government build wells and ponds all over for non-creditworthy farmers to obtain water for crops. That way it will take a decade to bring 90 per cent of farmland to irrigation, whereas if customary title deeds are removed, and all land is titled and no longer subject to tribal customary law, banks could provide loans for collective dam building and individual portion of cash to pay, or definitely even to individuals for own wells. Being able to assume collateral without fallout is vital.

Title deeds are an exam that policy makers need to comprehend, close to 20 years since Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto lectured on the matter at the invitation of third phase president, the late Benjamin Mkapa. Title deeds enable loans and exchanging land if one doesn't pay. Tradition disallows this.

With acute droughts, formalise cattle rearing to cut migration

REPORTS from Arusha indicate that nomadic pastoralist communities in the northern zone appear to have revised their movement patterns and dates in view of rainfall failure at the start of the long rains and consequent drought. As many other areas across the country had substantial amounts of rainfall it is likely that they may have found open grazing areas without touching off conflicts. But evidently the risks are high as migratory grazing needs wide open areas without drought risk.

Not many agro-sector officials in nearby regions will relish at the news that cattle keepers in Longido and Monduli districts started moving from their locations as early as May despite that they usually set out in September, and then after the short rains come back.

There is grass until the long rains in the March-June period, so by September it is dry again and they have to move. Just how they come back this year and then prepare for unknown periods of rain and move again is frankly dark.

The rain this year in a wide patch of that area was a whimper to what it was last year, but as some areas of Kilimanjaro Region have rains at present, it is possible some reverse migration is already underway, depending on distance travelled and where precisely good amounts of rain may have fallen.

Given the difficulties that migratory pastoralists have with settled farming communities when they graze in open fields near farms, and often don't overwork themselves to stop cattle chew up greener planted material. Conflicts arise which impair the capacity for agro-sector investments

by smallholders, spending money on inputs for cattle to eat the plants.

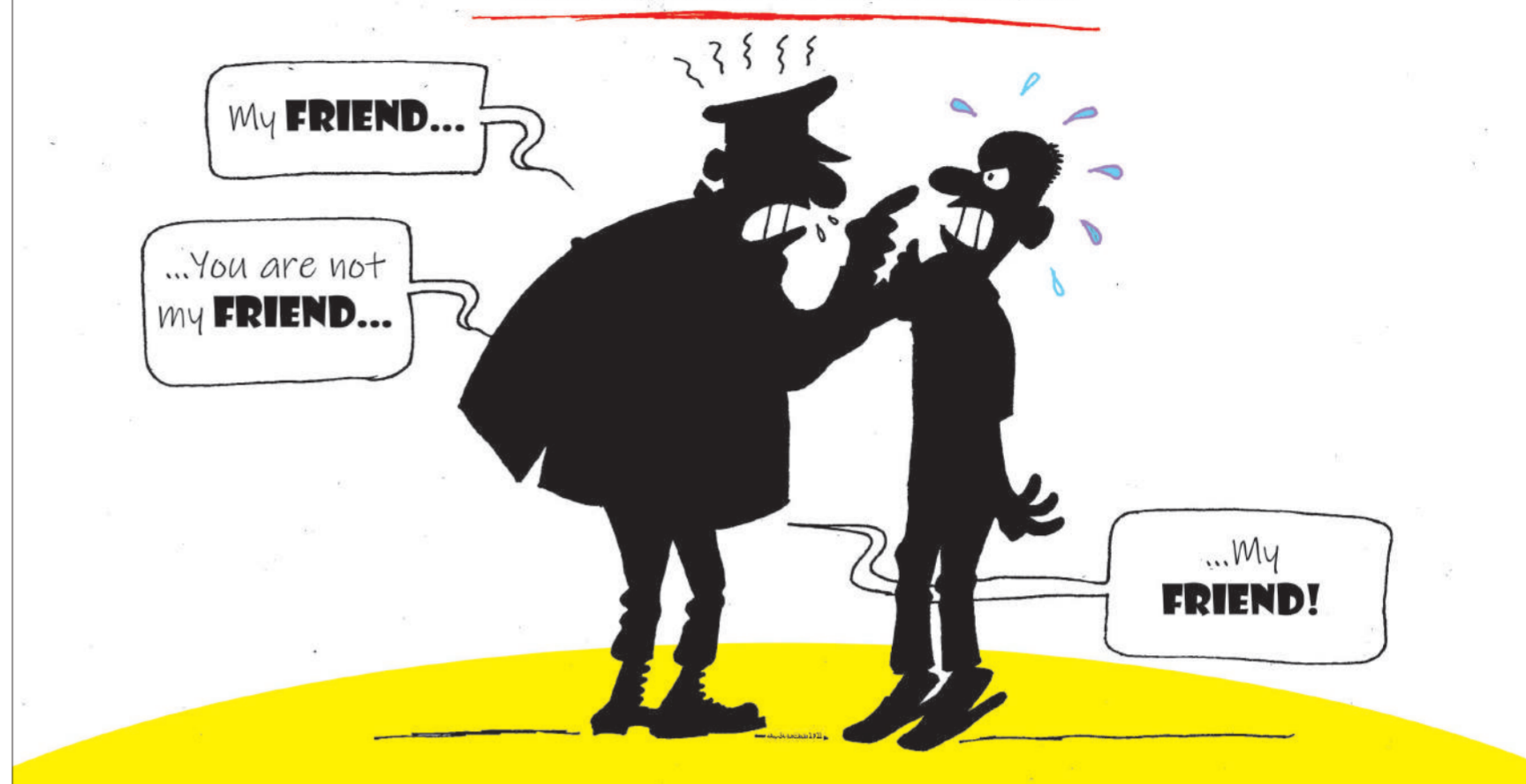
For many years policy makers see this as a regulatory issue or one for district administrators to solve, like fining cattle herders whose animals stray into farms, while authorities are far more severe when cattle graze on national parks' grass. Still, overall agro-sector stability and a usable framework for farm expansion and investing in irrigation needs the cattle migration file be closed once and for all. The work done to build houses for pastoralists in Handeni is just the model to follow.

Policy makers will have to spend more time in the next few months on the issue, if only to reconcile agro-sector improvement programmes like subsidized inputs, with bottlenecks like unpredictable movement of livestock and losses from farm invasions.

Yet without substantial political will nothing will be done, and this isn't to suggest top down directives for pastoralists to settle down on their own. The government takes up a policy position, and via the ruling party, bring community leaders to accept that position. Recent experience in Loliondo shows it isn't easy.

What was unquestionably popular among activists and a range of community leaders in the area was that traditional living patterns not be disturbed. If it was a massive problem understanding that settled communities clash with conservation needs, can it be expected that lobby groups and traditionalists understand the need to end migratory patterns of life? As the Handeni example is visible, and we can get more environmental mitigation funds with a bankable resettlement plan plus reliable water supply for pastoralists, it can work. All it needs it to take decisions.

THE FRIENDLY POLICE FORCE



Dr Agnes Kalibata

Inadequacy and fragility of food systems: Where do we go from here?

THE food price crisis of 2007-2008, Covid-19, the Russia - Ukraine War, and climate change have exposed the fragility of food systems. The greatest risk lies in refusing to learn from lessons of the past.

At the start of 2022, we were already facing the prospect of a food crisis. Even before the first Russian tank rolled across Ukraine's borders on 24 February, food prices had tipped record highs as the world struggled to recover from Covid-19 to repair disrupted supply chains and soaring fuel and gas prices. But a conflict involving two of the world's largest wheat exporters, and major producers of fertilizer, maize and vegetable oil, have inevitably driven prices even higher and, once again, pushed the issue of global food security into sharp focus.

Russia and Ukraine together account for roughly 30 per cent of the world's wheat and barley exports, a fifth of its corn trade and almost 80 per cent of sunflower oil exports. Most of their wheat production is imported by countries in the Middle East and Africa, with some 50 countries depending on Russia and Ukraine. Warfare, port blockades and international sanctions have reduced these exports, and supply uncertainties have already pushed wheat prices to around \$11 per bushel, a level last seen in 2008. The FAO food price index soared last week to a record high.

The situation is further compounded by rising energy prices, and disruptions to the supply of fertilisers, the prices of which are already fluctuating at levels unseen since the global financial crisis because of higher gas prices. Russia and Belarus produce more

than a third of global potash. Russia is also the world's biggest exporter of fertilizers and the war with Ukraine has disrupted the export of fertilizers and driven up prices for natural gas, which is an important ingredient of nitrogen-based fertilizers. Fertilizer prices (DAP) are surging towards 1000 USD per ton, with a significant increase in the last 6 months, and a 40 per cent jump since the invasion. This will hurt rich and poor farmers alike, due to the clear link between rising costs and reduced production.

The US-based Center for Global Development estimates that higher food and fuel prices will push 40 million more people into extreme poverty. Lower income households, who were already spending between 60 and 80 per cent of their earnings on food, face stark choices, including how many meals to eat in a day. In Tunisia, the fear of food shortages combined with the imminent arrival of Ramadan, caused panic buying and emptied supermarket shelves. Kenyans are protesting rising food prices on social media with the hashtag #lowerfoodprices. Thousands of maize farmers in Ethiopia have been protesting soaring fertilizer prices. And let's not forget that it was rising food prices that led to the 2019 Sudan coup and the Arab Spring rebellion of 2008.

The food crisis of 2007-8 suggests important lessons for us to mitigate a food crisis this year.

First, remember that cooperation between countries matters, sending important signals to markets that governments and the private sector

take the problem seriously.

Second, take concerted action to trade more, easier, faster. Allow food to be traded and attack non-tariff barriers that are the most serious limitations to trade. Africa has shown leadership in the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area - these principles must be fast tracked to allow as friction-free trading system as possible.

Third, governments and development partners should urgently plan for the social and humanitarian consequences of a food crisis. Social safety nets should be strengthened at least temporarily, and humanitarian aid planned for the most vulnerable.

Last and perhaps most importantly, governments and partners must go back to basics: that African economies and livelihoods are built on agriculture. More than 70 per cent of the population is involved in farming, but the vast majority of these are smallholdings with significant exposure to environmental and economic shocks. These farmers and their contributions can be transformed by shorter value chains that share some of the value with farmers, a digital revolution that puts farmers, and strong government agenda and support.

African farmers, if given the opportunities that their European, Asian and North American counterparts have, can increase massively their productivity and grow their businesses. An emergency plan to build support for farmers now can send important signals to markets and increase production this year. Give farmers access to productive, climate

smart seeds, the knowledge they need to become more productive, and innovative financial tools to invest. Then help them get their products to market. Proven models are already used by many partners - millions of farmers can be lifted quickly in this way.

At the same time, soaring fertilizer prices must be addressed with urgent action to increase efficiency. AGRA has promoted technologies that can reduce cost to the farmer including the use of blended fertilizers, as we already see in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. The same is true in the use of micro-dosing. Both give much more 'bang for the buck' and can be much more environmentally friendly. This is also an opportunity to promote greater use of farmers' traditional practices of regeneration and organic fertilization.

This is the time for African governments to give a strong signal of support to the agriculture sector. Start by reducing redundant regulation, and support SMEs and farmers' cooperatives with credit guarantee programmes.

We learned from the last food crisis that we should not be afraid of a food crisis. What we should be worried about is lack of action once we understand the problem. Governments should lead and coordinate, private sector should target investment on proven solutions, and unlock African farmers' potential.

The writer is the President of AGRA (the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa).

BY CORRESPONDENT EMMANUEL ONYANGO

African countries right in their push for return of looted artifacts

THE colonization of Africa which began formally in 1885 with the infamous Berlin Conference, better known as the Scramble for Africa, started crumbling in the late 1950s and 1960s.

When colonialism was finally gone, new African governments learnt that a lot of the continent's wealth was also gone. Part of that loss is priceless artifacts which are in museums and private collections in Western Europe and North America. It is calculated that whopping 90 per cent of all African art remains outside of the continent.

Tanzania has also joined other African nations in a push that seeks to ensure that all traditional artifacts looted by colonial governments are returned back where they belong - Africa.

The government has embarked on an intensive push this time around with Germany - the first colonial power in the country - officially announcing the return of traditional artifacts looted during their rule.

The Berlin-based Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation which manages the German capital's many museums said recently that it had entered into negotiations on the return of priceless artifacts that German colonial government took from its former African colonies namely Tanganyika, Namibia and Cameroon.

The foundation's president has been authorized to sign an agreement on the return of objects Germany took from then Tanganyika during Maji Maji rebellion and other conflicts during its colonial rule.

Dr. Noel Luoga, Director General of National Museum of Tanzania (NMT) told this writer in Dar es Salaam recently that his institution has formed a team of researchers tasked to collect information on current location of Tanzania's stolen artifacts.

Tanzania's heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the UK and Germany have been tasked with coordinating the recovery efforts which include negotiating with museums and private collectors holding onto the items to release them.

"The team led by its Chairman D. Chritowaja Ntandu works in collaboration with researchers from the ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism," he said.

"Members of the team are in nego-



It is estimated that a whopping 90 per cent of all African art remains outside of the continent. Photo courtesy of the internet

tiations with former colonial powers seeking to ensure that the stolen traditional artifacts, including preserved skulls of chiefs taken away more than a century ago are returned back in the country."

According to Luoga, Tanzania's looted artifacts include wooden and bronze carvings of different animal species, spears, bows and arrows, domestic stools, grinding stones and many others which are important for cultural tourism.

He said among the skulls of traditional chiefs whose return is being sought include that of Mangi Meli, leader of the Chagga in the late 1890s who was hanged by the German colonial government in

March 1900.

If all goes well, Luoga said the artifacts will be returned and preserved in various museums managed by the NMT which include the Village Museum and House of Culture in Dar es Salaam, Natural History Museum in Arusha, Arusha Declaration Museum, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere Museum in Butiama, Maji Maji War Memorial Museum in Songea and Rashid Kawawa Museum in Songea.

The skull of the famous Chief Mkwawa of the Hehe was brought back on 9th July 1954 after 56 years of stay in Germany and handed over to the British Governor Sir Edward Twin-

ing, who later handed it to Chief Adam Sapi Mkwawa at a war Memorial Museum in Kalenga, Iringa Region.

Chief Mkwawa's skull now sits on a plinth, protected by a glass box, but like a trophy, it once adorned the house of a colonial official in Germany's administrative centre in Bagamoyo, before being spirited away to Germany at some point in the beginning of 20th century.

The desire to reclaim looted traditional objects is made effective following last year's public request by chiefs from across the country under the banner of the Union of Chiefs in Tanzania (UCT) to President Samia Suluhu Hassan

to have the items returned to their communities.

President Samia was installed Head of Chiefs by the group in September 2021 and gave her the name Hangaya, meaning a shining star. But the group used the occasion to send home a message about looted artifacts in what they argued would help promote cultural tourism in the country.

The Chiefs' request is supported by the adopted United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) convention which passed in its General Assembly in Sept 1970 which provides for an international framework to prevent looting of artifacts.

The convention also ensures those who took them away should return the stolen items to their rightful owners. This is in parallel with other advances in the fight against illicit trafficking.

Prof Hamisi Malebo, Executive Secretary of Tanzania National Commission for UNESCO recently told this writer that Tanzania, like other African countries, has a right to lodge claims on looted artifacts as they are deemed important symbols of culture.

He argued that the looting was, in fact, a crime as it deprived people of their history and culture, and weakens social cohesion in the long term.

After over a century of resistance by European museums to initiate restitution of African heritage materials stolen during the colonial rule, France has taken the initiative to engage the continent on modalities of returning thousands of these objects that are of great artistic, cultural, religious, sacred and economic value.

When President Emmanuel Macron came to power in May 2017, he toured a number of African countries and promised to initiate the repatriation of African cultural heritage items unjustly

held "prisoner" by French museums.

President Macron went on to commission a study undertaken by academics Felwine Sarr and Bénédicte Savoy whose report, The Restitution of African Cultural Heritage: Towards a New Relational Ethics, recommends unconditional repatriation of African cultural materials.

It is estimated that between 80 and 90 percent of sub-Saharan Africa's ancient cultural heritage is currently held outside the continent as a result of conquest, plunder, theft, and colonisation as well as legitimate trade and exchange.

Other countries across Africa which have been raising voices over what they argue is the return of the objects to their rightful owners includes Kenya, Nigeria, Benin and South Africa which have partially succeeded.

In October 2021, Jesus College in Cambridge, UK, surrendered a sculpture looted from the Benin Kingdom in today's Nigeria. The bronze carvings had been forcibly taken when the British conquered Nigeria in the late 19th century.

Statistics shows that about 90 percent of Africa's top objects and artifacts for cultural heritage that date back 100 years on average are not on the continent. It is estimated that Belgium alone has about 100,000 African pieces followed by France which has close to 90,000 African objects.

France has returned several other objects to former colonies in Africa including 26 works of art seized by French colonial soldiers in 1892 returned to Benin in July last year, a landmark in the long fight by African countries to recover looted artifacts.

France which colonized most of West African countries says it plans to continue to do so although the process has been too slow and limited in scope.

Fragility of Africa's food systems worrying, leaders must act differently

BY BOAZ KEIZIRE

THIS week, Africa and global business leaders are converging in Kigali Rwanda, the permanent home of the Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), the continent's most influential gathering around Africa's largest economic sector - agriculture and food systems.

Building back from pandemics

This year's AGRF is probably the most significant since the COVID-19 pandemic that not only heavily affected the 2020 and 2021 AGRF, but also the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit. Covid-19 has confirmed that we need to reform our food systems, "building back better" will not be enough; we need to rethink how we produce, distribute and eat food, and to do this, the African political and business leaders must think and act differently. They must be willing to set different agendas that transform their food systems.

The 2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition Report that was released recently paints an alarming picture of Africa's agri-food systems transformation efforts. Despite unprecedented efforts by Africa heads of state and government to drive regional change through country Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the report indicates that new and more than 35 million people were affected by hunger in 2020 compared with 2019, before the Covid-19 outbreak.

The report further shows that 20 per cent of the population, or one in five people in Africa, was facing hunger in 2021, compared to 9.1 per cent in Asia, and 8.6 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is in Africa where the population affected by hunger has increased the most compared to other continents. This is of major concern and should worry anyone.

Amid the onslaught of the Covid-19 outbreak, Africa has battled other crises. First, it was the increase in temperatures and changing precipitation patterns that threaten Africa's food and water security. The El Niño-induced drought patterns and during the 2015-2016 cropping seasons across the Southern African countries led to higher-than-normal temperatures and erratic and low rainfall.



The 2019 devastating floods in the greater Horn of Africa, the 2019-2020 invasion of desert locusts in Eastern Africa, and the current looming climate-induced famine in the Horn of Africa, for example, have made Africa an exposure and vulnerability 'hot spot' for climate variability and climate impacts.

Around 2019, there came the rise in oil and gas prices - that saw a surge in crucial food commodity prices that saw over 89 per cent increase in price of major cereals and about 109 per cent in rise in fertilizer prices all just in 2 years.

And now is the Russia-Ukraine crisis - further exacerbating oil and gas prices and increasing global food markets.

The implications of these crises are more severe and Africa and its leaders need to act differently. We are now witnessing the largest cost-of-living crisis ever seen by any generation, and people's capacity to cope is diminishing.

Real incomes are falling and the coun-

tries' revenues and ability to respond are declining. Without robust actions, these changes are pushing citizens and could potentially result in social and political unrest in many countries.

The impact of these crises on existing vulnerabilities in Africa's agri-food systems could be heightened unless mitigating actions are taken now to safeguard Africa's food security and speed up the recovery of the agricultural sector.

This is the moment for governments to consolidate the progress made and leverage existing structures and frameworks, including strengthening the CAADP process by adopting a more systemic view of food system transformation that goes beyond the current CAADP ambition of agricultural growth and transformation.

National governments need to take a holistic and integrated food systems approach. Post the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UN FSS), we are seeing a few countries like Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi and

Rwanda making this shift to design food systems strategies and plans. This is important because a critical lesson from these crises is that food systems cannot be compartmentalized; multi-sectoral and multistakeholder approaches and coordination will be essential in tackling future pandemics.

Most families in Africa are feeling the pinch of the crisis. Household budgets are shrinking as affording a daily meal has become a challenge for most households in Africa.

FAO has estimated that 53 per cent of the poorer household income is spent on food compared to 20 per cent for richer households. Poorer households spend about 16 per cent of their incomes on housing while 4 per cent is spent on transport. Families cannot send their children to school and the poorest households are the most affected, especially women and girls.

There is a general feeling that Africa is blaming the United States of America and other western countries in Europe for the sanctions on Russia as the source of food insecurity. Instead, Africa is blaming itself for allowing itself to be dependent on the rest of the world for food imports - a phenomenon Africa can change and grow its food.

Africa should turn this into an opportunity to produce its own food and export than relying on the rest of the world for food imports. Ethiopia, for example, can produce enough wheat rather than spend USD 0.7 billion annually to import wheat from Russia and Ukraine.

While appreciating the short

and long-term solutions being proposed by international organizations such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the United Nations and others, African leaders need to turn this crisis as an opportunity and wake-up call to act differently and without hesitation, push for the following reforms on the continent and at country level.

The complexities of African food systems require government support with a dedicated and consistent oversight by the highest level of government at President or Prime Minister and ready to make tough decisions, deal with vested interests, and inspire others to set bold ambitions. Business as usual will not deliver the desired change.

While it may be structurally challenging to redesign the agriculture public service system, leaders need strong multidisciplinary local teams with the technical expertise and ability to accelerate implementation with a governance and operating model that rewards a high-performance culture while tracking progress using performance indicators and evaluation metrics that leverage scorecards such as the Africa Union's Biennial Review dashboard.

African leaders need to accelerate intra-regional trade through implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other regional trade agreements in the continent. This will not only enhance and ease of moving food from surplus to deficit regions of the continent but will also ease fertilizer being produced on the continent and trade in the rest of the

world than in Africa. This cannot continue as Africa watches.

Leaders must put in place policy incentives to create efficiencies in the supply chains such as electronic-based, private sector-driven and government enabled input subsidies and supply approaches.

African leaders need to deliberately work to protect consumers during the ongoing crises by establishing stimulus packages and strengthening social safety nets while supporting governments' facing fiscal constraints.

African leaders must establish and strengthen functional strategic food reserves critical to always be ready to stabilize food supplies and prices to support domestic approaches. This is noble for ensuring food security in times of crisis.

Lastly, taking a food systems lens has also taught us that leaders need to scale up and enhance investments in areas such as climate adaptation, conservation farming and regenerative agriculture to increase productivity in strategic food surplus producing regions across the continent while protecting the environment.

Prioritizing structural transformation that is green, inclusive, and resilient will ensure that no one is left behind and Africa is better prepared for the next crisis.

Boaz Blackie Keizire is Head of Policy and Advocacy at AGRA and also a 2017 Fellow for the Aspen New Voices Fellowship. Boaz also heads the Africa Food Prize Secretariat.

Building resilience in the Philippines through sustainable livelihoods and psychosocial support

ILOILO, PHILIPPINES

Elvie Gallo no longer hangs around her local grocery store, hoping for the odd job to put food on the table. Her hand-to-mouth life has been replaced by a viable chicken rearing and selling business in Iloilo province in the Philippines.

"I have enough for today, and I am saving for my children's future," she says. Gallo's story of growth and transformation is replicated across 2,700 households in Iloilo, Bukidnon, and Sultan Kudarat, three of the poorest provinces in the country.

These households have been reached through the Padayon Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) and the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), with additional interventions providing access to available government services and resources to households, coupled with supportive coaching and mentorship as well as robust monitoring of household outcomes. This more holistic approach to poverty reduction is often referred to as Graduation, a multifaceted set of interventions designed to address various factors keeping people trapped in extreme poverty within the local context.

Before this most recent program, the government began exploring how to build on their existing cash transfer and livelihood programs to address multidimensional poverty, diversify household income sources, and build resilience to shocks. Integration of the Graduation approach into the government's existing cash transfer program was led by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) via a Graduation pilot officially launched in 2018. The pilot worked with 2,400 extremely poor beneficiaries of the 4Ps cash transfer program and administrative systems established for their Kabuhayan (livelihood) program, which provides households with productive assets and technical training.

The program included other Graduation elements to make the interventions comprehensive such as technical training on managing assets, savings mechanisms, coaching by Graduation Community Facilitators, skills building on social and



Elvie Gallo's thriving chicken business means she can support her family and put aside savings to build resilience against future shocks. Credit: BRAC/Robert Irven 2022

health issues, and linkages to community groups and cooperatives.

Corazon Gaylon, a participant of the initial pilot, reflected on how much her life has changed in just two years after successfully "graduating" from the program.

"My eldest daughter has been able to finish her college program, my second child is now starting his first year, and my young-

est child is fully enrolled in school. I am no longer in debt [to anyone]. Our training sessions helped me a lot during the [COVID-19] lockdowns; I was able to prepare for it and put money aside."

According to an initial endline impact assessment reported by ADB, despite the many challenges created by COVID-19 and ensuing lockdowns, participants demon-

strated more resilient livelihoods and better savings and financial management. 73% of group livelihoods and 60% of individual livelihoods remained fully operational by the end of the program. Likewise, despite some initial dips in savings and new loans taken, by September 2020, 69% of those who reported incurring a debt also reported being able to repay all or part of

the loan, indicating improved savings management and a significant decrease in instances of risky financial behavior.

After successfully completing the DOLE Graduation project in Negros Occidental, the government is now on its second iteration of Graduation integration via the DSWD program.

Rhea B Peñaflor, DSWD Assistant Secretary, hopes to see the Padayon SLP program scaled up to become a central part of the 4Ps scheme. This will ensure that people participating in the social protection program will not fall back into extreme poverty.

By integrating these various components, Peñaflor has witnessed drastic changes in the participants. "From livelihood support to social empowerment via coaching, our dreams for these participants are being realized, and they are able to create a more stable and successful future for themselves and their families."

She stresses that the most significant feature of the Padayon SLP program "is the intensive coaching and monitoring aspects that are mainly facilitated through the coaches. We are also seeing great commitment from the various LGUs (Local Government Units) to oversee the implementation and help participants sustain their livelihoods and progress".

"Our vision, in particular, is to create self-sufficiency and support the entire household. Extreme poverty should be everyone's business. All levels of government, top-down and bottom-up, should be involved," Peñaflor continues.

Marlowe Popes, Program Manager at BRAC UPGI, says: "The future starts at the local level. We must strengthen the capacity of local government units. They have the most experience working within the local contexts and implementing projects. They have experienced the roadblocks and challenges firsthand and are the real experts."

Additionally, Popes confirms the need to engage local communities in the adaptation and design, implementation, and measurement of Graduation programs. Emphasizing that monitoring processes are significantly boosted by the participation of the local communities, community members serve as a driver for the success and motivation of the participants.

This level of involvement improves accountability, integration, and community ownership, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our strategy to involve leadership was key to success. Regular updates helped bring them into the fold, allowing them to feel part of success," Popes concludes.

Meanwhile, Gallo and all other 2,699 targeted households continue their journey of growth and transformation, developing livelihoods of their choice, including agriculture, water buffalo, pig rearing and swine fattening, food carts ventures, convenience stores locally known as 'sari sari' stores.



Every day, you can find Rosalie at the fish market near the docks of Iloilo City, providing customers with quality, freshly caught seafood at a fair price. Credit: BRAC/Robert Irven 2022

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 UMJUAYVO 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

By Guardian Reporter,

Arusha

EAC calls for simplified trade regime

THE Islamic Republic of Mauritania has commended the work of the African Court in deepening human rights on the continent.

"Mauritania greatly appreciates the work of the African Court in deepening human rights on the continent. The African Community (EAC) to support the issuance of the simplified certificate of origin."

Speaking at the capacity building workshop on the EAC simplified trade regime, East African Business Council (EABC) chief executive officer John Bosco Kalisa said:

"This important workshop will take stock of the EAC simplified trade regime and enable youth and women cross-border traders, to share experiences on the usability of the trade regime."

It was organised by the EABC and Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA). Kalisa explained that during EABC public-private dialogues with trade facilitation agencies at the One Stop Border Points, women in cross border trades requested for the establishment of storage and child care facilities and cross-border markets to ease their daily work.

Misinterpretation and low understanding of the EAC Simplified

Trade Regime by Customs Officials and small cross-border traders is one of the main challenges hindering full utilization of the regime, Kalisa elaborated.

Kalisa urged for the maximum cargo value threshold under EAC Simplified Trade Regime of USD2000 to be upgraded to USD 5000 for more trade to happen.

Dennis Karera, EABC vice chair said, EABC is committed to advocating for an effective EAC Simplified Trade Regime for trade that reflects realities on the ground. He cited that over 40000 cross-border traders mainly women use the Petit Barrier between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Karera urged the youth ambassadors and women cross-border traders to learn about the customs procedures and transfer the knowledge to their counterparts in their associations and cooperatives after the capacity-building sessions. He further urged Governments to replicate the EAC Simplified Trade Regime at the Continental level under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

In her remarks, Patience Mutesi, TMEA country director-Rwanda said, TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is committed to improving infrastructure, border coordination and has piloted cross-border markets at Rubavu and Rusizi with

amenities for women, this has greatly facilitated small scale cross border trade."

She elaborated that nearly 70 percent of trade is informal. Ms. Mutesi said inefficient border processes and low production capacity impact small cross-border trade.

She lauded the EABC-EASSI-Ministry for building the capacities of small cross-women border traders stating that empowered women are empowered families, communities and nations.

Lina Asimwe from Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative (EASSI) said the rollout of One Stop Border Posts have enabled women to move from informal to formal / gazette trade routes.

She appealed for the EAC Simplified Certificate of Origin to be issued at no cost across all EAC borders to women small cross-border traders.

Chief Guest, Richard Niwenshuti, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Trade and Industry said the government of the Republic of Rwanda is committed to understanding the context of small cross-border traders to formulate better policies and open new markets opportunities and trade as we go to the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The Permanent Secretary stated that improving physical and soft infrastructure at the borders, harmonizing and easing inspection of standards, Sanitary and Phy-

toSanitary measures, supporting small traders to tap into digital trade and tools and consolidating informal associations to formalize into cooperatives are some of the solutions boost cross-border trade.

In her presentation, Pamela Maassay, MP East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) said, "The EAC Simplified Trade Regime is a special provision for small traders who regularly transact in low-value consignments."

Maassay said the use of an approved simplified certificate of origin exempts consignments of goods that Originate in the EAC that are valued at under USD 2000 from payment of import duty in the EAC destination country.



Mushroom farming creating bright futures for western Uganda women

By Guardian Correspondent

MUSHROOM growing has become one of the fastest-growing home-based ventures in Uganda. It has proven to be a wellspring of income for many, especially women.

It is popular because it allows the recycling of nutritionally worthless materials such as husks and dung, which would otherwise pollute the environment, to be turned into nourishing delights with many health benefits.

Namyalo Siyana has become one of the suppliers of vegetarian "ground meat" in Sheema, western Uganda. She started mushroom farming after listening to a radio programme that taught residents how to grow mushrooms.

"Initially, I was not motivated by a desire to make money but to get the health ben-

efits. But later, I realized its business potential and expanded it to subsistence farming," she said.

Siyana said demand is growing daily because customers cannot afford to buy foods like fish or meat because they are expensive.

But mushroom is affordable, yet it meets most nutritional needs that would be received from meat.

"My target is to add value through drying and packaging them with beautiful brands, so as to attract more customers and start exporting to a wider market," she said.

Nutritionist Nakalembe Sophie agreed that mushrooms contain the same quality of protein found in animals and also provide lysine and tryptophan protein, which are lacking in some vegetables and cereals.

"Mushrooms are particularly highly nutritious and medicinal foods that are essential to human health. They act as antioxidants that may protect the body against cancer,

immune boosters, and lower high blood pressure. They are also high in protein, vitamins, minerals, and folic acid, as well as being a useful supply of iron for anemic people." Rehema Twongirwe Jumbe is among the many women in Sheema who have ventured into mushroom farming, turning the wild vegetable into gold.

"I realized that it is not labor intensive and doesn't require huge capital, yet, the market is already there. So, this became a motivation to venture into the business. I sell 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) for \$2 and in a good week I can make almost \$100 because my garden is small," she said. "My target is to save money and grow the delicacy on a large scale," she said

Some mushroom farmers however say that buyers often underprice their product.

"The prices they want to pay do not match the hustle we go through to bring the delicacy on the street, and this is demoralizing,"

said supplier Twaha Juma. One kilogramme in Kampala costs between \$2 and \$3.

Agricultural officer, Canary Ahimbi said the delicacy is a crop with distinct growing conditions that are not affected by the weather as much as other crops and can grow at any time of the year, and the process is easy.

"The outer covering of seeds, for example - beans and cotton - are soaked in water overnight, boiled the following day, and allowed to cool. Mushroom spores are then introduced in the polythene bags and left in a dark room free from insects, smells, and loud sounds that may affect production for about two weeks for husks to burst open.

"The farmer can then start watering them twice daily for about three days and harvesting starts on the third day, and this can go on for three to four months depending on the quality of the mushroom spores and the care," Ahimbi added.

Farmers are leveraging social media to benefit in farming

By Guardian Correspondent

Digital-savvy farmers in Africa are tapping social media platforms to network, learn and find new buyers for their products, outside traditional markets, according to a report.

More farmers in Kenya are sidestepping middlemen and using Meta platforms to take their fresh tomatoes, avocados, kale and other products straight to consumers' doorsteps.

Research firm Caribou Digital's latest report found that farmers are also getting information about best farming practices from their peers, through shared online video tutorials.

Dubbed Social Agriculture: young farmers, social media, and the digital transformation of agriculture, further shows there are

more people using Facebook for agriculture than all dedicated agricultural platforms in Kenya. These include Facebook groups like Digital Farmers of Kenya and the Young Farmers Forum, on WhatsApp.

"Based on an industry-standard estimate that 22.5 percent of 33 million registered users are active, digital agriculture platforms have an estimated active user base of approximately 7.5 million in Kenya; Wefarm, a popular digital agriculture platform, had 1.4 million users in 2018," reads the Mastercard Foundation-sponsored report, in part.

"Facebook advertising indicates that the number of users interested in agriculture is estimated to be 9.3 million. In other words, despite any concerted marketing efforts, the number of people using social media platforms for agriculture in Kenya is higher than the total active users of dedicated digital ag-

ricultural platforms."

Growth in social agriculture in Kenya comes amid rapid smartphone adoption, reliable internet connection and mobile payments services that have made e-commerce vibrant in that market.

In 2020, mobile phone penetration among adults in Kenya was 98 per cent and according to the Communications Authority of Kenya's (CA) sector statistic report for the quarter ending September 2021, 59 million mobile phone devices were connected to mobile networks in the country.

Of that number, 33 million were feature phones while 26 million were smartphones, putting the penetration levels at 67.9 percent and 53.4 percent respectively.

As of 2020, 43 percent of all adults were using the internet (96 percent of them on smartphones rather than computers) and 17

percent of all adults were using social media (98 percent of them on smartphones).

It is hardly surprising, then, that farmers are turning to social media to find new markets for their produce, which includes supplying to hotels and supermarkets.

Caribou's report notes that digital platforms are also grooming would-be entrepreneurs who are turning to agriculture to earn a living. "Social agriculture" has lowered the barriers to gaining expertise and helped online communities of farmers develop new avenues of monetization - including through online influence.

"Influencers who promote social agriculture frame agriculture as a livelihood relevant to the digitally connected and introduce agriculture to people who might not otherwise consider an agricultural livelihood," the report notes.

Kenya's Supreme Court begins hearing presidential poll petition

NAIROBI

The Supreme Court of Kenya began hearing the presidential poll petition by Raila Odinga who is challenging the result of the August 9 presidential election, which delivered victory to William Ruto.

The seven bench judges led by Martha Koome already began the pre-trials on Tuesday. This follows Monday's ruling on two affidavits that were struck out.

"The judiciary has had an opportunity to settle two election petitions of the nature set out under article [inaudible] of the constitution. The judiciary is experienced in settling the question; Kenyans have faith in the judiciary. We must all have faith in the judiciary and I am sure that this election petition will be handled well by the Supreme Court, and the outcome shall be respected," said Tom Ojienda, Raila Odinga's lawyer.

In the previous ruling, the judges ruled out Odinga's involvement in the chaos that happened set the national tally center at BOMAS of Kenya when the chairperson of the electoral commission wanted to declare the president-elect.

The 77-year-old veteran politician, who was running for the fifth time in the presidential election and was backed by incumbent President Uhuru Kenyatta and his party, lost the election by some 230,000 votes (50.49% to 48.85%).

In a statement to the court, Ruto said Odinga had in the past "systematically challenged the results of the presidential election and fomented national crises after losing. He accused the former prime minister of trying "to try his luck again by forcing a new candidacy through judicial means.

It is 'against the public interest to keep the country in a perpetual election campaign,' Mr Ruto said, adding that the uncertainty would further damage Kenya's deteriorating economy, which is already struggling with high inflation.

According to the 72-page petition, the Odinga camp claims that 140,028 ballots were not counted and that, "this significantly affects the final results insofar as none of the (...) candidates reaches the constitutional threshold of 50%+1 votes" to win the election in the first round.

The judges must rule on his appeal by September 5. If they order the cancellation of the election, a new election must be held within 60 days.

Odinga had called the results announced by the electoral commission (IEBC) a "travesty".

After his previous defeats, he had already filed legal challenges, in 2013 and in 2017.

In 2017, the Supreme Court invalidated the presidential election due to "irregularities" and ordered a new election, a first in Africa.

In 2007, Odinga also rejected the result without going to court, triggering the worst post-election crisis in the country's history, with more than 1,100 deaths in inter-ethnic clashes.

Humanitarian crisis unfolds with Pakistan in the eye of fiercest climate change storm

KARACH

The heavy and incessant monsoon downpours across Pakistan in the last two months have triggered floods wreaking havoc across the country, submerging entire villages and vast tracts of land and entrapping people. Anything coming in the way of the relentless water is being destroyed, including roads, bridges, and standing crops.

The Pakistani government has declared a national emergency with more than 30 million without shelter. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 66 districts have officially been declared 'calamity hit' by the government of Pakistan - 31 in Balochistan, 23 in Sindh, nine in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and three in Punjab. Many have likened the destruction to the 2010 super floods.

With government resources stretched and communications networks disrupted, flood survivors complain that help is scarce.

Saeeda Khatoun, 28, likened her village of Zakaria Mahesar to the famous 3rd millennium BC Moenjodaro ruins of the ancient Indus civilization, in her district of Larkana, in Sindh province, after the rains destroyed over 200 houses, some made of mud and straw and others, like hers, of brick. She, along with 11 members of her family, has found temporary shelter on higher ground, on the outskirts of the village, under the open sky, unprotected from the vagaries of the unpredictable monsoon rains.

"The water gushed into our home suddenly, and we rushed out just moments before the



Filmy coverings make keeping dry in the incessant rain an impossible task. Credit Azra Gandehi

roof caved in," she said, rendering them homeless. With water still waist deep, she said there was no way of retrieving their belongings from under the debris.

The monsoon season hit Pakistan this year in June, earlier than usual. Torrential rains continued well into July, with 181% above average rainfall. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said it rained 177.5mm against its normal of 63.1mm, making this July the wettest since 1961.

"July 2022 rainfall was excessively above average over Balochistan (+450%) and Sindh (+307%), both rank as the wettest ever during past 62 years," said the PMD's monthly summary. And the rains continue to batter the country well into the end of August, spreading more destruction across the provinces of Punjab, KP, and the mountainous region of Gilgit-Baltistan, after annihilating Balochistan and Sindh.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority, the rains have caused havoc across Pakistan, claiming nearly 1,000 lives and more than 1400 rain-related injuries since June. More than half the casualties are from Balochistan and Sindh province.

Over 3,000 km of road network has been damaged, of which over 2,300 km is in Sindh, making it difficult for the government and non-governmental organizations to reach and rescue. "The whole province is inundated with flood water, and roads are battered; it is difficult to reach and provide relief," said Inayatullah Ismail, senior manager, coordination at the non-profit Al Khidmat Welfare Society. "We are providing tents to the displaced people and will be setting up kitchens on the highways where people are seeking refuge."

"Since the last three days, our teams have been distributing cooked food to nearly 30,000 flood victims who have set up makeshift camps around RDF offices," said Soomro.

"Giving cooked meals is best as it is difficult for the displaced to cook having lost everything," said Aqsa Iqbal, who volunteers with Serve Humanity Together. She suggested: "All those

who are providing cooked food to affectees may also want to add drinking water bottles, packed snacks or biscuits, juices and fruits (dates) as well, so that they could have something that does not get spoiled, and they can consume over the next few days." She also said most people urgently needed tents, plastic sheets, and medical aid.

Further, she said, rescue and relief workers were finding it difficult to reach people stuck in remote villages, surrounded by stagnant rainwater.

"Many of these people are young volunteers with a lot of zeal but not professionally trained. Wading through water, even shallow, was difficult, and there is always the fear that they could be bitten by snakes or fall in open potholes," said Iqbal. That is why, she said, it would be best to bring the flood affectees to dry land, where it is easier to provide them with food, water, and medicines.

So far, the NDMA has recorded nearly 680,000 houses affected, of which over 58,000 are in Sindh alone. Up to 19,000 of these homes in Sindh have been destroyed.

"I have never seen a greater catastrophe in my life," said Sindh chief minister Murad Ali Shah after visiting various flood-affected districts of Sindh. He said his government was stretched for funds and had run out of tents and food. Over 10 million people in Sindh have been rendered homeless.

The government of Sindh has formally reached out to NGOs requesting help with rescue and relief work.

Rani Malukhani, a social activist from Khuda Baksh Marri, a village in Sanghar district, said they were starving and sitting on the roadside with nothing to protect them from the lashing rain. "Where is the government; where are the NGOs?" she said over a WhatsApp video phone call, showing how her community was sitting stranded on the roadside.

"Our homes and standing crops have been destroyed," she cried in distress.

"There are close to 700 people in this village, and all are sitting on both sides of the 2-3 km long road under the sky," confirmed

Azra Gandehi, who works with the NGO, Research and Development Foundation (RDF). She was visiting the village for a preliminary survey and assessment of the damage so she could return with assistance. "The water is chest deep, and all had to evacuate along with their livestock."

In the neighbouring Mirpur Khas district, things are no better. Motan Bheel, 52, and her five children and two goats, belonging to Jhudo village, had to wade through waist-deep water to reach the safety of the bank of Puraan (a sub-drain that collects saline water, agricultural effluent, and floodwater to the Arabian Sea). "There is water all around us, but not a drop to drink," she said. "We have not received any help from the government, NGOs or philanthropists."

Irfan Hussain, working with RDF and helping the district government in Mirpur Khas with rescue work, explained: "They have to walk nearly three kilometres to fetch water, but because they don't have enough vessels to carry water and big containers to store, they have to keep going back and forth."

Bheel said her 14-year-old was running a high fever for the last two days and fears it may be malaria. "There is nowhere to go to seek help, and I don't have the money," she said.

Hussain said she and half the villagers (from 250 households) staying on either side of the bank urgently need tents, mosquito nets and healthcare to fight malaria, diarrhoea, and scabies. The government has turned schools and factories into relief camps, but Gandehi, who visited some, found them "too crowded".

Indus Resource Centre, an NGO, has been running 17 schools, managing five government schools and 25 non-formal post-primary centres, in Khairpur district, for the last 22 years. Sadiqa Salahuddin, heading IRC, sent an appeal for help. She said ten IRC schools, including five government schools, have been turned into camps housing nearly 7,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), and the number was increasing daily.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 351 00--

WORD FIT puzzle grid with the word 'LEST' starting at the top left.

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues.

- 3 letters: STY, TEN, DUO, RUG, HIV, UNA,
4 letters: MINE, MOLE, NOSE, LEST, STAY, BLOC, AIDE
5 letters: IDENT, SNARE, BAHAI, ENURE, AEGIS
6 letters: ENERGY, SOLVER, LEAGUE, ISRAEL, ODONATE,
7 letters: ENTRANCE,
8 letters:

- CLUES: Across
1. Former Prime minister in Kenya who lost Presidential race
5. a craze
7. a thing used as an example to follow
8. a play
9. half of two
11. Mexico city is her mother city
14. as dark as ink
15. Quran
17. amid
18. Primate found only in Madagascar
20. move creating an air current
22. technical term for bastard wing
25. Right reverend
28. a person or thing that moves
29. a list of dishes available in a restaurant
30. cause to be loved
Down:
1. ill-mannered
2. the person who leads prayers in a mosque
3. Togo's Capital
4. The opposite of abaxial
5. number of birds moving together
6. stop living
10. a liqueur made of brandy flavoured with fruit kernels
12. situate inside
13. the ability to do something well
16. Odor
17. Swaziland's Capital
19. propel with oars
21. would like to meet (Abbrev.)
23. a pleasant and distinctive smell
24. level
26. at all times
27. a container

SOLUTIONS for the word fit and crossword puzzles, showing the filled-in grids.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Includes a detailed program schedule for Monday through Sunday with times and program names.

By Guardian Reporter

CONSTRUCTION REACH 70 PCT AT SHANTA'S SINGIDA GOLD PROJECT

Aim-listed Shanta Gold's Singida gold project, in central Tanzania, remains on track for first production in early 2023, and is set to transform the company into a greater than 100 000 oz/y gold producer with a diversified resource base.

"We are delighted with the great progress being made at Singida project, with construction on schedule for first production in quarter one 2023," says CEO Eric Zurrin, noting that the project will de-risk the balance sheet and provide the business with further financial flexibility.

Overall construction activity at the project is about 70 percent complete. The current life of mine extends to the end of 2029, based on existing reserves.

Since the construction of Shanta's New Luika Gold Mine in 2013, Singida Gold Mine is the newest large-scale gold mine to have been built in Tanzania by Shanta.

A press release issued by Shanta says Metso-manufactured crushing circuit has been installed and cold commissioning has been

completed.

The company says a new concept projects-manufactured grinding circuit installation is ongoing and cold commissioning is planned in December.

Installation of the CIL tanks is ongoing while footprint has been created for two additional tanks to accommodate expansion if feasible in future years.

Hot commissioning is planned for Q1 2023 and capital expenditure tracking is at approximately \$40 million for expanded crushing circuit and expanded TSF footprint.

Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) footprint and embankment walls, clay lining cushion layer and HDPE liner installation planned for Q4 2022, the company says.

Zone 1 of the Gold Tree pit has been excavated to 15 m and total depth by year four is estimated to reach 150 m.

The gold tree deposit con-



Singida Gold project's process plant site PHOTO/SHANTA

tains 49 percent of all of the current mineral resources at Singida, it says. Shanta Mining Company Limited

holds 100 percent of mining licenses ML 456/2012, ML 455/2012, and ML 457/2012, and the licenses were suc-

cessfully extended for an additional period of 10 years in January 2022.

According to the project Definitive

Feasibility Study (DFS) 91 percent of contained ounces within declared reserve are between 0-120 metres from surface; potential for reserve expansion at depth.

Declared reserve represents just 26 percent of the existing total contained resources; scope to convert ounces through additional drilling.

High grade below the open pits suggests future underground mine potential.

The project is fully permitted and financing discussions for its development are well advanced.

Open pit gold project covering an area of 98 km² located in prospective greenstone belt within the Ikungi District in the Singida region, central Tanzania.

Resources of 9.8 Mt grading 2.11 g/t for 664,000 oz currently sit outside the project economics (but within the Mining Licences), giving

significant upside potential.

Open Pit Mining (OPM) operations had commenced in September 2021, with ore currently being stockpiled, until it can be processed through the Carbon in Leach plant, which is currently being constructed.

Seven open pits are planned to be mined as per the current Life of Mine Plan.

A contractor-based mining open pit mining operation are supervised and monitored by Singida management from the mine plan to the implementation.

The company says Singida will derive its power requirements from the national grid electricity supply (TANESCO) and have emergency standby power generation (one 1,600 kVA diesel-powered generator).

Shanta Gold is an East Africa-focused responsible gold producer, developer and explorer. The company has an established operational track record, with defined ore resources on the New Luika and Singida projects in Tanzania, with reserves of 645 koz grading 3.04 g/t, and exploration licences covering approximately 900 km² in the country.

Donated beehives to boost villagers' incomes in Iringa

By Friday Simbaya, Iringa

The CARE-WWF Alliance project has distributed a total of 135 beehives worth 22mn/- to 11 conservation groups of Iringa district, which are also Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) groups in 9 villages.

This makes the total of 405 beehives which have already been distributed by the CARE-WWF Alliance Project to 24 conservation groups which operate in 21 villages of both Mufindi and Iringa districts.

The conservation groups work closely with water user associations (WUAs) and village leaders in conserving and restoring water sources within their areas of jurisdiction in ensuring water availability for different uses.

Speaking during the beehives distribution ceremony held at Ugenza Village, the CARE-WWF Alliance project officer Evergriss Makfura said the distribution of the beehives to environmental conservation groups in Iringa district is targeting to support members of the groups to create supplementary incomes.

"Conservation and restoration should be people centered. Conservation is about people



Citizens of Ugenza village in Iringa district, Iringa region celebrate one of the beehives donated by CARE-WWF Alliance in the village on Wednesday. (Photo by Friday Simbaya)

and conservation without people is nothing...," he said.

He said that if the beehives are well managed and well developed, they will bring income to the groups and people will love to continue conserving the environment and finally the water sources will be sustainably managed for ensuring water flows.

Makfura said that the main goal of the project is to ensure that people raise their income, develop climate activities, while caring for their environment for the current and

future generations.

"For sure, we have great hope when we help environmental protection groups and water user communities (WUAs) on environmental issues, people are now starting to produce honey and sell it...," he said.

The Alliance manager Dr. Abubakary Kijoji explained that the challenge that exists in the progress of the ecological restoration project of Lyandembela is the issue of climate change, that this year and last year rain was not sufficient which caused people to invade water sources for

economic activities.

He said that due to the lack of rain, people continue to grow various food crops such as maize and beans in water sources, which is not correct.

Another thing is to ask various stakeholders to work together to ensure that people get help and ultimately reduce income poverty for households.

Steven Mhapa is the chairman of Iringa district thanked the CARE-WWF Alliance project for promoting environmental conservation as well as the natural vegetation that helps increased flow of water in various rivers.

He said that WWF has been working in the southern area for more than 15 years now and currently partnership with CARE is crucial in speeding up community development around Iringa district villages.

"Especially as the chairman of the council, I request and thank the organizations in collaboration with the government to help deal with climate change, as deforestation, damage to water sources and the environment in general is decreasing...," said Mhapa.

He said that the project is working in three wards and nine (09) villages

surrounding various rivers that flow water and are important for environmental preservation.

"These organizations along with other stakeholders work to ensure that water sources are taken care of by providing financial resources to conservation groups...," Mhapa explained.

Mhapa also said that the beehives will help in taking care of forests by using bees that will later be used to produce honey as a source of income for villages and groups.

He also thanked the Alliance project for going further and starting demonstration plots and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA).

Acting Conservation Manager of the WWF Tanzania Program Office, Dr. Lawrence Mbwambo, who is also the coordinator of the forestry program in the organization, said that WWF has been working with the government in taking care of the environment in general in the districts of Mufindi DC and Iringa DC, in the Iringa region.

He said that in addition to preserving water sources, they have also been doing beekeeping projects by providing hives to the villages that are part of the project.

UK House price cools as property market loses momentum

LONDON

House price growth cooled in August amid early signs of the housing market losing momentum as the cost-of-living crisis worsens, Nationwide has said.

But annual growth remained in double digits, with the average property costing £50,000 more than two years ago.

Annual growth slowed to 10% in August, down from 11% in July, according to the building society's house price index.

However, prices were up 0.8% month-on-month, marking the 13th month in a row that average prices have risen.

The volume of properties up for sale remains below the level of demand from people wanting to buy, so asking prices are still being driven up, the group said.

"We expect the market to slow further as pressure on household budgets intensifies in the coming quarters, with inflation set remain in double digits into next year," Robert Gardner, Nationwide's chief economist

The average property cost £273,751 in August, growing more than £2,000 from the previous month.

But Nationwide warned that an increase in energy costs coupled with mortgage interest rates rising is going to put household budgets under pressure in the coming months.

It found that the least energy efficient property could typically see bills surge by £2,700 a year, or £225 a month.

This comes as analysts predict the Bank of England will further hike up interest rates from the current 1.75% base rate.

This is set to push up mortgage repayments for homeowners not tied to a fixed rate or who have come to the end of their mortgage term and are looking to refinance.

Last week, property portal Zoopla said first-time buyers would need to earn an extra £12,250 on average to afford a home as mortgage rates climb this year.

Japan property lures private equity with solid yields

TOKYO

A new wave of big private equity players including KKR & Co is moving in on Japan's property market, drawn by attractive yield spreads with Japan's low interest rates and by prospective deals with companies that hold under-utilised assets.

Property investors worldwide are flush with cash and emboldened by stabilising vacancy rates and rents after disruption by the pandemic, and some are setting their sights on the buildings, real estate subsidiaries and other property assets cluttering up Japanese companies' balance sheets.

"The Japanese market presents a huge opportunity,"

David Cheong, managing director at KKR, told Reuters. He noted wide scope to help corporations bolster their property-related operations and boost returns on property assets.

KKR's Japan investments have for years focused on acquiring companies, but in March it signalled a move into the local property market when it announced a 230 billion yen (\$1.66 billion) acquisition of a Japanese real estate asset manager.

Now it has four people dedicated to Japanese real estate and is hiring more to hunt for deals in hotels, office buildings and multi-family apartment buildings, Cheong said.

Hong Kong-based Baring Private Equity Asia has also po-



sitioned Japan as a top priority, said Atsushi Takeiri, head of Japan real estate. He joined the firm last November from Fortress Investment Group, which along with Blackstone Inc has already built a thriving property investment business in Japan.

A key attraction for new private equity entrants is the standout returns Tokyo's office market has delivered so

far this year.

Tokyo's yield spread for high-end office towers in prime locations, measured as the gap between the cap rate - or average return - and benchmark borrowing rates, was 2.063% in the first quarter, higher than the spreads in New York, London, or any other major Asian city, according to CBRE, a property research firm and broker.

This reflects Japan's persistently low interest rates, as the Bank of Japan sticks with its ultra-easy money policy while other central banks raise rates to fight inflation. Tokyo's cap rate, on the other hand, is expected to ease to 2.3% by the end of this year from 2.4% in 2021, according to data from Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL), a brokerage and research firm.

In 2013, when former premier Shinzo Abe's aggressive "Abenomics" stimulus policy sparked a turnaround in Japan's property market from the great financial crisis and a recovery in foreign investment, the cap rate was 3.7%.

Compared with 2013, however, global property funds now have plenty of cash on hand - around \$384 billion in

the first half of this year, more than double what they had in all of 2013 - bolstered by aggressive fundraising in the aftermath of the pandemic, JLL said.

Property investors are also catching on to opportunities to improve returns on the extensive property holdings in corporate Japan, which faces mounting pressure to improve governance and shareholder returns. Two high-profile deals last year in particular grabbed their attention: Advertising giant Dentsu Group Inc sold its Tokyo headquarters to a group led by developer Hulic Co for what local media reported at around 300 billion yen, while shipper Nippon Yusen sold 51% of its property unit for an undisclosed sum.

NORTH KOREA MAY SEND WORKERS TO RECONSTRUCT UKRAINE

SEOUL

As the war in Ukraine stretches into its seventh month, North Korea is hinting at its interest in sending construction workers to help rebuild Russian-occupied territories in the country's east.

The idea is openly endorsed by senior Russian officials and diplomats, who foresee a cheap and hard-working workforce that could be thrown into the "most arduous conditions," a term Russia's ambassador to North Korea used in a recent interview.

North Korea's ambassador to Moscow recently met with envoys from two Russia-backed separatist territories in the Donbas region of Ukraine and expressed optimism about cooperation in the "field of labor migration," citing his country's easing pandemic border controls.

The talks came after North Korea in July became the only nation aside from Russia and Syria to recognize the independence of the territories, Donetsk and Luhansk, further aligning with Russia over the conflict in Ukraine.

The employment of North Korean workers in Donbas would clearly run afoul of U.N. Security Council sanctions imposed on the North over its nuclear and missile programs and further complicate the U.S.-led international push for its nuclear disarmament.

Many experts doubt North Korea will send workers while the war remains in flux, with a steady flow of Western weapons helping Ukraine to push back against much larger Russian forces.

But they say it's highly likely North Korea will supply labor to Donbas when the fighting eases to boost its



FILE - Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un shake hands during their meeting in Vladivostok, Russia, April 25, 2019. As the war in Ukraine stretches into its seventh month, North Korea is hinting at its interest in sending construction workers to help rebuild Russian-occupied territories in the country's east. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko, Pool, File)

own economy, broken by years of U.S.-led sanctions, pandemic border closures and decades of mismanagement.

The labor exports would also contribute to a longer-term North Korean strategy of strengthening cooperation with Russia and China, another ideological ally, in an emerging partnership aimed at reducing U.S. influence in Asia.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin has said that North Korean construction companies have already offered to help rebuild war-torn areas in Donbas, and that North Korean workers would be welcomed if they come.

That's a clear break from Russia's position in December 2017, when it backed new U.N. Security Council sanctions, imposed on

North Korea for testing an intercontinental ballistic missile, requiring member states to expel all North Korean workers from their territories within 24 months.

Russia now seems eager to undercut those sanctions as it faces a U.S.-led pressure campaign aimed at isolating its economy over its aggression in Ukraine, said Lim Soo-ho, a senior analyst at the Institute for National Security Strategy, a think tank run by South Korea's spy agency.

"For Russia, the idea of employing North Korean workers for postwar rebuilding has real merit," Lim said. "Large numbers of North Korean construction workers came to Russia in previous years, and demand for their labor was strong because they were cheap and known for quality work."

Before the 2017 sanctions, labor exports were a rare legitimate source of foreign currency for North Korea, bringing hundreds of millions of dollars a year to the government.

The US State Department earlier estimated that about 100,000 North Koreans were working overseas in government-arranged jobs, primarily in Russia and China, but also in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and South Asia.

Civilian experts say the workers earned \$200 million to \$500 million a year for North

Korea's government while pocketing only a fraction of their salaries, often toiling for more than 12 hours a day under constant surveillance by their country's security agents.

While Russia sent home some North Korean workers before the U.N. deadline in December 2019, an uncertain number remained, continuing to work or becoming stuck after the North sealed its borders to fend off COVID-19.

North Korea could easily mobilize possibly several hundreds or even thousands of workers to Donbas if it decides to use the laborers who remained in Russia, said Kang Dong Wan, a North Korea expert at South Korea's Dong-A University.

It's not yet clear how lucrative Donbas would be for North Korea.

Russia is short of cash, battered by Western sanctions targeting its financial institutions and a broad swath of industries. North Korea likely has no interest in being paid in rubles because of worries about the currency's purchasing power, which bottomed out during the war's early days before Moscow took steps to artificially restore its value.

North Korea might be willing to be compensated with food, fuel and machinery, an exchange that would likely also violate Security Council sanctions, Lim said.

Swedish Hexagon AB acquires iConstruct

STOCKHOLM

Hexagon AB, a global leader in digital reality solutions combining sensor, software and autonomous technologies, has announced the acquisition of iConstruct Pty Ltd, a provider of award-winning Building Information Modelling (BIM) software used in commercial, infrastructure and industrial construction.

Its flagship solution, iConstruct Pro, is a proven construction automation tool with hundreds of global customers that have relied on its benefits for years.

It enables integration, accessibility and control of the wealth of design and construction information held within different BIM models, combining all data into a single 3D model.

Different stakeholders can filter and tailor the model to suit their specific needs, providing a fully-integrated and efficient approach to construction planning and execution.

"Hexagon has long been focused on creating smart digital realities that put data to work in new ways. By blurring the lines between the digital and physical worlds, we can offer customers a complete line of sight to ever-changing situations," says Hexagon President and CEO Ola Rollén. "Not only does iConstruct add an easy-to-deploy solution for combining different design models into a single source but it also enables the reading, writing and exchange of information all the way through operations and maintenance, passing the value of the single 3D model from design and construction to facilities management."

"The addition of iConstruct's offerings and expertise opens up immediate opportunities for our Asset Lifecycle Intelligence and Geosystems divisions. With iConstruct both can deliver greater data management, project planning and communication efficiencies to more customers, segments and disciplines involved in the construction process," continued Rollén. "In addition, iConstruct's customer base will benefit from richer content and improved work processes when combining Hexagon's industry-leading construction automation solutions with iConstruct's tools."

Founded in 2009 with headquarters in Perth, Australia, iConstruct will operate as part of Hexagon's Asset Lifecycle Intelligence division. The acquisition has no significant impact on Hexagon's earnings.

CRDB Bank, Selcom partner on digital payments

By Guardian Reporter

In a bid to promote financial inclusion and easy payment solutions among Tanzanians, CRDB Bank Plc has entered into an agreement with Selcom Tanzania to manage digital payment for its customers.

Speaking during the signing of the agreement, CRDB Bank chief of operations Bruce Mwilé said the partnership will enable customers to conduct easy Simbanking payment services through SelcomPay platform.

"Through this partnership, all banks customers will make digital payments for services through SelcomPay, using QR Code or pay through Selcom using Simbanking app or USSD by dialing *150*03#, he said.

Mwilé said this move will enable traders to easily receive payments considering that CRDB Bank and Selcom have wider network and have partnered in offering services through SelcomPay and SimBanking platforms.

The signing of the agreement also went hand in hand with the launch of the public campaign



CRDB Bank Plc's acting director of individual and commercial clients Bonaventura Paul, (C) speaking during the launch of the partnership with Selcom. Left is Geoffrey Mwakamya, head of the business unit, Selcom and right is Bruce Mwilé, the Chief Operating Officer of CRDB. PHOTO/COURTESY

namely "When you see Selcom Pay! When you see CRDB Pay!" aimed at educating customers on the importance of such partnership.

Selcom Tanzania managing director and Co-Founder Sameer Hirji said the partnership with CRDB Bank Plc is a testimony of the intention of two companies to offer customers with best payment services beyond their expectations.

"Selcom and CRDB Bank saw importance of making it easy for customers to make payment for various services, through mobile phones, direct from their bank account and ensuring that services providers are expanding their ways of receiving payments," he said.

Sameer said he was confident that the agreement between his company and CRDB Bank Plc will promote cashless economy, reduce costs, increase sales among traders as well as promoting financial inclusion among Tanzanians.

"The partnership between CRDB Bank and Selcom is expected to bring revolution in Tanzania payment system as the bank has 200,000 point of sales while Selcom has 80,000 countrywide," he said.

5 tips to grow your construction business

By Nidhi Aggarwal

Construction is an ever-growing industry. Every construction company wants its business to soar high. In a market as competitive as the construction business, you have to always be on the lookout for "the next best thing," which will give your company the edge over others in the market. But when it comes to growth, there isn't a simple one-size-fits-all formula you can use to increase your construction revenue.

However, there are many effective strategies ranging from careful planning and network building to social media influence that you can use to grow your business that can help you reach new heights, make more money and increase your market share. Here are some ideas to get you started.

A happy, satisfied customer is sig-

nificant for your business. Small construction businesses succeed best when they seek and find clients who fit seamlessly within their mission and who they can easily satisfy. Construction companies also expand swiftly when they have established strong customer service teams to help them build long lists of happy clients who can refer new clients and make repeat purchases. Indeed, if you want your small business to grow, you should focus on exceeding the expectations of your current customers to reduce customer turnover. Retaining clients who can make repeat purchases will help you spend less on marketing.

Get Online

The best way to promote your company is via the web. The website and social media can grow the construction business in an accelerated man-

ner. In order to reach as many people as possible, you should create a website with all the essential information, such as contact details, expertise, and pricing.

Quality is king

Cutting corners to reduce costs to speed up the completion of a project or closing a deal can be detrimental. Especially in an industry like construction, it is possible to overlook the quality and fall for the promises of the large quantities. But in the long run, the quality of your product makes a big difference. And the profitability of your services will ultimately depend upon the quality of your work!

Expand your services

A great way to grow your business is to expand into other areas of service. Adding streams of revenue to your

business will not only increase your revenue, but will also add prestige to your company's profile.

Be up to date with industry trends

The next hack to grow your construction business is to stay updated with the latest construction industry trends. In a rapidly progressing world, any company that isn't innovating constantly can be categorized as a losing business. So, changes in the positive direction are vital for the business to flourish. Construction companies should be aware of the latest trends in the industry. They must strive to accommodate them as soon as possible. Starting early in an emerging market can skyrocket your business.

Nidhi Aggarwal is the founder of SpaceMantra



CONSTRUCTION

The Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

AUSTRALIA STARTS CONSTRUCTION OF DAIRYMPLE STATE BATTERY PROJECT

DALRYMPLE

A state-owned power company has begun the construction phase of a 35MW grid-scale battery storage project in Australia's Northern Territory.

Territory Generation's Darwin-Katherine Battery Energy Storage System (DK BESS) will provide essential services to stabilise the local Darwin-Katherine Electricity System grid which serves about 150,000 people.

While the project's expected cost is AU\$45 million (\$30 million), it should unlock AU\$9.8 million in operating cost savings every year, meaning that it will pay for itself in about five years. It will also help contribute towards the Northern Territory (NT) reaching its policy goal of running on 50 percent renewable energy by 2030.

The Territory Labor government's chief minister Natasha Fyles and minister for renewables and energy Selena Uibo issued a statement earlier this week, announcing that earthworks are already complete and work to put in heavy founda-



The first BESS in Australia with 'virtual synchronous machine' capabilities of delivering inertia to the grid PHOTO/HITACHI

tions, in-ground services infrastructure and culverts is underway.

The politicians noted the project as an important early step in reducing the NT and the Darwin-Katherine Electricity System's reliance on gas generation.

A competitive tender run by Territory Generation to supply the BESS solution was won by Hitachi Energy towards the end of

last year. The project will be built at the site of the power company's Channel Island Power Station.

"We've backed renewables and so have Territorians - they know renewables deliver cleaner, cheaper and secure power," Fyles said.

"The cutting-edge technology in our Battery Energy Storage System will reinforce the Northern Territory as the solar capital of Australia. It will store power and

be the backbone of the Darwin to Katherine Electricity grid."

As reported by Energy-Storage.news last November as Hitachi Energy's awarding of the project was announced, the DK BESS will provide spinning reserve to the local grid, directly replacing one gas generation unit at the Channel Island power plant. That means fuel cost savings as well as reduced emissions.

The BESS will also provide inertia to the grid, again a service traditionally provided by fossil fuel power plants. Hitachi Energy actually delivered Australia's first battery project equipped with advanced inverters to inject 'synthetic inertia' using power stored in a lithium-ion BESS, back in 2018.

Regular readers of this site will note that batteries-as-inertia is an application of growing interest in Australia, with Tesla's Hornsdale Power Reserve BESS recently retrofitted with advanced inverters to deliver the grid service, and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) offering financial support to a number of large-scale projects around the country using the technology.

The DK BESS will also provide backup contingency in the event of local power outages.

Installation of the BESS is expected to begin later this year and the project will be online in 2023.

"The Darwin-Katherine battery not only delivers on a portion of the government's Darwin-Katherine Electricity System Plan but is also key to unlocking flexibility in our generation fleet to better manage the increasing impacts of solar on the system," Territory Generation CEO Gerhard Laubscher said.

Hyundai to build major new district near Hanoi

HANOI

Korea's Hyundai Engineering & Construction has signed a memorandum of understanding with Vietnamese conglomerate Bitexco to develop a substantial new industrial and residential district in Vietnam's Ha Nam Province, about 50km south of the capital, Hanoi.

Hyundai will design, build and operate a 660ha high-tech industrial district, including research and development centres, offices, shops and warehouses.

It will also build an 860ha downtown district that will be primarily residential, and will include the latest mobility solutions, robots and digital platforms.

Jointly developed by the provincial government, the project is part of a plan to develop a "capital area" in each of the nine provinces surrounding Hanoi.

The goal is to create an economic powerhouse three times bigger than Hanoi is now, where almost 23 million people will live by 2030.

Bitexco started as a textile company in northern Vietnam in 1985. It has since evolved into a real estate, investment and trade group. It also develops hydropower and solar schemes, as well as transport infrastructure.

The signing of the Ha Nam Eco-Smart Urban Living Tomorrow City was held on Monday at the Marriott Hotel in Hanoi.

It was attended by Yoon Young-joon, Hyundai's president, and Bitexco chairman Vu Quang Hoi, as well as diplomats and politicians.

Speaking at the ceremony, Yoon commented that his company's strategic collaboration with Bitexco would "contribute to the realisation of a people-centred future city where environment and technology coexist".

He said: "Overseas smart city development projects will be the cornerstone of Hyundai E&C. We will strengthen our position as a leader in Team Korea to expand K-Smart Infrastructure exports and accelerate the smart city construction project."



Yoon Young-joon and Vu Quang Hoi signing the deal (Hyundai Engineering & Construction)

Data center project brings 1,000 construction jobs

CHICAGO

As construction of the first building kicks off, over 1,000 construction jobs will be created over a two-year period. Later phases of construction contemplate an additional 2,000 full time construction jobs.

"Companies like CloudHQ continue to look to northern Illinois and our service territory thanks to the unparalleled access to clean, affordable and reliable power that is essential for meeting the demands of today's economy."

Construction is underway on the eighth new data center project that will include a new onsite substation, extend high voltage lines, and provide new technology investments to help CloudHQ meet growing demand for data center services supporting the digital economy.

"ComEd is thrilled to support the launch of one of the largest data centers ever seen in our state, as part of our ongoing work to power growth



CloudHQ is building a \$2.5 billion, 1.5 million sq. ft. data center campus - one of the largest such facilities in Illinois.

by Illinois companies who continue to bring jobs and investment into the communities we are proud to serve," said Gil C. Quinones, CEO of ComEd.

The first phase is set for completion in 2024, with an additional two buildings to be added over the next three to five years depending on

demand.

CloudHQ will develop a hyperscale data center campus - a term which refers to the largest and most efficient type of data centers, which typically house hundreds of thousands of computer servers in each building. The three-building campus will be built to a LEED standard, high-

lighting the company's commitment to sustainable development.

"The demand we see for this location is already extremely encouraging, and will be supported by a new dedicated on-site ComEd substation that will allow us to scale to power future customer demand," CloudHQ COO

Keith Harney said in a statement. "Working with the Village of Mount Prospect Board of Trustees, the Mayor and the Village Staff has been an excellent experience and we thank them for their cooperation to realize our vision for the site."

The project has received local approvals by the Village of Mount Prospect to begin development of the site, which will repurpose the 50-acre, former United Airlines headquarters and operations center that was vacated in 2007. The new data center makes good use of the former United world headquarters site and will create new jobs and investment for the community without adding significant vehicle traffic to the area.

"CloudHQ's new project which will create a significant number of new jobs and local investment for the area. New investments by CloudHQ and other data centers coming to our area is a testament to the strong and dependable grid,

talent and infrastructure found only here in Illinois," said Rep. Mark Walker, who represents the 53rd District including Arlington Heights and Mount Prospect.

"The data center boom has landed in Mount Prospect, where village officials helped break ground Tuesday on a \$2.5 billion data center campus at the former site of United Airlines' world headquarters.

Asia's factory activity slumps on China's COVID curbs



A worker checks machinery at a factory in Higashiosaka

TOKYO

Asia's factory activity slumped in August as China's zero COVID curbs and cost pressures continued to hurt businesses, surveys showed on Thursday, darkening the outlook for the region's fragile recovery.

Manufacturing activity was weak in countries ranging from Japan, China, South Korea to Taiwan in a sign sluggish demand was adding to headaches for companies already suffering from lingering supply constraints.

The US Federal Reserve's resolve to continue aggressive interest rate hikes is also dampening the business mood by stoking fears of recession in one of Asia's biggest export markets, analysts say.

"China's pandemic curbs and geo-political tensions with the United States continue to disrupt supply chains. Rising inflation is also hurting domestic demand across Asia," said Toru Nishihama, chief economist at Dai-ichi Life Research

Institute in Tokyo.

"Fears of US recession also aren't helping. U.S. and Chinese economies are engines of global growth so when both of them are wobbling, that spells trouble for businesses."

There was, however, some relief for factories struggling with surging costs with input prices falling in China and Taiwan for the first time since May 2020 and increases generally slowing elsewhere.

China's private Caixin manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) contracted for the first time in three months in August, data showed on Thursday, as soft demand, power shortages and fresh COVID-19 flare-ups disrupting production.

The unexpectedly weak reading echoed China's official PMI released on Wednesday, which was also below the 50-point mark that separates growth from contraction on a monthly basis.

Export powerhouses were equally weak. Japan's factory activity

grew at its slowest rate in nearly a year in August, while that of South Korea shrank by the sharpest pace in two years, PMIs for both countries showed.

Manufacturing activity also deteriorated sharply in Taiwan, with production and new orders both falling at the quickest pace since the initial wave of the pandemic in May 2020.

"The marked deterioration in demand also meant that firms cut back on buying activity and inventories, as more firms anticipate production levels to decline further over the coming year," Annabel Fiddes, economics associate director at S&P Global, said on Taiwan's output outlook.

The final au Jibun Bank Japan Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 51.5 in August from 52.1 in the prior month, marking the weakest growth rate since September 2021.

South Korea's PMI fell to 47.6 in

August from 49.8 in July, remaining below the 50-threshold for a second month and hitting the lowest since July 2020.

Taiwan's PMI hit 42.7 in August, down from 44.6 in July.

Weakening demand, however, is having the side-effect of easing price pressures. South Korean manufacturers saw input prices rise in August by the slowest rate in 19 months.

The average input costs faced by Taiwanese goods producers fell for the first time since May 2020, as prices of some raw material like steel and oil have started to fall.

India's factory activity continued to grow robustly in August thanks in part to a boost to output from easing input cost inflation, the country's PMI showed.

Southeast Asia remained a bright spot in the region with manufacturing activity growth in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand accelerating, while Malaysia's growth slowed slightly, the PMIs showed.

WORLD

COVID drives down US life expectancy for second straight year

LIFE expectancy fell in the United States in 2021 for the second year in a row to its lowest level since 1996, driven by COVID-19 deaths, according to provisional government data published on Wednesday.

The nearly one-year decline from 2020 to 76.1 years marked the largest two-year drop in life expectancy at birth in close to a century, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found.

Disparity in life expectancy between men and women also widened last year to the highest in over two decades, with men now expected to live 73.2 years, nearly six fewer years than women.

Deaths from COVID-19 contributed to half of the overall decline in life expectancy last year, with drug overdoses and heart disease also major contributors, the data showed.

COVID-19 was associated with more than 460,000 US deaths in 2021, according to the CDC.

In 2020, US life expectancy saw its biggest one-year drop since World War Two, with COVID-related deaths contributing nearly 75 percent to the decline.

"Mortality's been a little better in 2022 than it was in 2020, so I think it's likely that we would see maybe a slight increase in life expectancy," said Robert Anderson, chief of mortality sta-



White flags are seen on the National Mall near the Washington Monument in Washington, DC on Sept 19, 2021. The project, by artist Suzanne Brennan Firstenberg, uses over 600,000 miniature white flags to symbolize the lives lost to COVID-19 in the US. File photo

tistics at CDC's National Center for Health Statistics.

However, life expectancy this year will likely not return to pre-pandemic levels, and a lot rides on what happens toward the end of the year as deaths typically rise during winter months, Anderson said.

While deaths from suicide had decreased in 2020, they were the fifth

biggest contributor to the drop in overall life expectancy last year. Suicide-related deaths were the third leading contributor of the decline in life expectancy for men.

The data represents early estimates and has several limitations, the agency noted, including the difference in the time taken by various jurisdictions in submitting death cer-

Malaysia's former first lady sentenced to 10 years in jail

KUALA LUMPUR

A MALAYSIAN court yesterday sentenced Rosmah Mansor, the wife of former Prime Minister Najib Razak, to a decade in prison for seeking and receiving bribes in exchange for government contracts, just days after her husband was jailed for corruption.



Rosmah (pictured) will also have to pay a fine of 970 million ringgit (US\$216.45 million) over three bribery charges, Kuala Lumpur High Court Judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan said, adding that the prosecution proved their case beyond a reasonable doubt.

The judge granted her a stay of sentence, so Rosmah will not go to the jail on Thursday. She can appeal the decision in two higher courts.

Rosmah, dressed in a yellow baju kurung - a traditional Malaysian long blouse and skirt - and matching headscarf, addressed the judge tearfully immediately after the verdict.

"I must admit that I'm very sad with what happened today," she said. "Nobody saw me taking the money, nobody saw me counting the money... but if that's the conclusion, I leave it to God."

Her lawyers had asked for a one-day jail sentence, while prosecutors sought "maximum or near maximum."

The former first lady, seen as a powerful figure behind Najib, has been widely scorned in Malaysia for her extravagant lifestyle and penchant for Hermes Birkin bags.

Rosmah, 70, had pleaded not guilty to the three charges of soliciting and receiving bribes between 2016 and 2017 to help a company secure a US\$279 million solar power supply project from Najib's government.

Prosecutors say Rosmah sought a bribe of 187.5 million ringgit (US\$41.80 million), and received 6.5 million ringgit from an official of the company that won the project.

Rosmah has argued that she was framed by her former aide as well as several government and company officials involved in the project.

Rosmah also faces 17 charges of money laundering and tax evasion in a separate case.

Najib and his wife, who has faced criticism for her lavish lifestyle, are at the center of a wide-ranging crackdown on corruption mounted after defeat in a historic 2018 election ended Najib's nine years in power.

Last week, Najib began serving a 12-year jail sentence after Malaysia's top court upheld his conviction in a case linked to a multibillion-dollar graft scandal at state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (IMDB). He remains on trial in four other corruption cases.

Najib was voted out of power amid public outrage over the IMDB scandal, which is the subject of corruption and money laundering investigations in at least six countries.

The US Department of Justice alleges that US\$4.5 billion were stolen from IMDB, about US\$1 billion of which made their way into Najib's personal bank accounts.

Some of the funds stolen from IMDB were used to buy jewelry for Rosmah, including a US\$27 million pink diamond necklace, US lawsuits say.

Police found 12,000 individual items of jewelry, 567 luxury handbags, 423 watches and US\$26 million in cash at properties linked to the couple following Najib's unexpected defeat in the 2018 election. **Agencies**

Survey shows feelings of safety declining in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

FEELINGS of safety have generally been declining since the 2019/2020 period, according to the statistical release posted by Statistics South Africa on its official website on Tuesday.

Data showed that the experience of crime by households increased for housebreaking, home robbery, assault and murder in South Africa over the 2021/2022 period, with housebreaking listed as the most common crime.

A total of 983,000 households experienced housebreaking incidences during the period. The statistics also showed that the second most common type of crime experienced by households is home robbery, affecting 155,000 households.

Assault is the third most common type of crime, with 99,000 households affected. The experience of theft of motor vehicles by households, however, declined from 81,000 in the 2020/21 period to 42,000 in the 2021/2022 period.

The latest data released by Statistics South Africa showed that individual experience of crime has also increased, with the exception of street robbery, which dropped in the 2021/2022 period. **Xinhua**

China rejects accusations of so-called enforced disappearances

UNITED NATIONS

CHINA'S Permanent Mission to the United Nations on Tuesday categorically opposed and rejected accusations against China on enforced disappearances.

United States Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield used the occasion of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances on Tuesday to issue a statement "to launch groundless accusations against China and interfere in the work of international organizations". China categorically opposes and rejects this, said China's Permanent Mission to the UN in a statement released on Tuesday.

An enforced disappearance is considered to be any form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty, according to the UN.

Enforced disappearance is an extreme violation of human rights that is prohibited and punished by countries in accordance with the law, the statement said.

"As a country governed by the

rule of law, China's Constitution and laws clearly stipulate that citizens enjoy personal freedom, and that no organization or individual can illegally restrict the personal freedom of others. We firmly oppose any form of enforced disappearance," it said.

"For quite some time, the United States has been fabricating lies and hyping up Xinjiang-related issues. It talks about protecting human rights, but what it really wants is to use Xinjiang-related issues to contain China."

At present, people in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region enjoy safety and stability, and live and work in peace and happiness. The human rights of all ethnic groups are fully protected. There is no so-called enforced disappearance in Xinjiang at all, according to the statement, adding that the US' ulterior motive has already been laid bare for all to see.

Human rights violations by US

"The United States has always portrayed itself as a 'human rights judge' and 'human rights defender'. But the fact is the country has serious problems of enforced disappearances and a poor human



A farmer harvests grapes at a plantation in Shuanghe, Xinjiang, in September 2021. (File photo)

rights record that gets worse with each passing day," it said.

The statement pointed out that the systematic slaughter of Indigenous people in the US since its independence in 1776 has reduced the Native American population from 5 million to 250,000.

"This is not only enforced disappearance, but a genocide with unarguable proofs," it said.

The statement pointed out that wars waged by the US have claimed the lives of more than 929,000 people in the past decade alone.

The US also established overseas prisons such as the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, where it has committed a wide range of human rights abuses, including

enforced disappearances and torture.

Sixteen UN Special Procedures mandate-holders have called on the US to shut down those overseas prisons and provide compensation to the detainees, but the US has "turned a deaf ear to those calls", the statement said.

The US paid little attention to its own people's right to life and right to health, as 1.04 million people have lost their lives and more than 200,000 children were left orphaned during the COVID-19 pandemic, said the statement.

Last year, gun violence in the US claimed more than 44,000 lives. These are permanent enforced disappearances caused by the government's inaction and failure, the statement said.

The public statement by the US ambassador is the latest evidence of the US' "coercive diplomacy" and its "arbitrary interference" in the work of the UN and other international organizations.

"What the United States has done is a serious violation of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, making it the biggest saboteur of multilateralism and international rules," the statement said. **Xinhua**

In current era, Russia has nobody but itself to rely on – Lavrov

MOSCOW

Russia is living through a long historical period when it has nobody but itself to rely on, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at the educational marathon Znaniye (Knowledge) on Wednesday.

"As we can see, the West's reaction to the implementation of the special military operation's goals clearly shows that from the very outset the tasks of the West were global and aimed at weakening, and, as some political scientists in the West admit, dismembering our country," he said. "During the era we are now



living through, and it is precisely an era, a long historical period, we have to be prepared to realize we have nobody to rely on but ourselves."

Lavrov stressed that Russia was well aware of the West's inability to negotiate and honor commitments, and that its promises not to expand NATO to the east and to adhere to the principles of indivisible security "have gone into the dustbin."

"We will advance our agenda, which is based on the principles of the UN Charter and respect for the sovereign equality of states, which is violated by

the Americans and their European and other allies," Lavrov said.

He recalled that "80% of those living on the globe represent countries that have not joined the sanctions announced by the US and its satellites."

"This is so despite the colossal daily pressure that is exerted on the governments of these countries with the aim to force them join the mainstream of anti-Russian and Russophobic politics," he stressed.

"We have not only the UN Charter, but also a large group of countries on our side," Lavrov concluded. **Agencies**

Digital economy a great platform for China's young generations

THE digital economy, with information technology at its core, has become a new engine driving China's economic recovery and high-quality economic and social development in recent years.

It is inspiring new industries, business forms and models, bringing huge changes to the life and ideas of the young generations. Many young people have carved out a niche in the sector of the digital economy and are constantly promoting social progress.

Geru Drolma, 25, is a Tibetan short video blogger that owns millions of followers on the internet from Daocheng county, Ganzi Tibetan autonomous prefecture of southwest China's Sichuan province. She grew up helping his parents with farm chores.

Five years ago, Geru Drolma occa-

sionally shared a video of herself digging caterpillar fungus on the internet and it soon went viral. Later, she started recording her life with short videos revealing rural lifestyles, which has gained her numerous followers.

In 2019, Geru Drolma jointly started a cooperative with her fellow villagers to sell products pick in the mountains, such as caterpillar fungus and matsutake.

"My smartphone changed my life, and it has brought me to a broader world together with the internet," Geru Drolma said.

New employment models and careers are popping up as the digital economy develops, such as net-

worked collaborative manufacturing, working from home, e-commerce, digital entertainment, online marketing and online delivery. These jobs have become a choice for many young people.

Over 20 of the 56 new job categories released by China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security are about the digital economy.

A recent survey by China Youth Daily suggested that 75.1 percent of the young respondents were willing to find a job or start a business in the sector of the digital economy.

"New careers featuring digital economy are not only a stage where the young people can realize their dreams, but also an important part of

and an engine driving economic and social development," said Liu Donghao, a research associate with the Institute for Contemporary China Studies, Tsinghua University.

Compared with traditional jobs, these new jobs come in more diverse forms, and are more interesting, flexible, tech-ish, digitalized, intelligent and internet-based, Liu added.

With the accelerating construction of new infrastructure and upgrading internet technologies, young people are becoming a major force driving the development of the digital economy and social progress.

Fu Zhenbang, vice president of the All-China Youth Federation, said in a sub-forum of the recently held 2022

World Youth Development Forum that China has always placed a high value on empowering youth to promote the development of the digital economy.

In China, young people account for over half of the workforce in digital technology-based industries that take innovation as core competitiveness, Fu said.

Wang Yuntao, a deputy chief engineer of a cloud computing and big data research institute of the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, believes that young people today can turn digital programs into actual services by using artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain, and cloud comput-

ing technologies, so as to drive the development of various industries and promote social progress with digital technology.

Given the important role played by the digital economy in the promotion of global economic development, enhancing youth cooperation and building a global web of trust has become inevitable for the world to achieve digital civilization.

Chief economist of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology Xu Keming noted that China will keep holding the principle of joint contribution and shared benefits, and give play to international collaboration and complementary advantages, to promote wide and smooth circulation of digital technologies, standards and products around the world. **People's Daily**

Russia doing its best to ensure success of IAEA mission to Zaporozhye plant, diplomat says

MOSCOW

THE IAEA mission team is on its way to the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant, and Russia is doing its utmost to ensure that the visit is successful and safe, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said during a briefing on Wednesday.

"According to our information, the agency's team is on its way. On the Russian side, everything necessary is being done and even more. We have been working on it for three months, negotiating the trip itself way back on June 3, as well as the inspection, the team's composition, timing, and the route, so that the mission, led by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, planned three months ago, finally could take place and complete all its goals at the power plant," she said.

The diplomat also lamented that the UN only pays lip service to its 'support' for the IAEA mission, and is in no rush to admit its earlier miscalculations.

"We expect that the agency's representatives, who are expected to arrive at the power plant shortly, will be able to examine the situation on the ground and in every detail, to assess the consequences of the inhumane Ukrainian strikes at the objects and facilities located at this site, and to make sure that the information being provided by the Russian side on an almost daily basis about the increasingly dangerous situation at the ZNPP and about the sources of these threats, - that is the Kiev regime and its forces - is totally true," she specified.

According to Zakharova, Russia anticipates that the IAEA mission will be "objective and professional," and that

is its main task and goal.

"The Ukrainian side's attempts to muddy the progress of the IAEA international mission, the intensified attacks on this site, and the use of increasingly heavy weapons negate all the statements uttered by the regime [of Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky] that Kiev is allegedly interested in a successful visit by Rafael Grossi," she argued.

"We hope that the plans of Ukrainian strategists to once again obstruct the IAEA mission will not come to fruition, and that the mission will take place. A different development could be viewed as nothing but an admission of guilt by the Kiev regime," Zakharova said.

The diplomat underscored that the presence of the IAEA mission at the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant will make it possible to improve the situation and compel the Ukrainian forces "to come to their senses" and stop the shelling of the power plant and the adjacent territories for good.

"We urge all countries, especially those who have a direct influence on the Kiev regime, to continue exerting this influence, and turn up the heat on the Ukrainian authorities, forcing them to come to their senses, in order to stop this nuclear lawlessness and blackmailing, to stop terrorizing the entire world, and to stop before a catastrophe occurs, which may have very serious consequences," Zakharova concluded.

On Tuesday, the IAEA mission departed from Vienna and arrived in Kiev, where the delegation met with Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky. On Wednesday, the mission's motorcade departed from Kiev and headed to the nuclear power plant.

Scientists develop simple test to diagnose deadly animal disease prevalent in Africa

NAIROBI

SCIENTISTS from the Nairobi-based International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) on Wednesday said they have developed an easy method to diagnose trypanosomiasis, a disease that ravages millions of animals across Africa annually.

The new method is rapid, affordable and efficient in diagnosing the disease, which is caused by tsetse flies and is of great economic importance as it kills both livestock and wild animals.

According to the ICIPE scientists, they have identified biomarkers in the urine of cows, which indicate with certainty the presence of trypanosome infection, even at low levels that would not be detectable through microscopy. Using this knowledge, they have developed a process for biomarker-based diagnosis of African animal trypanosomiasis.

"As a result, through a simple urine test, which can be administered even by livestock keepers, it is possible to confirm whether an animal has the disease," explained Merid Getahun, Research Scientist at ICIPE and the leader of the study.

Getahun said they identified two classes of compounds in the urine of cows, which are specifically affected by trypanosome infections. "Therefore, these two classes of compounds are predictive biomarkers of African animal trypanosomiasis," Getahun said.

The new method is specific to trypanosome infections, as it is negative on animals suffering from other ailments with symptoms similar to African animal trypanosomiasis. Daniel

Masiga, ICIPE's Principal Research Scientist, and Head of Human and Animal Health said the biomarker-based diagnosis can be translated into a ready-to-use, inclusive innovation.

"For example, the reagent and activator can be packaged into a dipstick that can be easily applied to a urine sample. This would empower livestock keepers to make evidence-based decisions on the health of their animals," said the scientist.

Over the years, one of the main challenges in tackling the disease has been diagnostic strategies, currently which include microscopic examinations and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, which are costly and thus inaccessible to livestock keepers.

Segenet Kelemu, ICIPE Director General, said the diagnostic tool for African animal trypanosomiasis is an innovation that is not only effective but would also be accessible and affordable to all segments of society, transforming many communities.

At least three million cattle succumb to African animal trypanosomiasis, a debilitating disease of livestock that is caused by trypanosome parasites, which are mainly transmitted by tsetse flies.

Known as nagana in cattle, goats and sheep, and as surra in camels, the disease symptoms include anemia, fever, swelling of the lymph nodes and decreased appetite; leading to weight loss, lethargy abortions, a suppressed immune system and increased chances of concurrent infections.

Trypanosomiasis causes direct and indirect losses of approximately 4.75 billion U.S. dollars per year in the continent, according to the ICIPE.

Somali regional states suspend cooperation with federal finance ministry

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA'S five federal states have announced a halt of their cooperation with the central government's ministry of finance, citing violation of agreements.

The finance ministries of Puntland, Jubaland, Hirshabelle, SouthWest and Galmudug federal member states accused the central government of reneging on agreements signed previously to enhance fiscal policies in Somalia.

The federal ministry of finance reportedly stopped budget subsidies to the regional governments based on foreign lending or grants.

"The ministries of finance of the Federal Member States have suspended all cooperation with the ministry of finance of the government of Somalia until the

ministry returns to the framework of the law and the implementation of the agreements mentioned," according to a statement issued Tuesday evening.

The agreements on the working relations between the central government and the federal states were inked in Kenya, Uganda, and Somalia in 2019 and 2020.

Analysts say the move to cut the links with the central government by the federal states could damage the country's economy.

The suspension of cooperation with the central government will remain in place until President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's government reverses "un-constitutional" decisions, the statement said.

Xinhua

IMF provisionally agrees on US\$2.9b loan for Sri Lanka



In this April 7, 2021 photo, the seal of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is seen outside of a headquarters building in Washington. AFP

COLOMBO

SRI LANKA has reached a preliminary agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a loan of about US\$2.9 billion, the global lender said on Thursday, as the country seeks a way out of its worst economic crisis in decades.

The agreement, which Reuters first reported on Wednesday, is subject to approval by IMF management and its executive board, and is contingent on Sri Lankan authorities following through with previously agreed measures.

"The staff level agreement is only the beginning of a long road for Sri Lanka," senior IMF official Peter Breuer told reporters in the commercial capital Colombo.

"Authorities have already begun the reform process and it must continue with determination."

The IMF requires receiving financing assurances from Sri Lanka's official creditors, besides ensuring efforts are made to reach a collaborative agreement with pri-

vate creditors.

"Debt relief from Sri Lanka's creditors and additional financing from multilateral partners will be required to help ensure debt sustainability and close financing gaps," the IMF said in a statement.

The IMF program, spread over 48 months, will aim to raise government revenue to support fiscal consolidation, introduce new pricing for fuel and electricity, hike social spending, bolster central bank autonomy and rebuild depleted foreign reserves.

"Starting from one of the lowest revenue levels in the world, the programme will implement major tax reforms. These reforms include making personal income tax more progressive and broadening the tax base for corporate income tax and VAT," the statement said.

"The program aims to reach a primary surplus of 2.3 percent of GDP by 2024," it added.

Udeeshan Jonas, chief strategist at Sri Lankan investment bank CAL Group, said that the IMF's comments were largely positive.

"They said the revenue measures that

we've taken have been substantial (and) they're happy with what we've done from a fiscal perspective," he said.

And although welfare budgets for Sri Lanka's poorest would be protected, Jonas said he expected significant austerity measures and job cuts at loss-making state-owned enterprises.

"Privatisation is on the cards," he said, "and I think it will happen probably by next year."

Creditor collaboration

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who also serves as the country's finance minister, on Tuesday presented an interim budget aimed at clinching the deal with the IMF.

The budget revised Sri Lanka's deficit projection for 2022 to 9.8 percent of the gross domestic product from 8.8 percent earlier, while outlining fiscal reforms, including a hike in value-added taxes.

Sri Lanka needs to restructure nearly US\$30 billion of debt, and Japan has offered to lead talks with the other main creditors.

"If creditors are not willing to provide assurances, it would deepen Sri Lanka's

crisis and undermine repayment capacity," Breuer said, adding that it was in the interest of all creditors to collaborate.

Sri Lanka will also need to strike a deal with international banks and asset managers that hold the majority of its US\$19 billion worth of sovereign bonds, which are now classified as in default.

The debt-laden country has been seeking up to US\$3 billion from the IMF in a bid to escape its worst economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1948.

Sri Lankans have faced acute shortages of fuel and other basic goods for months, leaving it in political turmoil and hit by runaway inflation, which is now at almost 65 percent year-on-year.

Agencies

Technology gives a leg up to smart transportation

NOWADAYS, facial scanning has replaced high-speed train tickets, and median barriers can be remotely controlled to adjust traffic flow. What's more, automated parking systems have freed drivers from parking and pulling out.

Grasping the opportunities brought by digital economy and being integrated with big data technology, the transportation sector has become smarter over the recent years.

According to a guideline on the long-term development of transportation technology jointly issued by the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Science and Technology, China will vigorously develop intelligent transportation, speed up the application of a new generation of information technology and aerospace information technology in the transportation sector, and accelerate the building of new transportation infrastructure.

Smart roads have embraced prosperous development over the recent years as roads are digitalized and made internet-based.

As the first pilot project of smart expressway in east China's Shandong province, the Taian-Zaozhuang section of the Beijing-Taipai Expressway has adopted a series of smart technologies.

It can maintain smooth traffic by acquiring precise information on the road. Within 20 kilometers from the Manzhouang entrance of the expressway in Taian, Shandong province, there is a pole by the side of the road every 200 meters, on which a communication unit is installed. The unit receives traffic information and sends it to relevant vehicles for smoother traffic.

Besides, there are 182 high-



Visitors pose for pictures at the Universal Beijing Resort, April 22, 2022. (Photo by He Luqi/People's Daily Online)

definition surveillance cameras, 15 sets of omnidirectional millimeter-wave radars and 33 sets of laser radars along the Beijing-Taipai Expressway. The traffic information collected by the equipment is transmitted to a smart traffic control platform, and then the platform processes the data it receives and gives precise evaluation of current traffic conditions.

A man surnamed Wang, who works in Taian, once had a vehicle failure on the expressway. Just seconds after he pulled over, he received a reminder from the smart traffic control platform. Meanwhile, Wang's location was reported to relevant traffic control departments by the platform. In less than 10 minutes, rescue staff showed up at the location and towed Wang's vehicle to the nearest exit.

"Now, surveillance camera-enabled automatic inspection has reduced the average disposal time of traffic accidents from 28 minutes

to 19 minutes per case, improving disposal efficiency by 32.1 percent," said Shi Ning, who works at the command and dispatching center of the expressway.

Fan Shujian, an official with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said the upgrading of the transportation sector driven by digital technologies has shaped new business models and forms that improve the safety and efficiency of urban roads and expressways.

Recently, a batch of smart service robots started their "careers" at the Caoqiao station of the Daxing Airport Express of the Beijing Subway. These speech-interactive machines provide route information and schedule and are able to guide passengers to the locations they want.

In Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian province, a smart parking system has been con-

structed. It enables drivers to search for and reserve available parking spaces online. Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, introduced to its taxi fleet a number of barrier-free cabs that can carry six passengers at most. These cabs have access ramps and can be hailed on mobile applications.

In the future, China will further enhance its innovation in the transportation sector to promote faster and better development of new infrastructure and smart transportation.

People's Daily



Joash Onyango

Will Simba SC now part mutually with Onyango?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

RUMOURS have it Kenyan central defender Joash Onyango wants out of Tanzania's Simba SC and move elsewhere after the side's coach Zoran Maki left him out on the bench in all competitive games this season.

A football follower can believe that the rumour is true because Onyango is not used to missing out on competitive ties. Until now, the Kenyan international has hardly known what is wrong.

The experienced footballer has all along turned out to be the most reliable central defender.

He had made a good combination with Tanzanian Kennedy Juma, then he played for a long time with Ivorian Sergi Pascal.

When Congolese center-back Henock Inonga joined Simba SC last season, Sergi had to start sitting on the bench while Onyango played alongside Inonga, life was good for Onyango.

It was not a coincidence that Onyango continued to be Simba's key defender.

A section of Yanga's fans attempted to demoralize Onyango by calling him a senior citizen.

I had several times asked myself can a 'pensioner' be as fast as Onyango?

Can a veteran performer with Onyango's caliber read the game so carefully and protect his club's keeper?

Is there any veteran defender that can efficiently keep the opposing outfits' attackers at bay?

When Simba took on age-old rival Yanga in a 2021/22 Premier League second phase clash, there was an incident that had the former's center-back Inonga jokingly escorting the latter's goal-getter Fiston Mayele out of the pitch when the forward was substituted.

The incident was well-received by Simba supporters, most of whom claimed Inonga kept Mayele in check, but the fact is Onyango was the center-back deserving the praise, as he was the one that kept Mayele at bay.

Ivorian defender Mohammed Ouattara has this season moved to Simba. It was not known whether the defender has come to serve as either Onyango or Inonga's backup.

It is as well not clear whether Ouattara was brought in to take either Onyango's or Inonga's place.

Domestic football followers are aware that the Ivorian center-back joined Simba to replace Onyango.

Simba's head coach, Zoran Maki, has impressively opted for his system, and he did not want to be a hypocrite.

He did not want to change his system to satisfy the third foreign defender in his squad.

Maki did not want to opt for three defenders to satisfy his three foreign performers from DR Congo, Kenya, and the Ivory coast.

He has decided to field Inonga and Ouattara, this means the decision has proved costly to Onyango, one of the most important players in the history of Simba in recent years.

What will surprise Onyango is the same thing that surprises domestic football fans, he has been left out while his performance is second to none and unquestionable.

He has been left out of the squad without making a mistake on the pitch. The footballer might have made mistakes when Simba headed to Egypt for pre-

season preparations.

Otherwise, in the eyes of many, if an individual asks domestic football fans, regardless of their fanaticism, to name the best defender between Onyango and Inonga, I think many will mention Onyango.

Although he does not entertain the fans as is the case with Inonga, Onyango has had more praise on the pitch due to his strength and effectiveness.

If this situation persists then Onyango will have many questions, when will his chance come?

He turns 30 years old in January next year, and players his age do not like to sit on the bench.

If a person looks at him sitting on the bench, he/she can see that the center-back is not happy.

This is a competitive behaviour that many foreign footballers have, except for their Tanzanian counterparts.

But then one ought to remember that early in 2022/23, Onyango signed a two-year contract to serve Simba. If life continues like this, it means that he will not tolerate sitting on the bench.

Is it true that he has asked to terminate his contract now? I'm not sure unless it will be a big trap for him and his club.

Simba will not accept Onyango's request for contract termination because it knows if any of the defenders between Ouattara and Inonga have problems then Onyango is the right choice to fill the gap, not Kennedy Juma, thus, how can the outfit let the Kenyan center-back move?

This is the problem that Simba has created, there are three foreign defenders at the club.

If the side had only two, with Kennedy Juma deployed as a reserve, there would not be much of a problem because Juma would accept this situation, not Onyango.

Yanga has had success with a clever trick of having Congolese Yannick Bangala deployed as a backup to the other central defenders, Bakari Mwamnyeto and Dickson Job, if one of them has a problem, then Bangala plays.

If Bangala is deployed in one of the other two footballers' positions, then the one who stays on the bench will not be dismayed the way Onyango is.

Should the Kenyan footballer opt to terminate the contract, Simba will not pay him much money.

He will have decided to terminate the contract, a club the footballer would join might have promised him a lot of money if he terminates his contract, something I feel can happen.

Onyango can turn out for any of the country's other prominent clubs, Yanga and Azam FC.

Onyango is a player that Yanga and Azam FC can sign, should Simba part ways with him.

Simba is not stupid either, the side knows this can happen and this is another reason that may cause it to opt out of parting ways with Onyango.

The Msimbazi Street outfit might not accept losing many players. Onyango joins the group of Simba SC footballers that are allegedly not accepted by Maki but get along well with the outfit's leadership.

I think Simba SC will not accept losing these players when Maki's time at the club may be less than the time of the players.

When Azam FC gets new coach, and the fans think there is a crisis

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

AZAM FC has lately set a new record or rather a form of a surprise in announcing a new coach at the start of the season, without any background event or environment to suggest that the club was on the verge of parting ways with the coach.

There was hence a rather confused atmosphere of bemused surprise at that event as fans and pundits were caught unaware of that turn of events.

Yet there was no direct objection, any sort of hue and cry from within the club on the issue.

That was the more surprising part as usually coaches are removed in an atmosphere of 'bad blood' but this time it even appeared amicable, with no precipitous announcements on this departure, or what next.

Yet those with an eye or inkling of what was going on there would realize that this situation was not altogether surprising as even before the management renewal in the club, then the spate of recruitments, his position was largely informal. There was no hurry for a contract.

This impression was vivid in a January 2022 chronicle appearing online, where it is apparent the coach thinks he is on a learning plane, gathering experience at the club, etc.

At the same time, some coaching professionals prefer analytical, advisory assignments where they study opponents and get back to the coach, making a detailed briefing on what they saw.

On that premise the coach lays out a strategy, upon which they also take pride in having fashioned it, they do not envy the top job.

It is not too straightforward if this is the case as well, but several coaching professionals originally based in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, and the coastal neighbourhood have such assignments in up-and-coming clubs in the Gulf Zone.



Abdihamid Moalin. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

It is a bit of a metropolitan environment but culturally it is an extension of the East African coast as for centuries it was dominated by Gulf culture and politics.

Most of our youths trying professional soccer go to that zone, with Europe a higher slot.

In other words, there was something routine or ordinary in what Azam FC moved to do, and the relatively interim coach wasn't especially surprised by the move as he had himself intimated that same thing much earlier.

The problem that arose in a sense was that the remarks in January were at the early stages of the season, and the coach did well in the premier league, clinching the third position.

In that case, there was a need for recruitment to beef up squad depth rather than recruiting a new coach.

Put differently, even if at the start of the season there was a mutual understanding between Abdihamid Moalin and Azam FC that his position was interim, it is not evident that he as yet had something to prove by the end of the season.

Still, it isn't evident that discussion in the club took that route, as then it could have spilled into the open, and the fans, pundits, and other watchers get wind of what was being said or disputed.

Instead, the change in the headship of the technical bench arrived casually.

In the light of the club's third slot in the last season's final standing, relative to its fairly modest registration ambitions until rather lately, performance in that regard is unlikely to have been a minus in the erstwhile head coach.

Additionally, the new season was scarcely off the ground when the change was made, which similarly suggests that it isn't an actual evaluation of performance at the start unless it was intending to take some decision.

In that case, the shift was planned or its proper rationale predates the restart and can be fitted into the club's sharp enhancement.

It is as if the incoming helmsman at the club wanted a more reliable coach to head the technical bench, as it is said that the new coach has at least once reached the group stage of the CAF Champions League tourney.

In that regard, he is someone who can set goals or be made to sign on some dotted lines that crossing the first or two hurdles in the Confederation Cup ought to be the optimal or acceptable result or exit point in their current participation prospects.

It would just be to realize his old self, whereas with the outgoing interim head coach that would be a thrust too far.

All this might have been somewhat visible to pundits in particular, but the reason for astonishment seems to be in the fact that there is often no link between improving the lineup or squad on the one hand and altering the technical bench.

While player recruitment is taken for granted as often a matter of showing off as to what a club can do, like competing for players like Stephane Aziz Ki, Cesar Lobi Manzoki, or Bernard Morrison much earlier, changing the coach is different.

It is treated as the sacking of an incumbent, but this time it was essentially as good as looking for an expensive player, he did well, but the club wanted his trust and experience.

Dar company enters sponsorship agreement with Geita Gold FC

By Correspondents Faustine Feliciane & Joseph Mchekadona

NBC Premier League outfit, Geita Gold FC, has got a one-year sponsorship from Dar es Salaam firm, GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd.

The squad is as well one of Tanzania's envoys in the 2022/23 CAF inter-club tournaments.

The sponsorship will help Geita Gold FC achieve its goals in the continental showpiece and Premier League.

Speaking at the unveiling of the sponsorship, Chief Marketing Officer of GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd, Salman Karmali, said the company has decided to sponsor Geita Gold FC due to the club's good performance in the domestic league.

He said they believe the sponsorship stands to help the club do well in the competitions it will participate in.

"Our sponsorship includes money that will be presented to the club but, due to the agreement between both parties, we cannot specify the amount of money, it is however a sponsorship that is beneficial for both parties," Karmali stated.

The official noted apart from money, there are other issues outside the contract that Gf Trucks & Equipment Ltd can do for the club.

The success achieved by Geita Gold FC last season has made us sponsor this outfit, we believe this sponsorship will help it perform well," Karmali added.

Geita Gold FC Chief Executive Officer, Simon Shija, said due to the responsibilities they have this season, the arrival of GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd's backing will help them achieve their



Dar es Salaam's GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd's Chief Marketing Officer, Salman Karmali (C), and Geita Gold FC's Chief Executive Officer, Simon Shija (R), pose for a photo with copies of a sponsorship contract the two parties entered yesterday. Looking on is the firm's Communications Manager, Smart Deus. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

goals.

"This sponsorship gives us confidence that Geita Gold FC will solve its challenges, we are sure of traveling from one center to another in the league this season," the leader noted.

"The outfit's cooperation with other sponsors like Anglo Gold Ashanti also gives it the confidence to travel abroad for CAF Confederation Cup duels," the official added.

Geita Gold FC will represent Tanzania in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup alongside the country's other club, Azam FC.

The side finished fourth in the 2021/22 Premier League to land a spot in this season's second tier of

continental club tournaments.

Meanwhile, Geita Gold FC's information officer Hemed Kivuyo said the club has signed former Yanga's Burundian midfielder Said Ntibanzokinza on a one-year deal.

He said they hope the arrival of Ntibanzokinza will help their outfit perform well in NBC Premier League and the second tier of Africa's continental tournaments.

The leader noted: "We are delighted to announce that today (yesterday) we have finalized everything with Burundian Ntibanzokinza, he is a player we believe will bring his experience to the side."

"He is such a player with vast

knowledge and exposure to local and international matches, his decision to join us is great news to us," he said.

Geita Gold FC will face Kagera Sugar in the 2022/23 Premier League match at Kaitaba Stadium in Bukoba next week.

South Sudan Premier League side Hilal Alshahil, will, on September 11, confront Geita Gold FC in CAF Confederation Cup.

The Geita outfit had made its maiden appearance in Premier League last season and took the domestic top flight by storm, finishing fourth and landing qualification for one of Africa's inter-club tournaments.

Pep: Haaland has 'talent' to break Aguero records

LONDON

PEP Guardiola said Erling Haaland has the talent to break the records set by Manchester City's all-time goalscorer Sergio Aguero following his hat trick in a 6-0 win over Nottingham Forest on Wednesday.

Haaland became the first player to score nine goals in his first five Premier League appearances after scoring his second hat trick in as many games, beating Aguero's record, shared with Mick Quinn, of scoring eight times in his first five games in England's top flight.

The Norwegian's triple also marked the first back-to-back hat trick in the Premier League since Harry Kane did it for Tottenham Hotspur in 2017, after he scored three against Crystal Palace on Saturday.

And Haaland's start to life at the Etihad Stadium has already begun the debate about whether he could end up breaking the City goalscoring record of 260 across all competitions set by Aguero.

"Sergio is the legend," Guardiola said. "Nobody can break the position in the hearts of City fans, scoring the most important goal in the modern history. Erling has the quality to be there."

"What Sergio has done is amazing. But Erling has this talent. When City bought Erling, everybody talked about what he has done in the past. What we wanted to do is help him. Hopefully he can enjoy and score more goals."

However, Guardiola added that Haaland will only consider his time at Manchester City a success if he wins trophies, even if he goes on to break goalscoring records.

"What he has done in Norway, Austria and Germany he tries to do here," Guardiola said. "The first ball contact, he scores a goal. We knew it."

"He always scores goals. He is stoppable when we don't play good. We try to play in a decent way for the fact that we create opportunities for our talented players up front to score goals."

"I think what we want is to win the titles. Knowing him a little bit, I don't know if he'd be happy breaking records if we didn't win titles. If we play good, he'll have more chances."

Aside from Haaland's hat trick, fellow new arrival Julian Alvarez announced himself against Forest with his first two Premier League goals following his move from River Plate.

"Both have settled in a way I could not expect, especially Julian from Argentina," Guardiola added. "You see how he is doing. He struggled to find the pace in the first half. But the goals, when he is close to the goal, oh my God. So precise. So good. They are both incredible finishers."

The three points against Forest put City in second in the Premier League with 13 points from five games, two behind leaders Arsenal, who are enjoying a perfect start to the 2022-23 campaign.

(Agencies)

Pierre Aubameyang says 'violent cowards' injured his jaw in robbery

MADRID

BARCELONA forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang injured his jaw when armed robbers broke into his house this week, the player said Wednesday.

He posted a message on Instagram thanking everyone for their support after the attack by a group of masked men early Monday.

Aubameyang said he expected to recover soon and that no one else was physically harmed during the robbery.

"Some violent cowards broke into our home and threatened my family and my children, just to steal some stuff," he said. "They injured my jaw but I will recover in no time."

Aubameyang was hit in the face and forced to open a safe where they kept jewelry, authorities said. The attackers reportedly threatened him and his wife with guns and iron bars.

"The feeling that we are no longer safe in our own home is hard to understand and describe, but as a family, we will overcome this and stand stronger than ever. Thanks for all the support, it really means a lot to us."

The 33-year-old Aubameyang, a Gabon international, signed with Barcelona in the middle of last season after long stints with Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga and Arsenal in the Premier League.

There were no more details on his jaw injury, and Barcelona did not immediately say how long the player would be sidelined.

Aubameyang had not played in Barcelona's 4-0 win over Valladolid in the Spanish league on Sunday evening. He had been among the players expected to be sold to another team so the club can clear salary cap space.

Two weeks ago, new Barcelona signing Robert Lewandowski had a watch snatched from his arm as he arrived for practice at the club's training center.

It is not uncommon for soccer players' houses to be robbed in Spain, though the crimes usually happen when the athletes and their families are away during matches. Among the reported victims in the past were Casemiro, Alvaro Morata, Gerard Piqué, Samuel Umtiti, Jordi Alba and former Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane.

Spanish police a few years ago dismantled a gang that had been robbing players' houses during games.

AP

Haaland's hat-trick heroics show the Man City star is poised to smash every scoring record

By Rob Dawson, ESPN Correspondent

IF Erling Haaland really is the heir to Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi then he's wasting no time in racking up the numbers to prove it.

The likelihood is that we might never see goalscoring accomplishments like Ronaldo and Messi managed during their time in Spain, but Haaland's start to life at Manchester City has -- at the very least -- raised the possibility that we might.

The Norwegian's record so far reads five games and nine goals after his second hat-trick in five days helped City to a 6-0 win over Nottingham Forest at the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday. No player has scored more goals in their first five Premier League appearances and the way Haaland is going, it's unlikely to be the last record he breaks this season.

To put his exploits into context, it took Sergio Aguero more than three years and nearly 100 games to score two league hat-tricks for City. Haaland has done it in less than a month, only playing a full 90 minutes once over that span.

"What he has done in Norway, Austria and Germany he tries to do here," said Pep Guardiola after-



Manchester City's Erling Haaland celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Nottingham Forest at Etihad Stadium in Manchester, England, Wednesday, Aug 31, 2022. (AP Photo)

wards. "The first ball contact, he scores a goal. We knew it. He always scores goals. He is stoppable when we don't play good, but we try to play in a decent way for the fact that we create opportunities for our talented players up front to score goals."

"He's strong in all departments, but especially around the box, his finishing, and his work ethic is so

great." The concern for the rest of the league is that Guardiola is adamant Haaland is still settling in, but he's already been remarkably efficient. In 68 minutes against Forest, he touched the ball 16 times, but managed four shots, three on target and three goals. He's contributed 105 touches so far this season and averages a goal every 11.6. It's a

frightening return so early in his City career.

"It's been good so far," said Haaland, with something of an understatement. "I'm not complaining. There's going to be a lot of games, so it's important to keep going and enjoy as much as we can. Amazing, nothing more to say."

With the exception of Ilkay Gundogan, Guardiola says Haaland is still trying

to get on the same wavelength as his teammates, though his physical attributes alone are enough to worry defenses. Just ask Joe Worrall, Forest's 6-foot-3 central defender, who was shrugged off with a heave of Haaland's right arm as he stabbed in City's first goal. Worrall has spent almost all of his career in the Championship, which is considered a physical league, but even he looked shell-shocked as he lay in a heap on the floor while Haaland wheeled away in celebration.

The second goal was a tap-in -- just his third touch of the evening -- and the third a thundering header on the goal line when he got up far higher than two defenders in yellow shirts. A perfect hat-trick -- left foot, right foot and header -- wrapped up inside 38 minutes. His hat-trick against Crystal Palace on Saturday took just 19 minutes.

Forest manager Steve Cooper summed it up saying simply that Haaland has "got the lot."

Haaland has already scored more goals in August than Harry Kane and the England international is in his 11th Premier League season. Mohamed Salah's competition record of 32 goals in a 38-game season in 2017-18 already feels under threat, too. For the record, Salah began the

season with three goals in his first five games; Haaland has a six-goal head start although Guardiola believes his No.9 will only measure success this season in silverware.

"I think what he wants is to win the titles," he said. "Knowing him a little bit, I don't know if he'd be happy breaking records if we didn't win titles. If we play good, he'll have more chances."

"I know Erling is happy scoring goals, but what he wants is to win. If he breaks records but we don't win, he won't be happy."

The challenge for Haaland is consistency, something Ronaldo and Messi mastered at Real Madrid and Barcelona respectively. In nine years at the Bernabeu, Ronaldo scored an incredible 450 goals in 438 games. Messi, meanwhile, went 13 straight seasons at Barcelona between 2008 and 2021 scoring at least 30 times. Between 2009 and 2019, he hit at least 40 goals each season.

The numbers are mesmerizing and while Haaland, still only 22, is a long way from matching those feats, it's the company he is threatening to keep. As Messi and Ronaldo come to the end of their reign as goalscoring kings of Europe, if Haaland carries on like this, he's primed to take over.

Pogba's World Cup place in doubt amid scandal and bad knee

PARIS

PAUL Pogba's knee injury could save France coach Didier Deschamps from having to make a painful choice.

For the midfielder's fitness could prove to be the determining factor in deciding whether he plays at the World Cup, amid an extortion scandal that threatens to disrupt France's preparations for the tournament in Qatar.

What would otherwise have been an injury headache for Deschamps may give him an escape from the potential migraine of another scandal to hit Les Bleus, seven years after the last one.

Defending champion France can ill afford a campaign where two of its biggest stars -- Pogba and Kylian Mbappe -- are embroiled in controversy.

French officials said that Pogba paid 100,000 euros (nearly \$100,000) to an organized group including his brother that was trying to extort him for millions more.

French prosecutors are investigating allegations that Pogba was the target of extortion by his elder brother Mathias Pogba and childhood friends. They allegedly demanded 13 million euros (nearly \$13 million) from the France midfielder.

Pogba reportedly made the payment after he was threatened by masked, armed men in a Paris apartment in March while he was in France for national team duty. The group also made demands of the midfielder at the Juventus training center in Turin. He said Mathias Pogba was among them, according to reports.

French media



Paul Pogba

reports said Pogba told investigators the extortionists wanted to discredit him by claiming he asked a witch doctor to cast a spell on Mbappe -- an allegation denied by Pogba.

Mathias Pogba on Sunday appeared to address the witch doctor claim in a Twitter post directed at Mbappe: "Kylian, do you understand now? I have nothing against you, what I am saying is for your own good, everything is true and known, the witch doctor is known!"

Mbappe scored for French champion Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday in a 3-0 win at Toulouse but has yet to comment on the matter.

For Deschamps, however, it must be a tiresome and worrying feeling of déjà vu.

He has been in a similarly uncomfortable position before when star forward Karim Benzema was at the heart of a sex-tape scandal in the autumn of 2015, over his alleged role in blackmailing then-France teammate Mathieu Valbuena.

Both were in form and combining well on the pitch with Valbuena's quick feet and slick runs

down the right creating good scoring positions for Benzema.

That scandal also broke close to a major tournament, with France hosting the 2016 European Championship where Benzema -- France's top scorer at the 2014 World Cup -- was expected to star alongside Antoine Griezmann in attack.

Deschamps was close to Benzema, too, having earlier defended the striker when he went through a long goal drought. But he decided the media spotlight would be too bright and the questions too persistent at Euro 2016, so he left both Benzema and Valbuena off the squad.

To some observers it was Deschamps at his ruthless best, others felt he was too harsh on Benzema, and that the innocent Valbuena paid an unfair price.

Valbuena never played for France again, while Benzema didn't play for Les Bleus again until a surprising recall in May 2021.

While the circumstances are different, Pogba's presence at the World Cup

could also have an impact on another player: the star striker Mbappe. They both scored second-half goals in the 4-2 World Cup final win against Croatia four years ago and would normally be first-choice picks for Deschamps.

In normal circumstances, it would have been likely that Deschamps gave Pogba the maximum amount of time to recover from his knee injury. At the European Championship in 2008, then-coach Raymond Domenech took an injured Patrick Vieira in his squad, such was the midfielder's importance to the team.

But the current climate surrounding Pogba could affect how much indulgence Deschamps shows one of his closest players.

The president of the French Football Federation, Noel Le Graet has downplayed the scandal. "These are just rumors at this point," Le Graet told Radio Monte Carlo. "I love Paul. I hope this does not call into question his (World Cup) spot on the French side."

Crucially, Le Graet had initially taken Benzema's

side before Euro 2016, only to fall into line with what Deschamps wanted -- leaving Benzema feeling let down, since he was close to Le Graet.

Time is not on Deschamps' side, either.

He knows the questions will come on Sept. 15 as soon as he names his squad for Nations League games -- home to Austria on Sept. 22 and at Denmark three days after.

They are the last two games before France's opening game of the World Cup against Australia on Nov. 22.

Pogba is recovering from a meniscus tear to his right knee. He decided against having an operation and is expected to be out for a few more weeks.

This could give Deschamps an easy yet diplomatic get-out in resolving the issue by saying he won't be match fit, rather than having to drop a player who has been a central element in his team since he took charge 10 years ago.

It seems unlikely the 29-year-old Pogba would recover in time to face Austria and Denmark, anyway. Even if his knee improves,

he'll be well short of match fitness.

So Deschamps could cite fitness -- or hope the whole mess is cleared up in time when he submits his official World Cup squad in mid-October.

But even that won't stop the questions coming in Qatar, where Pogba's presence could impact Mbappe's form and thus weigh on the squad's general mood under intense media scrutiny.

Benzema is expected to win the Ballon d'Or as the world's top player, while Mbappe has won the French league's best player award three times. They are the top priorities in Deschamps' team, while Pogba is perhaps not as valuable as he once was with Aurelien Tchouameni now impressing at Real Madrid.

Given how well Mbappe has combined with Benzema, would Deschamps want to disrupt it for the sake of loyalty toward a player who -- even without this scandal -- would have been doubtful to play in Qatar anyway?

AP

GWiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Pogba's World Cup place in doubt amid scandal and bad knee

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Florent Ibenge

Al Hilal coach raises concern ahead of CAF CL preliminary round

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE head coach of Sudan's Al Hilal, Florent Ibenge, has expressed concern over his side's chances of confronting Mainland Tanzania's champions, Yanga, in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League preliminary round.

Al Hilal will have to beat Ethiopian champions, St. George, in the first preliminary round of this season's edition of Africa's premier club competition, and Yanga should follow suit to win the preliminary stage fixtures against South Sudan side, Zalan FC, for the two clubs to meet.

Ibenge, who last season won the Confederation Cup tournament's trophy with RS Berkane of Morocco, said that Yanga has prominent footballers he has worked with, especially Fiston Mayele, who is at his best.

"I know Fiston, I have worked with him, he is my boy but unfortunately, we are going to meet him when he is at a very good level, we will need to be careful with him when we meet," Ibenge stated.

The tactician also mentioned another Yanga player who stands to pose threat, namely Burkinabe midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki, a player Ibenge sought to sign but failed.

The gaffer disclosed: "They also have Aziz Ki, who is a good player that adds something better to the attacking line, I watched their match against Simba and saw how the latter struggled to keep him and Fiston in check."

Ibenge pointed out: "I also saw they brought Yannick Bangala back to play as a central defender, I have worked with him and when he plays there he is a stronger person, you will see how they have a better team."

The Congolese coach noted: "We need to be properly prepared, it will be a difficult game especially when they are at home, this is a club that has many fans who can fill the field, if we meet them it will be a difficult game."

Yanga will battle it out in two games at home against South Sudan champions Zalan FC.

The Tanzanian side gives itself a great chance to win on aggregate and now they dream of taking on Al Hilal coached by Ibenge, a tactician with vast experience in African football.

"At the moment we are continuing to prepare to first face St George, we believe that these games we played here in this mini competition against Simba SC and Asante Kotoko will give us the quality we needed because the league here has not yet started," the former DR Congo's AS Vita coach noted.

Al Hilal thrashed Asante Kotoko 5-0 in the first tie of a mini competition, before recording a slim 1-0 victory over Simba in Sudan on Wednesday.

Taifa Stars interim head coach calls for solidarity among Tanzania's fans



Tanzania's national soccer side 'Taifa Stars' interim head coach, Honour Janza.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

INTERIM head coach of Tanzania's national football side 'Taifa Stars', Zambian Honour Janza, has encouraged unity and solidarity among Tanzania's fans to motivate the side ahead of the African Nations Championship Qualifiers' reverse fixture against Uganda.

Taifa Stars will play the second leg game of qualifiers in Kampala on Saturday, seeking qualification for the African Nations Championship finals, after losing 1-0 in the first leg which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Coach Janza noted that despite being hurt by the past re-

sults, Tanzanians should unite and cooperate with their national team, which has a heavy responsibility away from home.

He said that the players in the squad have all the qualities to get good results after he had trained them for several days since he was announced as the

interim head coach.

Janza noted he, therefore, believes that the game against Uganda is still open and anyone can get a ticket to qualify for CHAN.

The coach said: "We have players who can give us good results, if we start scoring one goal it will change the situation of the whole game, so we must play with confidence but the main goal is to attack and create many chances."

"The results of the first game hurt every fan, but that has passed and now we are looking ahead, the most important thing is for every Tanzanian to continue to cooperate because doing so will increase the strength of the players who have a job to go and fight abroad," Janza noted.

Janza took charge of Zambia's national team from 2014-2015, he was at the helm as Chipolopolo played in the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations.

Taifa Stars' assistant coach, Mecky Mexime, said the task ahead of them is big, but they will fight to help the squad which needs good results away from home to qualify for the CHAN finals to be played in Algeria in 2023.

Mexime moreover encouraged Tanzanians to love Taifa Stars because it is their team, he has asked for great coopera-

tion from them in this period in which he will be on the technical bench assisting Janza, who is as well the head coach of Namungo FC.

Mexime pointed out: "Let's fight, I appreciate the trust of Tanzanians towards me but the fans love the team."

"We will add one performer (John Bocco) for the time being, we will go to fight in Uganda with this same squad," Mexime said.

Mexime is currently the head coach of the Cambiasso Youth Football Development Center located in Dar es Salaam.

He also coached Kagera Sugar and Mtwara Sugar which participate in Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

This is the third time both nations clash in the CHAN qualifiers, with Uganda winning twice while Tanzania won once.

Tanzania beat Uganda 3-1 in the qualifiers for the 2009 edition and the Cranes paid back by eliminating Taifa Stars with a 4-1 win in the 2014 edition, and in last weekend's clash that took place in Dar es Salaam, the Cranes won 1-0.

Taifa Stars will have to seek a victory of more than one goal against Uganda, to secure a ticket to participate in the finals of African Nations Championships.

National U-19 women's cricket team eyes success in ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup Qualifiers

By Guardian Reporter

CRICKETERS making Tanzania's U-19 women's team have expressed determination to hold sway in this year's ICC Africa Region U-19 T20 World Cup Qualifiers scheduled for September 3-12 in Gaborone, Botswana.

Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) information officer, Atif Salim, noted in an interview with a domestic media outlet in Dar es Salaam early this week the youngsters had embarked on intensive preparations for the qualifiers and are confident of sailing through to the 2023 ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup.

Salim pointed out that the national U-19 women's squad has a good chance to secure qualification for the global showdown given its cricketers have battled it out in domestic leagues which are supervised by his association.

According to the official, the body had allowed the team to prepare well and the association, therefore, expects to witness Tanzania showcasing impressive displays in the qualifiers.

The national cricket governing body recently hosted the Women's Bilateral Series bringing to-



Tanzania's national U-19 women cricket team's players and coach, Nassib Kelvin (standing L), pose for a photo with Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Consultant, Taher Kitisa (standing R), in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday before departing for Gaborone to participate in the ICC Africa Region U-19 Women's World Cup Qualifiers. Kitisa is the youngsters' manager. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

gether women's combined outfits from Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, and Morogoro.

Female cricketers further battled it out in regional junior and senior tournaments in the four regions.

Players making the national U-19 women's team are Swaam Aziz, Rahma Yahya, Farida Amiry, Josephine Ulrik, Agnes Joseph, Adolphina Jeremiaah, and Sheila Shante.

Sonia Chachala, Mar-

tha Kalist, Saidath Simba, Mwanamvua Hamisi, Sharifa Idd, Saumu Deo and skipper Jeniffer Gabriel also make the list.

Senior cricketer, Nassib Kelvin, serves as the squad's head coach whereas TCA Consultant, Taher Kitisa operates as team manager.

Nine nations, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Namibia, Malawi, Rwanda, Nigeria, Mozambique, Tanzania, and hosts Botswana, are set to participate in the conti-

mental qualifiers.

The 2023 ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup will be the first edition of the ICC Women's U-19 Cricket World Cup, scheduled to be hosted by South Africa in 2023.

In April 2021, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that the tournament had been moved from its original slot at the end of 2021 to January 2023 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Originally, the tourna-

ment was scheduled to take place in January 2021, before being moved back to December 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In November 2020, the ICC looked at the possibility of deferring the tournament from its scheduled slot of January 2021 to later in the year.

In January 2021, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) confirmed that they would host the tournament in December 2021.

However, the tourna-

ment was postponed for a second time and was moved to January 2023.

In January 2022, Geoff Allardice, the CEO of the ICC said that the tournament was 'very much on the cards', adding that the ICC was starting the process for hosts.

In June 2022, the ICC confirmed the qualification process for the tournament.

Hosts South Africa, along with Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, West Indies, and Zimbabwe all qualified automatically for the tournament.

The United States also qualified automatically, as they were the only eligible team to compete from the Americas regional group. The four remaining places will come from regional qualification groups.

The United Arab Emirates was the first team to qualify from the regional groups after emerging winner in the Asia Qualifier.

Indonesia won their three-match series against Papua New Guinea to win the East Asia-Pacific group to qualify.

It was the first time that Indonesia had qualified for an ICC World Cup tournament at any level.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

OH LORD, PLEASE
TEACH ME TO SPEAK
THE RIGHT WORDS...

... AT THE RIGHT
TIME...

... WITH THE RIGHT TONE...

... THAT I MAY LIVE
IN PEACE AND HAPPINESS

