



National Pg 3 Minister happy with BBT programme



National Pg 4 NGO donates protective equipment



National Pg 5 RC calls for plans to end land disputes



Ministry keen about space satellite launch

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AMONG the goals that the Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology has set to achieve in the ongoing financial year is to ensure that Tanzania launches its first satellite into space

Nape Nnauye (pictured), the Information, Communications and Information Technology minister, issued this assurance here yesterday when opening a working session for senior employees, heads of institutions and various stakeholders.

The four-day workshop will enable senior staff in the ministry to review general performance and in specific institutions in the past financial year, where participants will focus on the tasks ahead and how they can achieve set objectives, he stated.

The historic launching of the country's maiden satellite into space before next June is a key objective, with Tanzania likely to be

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Wide survey to show extent of child abuse

By Guardian Reporter

AN extensive survey to establish the scale of child abuse countrywide is planned for the current financial year, the government has declared.

Dr John Jingo, the Community Development, Women and Special Groups permanent secretary, said at a preliminary working session on the survey that the government in collaboration with various stakeholders will team up for the research exercise.

Underlining that the survey will help in determining effectiveness of various solutions on the acts, he said the research will shed light on the size of the problem, its effects and how to address it.

Affirming that children are an important resource for the nation, he said the government values children knowing that children are the hope of the country at present and in the future.

"When this resource is destroyed, the nation becomes destroyed as well," he said, noting that steps have already been taken to make sure children are protected, "but acts of abuse are still rampant and should not be tolerated."

Child abuse is dangerous to the country's development, he said, affirming that World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics show that close to one billion children were last year subjected to child abuse, worldwide.

In Africa, statistics show that nearly 50

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Big mining firms seek Finance Act revisions

By Henry Mwangonde

INCOME tax obligations arising from the current Finance Act need to be clarified, along with the capital gains tax, apart from electricity connection and costs for road infrastructure leading to mining sites, stakeholders have declared.

Alimiya Osman, the Faru Graphite Corporation chief executive officer, aired the demands at a breakfast meeting with journalists, organised yesterday by the Tanzania Chamber of Mines (TCM).

Listing challenges emerging during operations of the new mining sector stakeholders, he said the government needs to address the challenges as they are hindering growth and clouding the sector's prospects.

He cited the wish to make the sector contribute at least 10 percent of GDP by 2025 as being put in peril, despite that the government has done a lot in reforming the mining sector.

"But there are issues which arise as we move forward, from taxation to energy supply," he stated, elaborating that the firms were presenting the demands so that they are sorted out.

Filbert Rweyemamu, the TCM



Global Education Link Ltd managing director Abdulmalik Mollel (R) briefs Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (L) in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the agency's activities. This was at the ongoing 18th edition of the Universities, Higher Education, Science and Technology exhibition organised by the Tanzania Commission Universities. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Pay new minimum wages, PMO directs private firms

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

EMPLOYERS in the private sector need to start paying workers the newly recommended minimum wages, the government has stated.

Andrew Mwalwisi, an assistant labour commissioner with the Prime Minister's Office, said in a radio interview yesterday that the government discovered that a range of employers were not adhering to the stipulated wages.

The government recently announced recommended minimum wages for a total of 13 sectors, listed as agriculture, health, communication, hotel and housekeeping, private security, energy, transportation,

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CRDB Bank Plc chief financial officer Frederick Nshekanabo pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking at the launch of a SimBanking app he said runs on ultramodern technology and enables the identification of customer needs. He added that the combination of the advanced tech, including artificial intelligence, simplifies and expedites transactions. Story on Page 13. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

The government was addressing some of the grievances, with the changes helping to increase the number of people investing in mining

chairman, said the chamber, bringing together large mining companies, had analysed issues and challenges in the sector to present specific demands to the government.

He cited issues like fines, levies and other deductions arising from law and policy changes which the stakeholders want clarified before pursuing large mining activities.

Responding, Minerals minister Doto Biteko revisited government policy goals for the sector, including the need for the Tanzania Geological Survey (GST) and private firms to undertake a study meant to ease the issuance of licenses to artisanal and large miners in equal manner.

The study will help to ensure that the mining sector attracts more investors and adequately contribute to the country's economy, he said.

Investors in the mining sector have been facing various challenges including the administration of Value Added Tax (VAT), capital venture taxes and other laws in the sector, the minister affirmed.

The government was addressing some of the grievances, with the changes helping to increase the number of people investing in mining, he said, citing safety improvement in mines. Figures point to declining numbers of deaths and injuries, he stated.

Currently, mining companies are using modern equipment unlike in the past when they had old fashioned tools putting miners at risk, he added.



Pay new minimum wages, PMO directs private firms

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construction, minerals, private schools, manufacturing industries and fisheries.

He said that workers should be paid in accordance with the work assigned to them, noting that the new minimum wage rates are set out in edition 687 of the Government Gazette, meant to be applicable from January 2023.

Employers in the specific sectors need to show respect the country's labour laws by paying workers accordingly, he said, affirming that employers may also opt to pay workers a higher amount.

They can on no account pay below the recommended wages, he said, noting that some employers had started paying by the new wage standards. Employers are not allowed to decrease the wages as public sector minimum wage is set at 140,000/- for agriculture, 195,000 for health and 500,000/- for information and communication technology (ICT) settings.

Domestic employment is divided in various segments, for instance residences of top diplomats and businessmen, where the wage is set at 250,000/-. Pay for domestic employees of regular diplomatic officials is set at 200,000/- while housekeeping employees living with the employer need to be paid 120,000/- and those staying at own places obtain 60,000/-.

For big hotels, the minimum wage is pegged at 300,000/- and for slightly lower hotels the set wage is 180,000/- while restaurants and lodges need to pay 150,000/-.

Private security firms are required to pay at 220,000/- minimum, while identifiable middle level companies were directed to pay 225,000/- minimum wage, he said.

International energy firms wages are set at 592,000/- and small

energy firms must pay a minimum wage of 225,000/-. Logistics firms were directed to pay 390,000/- minimum and 360,000 for small logistics companies.

In the construction sector, the minimum wage is set at 400,000/- for large firms, 360,000/- for middle companies and 320,000/- for small firms, he said, noting that in the mining and exploration sector, the minimum wage is 500,000/- for large miners and 300,000/- for artisanal miners.

Even then, the minimum wage for "huge businesses" is set at 450,000/- and 250,000/- for agents of such firms, while private schools need to pay 207,000/- minimum. Manufacturing firms need to pay 150,000/- minimum, he said.

This gazetted notice erased the minimum wage notice number 196 issued ten years ago, he stated, urging employers to take up the wage level changes.

"We are doing all we can to ensure that there is comfort in places of work by policy improvement," he stated. During fiscal 2023/24 the Labour Department intends to carry out upwards of 14,000 inspections countrywide, he added.



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Ministry keen about space satellite launch

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the fourth country in East Africa to place a satellite in space after Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda, he stated.

Referring to the project, President Samia Suluhu Hassan said it will be an answer to the proliferation of communications towers, whose installation costs impede isolated areas in the country to be accessed by services rendered by major telecom companies.

The satellite project is part of the Malabo Convention relating to satellite use in monitoring activities in national airspaces, with a ministerial team already studying inputs for the proposed satellite launch.

Other experts say the satellite will complement services obtained

from 758 communication towers already erected countrywide, while telecom firms were still planning to install 600 new towers.

Mohammed Abdullah, the permanent secretary, implored the ministry's employees to focus on leaving marks of achievements trailing their years of service.

Shomari Omary Shomari, the Transport and Communications permanent secretary for Zanzibar, said while the blue economy is the Isles' main focus at the moment, "digitization of related activities is what will push us ahead."

Top officials of ministerial agencies like the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC), the Tanzania Telecommunications Co. Ltd (TTCL) and the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) are attending the workshop, officials said.

Wide survey to show extent of child abuse

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per cent of children were subjected to child abuse, he asserted, insisting that this trend is totally unacceptable.

The survey will help the government to ascertain the size of the problem, its effects and how to address it, he said, affirming that "in any war, one must first have the correct details."

The steps to be taken will respond to the situation on the ground as steps cannot be taken without the right data being available as to where the problem is more intense and why, the ministerial administrator stated.

The research will be conducted professionally and in an acceptable manner, going in tandem with community environments, rather than copying what has been done in other countries.

Siti Abbas Ali, the Community Development, Gender and Children

ministerial director for Zanzibar, said that despite efforts meant to curb acts of child abuse, the acts are still rampant/

Through the anticipated research, ministerial authorities on both parts of the union will ascertain the parameters of the problem and what strategies to take up against it.

Emilian Karugendo, the statistics and methodology manager at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), said the collection of statistics is a union matter.

The bureau is thus prepared to extend its offices to participate in the processing, collection and distribution of research results arising from the projected exercise.

Evanca Mori, a children protection specialist with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said the aim of the research is to make sure a child is protected. Hence it is necessary to have correct details as a vital way to know the size of the problem, he added.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L) and the Deputy Speaker of Cameroon's Parliament, Mary Meboka, share a light moment yesterday in the course of the ten-day (July 13-22) 18th Africa Region Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in Yaounde, Cameroon. Photo: National Assembly

PPRA appeals to all government institutions to register with NeST

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has appealed to all government institutions to ensure that they register with the National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) system before October, 2023.

NeST came into effect from July 1, 2023 and is meant to increase transparency and accountability in the public procurement.

PPRA Chief Executive Officer Eliakim Maswi said here that all public institutions will be required to have registered and start using the system by October 1, 2023, adding that only 14 government systems are already connected to NeST.

Those connected include, the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA), the Business Licensing System (TAUSI), the TRA Taxpayer Information System, Government electronic

Payment Gateway (GePG) and Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST). "I appeal to all government institutions to register in the NeST system because from October all procurement activities will be conducted through this system," he said.

In 2023/24 the government has set aside 40.4bn/- for PPRA budget, whereby 20bn/- will be used to ensure smooth operation and enhanced efficiency of the NeST.

Maswi noted that the first phase of the construction of the NeST system has been completed, which covers e-registration and e-tendering, saying it will transform PPRA to a proactive institution.

This phase involved setting up the module for user registration, services and products (e-Registration) and the driving and managing the procurement process module (e-Trending).

The CEO also revealed plans to come up with indicative prices to

guide government's institutions in public procurement processes.

The new development comes to promote transparency, management of funds, accountability and control as the government starts using the new online procurement system.

It also facilitates e-registration, e-tendering, e-contract management, e-catalogue and e-auction.

Maswi told the media here that the move is to ensure value for money and address price inflation, prevent misconduct and promote compliance and monitoring.

He said they will be reviewing the cap prices after every three months to ensure they cope with the market value thus have a ceiling for fair prices and advocate for openness in the procurement process.

He stated that "This will help to solve technical challenges to meet the government's needs in the procurement sector."

The system will largely eliminate human interaction and human decisions, something which will help all bidders to be served equally," he said.

He said the government has come up with a locally designed e-procurement system to address the shortcomings such as lack of transparency, corruption loopholes and long process of tendering.

According to Maswi, the current system provides an opportunity for bidders to influence the decisions of relevant bodies such as procurement units, tender boards and responsible officials.

He said the NeST system will eliminate discretion decision-making and instead all decisions will be based on the processing of the system based on relevant tender criteria.

He insisted that they will not hesitate to take action to bidders who fail to observe the public procurement guideline.



Dr Jim Yonazi (R), Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), pictured in the Mitumba suburb of Dodoma city yesterday during an assessment tour of progress in preparations for the commemoration of National Heroes' Day (July 25). To his right is Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

Mwinyi to grace legal aid week celebrations

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi is expected to grace the Zanzibar Legal Aid Week on July 22, this year that will also involve presentation of awards to legal aid officials in the Isles.

Launching the celebration here on Tuesday, the Zanzibar minister of State in the President's Office (Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Public Service and Good Governance) Haroun Ali Suleiman said the event is held

in collaboration with the Legal Services Facility (LSF).

He said the week will be special for providing education and legal aid services in the community in order to reach more people in need of legal aid, and is part of the government's step to care for its citizens.

He said the Zanzibar Legal Aid Week will incorporate various social activities aimed at mobilising the community to utilise legal aid services without any obstacles.

"Among activities during the

Legal aid week includes the provision of education on legal aid through media outlets.

"Other activities is to visit people in remand prisons and preparation of the bonanza on legal aid in raising voices against gender based violence and child abuse in the community," he said.

Suleiman said the event is important in order to have a robust community in all fields of life and to ensure poor people get legal aid without any obstacles.

Alphonse Gura, Senior

Programme Officer from Zanzibar Legal Services Facility (LSF) said LSF is the main stakeholder in the event as it aims to provide legal aid services to the people aimed at enhancing the dispensation of justice.

"LSF main task is enhancing the dispensation of justice through legal aid empowerment to all the people especially women and girls.

"Hence, during the Legal Aid week we shall be able to reach out to many people through various activities that will take place," he added.



Human rights defenders from Tanzania pictured yesterday showing the solidarity sign on the sidelines of the Women Deliver Conference on gender equality they are attending in the Rwandan capital, Kigali. L-R: Legal and Human Rights Centre executive director Dr Anna Henga, Women in Law and Development - Africa (WILDAF) Tanzania board chairperson Dr Monica Muhoja and Selemani Bishagazi, director of Dar es Salaam-based CSO Kipunguni Community Voice Centre. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister happy with support by partners for BBT programme

By Guardian Correspondent, Misungwi

MINISTER for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega has showered praise on development partners supporting the governments' programme dubbed 'Building a Better Tomorrow' (BBT) envisaged to attract more youth and women to venture into agriculture, livestock keeping and fishery activities.

"We recognise and appreciate the support of our development partners in BBT for empowering youth and women engaging in livestock keeping and fishery activities to better their living," Ulega said.

Speaking here yesterday shortly after receiving a motor vehicle (lorry) and four motorcycles from Heifer International Tanzania for Misungwi's Mabuki Livestock Centre in Mwanza Region, The minister said development partners play a significant role in transformation of livestock and fishery sectors. "This assistance shows a practical testimony that you are committed to support the efforts of the third phase government led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan who has been determined to economically empower youth and women through livestock, fishery and agriculture sectors," Ulega said.

He said through BBT programme where youth and women are given training, capital and exposed to markets would help to create as many employment opportunities as possible to Tanzanians and transform their living standards.

"This is the right time for youth to be innovative and involve them in digital as the best way of doing business through online instead of relying heavily on selling animals through normal or traditional markets," Ulega said, thanking Heifer International for the support.

He called on youth who undergo training at the centre to use the skills and knowledge acquired to stimulate socio-economic development and growth through livestock and fishery activities.

Heifer International Tanzania Resident Director, Mark Tsoxo said his organisation would continue to work closely with the Tanzania Government and extend support

on the BBT programme.

"We are now planning to reach out 100,000 youths countrywide through our programme 'Kopa Ng'ombe Lipa Ng'ombe' which will enable many youths to get employed," Tsoxo explained.

Tsoxo said the support for the centre came following the request from Minister Ulega who appealed to development partners and well-wishers to support the BBT programme and make the dream come true.

BBT Programme beneficiary at the centre, Ms Joyce Lemanda on behalf of her colleagues thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for giving youth and women an opportunity to venture into livestock and fishery sectors.

DAR ES SALAAM SECONDARY EDUCATION SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday, 29th August, 2023 at 11:00 a.m at Shaaban Robert Secondary School.

HON. SECRETARY

Schools being constructed with BOOST funds must be completed this week - RC

By Guardian Reporter

SINGIDA regional commissioner Peter Serukamba has instructed local government officials in the region to make sure that projects for building primary schools using BOOST funds are completed this week.

The RC issued the instructions on Tuesday after he inspected new primary schools built in Iramba,

and Mkalama districts and Singida municipality whose construction work had reached 95 per cent.

He said in the projects visited, he found out that there are fewer workers for the finishing stages, hence he called for more workers to enable all schools to be completed by Saturday.

"Come Saturday this week, all the BOOST projects should be completed and I will not give further

extension of time," he stressed.

He also directed village chairmen and councillors to mobilise their people to do cleaning work at the new schools.

He said in new schools teachers should make sure trees are planted and taken care of by students to improve their appearance.

"We have planned that next week we shall meet at Minga for a big celebration in receiving the schools

for which our region received more than 9bn/- from the government," he said.

"Investing in education is to invest in individual persons, investing in health is to invest in individual persons, basically President Samia Suluhu Hassan has done a great job, she has not omitted economic sectors such as electricity and roads, a great job has been done," he added.

He said that in regard to the power sector, Singida Region has 441 villages which by June 2024 every one of them will be connected to electricity.



Invitation to Bid: Seeking Consultancy Expertise for Caritas Songea Agri Hubs Set -Up

Introduction

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic Community in the United States, was founded in 1943 by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. CRS seeks to cherish, preserve, and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, foster charity, and justice, and embody Catholic social teaching as we work with local partners to promote human development by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies. CRS supports international relief and development work in 101 countries and territories spread across Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, South and Southeast Asia, the Balkans, and the Middle East and our programs touched over 85 million lives. While we seek to capitalize on our strategic advantages as a faith-based organization, all of our programs assist people on the basis of need, regardless of creed, ethnicity or nationality. CRS and our partners work with impoverished individuals and communities through programs that reflect the preferential option for the poor, reaching out to the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Background:

CRS Tanzania is in the process of establishing a partnership with a private sector company to develop a proof of concept for Agrihubs in the Songea region of the Southern Highlands. CRS and its partner will establish five Agrihubs over the next year that will provide a range of services to smallholder farmers within a 25-kilometer radius of each hub including: registration of farmer groups, set up hub and village level demonstrations, provide an agent model for farmer training on climate smart agricultural practices, with an emphasis on regenerative agriculture, provision of access to quality inputs, including seeds and fertilizer, aggregation of maize and soya. The work will also support training in poultry, access to animal feed, and day-old-chicks. CRS and partner plan to develop the business model and associated tracking systems over the next 24 months and then scale the Agrihubs to new areas in November 2024 to 2025.

CRS is seeking consultancy services to develop a comprehensive baseline and monitoring system for participating small holder farmers and establish a digital management system that can be managed by a team of last mile agents and an overall supervisor over the next three years. The service provider will provide a robust and flexible digital value chain level management system to support the management of farmers and data to track performance. The system will register maize and later Soy farmers, lead farmers and farmer groups, provide GPS mapping for an average of 2,000 farmers per hub and build up to 10,000+ farmers within a 25km radius of each Agrihub. The system should provide local agents with the ability to track training to the farmer groups, sales of seeds, fertilizer, and other inputs, and provide information for farmer production, aggregation, and sales. The system should enable agents to contact farmers through SMS, offer survey options to support monitoring and evaluation, the data tracking will also include financial transactions and therefore should include a check off system as farmers buy into the marketing system. The initial five Agri hubs will be in Songea, Songwe and Rukwa regions.

Key expected deliverables:

- Farmer profiles: A digital tool with comprehensive farmer profiles including demographic information, GPS coordinates of homestead and fields, production data from planting to harvesting, and loans repayment performance.

- Service provider must demonstrate, how supervisors will be linked to a team of remote agents, and transfer data from farmer level through agents to a cloud-based database, working in areas with and without internet.
- Service provider will show how basic data is collected, ease of creation of forms for data monitoring and training support and ongoing mentoring is given to the implementing teams,
- Service provider must demonstrate how they will manage contracts between farmers and buyers to increase market certainty at both sides.
- The service provider must be able to show how farmers can be provided with targeted training to increase productivity by digitally managing and tracking training programs.
- The service provide will demonstrate how information will be shared to farmers on production advise, weather forecast, assigning the right inputs, and pre- and post-harvest technologies.
- The tool must be able to screen farmers prior to giving quality inputs on loans, have provision to structure repayments based on loan types, automate repayments and or share data with financing institution for credit scoring and loan provision.
- Be able to implement fully traceable systems from inputs to the field and final produce. Design and identify temporary storage/warehouse receipt option and onward processing and sales.
- Integrate quality parameters and adjusting payments based on the quality of the produce provided. Payment automation and report must assist in tracing the correct payments due to farmers.
- Provide an accessible platform for senior management and other stakeholders to be able to interpret and understand the programs operations.

Value for money

CRS is keen to engage with companies which can provide bundled services at prices that match the market conditions.

Proposal Guidance

Interested service provider are requested to submit their application detailing the following:

- A Technical Proposal:** to provide a brief description of the services offered in line with the SOW above, with clear timelines of key activities and deliverables.
- A Financial Proposal:** with a summary of costs for each of the services provide for the three-year period, highlighting any discounts over standard rates and necessary tax withholdings.
- References:** Provide contacts for 2-3 past clients who have engaged the service provider on similar assignments.

The proposal is to be sent to the e-mail to reach the undersigned 14 days after the advert is shared with: Catholic Relief Services - Tanzania Program. E-mail: tz_quotations@crs.org Deadline for submission of proposals: **August 1st, 2023.**

Award of Consultancy

CRS will evaluate the proposals and award the assignment based on a technical and financial comprehensive baseline and monitoring system. CRS reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal received without giving reasons and is not bound to accept the lowest, the highest, or any bidder. Only the successful applicant will be contacted. CRS does not charge any fees from applicants for any recruitment. Further, CRS has not retained any agent regarding this assignment.

Vodacom Tanzania PLC

(Incorporated in the United Republic of Tanzania)

(Registration number 38501)

(ISIN: TZ1996102715 Ticker code: VODA)

Notice of Dividend Declaration for the year ended 31st March 2023

Notice is hereby given that a gross dividend of TZS 9.95 per share in respect of the financial year ended 31 March 2023 has been proposed by the Board of Directors. Pursuant to this declaration, shareholders are advised to observe the following:

- Announcement date: 20 July 2023
- Trading of shares cum div: 20 July 2023 to 9 August 2023
- Trading of shares ex div: 10 August 2023 onwards
- Record date (Book closure date): 14 August 2023
- Payment date: 16 October 2023

Shareholders are requested to submit and update their payment details at the Share Registry Office to enable timely payment of their dividends.

The Registrar

CSD & Registry Company Limited

2nd Floor, Kambarage House,

6 Ufukoni Street, P. O. Box 70081, Dar es Salaam

Mobile: +255 746 160 516

E-mail: registrar@csdr.co.tz

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Caroline Mduma

Company Secretary

20 July 2023

Together we can



NIC hands over MV Mbeya to TPA after rehabilitation

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE National Insurance Corporation (NIC) yesterday handed over Mv Mbeya II to the Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) after the completion of repairs following an engine failure caused by a storm that occurred when the ship was about to anchor in Itungi port in Kyela, Mbeya Region.

Speaking yesterday shortly after the handover, NIC official Hardbert Polepole said that the insurance company is actively working to meet the needs of customers when a disaster occurs.

"NIC Insurance has managed the maintenance of the MV Mbeya II as a requirement of the insurance contract to compensate for the damage that occurred" said Hardbert Polepole.

After the maintenance was completed, this ship was inspected and confirmed its quality by Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) where the ship was given a certificate that it met the quality standards

and was allowed to continue its transportation activities. NIC Insurance has paid an amount of 390m/- to the contractor Mantrack Tanzania LTD to complete the maintenance of the engine, which brought a smile to the Kyela District Commissioner Josephine Manase, on behalf of the people of the areas benefiting from the transport.

"We are very happy with the return of passenger and cargo transport services of Mv Mbeya II ship which will continue to stimulate economic and community activities in the Nyasa lake region," the DC said

DC Josephine congratulated NIC Insurance for improving their services, especially in the payment of claims on time, which led to the completion of the ship's maintenance, which is going to improve the transport service and promote the economy of individuals, Kyela District and the nation as a whole.

NIC Insurance guarantees the safety of the investors and users of this Ship whenever they use it.



We are very happy with the return of passenger and cargo transport services of Mv Mbeya II ship which will continue to stimulate economic and community activities in the Nyasa lake region

NGO donates protective equipment to Makuru health centre in Bukoba

By Guardian Reporter

United States based non-profit organisation Adventures in Health, Education and Agriculture Development (AHEAD Inc) has donated personal protective equipment (PPE) worth 86m/- to Makuru health centre in Bukoba Region to help in the fight against Malburg disease.

The funding of the PPE was the generosity of friends of Ahead Inc through the Henry Schein Cares Foundation which is the philanthropic arm of Henry Schein Company.

The support aimed at helping to prevent the spread of Malburg virus disease and other communicable and infectious diseases in Tanzania. Henry Schein has been supporting healthcare efforts in Tanzania for many years.

"Ahead Inc has been integrally involved in the construction, support and donation of medical equipment and supplies to the Makuru health Centre, the centre allowed for earlier identification and isolation of people to help prevent a larger outbreak in the

country," said Dr Byron Burks board member for Ahead.

Speaking when receiving the equipment, Dr Bandioti Gavyole the District Medical Officer in Bukoba said the PPE will help in protecting healthcare workers and give confidence as they provide services to patients.

The donated PPEs include 2000 protective face shields, 31,200 boxes of gloves, and 2400 surgical gowns.

In rounding up a week of activities in Maruku, Bukoba, Ahead Inc donated additional 10 computers to Maruku secondary school in a progressive programme to support schools with computers, as well as access to internet to schools for the past two years.

"This is has caused a significant increase in all students and particularly the number of girls who are studying computer studies," said headteacher Farida Kamanyile.

AHEAD, Inc is a non-profit, non-government organisation whose mission is to partner with under-served communities in developing countries to improve the quality of life by implementing programmes that lead to self-reliance.



Ahead Inc has been integrally involved in the construction, support and donation of medical equipment and supplies to the Makuru health Centre, the centre allowed for earlier identification and isolation of people to help prevent a larger outbreak in the country



Leonard Mususa (L), Chairman of the Tanzania Breweries Ltd (TBL) board of directors, presides over the firm's 50th annual general meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He is with Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) director general Maharage Chande (R) and TBL managing director Jose Moran. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

TANROADS completes repairs of stretch along Moro-Iringa highway

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Roads Agency (TANROADS) has finalised the rehabilitation of Morogoro-Iringa highway (Tanzam highway).

Morogoro acting TANROADS manager, Eng. Mussa Kaswahili told journalist after his visit to the site.

Eng. Kaswahili said during the

end of the last rain season in April, rains had adversely affected the area after the rising waters from River Ruaha started attacking the road ridge, threatening its breaking up.

He said in recognition of the road's importance, the government, through the Works and Transport ministry set aside

480m/- as emergency funds for the refurbishing of the hazardous road stretch, and after all procedures had been finalised the task was given to CGI Construction Company Limited who completed work within the given time.

He said the highway is among roads used by transporters of goods from the port of Dar es Salaam,

hence the road has to closely be looked at by TANROADS and given first priority in the agency budget allocations.

Eng. Kaswahili said TANROADS thanks the government for continuing to allocate funds to various areas of the country towards road construction and repairs.



Dr Apolinary Ngirwa (R), Programme Coordinator of Adventure in Health, Education and Agricultural Development (AHEAD), Inc, pictured in Bukoba earlier this week presenting personal protection equipment to Dr Bashiru Bengesi, Medical Officer In-Charge of the municipality's Maruku Health Centre. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Uhuru Torch team to inspect projects in Shinyanga Region worth 13.3billion/-

By Guardian Correspondent,

Shinyanga

SHINYANGA Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme has said that when the national Uhuru torch enters Shinyanga Region it will be raced to 42 development projects with a total value of 13.3bn/-.

She said the Uhuru Torch is expected in the region on July 27 this year and will be raced in all the region's six districts and municipalities - Kishapu, Shinyanga, Ushetu, Msalala, and both Kahama and Shinyanga municipalities.

Mndeme disclosed this on Tuesday this week when she inspected some of the projects to be visited by the Torch in Shinyanga District and Kahama Municipality saying she was satisfied by their implementation.

"I have visited education, health, environment, farming, infrastructures and people's economic empowerment projects and I am satisfied that all are going on well," she said.

She also appealed to the residents of Shinyanga Region to emerge in big numbers to receive the Torch that will be passing through their areas.

For his part, Uhuru Torch Coordinator for Kahama Municipality, Sadick Kigale named the projects to be visited by the Torch as including farming projects, a tree farm, Nyihongo Ward Office, Kahama District Hospital laboratory building, roads and the launching of Women Economic Forum and Kagongwa Secondary School.

In regard to Shinyanga District, the projects that will be visited by the torch include Busanda Ward Youth Innovators, grains milling plant in Didia Ward, beekeepers group as well as education and health projects.



Cecilia Kimaro (R) of Mabibo in suburban Dar es Salaam makes remarks at a sensitisation meeting held in the city on Tuesday. It was organised by a local CSO, the thrust being on sexual corruption and gender-based violence. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

604 girls drop out of school due to families' low income

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A TOTAL of 604 girls out of 3,333 aged between 13 and 21 years who were returned to school after cutting their lessons owing to pregnancy under Tanzania Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project-Alternative Education Pathways (SEQUIP-AEP) have again quit lessons due to economic hardship.

This was disclosed by the National SEQUIP Coordinator for

Adult Education (TEWW), Baraka Kionywaki said here early this week at the closing of 75 arts teachers training sessions from 14 regions.

He said the 3,333 girl students were registered during the 2022 school year at 168 centres countrywide, but 604 of them have again quit school despite having been given the second chance.

Baraka said through the project researches are done to know what causes girls to quit school despite being given another chance.

"The main challenges they faced is the parents/guardians' poor

economic well-being who depend on girls to run families," he said.

He explained sometimes the girls are forced to do domestic work as house maids to support the family.

Baraka said another challenge facing girls who quit school a second time is being impregnated again and giving birth to children.

He said many of them fail to attend lessons as they have no other people to take care of their children.

He added that throughout the project, the institution has been able to build centres with kitchens to help them to upkeep their

children during classes as well as hiring a person to look after the children.

Baraka said the project also looked into the possibility of putting the girls at hostels in order to stop truancy.

He added that the government is utilising about 10 community development colleges to house the girls. He named some of the colleges including: Bulembwe in Njombe Region, Kilwa Masoko in Lindi Region, Ilula in Iringa Region and others.

Baraka said to a large extent, challenges facing the girls have been addressed and added that other NGOs have responded to government calls by providing hostel services, including Watoto Wetu in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

RC calls for plans to end land disputes in Dodoma

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule has called on Dodoma City Council and the Land Committee to work professionally in order to do justice to the strategic plan to eradicate land disputes that have become a bitter thorn for the people and tarnish the city's image for a long time.

RC Senyamule made the call on Wednesday when launching the Regional Strategic Plan to deal with land disputes in Dodoma.

The function was also attended by City Council Staff, Councillors, the District and Regional Security and Security Committee and the Peace Committee with members from (religion various) and the media.

"For a long time, various government authorities have been trying to resolve these conflicts, but it has not been successful and citizens continue to complain to the government. Through the investigation we carried out as a Region, we found out that many of the complaints are for compensation and people who were promised to be given alternative plots. Basically, various instructions were given to find a solution to the issue.

"I would like to inform the public that on 27/06/2023, I created a Special Committee to deal with this problem and on 7/7/2023 the Committee has presented a Strategy which along with other measures as a Region we have planned to implement to resolve land disputes in Dodoma region. President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been instructing to listen to the concerns of the citizens and provide solutions but also the determination to see the City of Dodoma become a better and dignified City," explained Senyamule.

RC Senyamule said that the short-term and long-term strategy will ensure that conflicts in the city of Dodoma end and make the people of Dodoma live in peace, stability

and avoid unnecessary conflicts.

Dodoma District Commissioner, Jabir Shekimweri assured RC Senyamule that the City Leadership is well organized in ensuring that they solve the existing land challenges through the Strategy planned to be implemented for a period of one year whose implementation starts in July 2023 and is expected to be completed by June 2024.

"Let me assure you, Regional Commissioner, me and my team are well organized to implement this strategy, we will do well because we have planned it ourselves, so with confidence we will manage it and we will be tough on all those who want to stop us in this exercise" said Shekimweri.

Dodoma Regional Assistant Land Commissioner Jabir Singano said that in ensuring that these challenges are resolved, they will continue to cooperate with the Dodoma City Director's Office in increasing the number of land employees in order to increase the workforce to solve these problems.

RC Senyamule mentioned the challenges that will be solved include claims for alternative plots, compensation claims, and claims for participatory assessment of 70% by 30%, Invasion of plots, delays in Patents, lack of quality services for citizens, graft ownership and changes in Land Sector Management.

“For a long time, various government authorities have been trying to resolve these conflicts, but it has not been successful and citizens continue to complain to the government...”

TIGO TANZANIA SECOND QUARTER TARIFF REPORT (APRIL - JUNE 2023)

On Demand Tariff (All taxes Inclusive)

** - Voice charging is rounded off to the nearest second
- Data charging is rounded off at Tsh. 0.09 per 10Kb

| Call Category | Price (TSh/Min) |
|--|-----------------|
| On net (Tariff is applied during peak and Off peak hours) | 30 |
| Off Net (Tariff is applied during peak and Off peak hours) | 30 |

| Call Category (Zones/Groups) | Price (TSh/Min) | Destinations |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Group 1 | 720 | China, India, USA, Canada |
| Group 2 | 1020 | Kenya, Angola, South Africa, Nigeria, Botswana, Ghana, Ethiopia |
| Group 3 | 1020 | Lebanon, Israel, Spain, UAE, UK |
| Group 4 | 1200 | Sweden, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Yemen, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Netherlands, Japan, Malaysia, Norway, Ireland |
| Group 5 | 1800 | Australia, Nepal, Turkey, Russia, Comoros, Uganda, Rwanda, France, Denmark, Italy, Oman, Germany |
| Group 6 | 2520 | Rest of the world |
| Group 7 | 2520 | Cuba, DRC, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Switzerland, Malawi, Zambia |
| Group 8 | 19800 | All satellite networks |

| Call Category (Zones/Groups) | Price (TSh/Min) | Destinations |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Group 1 | 497 | USA, India, China, Canada |
| Group 2 | 1020 | Kenya, UAE, South Africa, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Ireland, UK Mobile, UK Fixed, Spain, France, Italy, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Germany |
| Group 3 | 1325 | DRC, Yemen, Oman, Lebanon, Israel, Sudan |
| Group 4 | 1500 | Zimbabwe Mobile, Mozambique, Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, Mayote, South Sudan |
| Group 5 | 1200 | Rest of the world |
| Group 6 | 3000 | Cuba, Vanuatu, Tunisia, Tonga-Mobile, Tokelau, Switzerland, Somalia, Seychelles, Nauru, Samoa, Madagascar, Slovenia, Comoro |
| Special | 18000 | All satellite networks |

| Category | Price (TSh/SMS) |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| National SMS | 8 |
| International SMS | 215 |

| Category | Price (TSh) |
|----------|-------------|
| Data MBs | 9.35 |

Bundle Tariffs (Voice, SMS & Data) All Taxes Inclusive

| Price (Tshs) | On net Mins | All net Minutes | Total Mins | SMS | MBs | Validity |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|-----|-----|----------|
| 500 | 90 | 10 | 100 | 25 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 500 | 0 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 10 | 24 hrs |
| 1000 | 0 | 150 | 150 | 25 | 0 | 48 hrs |
| 1500 | 250 | 50 | 300 | 30 | 0 | 7 days |
| 2000 | 0 | 250 | 250 | 100 | 50 | 7 days |
| 3000 | 0 | 400 | 400 | 50 | 0 | 7 days |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-------|---------|
| 3000 | 55 | 70 | 125 | 50 | 1024 | 7 days |
| 5000 | 100 | 180 | 280 | 100 | 1434 | 7 days |
| 5000 | 0 | 300 | 300 | 50 | 0 | 30 days |
| 10000 | 0 | 1200 | 1200 | 50 | 0 | 30 days |
| 10000 | 0 | 500 | 500 | 50 | 3072 | 30 days |
| 20000 | 0 | 800 | 800 | 50 | 7168 | 30 days |
| 30000 | 0 | 900 | 900 | 500 | 11264 | 30 days |

| Price (Tshs) | Tigo - Tigo Minutes | All net Minutes | Total Mins | SMS | MBs | Validity |
|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|-------|-----|----------|
| 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1000 | 0 | 7 days |
| 1000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10000 | 0 | 30 days |

| Price (Tshs) | Tigo - Tigo Minutes | All net Minutes | Total Mins | SMS | MBs | Validity |
|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|-----|-----|-------------|
| 1000 | 0 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 0 | No Validity |
| 1000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 | No Validity |

| Price (Tshs) | MB | Validity | Add-on |
|--------------|-------|----------|--------|
| 500 | 246 | 24 hrs | N/A |
| 1000 | 492 | 24 hrs | N/A |
| 2000 | 985 | 24 hrs | N/A |
| 2000 | 950 | 7 days | N/A |
| 2100 | 1024 | 7 days | N/A |
| 3000 | 1434 | 7 days | N/A |
| 5000 | 2458 | 7 days | N/A |
| 10000 | 4915 | 7 days | N/A |
| 15000 | 7373 | 7 days | N/A |
| 10000 | 4608 | 30 days | N/A |
| 20000 | 9830 | 30 days | N/A |
| 35000 | 17203 | 30 days | N/A |
| 50000 | 24576 | 60 days | N/A |
| 75000 | 34816 | 60 days | N/A |
| 100000 | 49152 | 60 days | N/A |

| Price (Tsh) | Total Mins | SMS | MBs | Validity |
|-------------|---|-----|-----|----------|
| 1000 | India, USA, Canada, China, Hong Kong - 10 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 3000 | India, USA, Canada, China, Hong Kong - 40 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 3000 | Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia - 4 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 3000 | Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, South Africa - 4 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 3000 | Nigeria, Ghana - 4 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 3000 | Egypt - 4 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 3000 | Oman, UAE, Yemen, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon - 4 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 5000 | UK (+441, +442), Germany, Ireland, Norway - 5 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 5000 | Uganda, DRC, Burundi, Somalia - 3 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 5000 | Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe - 3 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 5000 | Cameroon, Senegal, Ivory Coast - 3 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 5000 | France - 4 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 5000 | India, USA, Canada, China, Hong Kong - 80 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 5000 | Oman, UAE, Yemen, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon - 8 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |

| | | | | |
|-------|--|---|---|---------|
| 6000 | Nigeria, Ghana - 8 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 6000 | Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia - 8 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 6000 | Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, South Africa - 8 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 6000 | Egypt - 8 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 10000 | Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe - 6 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 10000 | Uganda, DRC, Burundi, Somalia - 6 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 10000 | Cameroon, Senegal, Ivory Coast - 6 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 10000 | Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia - 5 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 10000 | UK (+441, +442), Germany, Ireland, Norway - 12 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 10000 | Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia - 14 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 10000 | Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, South Africa - 14 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 10000 | Nigeria, Ghana - 14 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 10000 | Egypt - 14 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 10000 | India, USA, Canada, China, Hong Kong - 180 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 10000 | Oman, UAE, Yemen, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon - 18 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 15000 | Uganda, DRC, Burundi, Somalia - 10 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 15000 | Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe - 10 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 15000 | Cameroon, Senegal, Ivory Coast - 10 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 15000 | France - 13 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 20000 | Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia - 29 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 20000 | Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, South Africa - 29 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 20000 | Nigeria, Ghana - 29 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 20000 | Egypt - 29 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 20000 | UK (+441, +442), Germany, Ireland, Norway - 24 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 20000 | Oman, UAE, Yemen, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon - 38 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 22000 | Cameroon, Senegal, Ivory Coast - 15 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 22000 | Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia - 10 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 22000 | Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe - 15 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |
| 22000 | Uganda, DRC, Burundi, Somalia - 15 Mins | 0 | 0 | 30 days |

| Price (Tsh) | Total Mins | SMS | MBs | Validity |
|-------------|--|-----|-----|----------|
| 1000 | China, India - 22 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 2500 | South Africa, Mauritius - 5 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 2500 | UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt - 5 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 2500 | Oman - 3 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 3000 | France - 3 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 3000 | Germany, Italy, UK (fixed), Turkey - 4 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 3000 | Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda - 3 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 5000 | Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique - 4 Mins | 0 | 0 | 24 hrs |
| 5000 | South Africa, Mauritius - 11 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 5000 | UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt - 11 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 5000 | Oman - 8 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 5000 | France - 6 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 5000 | China, India - 110 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 7500 | Germany, Italy, UK (fixed), Turkey - 10 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |
| 7500 | Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda - 8 Mins | 0 | 0 | 7 days |

TCRA concludes exercise to measure level of radio frequency, TV radiation

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has completed the exercise of measuring the level of radio frequency and telephone radiation in 15 regions in the country.

The exercise is aimed at protecting users of communication services and citizens living near the infrastructure of telephone towers, radio and television.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, TCRA director general unveiled on Tuesday when speaking with journalists in the country's capital city, Dodoma.

"The measurement of the level of radiation from towers and communication devices (Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Field radiations (EMF) was carried out with great attention in the various bands used to provide telecommunication services, radio, and television," emphasized Dr. Jabiri.

He said the results of the testing show that the level of radiation in all the areas tested is below the acceptable levels and directed by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

According to Dr Bakari, the maximum level of radiation measured in the FM Radio band (87.5-108 MHz) was 4.986 V/m (Volt per Meter), which is much lower than the maximum level directed by ICNIRP which is 27.7 V/m. Likewise, in the television broadcasting band (TV UHF (DTT) - 470 - 694 MHz), the level was 4.928 V/m (Volt per Meter), which is below the ICNIRP maximum level which is 29.8 V/m.

In terms of LTE data services, the radiation level in Digital Dividend II (694 - 790 MHz) was 3.823 V/m (Volt per Meter), which is below the ICNIRP maximum of 36.2 V/m. In the Digital Dividend I band (790 - 862 MHz), the radiation level was 5.738 V/m (Volt per Meter), also below the ICNIRP maximum of 38.6 V/m.

In addition, in the mobile communication band (GSM 900: 925 - 960 MHz), the radiation level was 4.644 V/m (Volt per Meter), which is below the ICNIRP maximum of 41.8 V/m. Likewise, in the mobile communication band (GSM 1800: 1805- 1880 MHz), the radiation level was 4.659 V/m (Volt per Meter), which is also below the ICNIRP maximum of 58.4 V/m. And

finally, in the telecommunications and data band (WCDMA/UMTS): 2110- 2170 MHz), the radiation level was 6.807 V/m (Volt per Meter), and even this is below the ICNIRP maximum of 63.2 V/m.

TCRA boss also said that the results of the testing clearly show that the level of radiation from the towers of various communication services has not exceeded the levels accepted by ICNIRP, thus being safe for the users of communication services in the country. Thus, citizens can be sure of their safety when using telecommunications, radio, and television services in their areas.

Dr. Jabiri Bakari has called on the public not to worry, as TCRA will continue to monitor and ensure that radiation levels remain within the safety limits set by international experts. This step is important in protecting the health of citizens and strengthening the safe use of communication technology.

TCRA also promised to continue to conduct research and take appropriate measures to ensure that the communication infrastructure in the country complies with international security standards.

Dr Bakari also urged people to cooperate with the relevant authorities by providing information when they see signs of non-compliance with radiation levels so that immediate measures can be taken.



The measurement of the level of radiation from towers and communication devices (Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Field radiations (EMF) was carried out with great attention in the various bands used to provide telecommunication services, radio, and television

257 bus and truck drivers pass VETA college exams

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

A TOTAL of 257 bus and truck drivers from Iringa Region and outside who went back to class for more driving lessons at Iringa VETA college have passed the examinations set by the college.

Edmund Enugu, training coordinator said yesterday during the last class exam a total of 215 bus drivers and 42 truck drivers including one woman joined the short training course following the government directives that called for all drivers who did not have certificates to go back for training.

He said the training lasted two weeks after which the drivers did practical examinations under road traffic officers and all passed the examination including the written one.

VETA Colleges Registrar, Balthazar Kinyamaganga said the government has decided to make Tanzania an industrial nation hence it has the responsibility to prepare technicians, the task invested in VETA.

He said the Phase VI Government continues to provide funds for the construction of VETA colleges in the Southern Highlands regions and already these colleges are operating at Wanging'ombe and Iringa districts while the ones in Kilolo and Ludewa District are still under construction.

He said in the Southern Highlands Zone, apart from the Iringa VETA College that operates well, there

are also VETA colleges in Songea, Namtumbo, Makete and Nyasa that are operating well.

He therefore called on the VETA colleges' graduates, especially drivers, to be patriotic to the nation and avoid criminal activities including smuggling.

Yowel Chatanda and Richard Chongole, drivers who were participants at the training said the training has been of great help to them as before they used to be frequently fined for violations of traffic laws and regulations.

For his part, Pasiens Nyoni, Principal of Iringa VETA College said the College continues to provide drivers training and other types of training to enable the youth to employ themselves in various fields.



...the training lasted two weeks after which the drivers did practical examinations under road traffic officers and all passed the examination including the written one



Traders arrange their goods along Kikwungwi beach in Zanzibar's South Unguja Region yesterday for subsequent transportation to Kwale Island chiefly for sale to tourists commonly frequenting the area. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Government set aside 134bn/- to complete construction of Tarime/Rolya water project expected to serve 933,818 people

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE government has set aside 134bn/- to complete the construction of Tarime/Rolya water project which is expected to serve 933,818 people.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Cyprian Luhemeja (pictured) revealed this after inspecting the project which will benefit residents of 32 villages of Rorya and 81 streets of Tarime.

Luhemeja gave instructions to the contractor implementing the project; China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) to complete the project on time and that there



will be no extra time to extend construction work.

"People need water, I instruct the contractor to finish this project within time, we want by April 2025

the contractor to hand over this work, there will not be any extra time given to finalise this project," said Luhemeja.

The coordinator of the project from the Ministry of Water, Joel Rugemalila, said the work is progressing positively adding that they will ensure that they supervise the contractor to complete the project on time.

"This contract is for 30 months and will be completed on time, Tarime District, Rorya and Sirari Town are going to overcome the challenge of access to clean water," said Rugemalila.

He said Tarime-Rorya water project involves the construction of a water source capable of producing 29 million liters of water per day,

the construction of a main pipe for a distance of 90 kilometers, the construction of three tanks with a volume of six million liters in Rorya, one million liters in Sirari and three million liters Tarime.

He said that the project will also involve the installation of a network of water pipes for a distance of 20 kilometers as well as the construction of three water pumping stations.

In addition, he said that the project will increase the service of access to clean and safe water in Rorya district which is currently at 53.4 percent to reach 90 percent while in the case of Tarime city council, the service will rise from 63.4 percent to more than 95 percent.



Minerals minister Doto Bitteko addresses members of an association of miners in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He was mainly out to respond to what they had raised as factors impeding their operations. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Vietnamese Ambassador holds talks with Tanzania's Deputy House Speaker

NEW YORK

AMBASSADOR Dang Hoang Giang, Permanent Representative of Vietnam to the United Nations, met with Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Mussa Azzan Zungu on the sidelines of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

Giang congratulated Tanzania on successfully presenting its voluntary national review on the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the forum.

He applauded the relations between the two countries as well as the sound cooperation between their NAs, especially within the framework of the Inter-

Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The diplomat expressed his hope that Tanzania will send a delegation and contribute to the success of the IPU's ninth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians to be hosted by Vietnam this September.

Giang also called on the government and the National Assembly to continue supporting

and ensuring the rights and interests of the Vietnamese community and businesses in the African country.

Congratulating Vietnam on its achievements in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, Deputy Speaker Mussa Azzan Zungu affirmed that his country will send representatives to the conference. He also shared Giang's view on bilateral relations and stated the government and National Assembly have always paid attention to and created the best possible conditions for the Vietnamese community and businesses to live and operate there.



International Commercial Bank (Tanzania) Limited.

PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REPORT OF CONDITION OF BANK PURSUANT TO SECTION 32(3) OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 2006.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023 (All Amounts in millions of Tanzanian shillings)

| | CURRENT QUARTER 30.06.2023 | PREVIOUS QUARTER 31.03.2023 |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. ASSETS | | |
| 1 Cash | 1,642 | 1,752 |
| 2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania | 6,985 | 7,296 |
| 3 Investments in Government securities | 21,872 | 19,324 |
| 4 Balances with other banks and financial institutions | 8,152 | 3,632 |
| 5 Cheques and items for clearing | (34) | (5) |
| 6 Inter branch float items | - | - |
| 7 Bills negotiated | - | - |
| 8 Customers' liabilities for acceptances | - | - |
| 9 Interbank Loans Receivables | - | - |
| 10 Investments in other securities | - | - |
| 11 Loans, advances and overdrafts (net of allowances for probable losses) | 13,581 | 16,975 |
| 12 Other assets | 15,152 | 15,456 |
| 13 Equity Investments | - | - |
| 14 Underwriting accounts | - | - |
| 15 Property, Plant and Equipment | 336 | 379 |
| 16 TOTAL ASSETS | 67,687 | 64,810 |
| B. LIABILITIES | | |
| 17 Deposits from other banks and financial institutions | 1,195 | 1,195 |
| 18 Customer deposits | 35,451 | 33,228 |
| 19 Cash letters of credit | - | - |
| 20 Special deposits | 163 | 162 |
| 21 Payment orders/transfers payable | - | - |
| 22 Bankers' cheques and drafts issued | - | - |
| 23 Accrued taxes and expenses payable | 1,222 | 881 |
| 24 Acceptances outstanding | - | - |
| 25 Interbranch float items | - | - |
| 26 Unearned income and other deferred charges | 63 | 61 |
| 27 Other liabilities | 2,676 | 2,667 |
| 28 Borrowings | - | - |
| 29 TOTAL LIABILITIES | 40,771 | 38,194 |
| 30 NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES) (16 minus 29) | 26,915 | 26,616 |
| C. SHARE HOLDERS' FUND | | |
| 31 Paid up share capital | 28,937 | 28,937 |
| 32 Capital reserves | 3,009 | 2,652 |
| 33 Retained earnings | (17,552) | (17,196) |
| 34 Profit (Loss) accounts | 670 | 371 |
| 35 Other capital accounts | 11,851 | 11,851 |
| 36 Minority interest | - | - |
| 37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS | 26,915 | 26,616 |
| 38 Contingent liabilities | 561 | 515 |
| 39 Non performing loans and advances | 7,240 | 7,555 |
| 40 Allowance for Probable Losses | 1,940 | 1,947 |
| 41 Other non performing assets | - | - |
| D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS | | |
| (I) Shareholders Funds to total assets | 39.76% | 41.07% |
| (II) Non performing loans to total gross loans | 41.00% | 36.32% |
| (III) Gross loans and advances to total deposits | 48.19% | 63.13% |
| (IV) Loans and advances to total assets | 20.06% | 26.19% |
| (V) Earning Assets to Total Assets | 64.42% | 61.61% |
| (VI) Deposits Growth | 6.43% | 5.01% |
| (VII) Assets Growth | 4.44% | 3.57% |

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (All Amounts in millions of Tanzanian shillings)

| | CURRENT QUARTER 30.06.2023 | COMPARATIVE QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR 30.06.2022 | CURRENT YEAR CUMULATIVE 30.06.2023 | COMPARATIVE YEAR CUMULATIVE 30.06.2022 |
|--|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Interest Income | 1,279 | 1,032 | 2,413 | 2,625 |
| 2 Interest Expense | 466 | 420 | 906 | 878 |
| 3 Net Interest Income (1 minus 2) | 813 | 612 | 1,508 | 1,747 |
| 4 Bad debts Written-off | 0 | 0 | 533 | 0 |
| 5 Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances | (0) | 273 | 302 | 202 |
| 6 Non interest income | 1,049 | 1,230 | 3,205 | 2,767 |
| 6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/(Losses) | 25 | 31 | 33 | 46 |
| 6.2 Fees and Commissions | 43 | 27 | 91 | 27 |
| 6.3 Dividend Income | - | - | - | - |
| 6.4 Other Operating Income | 982 | 1,172 | 3,081 | 2,095 |
| 7 Non Interest Expense | 1,554 | 1,556 | 3,192 | 2,922 |
| 7.1 Salaries and Benefits | 511 | 591 | 1,027 | 1,152 |
| 7.2 Fees and Commission | 67 | 122 | 243 | 175 |
| 7.3 Other operating Expenses | 976 | 843 | 1,922 | 1,594 |
| 8 Operating Income/(Losses) | 309 | 12 | 685 | 791 |
| 9 Income Tax Provision | 10 | 6 | 15 | 12 |
| 10 Net Income/(Losses) After Income Tax | 299 | 6 | 670 | 778 |
| 11 Other Comprehensive Income | - | - | - | - |
| 12 Total Comprehensive | 299 | 6 | 670 | 778 |
| 13 Number of employees | 56 | 53 | 56 | 53 |
| 14 Basic Earnings Per Share | 10.3 | 0.2 | 23.1 | 26.9 |
| 15 Dilute Earning Per Share | 7.3 | 0.1 | 16.4 | 19.1 |
| 16 Number of Branches | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS | | | | |
| (a) Return on Average Total Assets | 1.81% | 0.03% | 1.84% | 2.24% |
| (b) Return on Average Shareholders' Fund | 4.48% | 0.09% | 4.51% | 6.02% |
| (c) Non Interest Expenses to Gross Income | 66.74% | 68.82% | 66.74% | 60.97% |
| (d) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets | 7.81% | 5.83% | 7.99% | 8.44% |

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 30 JUNE, 2023 (All Amounts in millions of Tanzanian shillings)

| | Current year | Share capital | Other capital accounts | Retained Earnings | Regulatory reserve | Total |
|--|--------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Balance as at the beginning of the year 2023 | 28,937 | 11,851 | (17,290) | 2,747 | 25,245 | 28,937 |
| Profit for the year | 304 | - | 670 | - | - | 974 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dividend paid | - | - | - | (261) | - | (261) |
| Regulatory Reserve | - | - | - | - | 261 | 261 |
| General Provision Reserve | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Issued Share Capital | 28,937 | 11,851 | (17,290) | 2,747 | 25,245 | 28,937 |
| Balance as at the end of the period 30.06.2023 | 28,937 | 11,851 | (16,620) | 3,009 | 25,555 | 28,937 |
| Balance as at the beginning of the year 2022 | 28,937 | 11,851 | (17,488) | 2,354 | 25,555 | 28,937 |
| Profit for the year | 304 | - | 670 | - | - | 974 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dividend paid | - | - | - | (493) | - | (493) |
| Regulatory Reserve | - | - | - | - | 493 | 493 |
| General Provision Reserve | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Issued Share Capital | 28,937 | 11,851 | (17,290) | 2,747 | 25,245 | 28,937 |
| Balance as at the end of the period 31.12.2022 | 28,937 | 11,851 | (16,620) | 3,009 | 25,555 | 28,937 |

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (All Amounts in millions of Tanzanian shillings)

| | CURRENT QUARTER ENDED 30.06.2023 | PREVIOUS QUARTER ENDED 31.03.2023 | CURRENT YEAR CUMULATIVE 30.06.2023 | PREVIOUS YEAR CUMULATIVE 30.06.2022 |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| I Cash flow from operating activities | | | | |
| Net Income (Loss) | 309 | 376 | 685 | 779 |
| Adjustments for- | | | | |
| -Impairment/Amortization | 141 | 978 | 1,119 | (41) |
| -Gain/Loss on Sale of Assets | - | - | - | 688 |
| -Net change in Loans and Advances | 3,395 | 182 | 3,577 | (4,289) |
| -Gain/Loss on Sale of Assets | - | - | - | - |
| -Net change in Deposits | 2,224 | 1,651 | 3,875 | 231 |
| -Net change in Short Term Negotiable | - | - | - | 478 |
| -Net change in Other Liabilities | 353 | 212 | 566 | 231 |
| -Net change in Other Assets | 305 | 23 | 328 | 478 |
| -Tax Paid | (10) | (5) | (15) | (6) |
| -SMR | (269) | 128 | (141) | 150 |
| -Other | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Net cash provided (used) by operating activities | 6,449 | 3,545 | 9,994 | (2,030) |
| II Cash flow from investing activities | | | | |
| Dividend Receivable | - | - | - | - |
| Purchase of Fixed Assets | (89) | (163) | (252) | (675) |
| Proceeds from sale of Fixed Assets | - | - | - | - |
| Purchase of Non-Dealing Securities | - | - | - | - |
| Proceeds from Sale of Non-Dealing Securities | - | - | - | - |
| Others (T-bill/Bond/Placement) | (2,548) | (218) | (2,766) | (203) |
| Net cash provided (used) by investing activities | (2,647) | (381) | (3,028) | (878) |
| III Cash flow from financing activities | | | | |
| Repayment of Long-term Debt | - | - | - | - |
| Proceeds from Insurance of Long-term Debt | - | - | - | - |
| Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital | - | - | - | - |
| Payment of Cash Dividends | - | - | - | - |
| Net Change in Other Borrowings | - | - | - | - |
| Other (Specify) | - | - | - | - |
| Net cash provided (used) by Financing activities | - | - | - | - |
| IV Cash and Cash Equivalents: | | | | |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash equivalent | 3,802 | 3,164 | 6,966 | (2,908) |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the period | 10,739 | 7,575 | 7,575 | 14,356 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the period | 14,541 | 10,739 | 14,541 | 11,448 |

In preparation of the quarterly financial statement, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements.

Signed By: **SANJEEV ANAND** Chief Executive Officer Date: 13 July 2023
GEORGE MSAMBAZI Head of Finance Date: 13 July 2023
JOHN MWAKASONDA Head - Internal Audit Date: 13 July 2023

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.

Signed By: **THOMAS EUSTACE RWEBANGIRA** Director Date: 13 July 2023
HASHIMAH BINTI ISMAIL Director Date: 13 July 2023

DISCLOSURE MADE UNDER REGULATION 11 OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (DISCLOSURES) REGULATION, 2014 MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF BANK CHARGES AND FEES

| Type of Charge | Item / Transaction | TZS | USD | EURO | GBP |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Minimum Opening Balance | ICB Savings Account | 20,000 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| | ICB Salary Account | - | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Chuo (Students) Account | 2,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Wazee (Senior Citizen) Account | Free | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Current Account - Personal | 50,000 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| | ICB Premier Current Account | 1,000,000 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| | ICB Premier Savings Account | 1,000,000 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| | ICB Current Account - Corporate | 100,000 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | ICB Lenga (Goal) Account | 20,000 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | ICB Kikundi (Group) Account | 50,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Monthly Maintenance Fee | Al-Wadiah Savings Accounts | 20,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Savings Account | 2,000 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| | ICB Salary Account | 2,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Al-Wadiah Savings Account | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| | ICB Lenga (Goal) Account | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| | ICB Kikundi (Group) Account | Free | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Wazee (Senior Citizen) Account | Free | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Premier Savings Account | 20,000 | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| | ICB Chuo (Students) Account | Free | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Premier Current Account | 20,000 | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| Minimum Operating Balance | ICB Current Account - Corporate | 15,000 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | ICB Current Account - Personal | 10,000 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | ICB Savings Account | 5,000 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | ICB Salary Account | 5,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Chuo (Students) Account | - | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Wazee (Senior Citizen) Account | - | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Current Account - Personal | 50,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | ICB Premier Current Account | 1,000,000 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| | ICB Premier Savings Account | 500,000 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| | ICB Current Account - Corporate | 50,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Extra Charge on Transaction below Minimum Balance | ICB Lenga (Goal) Account | 20,000 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | ICB Kikundi (Group) Account | 50,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Al-Wadiah Savings Accounts | 5,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Savings Account | 600 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| | ICB Salary Account | 600 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Chuo (Students) Account | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Wazee (Senior Citizen) Account | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Staff Savings Account | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Current Account - Personal | 600 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Premier Current Account | 5,000 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Cash Withdrawal Fees | ICB Premier Savings Account | 5,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Current Account - Corporate | 5,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | ICB Lenga (Goal) Account | 2,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Al-Wadiah Savings Accounts | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Cash withdrawal at the counter (All Current accounts): Daily Limits | Up to TZS 5M - 2000 - Above TZS 5M charge 0.13% Max TZS120,000 | 0.25% of the Amount | 0.25% of the Amount | 0.25% of the Amount |
| | Cash withdrawal at the counter (All Savings accounts except ICB Chuo and Lenga Account): Daily Limits | Up to TZS 5M - 1500 - Above TZS 5M charge 0.13% Max TZS 170,000 | 0.25% of the Amount | 0.25% of the Amount | 0.25% of the Amount |
| | premature withdrawal and withdrawal more than 1 time per quarter (ICB Recurring Account & ICB Lenga Account respectively) | 3% charge of the principal amount | 3% charge of the principal amount | 3% charge of the principal amount | 3% charge of the principal amount |
| | Internal transfers within ICB Bank | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| | Cross border transfers (TT, SWIFT) - outward | N/A | Up to USD50,000.00 charge is USD50 | | |
| | Cross border transfers (TT, SWIFT) - outward | N/A | above USD50,000.00 charge is USD75 | | |
| Fund Transfers / Remittances | Inward Transfers (TT, SWIFT) | Free | USD 15 | | |
| | Amendment of TISS, SWIFT Message | 11,800 | USD 11.8 | | |
| | Amendment of TT, SWIFT Message | N/A | USD 20 | | |
| | TISS | 11,800 | USD 11.8 | | |
| | EFT (Bulk Payments): Out/Inward/salary processing fee | 3,000 per transaction | USD 2 per transaction | | |
| | Stop Payments (TISS/EFT/SWIFT) | 20,000 | USD 20 | | |
| | ICB Accounts | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| | ICB Agency Banking | Free | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Bulk Cash | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| | Deposit of Coins | 0.1% of the Amount | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Balance and statement enquiry | Small Denomination (1, 5, 10, and 20) | N/A | 5% of the Amount | 5% of the Amount | 5% of the Amount |
| | Balance Enquiry Within Banking Hall | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| | Interim statement & E-statement | 1000 per page | Free | Free | Free |
| | Monthly statement & E-statement | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| | Cheque From other Banks | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| | Outward Special Clearance - Local Settlement | 53,100 | 52.8 | 46 | 39.5 |
| | Inward Clearing | 1,000 | 1 | 1 | |

THURSDAY 20 JULY, 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

EWURA realises there is a regional market for fuel

NEW worries are being raised by regulatory officials that some oil firms are hoarding the commodity in anticipation of price changes. It is an assessment made by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) after it was noticed that for a whole week people in Songwe Region face supply and price difficulties. As indicative prices are revised each month, it is somewhat straightforward that a wholesaler or retailer can hide stock for some rainy day.

There are definitely some complaints on fuel price hikes that put in difficulties a whole section of consumers as they appear to be of a wide margin, for instance shifting from 2,700/- per litre or thereabouts to 4,000/- per litre. When that happens people will naturally seek government intervention, even if it isn't due to policy but the market that such a situation comes up. It is not easy to put it under control as each country sorts out by budget mechanisms its tax rates, etc.

The problem here is whether it is rational to place petroleum products under a protected retail regime as it is in procurement, where bulk importation reduces the risk of opportunistic imports and wild fluctuations in prices. The issue that comes up in relation to policy is whether there is reason to expect a price limit or guarantee, what is known as cap prices or indicative prices, or the market more or less has the last word. The fuel price issue is akin to grains like maize.

This matter is likely to bring about some definitional problems on the overall scope of the African Continental Free Trade

Area (AfCFTA), as to what sort of commodities countries sigh as falling under the pact. What is observable is that African states want a free market for non-sensitive commodities, and strictly regulated markets (protected production and trade, or imports, wholesale and retail) for sensitive goods. Of late the government has largely put a halt on the free transportation of maize (and rice) to nearby markets, except with a permit.

To an extent fuel prices have tended to be lower in price than in the nearest countries owing to an optional fuel subsidy that the government has informally resorted to over the past year. When it comes to grain the subsidy to farmers is in the fertiliser supply but increasingly the public is askance at market prices when regional outlets - markets - are left to influence the pricing. In that case we are largely uncomfortable with AfCFTA when it relates to basic supplies.

So Africa is integrating at the level of transit trade routes and ease of loading or offloading of cargo delivered at ports as imports or exports. But it prefers to retain exclusive markets for agro-sector produce, which implies a limited level of investing. Agro-producers like retired people can invest in auxiliary farming.

The view by the regulator that some oil firms were hoarding fuel for extortion prices is not quite the scenario that comes to the mind. We recently heard that motorists from across the border were sliding into Namanga to refuel, which brings up the issue why a tanker shouldn't avoid offloading and instead deliver the fuel across the border. A few days shortage would follow, and hiked prices.

Strategic planning is vital for country's development

IN Africa today, and Tanzania is no exception only one in five workers finds employment in the wage economy. The rest are forced to settle for low-paying jobs, often through self-employment or in the services sector, where output per person is only about twice that in agriculture sector.

In the economics study of the public sector, economic and social development is the process by which the economic well-being and quality of life of a nation, region, local community, or an individual are improved according to targeted goals and objectives.

The international community has a new set of development goals. They reflect Africa's aspirations much more closely than the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to a maintained focus on the eradication of poverty, their single most important contribution is to recognise that sustainable development, especially in Africa, means creating good jobs - jobs that pay living wages and offer a chance to develop new skills.

The Sustainable Development Goals, which took over from the MDGs, also suggest how to grow good jobs. Goal 9 of the SDGs sets as an objective to "by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product". Industry is singled out because it is a high productivity sector capable of absorbing large numbers of moderately skilled workers. Between 1950 and 2006, about half of the catch-up by developing countries to advanced-economy levels of output per worker was explained by labour moving out of agriculture and into manufacturing, combined with rising productivity within industry. In Africa, manufacturing output per worker is six times that in

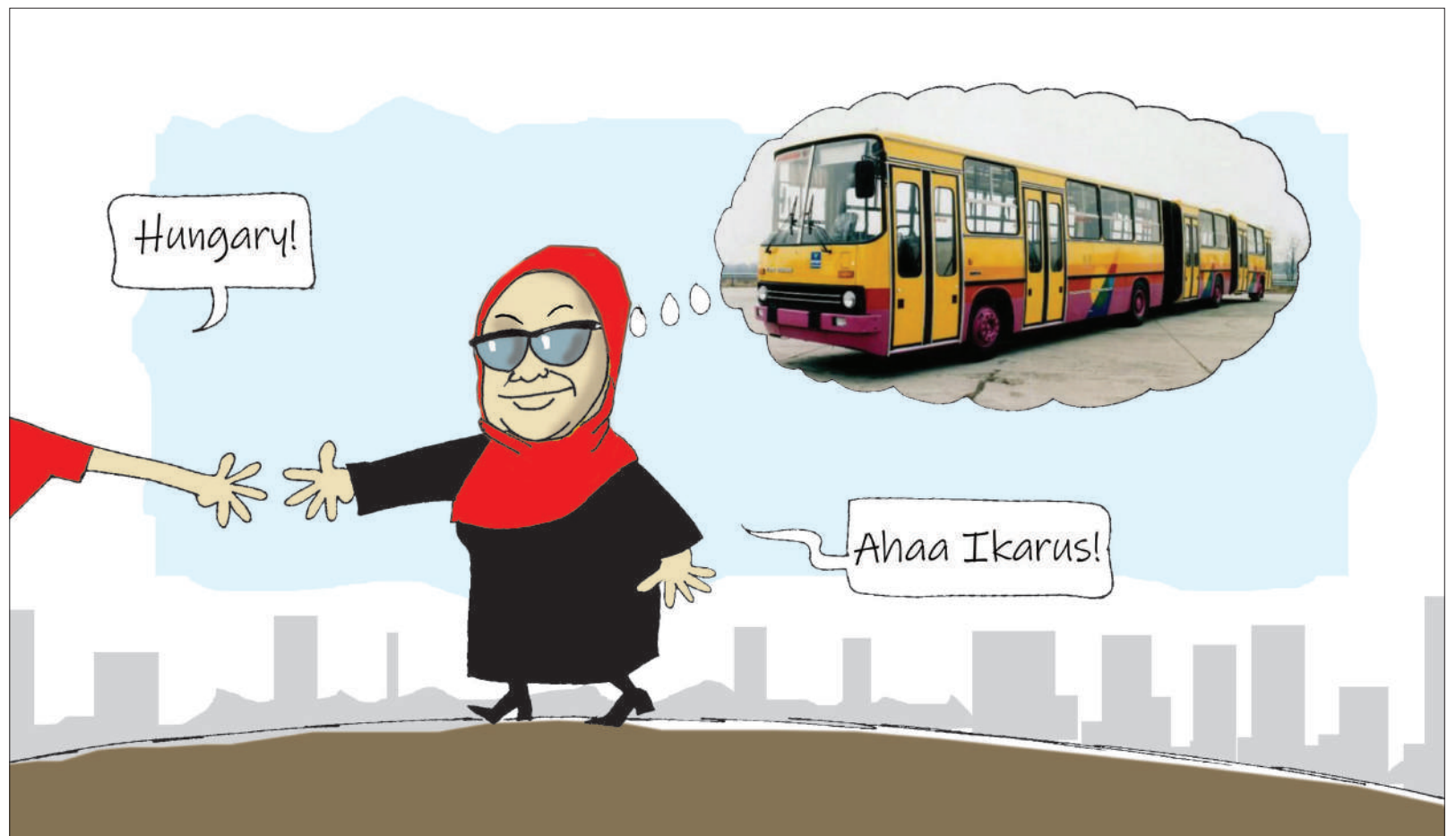
agriculture.

For more than 40 years Africa's industrial development has been disappointing. In 2013 the average share of manufacturing in GDP in sub-Saharan Africa was about 10 per cent - the same as in the 1970s. Africa's share of global manufacturing has fallen from about 3 per cent in 1970 to less than 2 per cent in 2013. Manufacturing output per person is about a third of the average for all developing countries and manufactured exports per person, a key measure of success in global markets, are about 10 per cent of the global average for low-income countries. Clearly, Africa needs more industry to create more good jobs.

Most of the heavy lifting in terms of public action will need to be done by African governments. To industrialise successfully, Africa will need to revisit the policy orthodoxy and break new ground. The "investment climate reforms" of the World Bank, supported by some bilateral donors, have not and will not bring industry to Africa on their own. Industrialisation cannot succeed without the development "basics" that include infrastructure, skills and institutions. But these building blocks, while necessary, are not enough.

Three closely related drivers of firm-level productivity - exports, agglomeration and firm capabilities - have been largely responsible for East Asia's industrial success, and their absence also helps to explain Africa's lack of industrial dynamism. These three drivers of productivity and industrial location are fundamentally interrelated. Progress in one area cannot succeed in the absence of progress in the others. In short, a strategy for industrial development is needed, and an active and committed government to implement it is indispensable.

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By Julien Boudet, Marc Brodherson,

Kelsey Robinson and Eli Stein

AT many companies, investing in marketing technology has become an objective in and of itself, with such investments outpacing the development of use cases to deploy it. That means that the tech, unfortunately, sits there, underutilised.

For example, a couple of years ago, one large consumer company spent tens of millions of dollars to purchase a suite of marketing cloud services that included data storage, content storage, and measurement and decision tools.

However, the firm's marketers weren't aligned with IT about what they needed the tech to do at that moment. The firm purchased the tech for a hypothetical, potential future scenario - but that future never arrived, and the tech now sits there, unused.

Many other companies have been in this situation as well. Marketing technology such as dynamic content analytics (which looks at the performance of an advertisement) and decisioning engines (which look at attributes of a consumer and decide what advertisements to show them) has been incorporated in many companies' tech portfolios.

But we often see significant investments in these technologies underutilised owing to lack of expertise or integration challenges.

Marketers should be asking themselves whether they're leveraging - or having an impact on - the automated creative capabilities they're paying for.

Best-in-class marketing organisations take an end-to-end view of their investment, focusing not just on the marketing or advertisement tech implementation but also on the adoption, usage and impact from it.

The best value will be unlocked through leveraging technology across multiple use cases, and adapting these cases on a test-and-learn approach - not just making these technologies available and then hoping that the value will follow.

Invest in next-generation growth drivers

Meticulously evaluating budget and better utilising current resources are ways to improve what marketing departments already do. Chief marketing officers MOs can also fundamentally shift how they think about their marketing and value creation strategies. That can mean a dramatic reallocation of where to invest, as well as thinking creatively about new approaches altogether.

In is crucial to go all in and recalibrate full-funnel marketing. Historically, marketing has been split in two. On one side is traditional brand building for awareness among large audiences, driven by broad-reach advertising, such as a televised Super Bowl commercial for a car.

Beyond belt-tightening: Marketing could drive resiliency during uncertain times - II

The other side is data-driven performance marketing to measure digital activity, such as that online advertisement for shoes that keeps following you around the internet.

For many companies, this split is inhibiting growth aspirations, with many focusing too much on one side at the expense of the other.

At best, marketing efforts are uncoordinated, reducing ROI. At worst, budget and impact decisions become contentious instead of fact-based, as the two camps can sometimes engage in turf wars. This makes it challenging to allocate investments strategically.

Too often, companies focus on the bottom of the funnel - customer acquisition and loyalty - when they would be better off focusing on raising customer awareness at the top of the funnel for longer-term growth.

A better approach is to embrace "full-funnel marketing", looking at marketing performance across the entirety of the funnel to capture existing demand and create new demand tied to both brand outcomes and commercial outcomes.

Full-funnel marketing is an approach that combines the power of both brand building and performance marketing through linked teams, measurement systems, and KPIs (key performance indicators) to deliver higher returns than approaches that target performance channels alone.

When thinking about reallocating investments for full-funnel marketing, many marketers will have the urge to make budget adjustments evenly across channels. But they should be more detailed and precise in how they measure incremental performance and outcomes.

Those with a growth mindset will understand the long-term value of how marketing can encourage incremental behaviours and will invest to optimise marginal ROI. Knowing what informs and inspires their audience will allow marketers to make more effective decisions about which channels are performing and how to allocate budget accordingly.

One recent example of a successful full-funnel incremental approach is a luxury department store that set out to measure the impact of its marketing in a more consistent way across its marketing funnel.

Marketing executives knew that their banner advertisements led to purchases, but their margins were not what they wanted. They deployed sophisticated incrementality testing that would give them a sense of what might erode margins after sales - and learned that a good number of people were returning their purchases.

The executives were able to identify US\$50 million of potential incremental margin improvement by amplifying "mid-funnel" banner advertisements that drove both

consideration and conversion, and by removing banner advertisements that drove excess returns.

Leading with commerce media pays handsomely. With the potential to generate US\$1.3 trillion in enterprise value, commerce media - a new form of advertising that closes the loop between media impressions and commerce transactions and allows retailers and brand partners to reach people across the internet - is creating a paradigm shift in digital advertising.

With commerce media, marketers can connect advertising spend directly to customer purchases, improve advertisement targeting, and deliver better audience insights to brands.

Commerce media is expected to deliver more than US\$100 billion in revenue to US companies by the end of 2026. In the United States alone, more than 15 retail media networks (RMNs), or networks offered by retailers to third-party brands that allow them to show advertisements across that retailer's websites and apps) have been launched in the past two years.

So far, it's proven to be a successful way to market. In an RMN survey we conducted in 2022, nearly 70 per cent of advertisers saw better results with RMNs than with other channels.

Those results mean that even marketers faced with budget cuts still want to invest in RMNs. We polled RMN advertisers again in March 2023 and found that 25 per cent of those who anticipated overall budget cuts still planned to increase spending in RMNs.

An example of successful investment in commerce media is a general-merchandise retailer that four years ago launched an RMN to connect brands with customers across multiple media channels.

Since then, it reported reaching US\$500 million in net new revenue, supported by construction of a new data strategy and a tech-enablement platform.

This kind of value was driven by investing in a first-party data strategy (such as through loyalty programmes), the kindling that fuels commerce media growth and that is becoming more complex in a privacy-first world.

How to get started: A call to action for CMOs

Despite the unsteady macroeconomic picture, this should be a seminal year for marketers to unlock significant value for their companies, reinvest efficiency dividends for growth, and set the agenda for years to come.

Marketing leaders can get there by taking four steps, ONE being to diagnose. Quickly assess where your company and teams stand across the three investor mindset mandates:

fuelling growth, doing more with what you have, and investing in next-generation profit drivers.

Where do you see the greatest opportunities for growth? Determine which areas are aligned with your current capabilities and company strategy, and define your priority areas to either get to par with peers or become a leader.

TWO: Set a goal. Plant a flag on marketing's contribution to the business in terminology that the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) will understand. Align on a common definition of marketing-driven revenue and the methodology for measuring it and commit to it together.

Approach the marketing investment decision not as a cost of doing business but as a business case that must be justified.

THREE: Craft a plan. Concretely define your top priorities, as well as the strategies and tactics you'll use to achieve them. What will it require to reach your goals, given your context?

For many marketers, this will require rethinking not just the initiatives but also the people and capabilities required to succeed.

More than one-quarter of the CMOs responding to our December survey identified marketing data and analytics as a top capability gap in achieving their goals.

A lack of modern marketing capabilities - such as marketing technology fluency, measurement ability, digital-channel excellence, and full-funnel know-how - can hold many companies back.

FOUR: Act decisively. Get the executive team on board and activate your team. Most critically this year, get CEO and CFO alignment on priority areas to go after, as well as the support and partnerships required to achieve them.

More now than ever, the CMO will need to unify the C-suite by bringing peers along the journey and implementing quantitative rigour, as well as bringing profit-and-loss accountability to growth decisions that were previously opaque.

While it's tempting to pull back, we believe that companies that double down on growth will not only rebound faster but will also emerge stronger as a result.

These turbulent times are a defining moment for CMOs and marketing leaders to focus acutely on the right growth moves to capture bottom-line savings and reinvest in other high-growth areas. But it all starts with strategic choices and decisive action to drive the highest incremental growth.

* This is the second and last part of a McKinsey & Company dispatch. We ran the first part in the July 14 edition. - Editor.

Techniques used by teachers whose classes pass with flying colours

LEARNING is a hobby to many but also a struggle to others. It depends on a learner's inclination. This explains why learners provided with the same opportunities show disparity in acquiring intended skills and knowledge.

Sometimes accusations and disapproval are thrown at the teacher and without tolerance and acumen, things may become unpromising. The confusion is intensified when one teacher can complain that a learner doesn't understand but another teacher can make the same learner post exemplary results.

In fact, there are teachers who can make an entire class pass with flying colours. These rare, sought-after educators can be transferred to a poorly performing school and change things there for the better. This calls for application of a variety of techniques and approaches in the teaching and learning process.

It is not easy to say how a person acquires knowledge. The presence of learners with varied abilities is what makes assessment of how teaching takes place complicated. Learning is not uniform as abilities of learners are not also uniform.

One method can suit demands of someone but for another person, it can be really confusing. The discovery of how learners learn so that they can be assisted correctly needs time and tolerance but how to tell someone to be tolerant when they have incurred some cost, yet there is no signs of learning, is unfair.



With the above reality, it becomes necessary for a teacher to make sure that there are several facilitation methods that can enable learners of different abilities learn and avoid disappointing parents who always hope for

the best.

The said facilitation should enable teaching through elaboration of key points, memorable anecdotes and stories. There are learners who like points and they like all the time to listen to

the teacher's explanation on certain concepts. Others like to read on their own to grasp new things. In my experience, stories and memorable anecdotes attract learners most and in addition to reading, they grasp new ideas hence increasing the possibility of doing well.

A pupil can reinforce what has been taught in class by reading a story on the similar concept. Putting a concept in points is sometimes harder for pupils to understand but when the concept takes a form of a story it can be easy for pupils to understand.

A blend of concepts in form of points and stories makes it necessary to have at least two books per each subject whereby one book deals with concepts in the form of points and the other deals with concepts in the form of stories.

For effectiveness, a teacher is advised to use the book dealing with concepts

in form of points in teaching in the class while learners are guided to reinforce what they have been taught by reading stories covering those concepts.

It is ideal for both points and stories to be taught together but time limit is what hinders. A 40-minute period cannot accommodate all that unless a teacher is very efficient. The blend of points and stories in teaching concepts is beneficial in the following ways.

One is simplification of content taught. When a learner reads points and then comes to stories, it becomes easier for them to grasp the content in a simple way. Sometimes concepts are said to be hard when there is a little literature in them. But when materials covering a certain concept are presented in points and stories, many learners get an opportunity to read in different ways and hence increasing chances of understanding. Scarcity of learning materials may create an artificial difficulty of a concept.

Another is improving or increasing concentration on studies. Learners whose hobby is reading in particular increase their concentration when concepts are taught by using stories. An increase in concentration increases chances of understanding.

The best kind of motivation in learning is intrinsic motivation which originates inside a person. This kind of motivation is triggered by an increase in concentration. When a learner manages to increase concentration, they may develop intrinsic motivation.

The third one is improving language mastery. When learning materials are numerous it becomes easy for learners to know new vocabularies and this helps to build their language mastery. Language is an asset in learning as it ensures effective communication. There are some learners who fail in examination simply because they don't know what is asked due to use of vocabularies which they are not familiar with.

The fourth one is increased participation in class. Learners' contribution in a class is an advantage for a teacher as it energizes the learning atmosphere. Learners can only contribute if they have exposure to variety of learning materials. Having two books per subject increases the availability of learning materials which in turn stimulate participation in class.



BY SONGA WA SONGA

ONE of the most cherished principles in legal profession is the legendary Blackstone's Ratio. It is named after preeminent English jurist William Blackstone who wrote that "Better that 10 guilty persons escape, than that one innocent suffer."

In his wisdom, this guru in matter law argued that it is quite fine to let 10 criminals escape and enjoy their undue freedom than wrongly condemn one innocent soul. Nothing explains the importance of doing justice like this principle.

Of course, there are many other principles and phrases stressing the same, like "Justice delayed is justice denied" which is often used to emphasize the importance of timely and efficient delivery of justice. This is because when a legal system fails to provide justice in a timely manner, it can lead to frustration, loss of faith in the system and even further injustice.

Does that sound familiar? Yes, this country has gone through a period in which some people were detained for years only for cases to be dropped later through nolle prosequi because of lack of sufficient evidence. Some folks are still nursing wounds, so that's a story for another day.

Strong and fair criminal justice system is very important because it is tasked with keeping us safe and protecting our property, which involves many slippery moving pieces. For, these organs are mandated to investigate, arrest suspects, prosecute and jail or fine those found guilty. If there are fault-lines somewhere, innocent citizens can suffer irreparable damage while hard-core criminals, including but not limited to looters of our resources, enjoy vintage champagnes in five-star hotels.

That is why law-abiding Tanzanians were elated when President Samia Suluhu Hassan last weekend received a report from a team she formed last year to assess the performance of criminal justice institutions in the country.

Our criminal justice system reform efforts long-overdue



President Samia Suluhu Hassan receives report on review of Tanzania's criminal justice system from Mohammed Chande Othman, former Chief Justice who is chairman of the review commission at State House Dar es Salaam last weekend. File photo

But before forming the commission chaired by former Chief Justice Mohammed Chande Othman, the President had heard many horrific stories of injustice within the criminal justice system.

In August 2021 for instance, she directed the Police Force to sit with other criminal justice organs and examine possibilities of amending laws that allow for prolonged re-

manding of suspects.

This came at a time when voices were getting so loud about excesses by police officers, inhumane overcrowding in our jails and remand prisons as well as overwhelming backlog of cases in courts.

It is heartwarming now that the 12-man team has proposed major reforms in key law enforcement and justice delivery institutions,

including review of various regulations and enactment of laws.

Institutions that were probed by the team are the Police Force, National Prosecution Services (NPS), Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), Tanzania Prisons Services and Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA).

As many expected, the commis-

sion discovered rampant corruption that denies the poor easy access to justice, long-drawn criminal case investigations and court proceedings, misuse of the rights to bail as well as abuse of power by regional and district commissioners.

After receiving the report, President Samia admitted that immediate and sweeping reforms were needed to improve access to criminal justice services for the people of Tanzania.

Going by the words of the President, the rot is bigger than you can imagine. For, she said that political leaders should also check their tendency of interfering with the daily performance of criminal justice delivery organs.

Citing an example, she said that the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) can withdraw cases just on the orders of a few powerful individuals, despite the fact that it is in the interest of the public to proceed with such cases.

A prominent businessman recently said that a powerful politician in this country can just make a phone call to a judge and interfere with a case. After being cornered by the judiciary, the man withdrew the statement and apologized.

"I am very grateful to the team for coming up with this very comprehensive report. These recommendations give law enforcement and security organs an opportunity to evaluate their performance in serving the people, and we will take them seriously," the President said.

Take them seriously we should, I appeal. President Samia formed this team while fully aware that something was amiss. That is why I strongly feel that something is about to change for the better in our criminal justice system. The good stuff that's about to happen is long-overdue but better late than never.

Songa wa Songa is a senior journalist with The Guardian. He can be reached at songa.songa@guardian.co.tz

BY KARLOS ZURUTUZA AND GILAD SADE

In northern Syria, Palestinians fund settlements in occupied Kurdish areas

A video shows an empty house with even the door frames and windows torn out. Graffiti on the wall recalls that the building was once requisitioned by the Sham Legion, an Islamist faction from northern Syria. "I was very curious so I asked a relative to send me the video to see what state our house was in," Hassan Hassan told IPS by phone. This 50-year-old English teacher lived there with his family before they were expelled in 2018.

Today he lives with his family in Shehba, a Kurdish region 30 kilometers to the east that has welcomed thousands of displaced people.

The Syrian Kurdish enclave of Afrin - 300 kilometers north of Damascus - was a Kurdish-majority territory bordering Turkey that enjoyed self-government.

In January 2018, Turkey launched Operation Olive Branch, a cross-border attack through which Ankara gave air support to Islamist militias on the ground.

The offensive caused the displacement of more than 150,000 people - almost 80% of the population of Afrin - according to UN data, as well as a chain of abuses and human rights violations.

During the siege, the Hassans barely had time to flee. "We were 19 Kurdish families living in that block, but we lost everything: our books, our photos, memories... Of course, we also lost the right to claim our property," recalls the Kurd.

The reasons can be found in a report published in June 2022 by Syrians for Truth and Justice. The France-based NGO which documents human rights violations in Syria points to an ambitious settlement project that kicked off in 2020.

According to the investigation, the project is commanded by Rahmi Doan - governor of the Turkish border province of Hatay - and financed by organizations from several countries in the Middle East. The beneficiaries are Islamist combatants and ex-combatants and their respective families.

The NGO has found "indicators of demographic change" and draws a parallel with displacement and resettlement in East Timor after Indonesia invaded the territory in 1975.

David M. Mañá, a Spanish journalist specializing in the Kurdish issue, recalls that barely 20% of the original Kurdish population remains in Afrin. He points to "a forced repopulation campaign" moving displaced Arabs from the rest of Syria into the enclave.

"It's not just about expelling the local Kurdish population; they also want to erase all traces of their language or self-government. Today



An elderly woman joins a caravan of displaced people during the joint offensive by Ankara and Islamist militias against the Kurdish-Syrian enclave of Afrin, in January 2018. Only 20% of the original population remains in the occupied zone today. Credit: HH/IPS

the Turkish flag is flown even in schools where Kurdish is no longer taught, but Turkish is," the expert told IPS, by phone from Barcelona.

Access to the Kurdish enclave remains under the exclusive control of the Turkish Interior Ministry. In February, 2022 and 2023, the Turkish authorities organized two tours for reporters who worked under the constant surveillance of government

agents. According to data obtained by the North Press Agency - a media outlet in northeastern Syria - the more than 20 settlements built in Afrin add to approximately 100 that Turkey has built throughout the occupied areas of northern Syria.

"We Kurds cannot and do not want to live under the control of these people. We only ask to return to our homes, but

that will never be possible without an international protection that guarantees our safety," Ibrahim Shekho, the president of the Afrin Human Rights Organization, told IPS over the phone from the Shehba refugee camp.

Shekho said he is not surprised by the presence of countries like Kuwait, Qatar or Oman behind the project. The Palestinian involvement is something else.

"I cannot understand that there are Palestinians who are able to forget the injustice they suffer at the hands of the Israeli authorities and wish the same to us," he lamented.

Palestinian involvement

Living with Dignity is one among several Palestinian NGOs legally registered at Israel's Ministry of Justice. They also introduce themselves as Alaysh 48 ("People of 48"), recalling that they are Palestinian citizens of Israel who reject the country's borders established in 1948.

On its Facebook page, they claim to be raising funds for Syrian settlements through Hapoalim Bank. It is a financial entity known for channelling money for the construction of settlements in Palestinian territory. They have a branch in the settlement of Ariel.

According to documentation from the Israeli Ministry of Justice examined by IPS, it was in November 2019 when Living with Dignity con-

tacted Turkish organizations "to help Syrian refugees in Turkey." Their first project included the construction of 112 apartments and 10 mosques in Afrin in 2021.

Since then, they have not stopped raising funds for similar settlements in the region.

The last one that they have co-financed is that of Shadere, which opened last May. What remains of its original Yazidi population has been forced into an Islamic education by the Islamist factions controlling the area.

Initially, Shaikh Sallam, an executive member of Living with Dignity, agreed to answer questions from IPS, but he ended up declining the invitation.

However, Living with Dignity is not the only Palestinian-run NGO involved in settlement construction in northern Syria.

Ajnadin, an NGO which has its headquarters in Bayt Hanina - an occupied district in east Jerusalem - is behind several projects, such as the Adjanin Palestine settlement, opened last January.

On their website, Al-

had been built in collaboration with Living with Dignity. "They have access to the area," Wattad clarified.

The Palestinian refused to disclose the number of houses built and still in the pipeline. He said he did not see any contradiction in supporting a settlement program similar to the one his people suffer on their own land.

"We just want to help the people," said Wattad.

Wafa Al-Muhsinin is an Istanbul-based Palestinian organization involved in the Al Zaim settlement. It owes its name to a Palestinian town occupied in 1967.

It opened last year in Jindires, very close to that empty house that appears in the video sent to Hassan Hassan.

"They told us that a family from Idlib (north-western Syria) had settled in our house, but that they later moved to a settlement after the earthquake. It is still standing, but it is damaged and it is no longer safe", said the Kurdish man.

Jindires settlement was one of the points mentioned in a letter that Kurds from Afrin sent to Nazmi Hazouri, the Palestinian consul in the Kurdish Autonomous Region of Iraq.

"The word 'settlement' horrifies us, and we categorically reject the construction of any in our name," Hazouri told Kurdish journalists.

Meanwhile, the human flow is directed through northern Syria through a concrete riverbed.

Hassan Hassan is reluctant to rule out going back to Afrin in the future, but he prefers to be realistic. In Shehba the danger is constant and he fears going through the same thing again.

"We'll have to leave again, that's our only certainty."



An aerial view of Al Amal 2, one of approximately 20 settlements built in Afrin. Credit: Afrinmedia

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 |
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

By Felister Peter

Tanzania ought to 'certify' its forests

THE forest sector is crucial as it contributes to the country's gross domestic product, personal incomes and employment.

To ensure sustainable management and use of forest products, there is a need to certify the country's forests, a process which is done by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The FSC mark on timber and non-timber products implies that the country is doing good work in managing forests.

Certification also helps to control illegal forest activities that make the country lose money because the products are sold in back markets and people are not paying taxes. By certifying forests, the government can also benefit from revenues generated through carbon claims as well as ecotourism.

Peter Alele, Regional Director (Africa), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) said Africa is losing a lot of its forests, nearly 4.4 million hectares per year. He said loss is huge, hence the need to enhance forest conservation which includes certification.

"The loss of forest in

Africa is mainly driven by poverty and household's food security income based style although there are some commercial and other factors including urbanization. Following the country's development as well as construction of roads and railways, there is a need to step up further efforts to protect the forests and make sure the resources are used sustainably," he remarked.

He added: "Forests in Africa are linked with people's lives, 60 percent of people in Africa depend on forests on their day to day activities. This makes forests important in the continent."

Alele said it is important to certify forests to also protect the restored forests for the landscapes to be managed sustainably. He said this is why FSC is partnering with governments and that through the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFRIIO), a country-led effort to restore 100 million hectares of land in Africa.

Under the initiative, Tanzania has made a



commitment to restore 5.2 million hectares of forests.

"Once you restore and people living around the landscapes are still poor; they will need to continue destroying them because they fully rely on them," said Alele expressing hopes that so that a

lot is happening under AFRIIO as countries have less than seven years to restore the required hectares by 2030.

Anna Agasha, FSC Coordinator Eastern Africa-Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Rwanda said that Tanzania is one the countries with a large forest

area compared to other countries in the region.

Agasha noted that Tanzania has so far certified less forests compared to other countries, adding there are still a lot of illegal forest activities such as cutting of trees for timber.

"The illegally harvested timbers are sold at cheap

prices and they are of poor quality. People are attracted to cheap prices, this affects the demand for forest certification not only in Tanzania but in Africa," she said, urging stakeholders to increase awareness on certification and its benefits.

"We need to further

educate people on the importance of certifying forests using the FSC system. Certified forest products and non-timber products can fetch better market prices and boost government revenues through taxes.

"People cannot implement what they do not understand; they must know the value of certification to embark on the exercise. The market for certified goods is not well developed in Africa, with exception of South Africa," she stated, adding that, there is a lot of forest products in the market but the source is not clear.

She said in a situation where certified materials are competing with non-certified materials which are cheaper, reduces the value of certified materials.

Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) Chief Executive Prof Dos Santos Silayo said the government recognizes the importance of certification, noting, it is important for the process to consider the people living near the forests so that they are not

affected

Prof Silayo said that in Tanzania, the forest sector provides almost 90 percent of cooking energy to rural dwellers while at international level, forest products were last year ranked sixth in contributing to foreign money ahead of minerals and other several products.

In Africa, 2 percent of the land is covered by forests while in Tanzania 15 percent of the land is covered by forests, said the TFS boss.

With support from WWF Tanzania, the government has since 2008 been engaged in processes to prepare the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) for responsible forest management.

Through TFS, two protected forests—Longuza Forest Plantation and Amani Nature Forest Reserve have been selected as pilots—Forest Management Units (FMUs) for forest certification.

IN promoting sustainable forest management, the government is seeking forest management certification for two natural and plantation forests which will be the pilots Forest Management Units (FMUs) for forest certification.

Tanzania, the Netherlands agree to develop a robust and vibrant potato seed sub-sector

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA and the Netherlands have agreed to collaborate on developing a joint roadmap for the thriving seed potato ecosystem.

The decision was made during a workshop attended by public and private stakeholders interested in horticulture and the potato sector.

Tanzania Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe and the Netherlands Ambassador to Tanzania, Wiebe de Boer emphasized the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors to promote a sustainable potato industry in Tanzania.

The partnership has already resulted in the registration of 12 Dutch potato varieties in Tanzania, which have the potential to increase productivity.

Efforts are being made to address the availability of certified seeds, enhance farmers' productivity, and tackle post-harvest losses in the horticulture sector.

The government is working on creating an enabling environment for the private sector and has initiated discussions on crop-specific HS codes and long-term land lease agreements.

The Minister launched a new avocado guideline to support the avocado sector's development, and both parties expressed their commitment to finding sustainable solutions together.

Tanzania and the Netherlands have agreed to work together to establish a joint roadmap for the development of a thriving and strong potato seed ecosystem. This deliberation was made during the workshop with horticulture stakeholders in Dodoma.

The workshop was at-



tended by public and private institutions and organizations interested in the horticulture and the potato sector.

During the event organized by the Embassy of the Netherlands, Ministry of Agriculture and the Tanzania Horticulture Association, the leaders emphasized the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors in promoting a sustainable potato industry, geared to positioning Tanzania as the potato hub.

The Minister and the ambassador acknowledged the longstanding partnership between Tanzania and the Netherlands, which has already resulted in the registration of the Dutch potato varieties in Tanzania.

These varieties have potential to increase productivity in potato farming and offer wide range of choices to farmers. During his visit to the Southern highlands, the minister met with farmers who were delighted with their harvests.

These farmers were able to yield up to 206 sacks of 50kg of potatoes per acre. They attributed their success to the use of high-quality certified potato seeds and the adoption of best agronomic practices.

Considering the country's population growth rate, there will be a need to feed more

people in the coming years without an increase in available land. This necessitates innovative and efficient approaches to enhance farmers' productivity.

Isowelu Amcos is a prominent cooperative engaged in potato farming as a business. By utilizing certified potato seeds, their average yield per acre has increased from 8 tons to 25 tons. However, last year, Isowelu Amcos alone demanded 1000 tons of certified seed potatoes but could only obtain about 300 tons.

Addressing the issue of certified seeds is crucial to harness the country's potential for welcoming more cooperatives like Isowelu Amcos and expanding the potato sector.

The horticulture sector is experiencing rapid growth in Tanzania. As per the 2022 phytosanitary records, the country exported 30,000 metric tons of horticultural produce. However, there is a significant concern regarding a 40 percent postharvest loss of food when it reaches the Dar es Salaam market.

To tackle this issue, collaboration with the private sector is essential in finding local solutions to improve coordination, minimize losses and avail quality certified seeds timely to farmers.

Bashe said: "It is the com-

mitment of the government to involve private sector in the seed multiplication because the government alone cannot do it. We have tried since 1960's. We cannot continue facing the same problems and use the same techniques to solve since the independence."

The Netherlands Embassy in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Tanzania Horticultural Sector Association (TAHA) organized a workshop on 4 May 2023 on the sustainable development of the horticulture sector in Tanzania.

The workshop brought together public and private institutions to dialogue unlocking challenges that hinder sector development. In this workshop, the minister of agriculture,

Bashe gave government prospective in the areas of supporting horticulture putting emphasis on avocados, potatoes, and coordination.

To unleash the country potential, the government cannot work alone. Deliberate efforts are underway in facilitation of enabling environment for the private sector to work. The Tanzania Ministry of Agriculture is working close with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to develop crop specific HS codes, which

was not in place before.

Categorizing crops by names will not only increase efficiency but also reduce post-harvest issues as perishable goods identifications. The Ministry is also set to have discussions with the private sector and secure a long-term land lease agreement for the seed multiplications purposes. Furthermore, the Minister encouraged private sector to come with a solid plan of action for a bilateral discussion.

Remarkably on this day, the Minister launched a new avocado guideline and distributed to extension services as a working tool in supporting the avocado sector development. The Tanzania Horticulture Association worked together with the Ministry of Agriculture in the preparations of the guideline.

In the fight against unemployment, food security and business creation through exports, there is no time to waste. The Minister assured stakeholders on the Ministry commitment to work together with the sector in finding sustainable solutions together.

The Ambassador of the Netherlands thanked the Minister for a sharp vision on agriculture in the coming years and assured continue the good relations with the Netherlands in the coming years.

Polio scare hits Malawi with 17 possible cases as huge vaccine drive ends

LILONGWE

MALAWI is investigating at least 17 suspected polio cases just as a vaccination campaign is completed with more than 90 percent of the country's children inoculated against the virus.

Health authorities fear Cyclone Freddy - the world's longest-lasting tropical cyclone - which made landfall in March in the southern African nation and led to hundreds of deaths and thousands of displacements - could be a contributing factor.

Arnold Mdalira, a spokesperson for the Zomba district health office in southern Malawi, said that the results of the investigation will come out in a fortnight.

"Zomba is one of the districts affected by Cyclone Freddy, and it destroyed toilets and other sanitation facilities," he said in a radio interview. The development could pose danger to children, especially newborns," he added.

Malawi has been vaccinating children since last year following a recorded first case of the wild polio in 30 years, and the first in Africa since the region was certified free of indigenous wild polio in 2020.

There are three variants of wild or naturally occurring virus, which is the most common type of polio. Two types have been eradicated (WPV2 and WPV3), while WPV1 remains endemic only in Pakistan and Afghanistan. There is also a very rare vaccine-derived poliovirus, which is a variant of the weakened poliovirus initially included in the oral polio vaccine.

A ministry of health spokesperson, Adrian Chikumbe, could not confirm the new cases but said "we do surveillance from time to time" and the "conditions could be due to other factors".

He added: "Possibly it could be acute flaccid paralysis - after further investigations or laboratory tests we can determine if it's polio or not, but we have not received those reports."

He said the ministry has monitored 316 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) so far this year. AFP is a clinical syndrome covering a collection of symptoms and defined by the acute onset of weakness or paralysis with reduced muscle tone in children. Polio is one of many infectious and non-infectious causes of AFP.

"Any child presenting with acute flaccid paralysis, which could be due to polio or other factors, is picked out and investigated," said Chikumbe.

He said that a vaccination campaign, which ended last weekend, reached more than 8 million children, representing 90.7 percent of the country's under-15s.

Adamson Muula, a professor of public health and epidemiology at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, said a prompt investigation of the new cases will be vital. "One key issue is to find whether they received the vaccine or not, and that will unlock what's going on," he said.

"If the samples have been taken, it will take some days. But until the ministry has findings, they can't say whether it is polio or not."

"I would not be surprised if the cases were polio because - just like cholera - it passes through contaminated water or food. Now, with Cyclone Freddy, the sanitations have been compromised and other areas have also remained for days without water. If one person had polio, it's very easy to spread.

Earlier this year, Malawi - with support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the WHO, Unicef and TyVAC - launched a nationwide integrated vaccination campaign targeting children from nine months to 14 years old. Vaccines for typhoid fever, measles, rubella and polio, as well as a vitamin A supplement, were available at mobile and fixed sites, including clinics, mobile outreach teams and schools.

Malawi has also become the third African country to introduce the typhoid conjugate vaccine in its routine vaccination programme.



Airtel allocates millions for customers through its 'Upige Mwingi' campaign
page 14

CRDB Bank launches updated SimBanking app



By Banker Reporter

CRDB Bank has launched an updated SimBanking app as part of improving innovations on provision of banking services to its customers.

The bank's chief finance officer said the improved SimBanking app is using modern technology in accordance with customer expectations.

He said the app is being developed with the combination of technologies empowered with an Artificial Intelligence.

"The technology used on Sim-

Banking app gives a customer to choose an arrangement of services on his/her conveniences," he said.

Nshakanabo said the applied technology is expected to increase the scope of digital banking services while simplifying transactions.

"Another area which we have given priority on SimBanking app is customer security. We are using biometric to ensure customer security and has made CRDB Bank as only in Tanzania and few in Africa to use this technology," he said.

Speaking during the event, senior manager, digital services and innovation Jacklina Jackson said the improved SimBanking app gives an

opportunity to customer to invest through fixed deposits digitally.

"Customer will now transfer cash as much as he/she can and can be arranged daily, weekly or monthly. We have improved on transaction records as a customer can easily be able to access receipt," she said.

She said that the improved SimBanking app has improved payment services that enable services providers to collect payments and can authorize payment through one time passcode.

"We have also improved insurance services and improve speed of accessing this service," she said. She also said the improved

SimBanking app has loyalty programme which enables customer to win various prizes as well as can enable customers to comment after completion of a transaction.

SimBanking service was launched in 2022 and has been mentioned as one of the services that are promoting digital financial services as well as financial inclusion.

SimBanking has won various awards locally and internationally including Consumer Choice Awards, Global Finance award and recently Tanzania Digital Awards

Alliance One pays \$71.9 million to tobacco farmers this season



An agronomy and operation director at the Alliance One Tobacco Tanzania Limited, David Mayunga (L), has a word with Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe when the latter toured the company's factory recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

AT a time when farmers are complaining about delays in payment of money for their crops due to a shortage of the US Dollar, Alliance One Tobacco Tanzania Limited (AOTTL) said yesterday that it has paid a total of \$71.9 million (about 179.8bn/-) to farmers during the current season.

The money went to over 12,000 contracted tobacco growers in the country this season after they delivered high-quality tobacco to the company.

The AOTTL managing director, Ephraim Mapoore, said here yesterday that this means that the company has paid every single cent that was meant for farmers during the current season.

"All our farmers have received their money," he said.

He said besides the \$71.9 million payment to contracted farmers, the firm also paid \$1.81 million (4.6bn/-) to Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (Amcos) fees and \$780,000

(about 1.95bn/-) as levy to tobacco cooperative unions.

"We have also paid a total of \$1.72 million (about 4.3bn/-) as a crop cess directly to various districts in which we operate," he said, noting that the payments were made in compliance with the government's recent directive on the period within which farmers are to receive their money.

Recently, the government directed that all tobacco payments to growers should be made within 14 days from the date of the completion of the market and that all payments must be concluded in US Dollar.

"While the governing laws require all tobacco buyers to pay for purchased tobacco within 14 days, at AOTTL we have managed to pay our contracted farmers within four days," he said, adding that the move was deliberately designed to relieve contracted growers from the burden of interest payments associated with the loans acquired from commercial banks.

AOTTL's statement comes at a time when various farmers have been

heard complaining about delays in payment of their money from buyers.

A tobacco grower from Shinyanga Region, Emmanuel Samson, was quoted yesterday saying he has been claiming his payment for quite a long time now and has been given the same answers that the banks do not have sufficient US dollars.

Another farmer, Makwanya Samweli, has also been quoted as saying that since May when he sold his tobacco, he has not received his payment to date.

In fact, the Tanzania Tobacco Board (TTB) Director General Stanley Mnozya is on record as having admitted that the delay in the payments of the farmers has been due to the challenge of the shortage of the currency as well as tobacco's production at a higher level than the market could normally meet its demand.

"So far now the farmers are claiming \$51 million, efforts are being made to ensure that they are paid all their monies by July 31 so that they can prepare for the new farming

season," said Mnozya while insisting that the shortage of the US currency has been the challenge.

But while visiting the company's pavilion cooperatives at the Nane Nane grounds at Ipuli in Tabora, Hassan Wakasvi, a representative of the farmers and Chairman of the ruling CCM for Tabora, confirmed to have received his money on time from AOTTL.

"Let me declare my interest, my amcos is contracted to AOTTL, and I personally have received my \$20,000 into my account from AOTTL, and the payment was made within four days," he said.

And, according to an agronomy and operation director for AOTTL, David Mayunga, working with contracted tobacco farmers was the best option.

"Our company believes the AMCOS working with us are the best of the best, and five AMCOS, in particular, stood out in terms of good governance, member grower payment, compliance with good agricultural practices and agriculture labor practices. As such, they were awarded laptops to help them close the digital gap and depart from depending entirely on paperwork," said David Mayunga, agronomy and operation director for the company.

The five AMCOS winners that were presented with laptops were Imbambala AMCOS Ltd (Kahama), Mgwazi AMCOS (Kigoma), Imalaupina AMCOS Ltd (Sikonge), Twendepamoja Kulunde AMCOS (Tabora) and Kombe amcos Limited (Urambo).

"The company's contracted growers are an integral part of our business. We thank them for delivering their contracted tobacco volumes via their agricultural marketing co-operative societies (AMCOS) and strive to show our gratitude by continuing to work with them to achieve our company's mission to transform people's lives so that together we can grow a better world," Magoti said.

AOTTL has operated its tobacco processing plant since 1998 and, since its inception three decades ago, continues to offer employment, add value to the tobacco crop, and act as a compliant and good corporate citizen, paying taxes as per the governing laws of Tanzania.

State moves to relax checks on large cash transactions

NAIROBI

BANK customers will be spared the trouble of disclosing the source, intended use and beneficiaries when making transactions of \$15,000 (Sh2.1 million) and below if Parliament approves a Cabinet proposal to relax the anti-money laundering rules.

A Cabinet meeting chaired by President William Ruto Tuesday approved the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Terrorism Financing Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023, setting the stage for the increase of the cash-reporting threshold by 50 percent from the current \$10,000 (Sh1.42 million).

The Bill, which will now be tabled in Parliament, marks the latest test to the 2016 regulations after Dr Ruto and his predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta in the past separately pushed for a review, arguing that they had inconvenienced many individuals and businesses.

Moneyed individuals and businesses have protested the onerous checks amid fears relaxing the rules could aid money laundering and terrorism financing.

"Besides raising the cash reporting threshold from \$10,000 to \$15,000, the Bill provides for the requirement for companies to keep a register of beneficial owners," said a statement by the Presidential Communication Service (PCS) on Tuesday Cabinet meeting.

The proposed \$15,000 threshold is the maximum limit recommended by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog for which Kenya aligns through the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG)—an associate member of FATF.

More than 200 jurisdictions worldwide are committed to the FATF recommendations, which, among others, require financial institutions to undertake customer due diligence on transactions above the designated threshold of \$15,000 or €15,000 (Sh2.1 million).

FATF recommendations are widely considered the global standard for anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism but a number of MPs have been pushing for a \$10 million threshold. Kenya's counterparts in the East African Community—Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania—are all on FATF's 'grey list,' meaning they are under increased monitoring when it comes to risks of money laundering and terrorism financing.

Kenya is a key regional business and travel hub as well as a gateway to the neighbouring East African economies and well-developed trade links to the rest of the world.

A 2021 report of the task force on the national risk assessment on money laundering and terrorism financing said this geo-positioning, trade inter-connectedness and high fintech use had increased the country's vulnerability to money laundering and terrorism financing. The overall money laundering threat for the country was assessed as medium with a potential for increase in the future.

The task force founded that banking was the sector with the highest impact on the national money laundering vulnerability, followed by real estate, money remittance providers, saccos, legal professionals and second-hand motor vehicle dealers.

The common methods of laundering money in Kenya were found to involve opening 'suspicious' bank accounts and making periodic cash deposits which do not correspond to the suspect's known sources of income.

"To avoid detection, deposits are made in tranches below the reporting threshold to evade the attention of the authorities and guidelines placed by regulators which require that an account holder declares the source of such money," said the task force's report.

The CBK had in a January 5, 2016 circular told banks that large cash transactions were characterised by "informality and anonymity," making the banking sector vulnerable to money laundering and terrorism financing.

The regulator issued the guidelines to tighten Regulation 31 of the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Regulations, 2013 which require financial institutions to obtain written confirmations from customers that they are engaged in activities that generate money that matches what they are depositing or withdrawing.

Under the additional guidelines that have been reviewed, those depositing at least \$10,000 are required to disclose the source of the cash and justify why such transactions could not be made through electronic means.

Customers have also been required to disclose where the money being withdrawn was going, what the money is to be spent on and who the direct and indirect beneficiaries are.

Banks are also currently required to keep records of cash transactions of more than \$10,000 and report suspicious deals to the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC)—the agency tasked with identifying and combating money laundering and financing of terrorism. Former CBK governor Patrick Njoroge left office mid-last month having successfully resisted the pressure to revise the rules that have been.

TIC out to lure more foreign investments

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) has during the 2023/24 financial year and on planned to attract investments worth 12.25trn/- (\$5billion).

TIC executive director Gilead Teri, told editors earlier this week that investment lobbying body has managed to register 16 strategic projects for the last three years valued 2.91billion an equivalent of 7.35trn/-.

Those strategic projects were registered since earlier 2021 and are expected to create about 45,065 new direct jobs.

Teri said that during the period between January and June 2023, 10 strategic projects have been registered.

"This is a new record for TIC to register 10 projects since its inception, the contracts worth \$1,805.12million," he

said.

Teri said that the strategic projects are expected to generate about 16,355 new direct and indirect jobs and adding that project will lead to promoting the development of various technologies.

According to him, in 2022 the center managed to register six strategic projects worth \$1.1billion, and the jobs that are expected to be created are 28, 710.

He said TIC has continued to be close to investors by visiting investment projects to see challenges and solve them, monitoring the implementation of projects by phone.

He said TIC has been resolving investor disputes immediately after being reported to monitor the progress of projects and build good relations with investors.

Teri said the center uses the project processing system that has enabled

an increase in the speed of processing projects where the investor can get a certificate within 24 to 72 hours if the documents are complete. Regarding investment promotion during the period, he said the Center has developed a modern way to attract investors.

The center has been making efforts to reach local investors by visiting them and educating them on the benefits of joining TIC services.

TIC has been participating in many domestic and foreign economic and investment conferences to attract more investors.

He mentioned another achievement as opening an office in Dodoma to facilitate governmental coordination to increase the Center's income and start using (Investors Service Providers ISP).

He said that ISP will facilitate the registration of projects and become a new source of income, establish a system

of online forums to attract investment and reduce operating costs.

Teri said that by December 2023—the Center will have collected one billion from an average of 350 million in January 2023 and that it is important to make the center fulfill its duties efficiently and modernly. He said that the objectives of TIC are to increase the attractions for investors.

He said the goal is to register 100 projects per month and address the challenges of investors by 95 percent adding that the use of technology and innovation in attracting foreign capital (FDI) using Tanzanian embassies.

The center aims to reduce operating costs and increase income to reach 1 billion per month, prepare and implement a strategic plan for the Center and local services along with the implementation of the new investment law.

Mining company facilitates NGOs to run community-related programmes

By Francis Kajubi

BARRICK Gold Corporation has donated 97.49m/- (\$40,000) through corporate social responsibility (CSR) to facilitate four non-profit organizations to run different programs on women and children welfare among other issues.

Handing over the dummy cheques to the NGOs at a special event held recently at North Mara offices in Tarime district, Barrick president and chief executive Mark Bristow said apart from investing in uplifting host communities the company is taking a responsibility of contributing social development in line with the government's plans by facilitating non-government institutions.

"We are donating this amount to help these NGOs to realize their strategic plans and programs of empowering diverse communities. Our major goal is to contribute to health, education, gender issues, water and sanitation so that beneficiaries can live a deserved happy life," said Bristow.

According to Bristow, the four benefiting NGOs are People's Development Forum, Triphecy Initiative Foundation, Hassan Maajar Trust and Twikondie Group each receiving \$10,000 an equivalent of 24.35m/-.



Barrick president and chief executive officer Mark Bristow

Rose Nazary, coordinator protection of girls against gender based violence program by People's Development Forum said the NGO will spend the

money in sensitizing the general public on the implications of gender based violence to girls and teenagers in Tarime district.

"We have planned to reach hundreds of men in the district through the program. We will also sensitize girls and teenagers in primary and secondary schools on the essence of reporting the perpetrators of GBV at home and in school," said Nazary.

Triphecy Initiative Foundation managing director Benson Magoti said that the organization will spend the donated \$10,000 in enabling teenagers who dropped out of school due to pregnancy to continue with their studies.

"In a movement towards realizing gender equality we do believe that girls and teenagers who dropped school due to pregnancy continue with studies immediately when their children turn a year and above," said Magoti.

Another beneficiary of the donation is Hassan Maajar Trust which is set at allocating the money to improve learning in the teaching environment in primary and secondary schools in Dar es Salaam.

Daniel Samson, chairman Twikondie Group of Bugalama village in Msalala district of Shinyanga region said they will use the money among each other.

The group formed by 13 members of which eight are women will spend the money on a horticulture project and poultry farming.

"We are grateful to investors such as Barrick who care about giving back to the community. We do hope that the money will contribute to improving our economic conditions," said

Samson.

On her part, Lightness Mauki, director of public investment Treasury said the government is slated to earn \$52million (127.15bn/-) for the year ending June 2023 from the joint venture between Twiga Minerals Corporation Limited and Barrick Gold Corporation.

She said that as of last month the treasury had received a non-tax revenue from this stake worth \$36million (88bn/-).

According to her, the amount has been directly deposited to the treasury account. The government hopes that the remaining amount will soon be received.

"This is a dividend from the 16 percent revenue sharing agreement with Barrick. This money is going to serve for the implementation of various development projects as per the government wishes," said Mauki.

Since its establishment, Twiga has invested more than \$12.5 million in landmark projects identified in collaboration with the community development committees established to push for social services and set alternative sources of income for host communities. Twiga has also committed \$30 million to a Future Forward School Programme.

The partnership is vested in producing at least 500,000 ounces of gold annually for more than 10 years at the lower half of the industry cost curve.

Airtel allocates millions to 'Upige Mwingi' campaign

By Banker Reporter

AIRTEL Tanzania has called upon its esteemed customers to continue participating in its ongoing promotion that runs for three months through Airtel Money as there are plenty prizes to win.

Dubbed in its Swahili name 'Upige Mwingi na Airtel' literally translated as make the most of it through Airtel Money, is designed at bringing the mobile company's customers even more closer.

Airtel's customers' experience director Adriana Lyamba said yesterday in Dar es Salaam when handing over various prizes to the winners of the promotion and called upon the company's customers to continue making many transactions to put themselves in a good position to win prizes.

"For Airtel our customers mean everything to us and that is why every day we have been bringing them various promotions so that they can continue to enjoy our excellent



For Airtel our customers mean everything to us and that is why every day we have been bringing them various promotions so that they can continue to enjoy our excellent services. Through the promotion gifts worth approximately 250m/- will be given.

services. Through the promotion gifts worth approximately 250m/- will be given. Every time a customer uses any Airtel service, he is in a position likely to win a prize," he said.

According to him, there are many prizes, including cash ranging from 100,000/- to 1m/-, motorcycles, scooters, refrigerators, televisions, airtime, internet bundles and an ultimate cash prize of 50m/-.

Receiving the gift of a 50-inch Samsung smart television, a resident of Dar es Salaam, Hussein Hussein said he did not expect to win the prize and asked other customers to continue enjoying the promotion so that they could win like him.

Sabrina Joseph who won the refrigerator prize said that the prize gives her the motivation to continue participating so that she can continue to win more prizes including the ultimate prize of 50m/-.

In another development, Airtel in collaboration with Letshego Faida Bank presented a gift of a car to the winner of their promotion 'Vimba na Timiza Akiba Ushinde' where a resident of Dar es Salaam, Peres Masige won a Bajaj worth 7.5m/-.

Head of Letshego's sales division, Asupya Bussi said that in order to win the prize, Airtel Money customers had to make numerous savings through the Timiza service run by the bank in collaboration with Airtel Tanzania.

"The main goal of this promotion is to make Airtel customers and Tanzanians in general have a culture of saving for them in order to win prizes and also strengthen themselves economically", said Bussi.



A Dar es Salaam resident, Peres Masige (right) winner of Airtel's Letshego Faida Bank joint promotion celebrates with his daughter after being presented with a Bajaj by Airtel Tanzania.

MTN, Bboxx partner to widen smartphone access in Rwanda

KIGALI

MTN has signed a partnership with Bboxx to extend digital connectivity to the 80 percent of Rwanda's population who are currently living without access to the internet.

The two companies today announced the partnership aimed at widening access to smartphones across Rwanda and accelerating the country's digital agenda.

MTN and Bboxx say digital prosperity will be unlocked by accessible and affordable smartphones - currently, only just over 20 percent of Rwandans have access to a smartphone despite more than 99.0% network coverage.

Bboxx and MTN Rwanda say they will leverage their combined expertise and shared vision to make essential technology more accessible for all Rwandans, helping to bridge the digital divide and provide internet access to previously unconnected communities.

Bboxx - through its data-driven platform - provides financing to individuals, businesses, and communities.

Despite network coverage of 99 percent, Rwanda's current smartphone penetration stands at just 23.5 percent, and the two parties say this initiative builds upon the Rwandan government's goal to 'Connect Rwanda' by en-

suring that every household has access to a smartphone.

Bboxx's pay-as-you-go smartphone service, Bboxx Connect, will give customers a more accessible way to pay for their smartphones.

MTN Rwanda, in turn, will provide SIM cards and also offer a starter data pack that consists of 1GB per month for three months to all customers who sign up for Bboxx Connect.

Mansoor Hamayun, co-founder and CEO of Bboxx, comments: "With MTN Rwanda's extensive reach, we will scale our Bboxx Connect service to enhance affordability and accessibility of smartphones for customers across

Rwanda.

"This is not only an innovative business collaboration but a significant step forward in the global effort to end the digital divide and deliver affordable, life-changing technology to all."

For MTN Rwanda CEO, Mapula Bodibe, this collaboration represents a significant step in bridging the digital divide by expanding access to affordable smartphones in the country.

She says: "Together, we are committed to creating a more connected world to enable individuals and communities to access the power of the internet and thrive in this digital age."

BANKING & FINANCE



Foxglove director Martha Dark

OpenAI responds to Kenya's 'toxic work' petition

Nairobi

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence Company OpenAI has acknowledged to ITWeb Africa that during ChatGPT's safety training, young Kenyans working as content moderators were placed in a "challenging work" setting.

This comes as some of the Kenyans who helped to train the generative AI solution approached Parliament last week, claiming they were exposed to toxic content and now experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The Kenyan content moderators who helped to train the ChatGPT service petitioned Parliament to investigate Ope-

nAI and its local partner in content moderation, Samasource (Sama), a San Francisco-based firm that hires people in Kenya.

The Kenyans have now claimed exploitation, saying insufficient wages were paid for helping to train the chatbot.

The content moderators now want the National Assembly to investigate the nature, working conditions and business practices of Sama. They have also asked that the working practices of other similar businesses operating in Kenya, to which major tech companies outsource their content moderation and other AI work, also be more closely examined.

In response to the claims, an

OpenAI spokesperson tells IT-Web Africa: "We recognise this is challenging work for our researchers and annotation workers in Kenya and around the world - their efforts to ensure the safety of AI systems have been immensely valuable."

The company didn't offer a solution to the challenge, however. The company spokesperson adds: "Our mission is to build safe and beneficial AGI (artificial general intelligence), and human data annotation is one of the many streams of our work to collect human feedback and guide the models toward safer behaviour in the real world. We believe this work needs to be done humanely and willingly,

which is why we establish and share our own ethical and well-being standards for our data annotators."

The matter has drawn the attention of UK-based Foxglove - a non-profit that fights to "make tech fair". Foxglove is backing Kenyans who have approached Parliament with the petition, along with the nascent content moderators' union, which the ChatGPT petitioners are also involved with.

Foxglove is a group of lawyers, technologists and communicators, who claim they want to fight for a future in which technology is used to benefit all people. Foxglove director Martha Dark comments: "ChatGPT is

world-famous as a symbol of AI's potential. But like Facebook before it, its success is built on an army of hidden and underpaid people who do the gruesome work of sifting through toxic content to make the service safe.

"Moderators in Kenya are forming the first content moderators' union on the continent to fight back.

"This parliamentary petition is the latest demonstration of the power of organised tech workers. Foxglove supports this movement - and hopes Kenyan MPs will make urgent reforms to the outsourcing model that allows companies like Sama to enable exploitation by foreign tech giants."

Petrol price triggers anger in Lagos, Abuja

LAGOS

ANGER, frustration, and despondency were the situation yesterday, as Nigerians woke up to yet another steep increase in the price of Premium Motor Spirit, otherwise known as petrol.

From Lagos, Ogun, and Edo in the South West and South-South to Niger, Borno and Zamfara in the north, it was all tales of woe by motorists and commuters.

While the price in Lagos shot up from N488 per litre at petrol stations owned by Nigeria National Petroleum Company, Limited, NNPC, to N568, it rose as high as N617 per litre in Abuja and another northern state from N540.

The Group Chief Executive Officer of NNPC, Mele Kyari, blamed market forces for the increase, while the Borno State chapter of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria, IPMAN, expressed concern over the latest increment.

It noted that the living standards of the people would nosedive, especially with the government not providing the necessary palliatives to cushion the effects of subsidy removal.

While the Nigeria Employers Consultation Association, NECA, in its immediate reaction said local refining of crude oil remained the only way out for Nigeria, the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, contended that the latest increase in the price of petrol would further impoverish the people.

Checks by Vanguard yesterday indicated that each operator is allowed to change price, based on its cost elements, under the present deregulation.

It also showed that the dwindling value of the naira has put pressure on fuel importers, including NNPC Limited, as well as major and independent marketers.

The National Operations Controller of IPMAN, Mike Osatuyi, said: "It is not about the NNPC Limited, it is about the market fundamentals. Every marketer stands alone with its different cost elements."

"The low value of the naira is currently impacting the market, it is now more than N800 to a dollar. This is why the market is responding this way. It has to spread because as operators, our price depends on our cost."

"Even though some importers have been able to import the product, it cannot be cheap because it is based on the current market fundamentals, especially foreign exchange. The public should also know that importers source their foreign exchange from the banks at the current rate."



Students, commuters express frustration as fuel prices soar

Meanwhile, as marketers were adjusting their pumps to reflect the new price, students and commuters in Lagos expressed their grievances over yet another increase, as transport fares soared astronomically yesterday.

A student of Lagos State University, LASU, Ojo, said the transportation fare from her hostel to the school spiked from N100 to N200.

"Our exams are next week, and I wonder how the government expects us to cope. LASU does not have enough hostels, so most of us have to stay off-campus, which means we have to bear the burden of paying N400 for transportation to and fro."

Similarly, tricycle taxi drivers, commonly known as "Keke" drivers, also shared their challenges due to the fuel price hike.

One of the riders lamented that the surge in fuel costs has forced many of his colleagues to park their vehicles.

He said, "Those of us who want to work can't leave the bus stop unless our vehicles are filled with passengers. Before, we could still operate with fewer passengers, but not anymore."

"Moreover, as we are grappling with the fuel price increase today, there are already talks about an imminent increase in the levies imposed on us."

Besides, some commuters were seen heading back home early yesterday morning as the transportation costs exceeded their budget.

One of them voiced their frustration, saying "everything in the country is currently on the high side, but salaries remain stagnant."

Long queues resurface in Ondo

The situation was not different in Ondo State, as long queues resurfaced in petrol stations across Akure and other towns in the state.

Many petrol stations that dispensed the product as of Monday evening, hurriedly shut their gates to motorists.

Filling stations across the state sold the product for between N650 and N700 per litre, as

motorists in Akure metropolis said the new increase was uncalled for and wicked.

Speaking with Vanguard, some of the motorists expressed worries over the unending hardship the present administration was inflicting on the masses.

A motorist, Sanni Akande, said there seemed no difference between the last administration and the new one.

"We thought things would get better after the horrible experience Nigerians went through under Muhammadu Buhari."

"But what has been happening since President Bola Tinubu took over has been devastating. It's like he came to inflict more hardship on Nigerians."

He appealed to the government to consider the plight of the masses.

A similar situation played in Niger and other states in the North, as commuters resorted to trekking to their destinations.

Most of the filling stations which were hitherto dispensing fuel till early yesterday morning in Minna and other towns in the state morning shut their gates to all motorists.

At the NNPC Mega Station along bypass, Minna the state capital, the new price of N617 was been conspicuously displayed and the product sold at the new price.

Other few filling stations which dispensed the product at press time include Matrix at Kpakungu which sold for N617, Oando at City Gate Roundabout which also sold for N617 and Ashafa which sold the product for N620.

The spillover of the new price affected public transportation, with Okada and Keke NAPEP (Marwa) increasing their fares beyond the affordability of the average commuter.

The sudden change is now the subject of discussion in all parts of the state capital, Minna, with all condemning it as it has further made life unbearable for most Nigerians.

Market forces driving up petrol prices, NNPC CEO, Kyari

Reacting to the price increase yesterday, the Group Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, Mele Kyari, blamed market forces for the hike.

Fielding questions from State House correspondents after having what he described as a public meeting with the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima, at the Presidential Villa, Abuja on the sudden increase of petro-

leum pump price, the NNPC boss said: "I don't have the details this moment. We have the marketing wing of our company. They adjust prices, depending on the market realities."

"This is really what is happening; this is the meaning of making sure the market regulates itself so that prices will go up and sometimes come down also. This is what we have seen and in reality, this is what the market works."

Asked if the market forces he was talking about meant that the supply at the moment was not enough, he said: "There is no supply issue. When you go to the market, you buy the product; you come to the market you sell it at the prevailing market prices. Nothing to do with supply. We don't have supply issues. There is a robust supply. We have over 32 days of supply in the country."

On the assurances to Nigerians that the situation was being addressed, Kyari said: "Yes, what I know is that the market forces will regulate the market. Prices will go down sometimes; sometimes it will go up."

"But there will be stability of supply and I'm also assuring Nigerians that this is the best way to go forward, so we can adjust prices when market forces come to play."

"I don't have the details at this moment, but I know that our marketing wing acts just like every other company in this business. I know that a number of companies have imported petroleum products today. So, many of them are on line."

Econet upgrades network as data, voice demand surges

HARARE

ECONET Wireless Zimbabwe is deploying a virtualised core network to replace the current core network system in response to the demand for data and voice services.

The company announced the infrastructure buildout this week, saying the usage of voice and data for the quarter ended in May, grew by 30% and 31%, respectively.

Zimbabwe's largest telecom provider - founded by billionaire Strive Masiyiwa - reported performance for the quarter on Tuesday.

Econet said network upgrade enables it to launch additional products and services and implement faster product changes to enhance the customer experience.

For the period under review, the business upgraded 30% of Harare and 70% of the Bulawayo base station sites.

"This increase requires further investment into the platforms and systems that drive network capacity and capabilities. Our capital expenditure programme, which continues to be constrained by lack of availability of foreign currency to pay our suppliers over the next 12 months, is expected to be about US\$ 135 million," Econet said.

It added: "We have since seen an increase in the speed and volume of data consumed by our customers due to these upgrades."

"We also plan to upgrade our radio network in Harare, Bulawayo and Manicaland by the end of the 2023 calendar year."

In addition, Econet said it has started deploying Business Support Systems in a phased manner, beginning with a new digital Know Your Customer platform.

It said: "The platform leverages digital identification, distribution, and other partner management services. This service enables convenient access for our customers to our digital ecosystem and partner services."

All digital ID subscribers will have the ability to engage in self-service activities on our platforms."

Looking ahead, Econet said: "We expect the operating environment to remain challenging below-inflation tariff adjustments, FX headwinds and inflation. We, however, expect the demand for our services to remain robust."



Strive Masiyiwa, founder Econet Wireless Zimbabwe.

Nigeria struggles to become world's fifth-largest economy

LAGOS

MTN Group CEO Ralph Mupita believes Nigeria could become the world's fifth-largest economy, if it taps the digital opportunity.

Mupita was the keynote speaker at the 2023 Businessday CEO Forum in Lagos, which focused on making Nigeria a significant player in the global digital economy.

In his speech, Mupita highlighted the vast untapped potential in the digital economy, with Nigeria's Internet Gross Domestic Product currently at six percent and expected to double by 2050 to reach \$145 billion.

He noted that Africa currently accounts for only one percent of the global digital economy, a stark contrast to 68% in the United States, 22% in China, and 27% in Asia.

This gap, he suggested, represents a significant opportunity for growth.

In the case of Nigeria, he said: "The potential is immense. The future of Nigeria lies in its digital economy. And with strategic intent, collaborative effort, and a shared vision, that future is within reach."

"In the face of global economic shifts and technological advancements, Nigeria stands at the precipice of a digital revolution. The country's digital economy is poised to drive economic growth, create jobs, and foster



MTN Group CEO Ralph Mupita (left) with Dr Akinwunmi Adesina (right), president of the African Development Bank Group at the 2023 business day CEO forum in Lagos.

innovation."

Of the 19 markets within which MTN Group operates, Nigeria contributes the lion's share of group revenue.

In the next five years, MTN Group will invest \$3.5 billion in Nigeria. Group chairman Mcebisi Jonas revealed the plans

for its most lucrative market last week, when its executive and directors met the country's President Bola Tinubu.

On Friday, Mupita called for a spectrum roadmap to be created in Nigeria to ensure sufficient resources would be available to meet the surging demand

for mobile services.

He advocated for speedy access to mid-band spectrum, crucial for the future of low latency 5G, and access to sub-1 GHz spectrum to provide widespread rural mobile broadband services.

Mupita also highlighted the digital

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skills gap in Nigeria and across Africa, especially in advanced skills such as AI and cloud computing.

He stressed the need for digital skills development and said there are an estimated 230 million digital jobs in Sub-Saharan Africa alone by 2030.

Mupita noted with the right policies, strategic partnerships, and a commitment to digital inclusion, Nigeria can leverage its digital economy to drive sustainable growth and development.

While commending the new administration under President Tinubu, who has indicated his commitment to promoting the growth of ICT and the digital economy, Mupita called on the government and business leaders to promote policies that facilitate inclusive growth.

In the speech, Mupita called for collaboration between the government, private sector, and citizens to build a digital economy that is inclusive, sustainable, and powerful enough to propel Nigeria into the ranks of the world's largest economies.

WORLD

‘Untold suffering’: EU hints at reparations for slavery

THE European Union (EU) said on Tuesday that Europe’s slave-trading past inflicted “untold suffering” on millions of people and hinted at the need for reparations for what it described as a “crime against humanity”.

From the 15th to the 19th century, at least 12.5 million Africans were kidnapped and forcibly transported by mostly European ships and sold into slavery. Almost half were taken by Portugal to Brazil.

The idea of paying reparations or making other amends for slavery has a long history but the movement is gaining momentum worldwide.

Leaders of EU and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) met in Brussels this week for a two-day summit.

As the event started on Monday, Ralph

Gonsalves, premier of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the current holder of CELAC’s presidency, said he wanted the summit’s final statement to include language on the “historical legacies of native genocide and enslavement of African bodies” and “reparatory justice”.

But some European governments were wary of proposed language on reparations, diplomats said.

EU and CELAC agreed on one paragraph that acknowledged and “profoundly” regretted the “untold suffering inflicted on millions of men, women and children as a result of the transatlantic slave trade”.

It said slavery and the transatlantic slave trade were “appalling tragedies ... not only because of their abhorrent barbarism but also in terms of their magnitude”. Slavery was a “crime against hu-



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg speaks during a press conference to present the next North Atlantic Council (NAC) Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting at the NATO headquarters in Brussels on April 3, 2023. File photo

manity”, it said.

In the statement, adopted by leaders of both sides, the CELAC referred to a 10-point reparations plan by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which, among other measures, urges European countries to formally apologize for slavery.

The plan demands a repatriation program that would allow people to relocate to African nations if they want to and support from European nations to tackle public health and economic crises. It also calls for debt cancellation.

The CARICOM reparations commission “sees the persistent racial victimization of the descendants of slavery and genocide as the root cause of their suffering today”, the plan said.

Earlier this month, Dutch King Willem-Alexander apologized for the Netherlands’ historic involvement in slavery and in April

King Charles gave his support to research that would examine the British monarchy’s links to slavery.

In Portugal, President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa said his country should apologize for its role in the transatlantic slave trade but critics said apologies were not enough and practical measures were essential to address the past.

Agencies

London’s new sanctions seen as display of blatant hypocrisy – Russian diplomat

MOSCOW

LONDON’S new sanctions against Russian nationals and organizations are nothing but a show of blatant hypocrisy, something that has become a hallmark of London’s foreign policy, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova (pictured) said on Tuesday.

“We consider London’s openly hostile actions as new manifestations of unabashed hypocrisy, which has become a hallmark of the British foreign policy,” she noted.

According to Zakharova, no “sanctions convulsions” can help London force Russia to change its sovereign course. “The task and goals of the special military operation will be fully attained,” she stressed.

“Demonstrating fake ‘concern for children,’ it [London] continues to demonstrate unparalleled cynicism and supply deadly weapons to the Kiev regime, which uses them against civilians and civilian infrastructure in Donbass, the Zaporozhye and Kherson Regions, in the Republic of Crimea and other Russian regions. British shells and missiles kill, cripple and orphan children it allegedly ‘defends.’ It makes London a co-perpetrator of this and other crimes of the Kiev regime and it will not escape responsibility,” she stressed.

The UK Foreign Office on Monday announced sanctions on 13 Russian nationals and the Artek international children’s center in Crimea. The restrictions that include an entry ban and asset freeze cover Education Minister Sergey Kravtsov, Culture Minister Olga Lyubimova, Kamchatka Region Governor Vladimir Solodov, Adygeya Republic Governor Murat Kumpilov, and the head of the Kharkov Region’s military-civilian administration, Vitaly Ganchev.

According to the Foreign Office, the sanctioned individuals, including the Moscow Region children’s ombudsperson Ksenia Mishonova; the Donetsk People’s Republic human rights ombudsperson Darya Morozova; adviser on children’s rights to the DPR’s head Eleonora Fedorenko; and the head of staff of the Sevastopol office of the Young Army Cadets National Movement, Vladimir Kovalenko, contributed to the alleged deportation of Ukrainian children.



Xi stresses key tasks on environment

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping has called for stronger efforts to build a Beautiful China and to underpin the nation’s high-quality growth with a high-quality ecological environment, saying that Beijing will remain unwavering in honoring its climate commitments.

While reiterating China’s unswerving commitment to peak its carbon emissions before 2030 and attain carbon neutrality before 2060, Xi (pictured) insisted that the pathways, methods, pace and intensity of work to reach these goals “should and must be” determined by China and be free from outside interference.

Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at a national conference on ecological and environmental protection held in Beijing on Monday and Tuesday.

The conference, presided over by Premier Li Qiang, brought together senior officials including members of the Party’s core leadership and from the top legislature, with top officials from provincial regions attending via video link.

Xi told the conference that the next five years will be a crucial period in building a Beautiful China, highlighting the need to firmly adhere to and practice the philosophy

that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.

He called for a remarkable improvement in the living environment in urban and rural areas and for the nation to move forward with modernization featuring harmony between humanity and nature.

While summarizing China’s achievements in building an ecological civilization over the past decade, Xi said that China’s resolve, intensity of measures and achievements in this regard have been unprecedented.

Beijing has assumed its due responsibilities as a major country and undergone a major transformation from a participant to a leader in global climate governance, he said. However, the president pointed out that the structural, fundamental and prevailing pressures related to ecological and environmental protection have not been fundamentally alleviated.

China’s socioeconomic development has entered a phase of high-quality growth with quicker steps toward green and low-carbon transitioning, and the nation’s development in ecological civilization is now at a critical phase and must move forward amid accumulating pressures and heavy burdens, he said.

While summarizing China’s experience over the past decade and analyzing new situations and problems, Xi said a host of major



relationships must be balanced to further the development of an ecological civilization.

The nation must continuously build new momentum and strengths through high-level environmental protection, strive to build a green, low-carbon and circular economy system and effectively reduce the resource and environmental costs of development, he said.

He highlighted the need to take strong measures to address prominent ecological and environmental issues, and strengthen coordination on policy goals and the containment of pollutants, as well as between government departments

and regions.

Xi reiterated the need to take a holistic and systematic approach to the conservation and improvement of mountains, waters, forests, farmlands, grasslands and deserts, and find the best solutions for ecological protection and restoration.

It is important to adopt the strictest systems and the most rigorous legal measures on protecting the ecology and environment, and to encourage the whole of society to join these efforts, the president said.

Going forward, Xi called for continuous and stronger steps in the fight against pollution, saying that more precise, scientific and law-based measures must be adopted.

He expounded on the need to promote green and low-carbon transitioning in ways of growth, which he said is the fundamental solution to ecological and environmental issues.

More work must be done to bolster the diversity, stability and sustainability of ecosystems, including stronger protection measures and heightened restoration and oversight measures, he said.

China will continue to adopt proactive and steady steps toward carbon peak and neutrality, with steps to put in place the “1+N” policy system already rolled out and build a clean, low-carbon, secure and efficient energy system, Xi said.

“1+N” is the country’s top-level design in responding to climate change, with “1” representing a master guideline issued by the central authorities, and “N” standing for specific action plans or policies for different industrial sectors.

The president also laid out a host of measures to support the building of a Beautiful China, including pushing forward law amendments in related sectors and beefing up support in fiscal and taxation policies.

He underlined the significance of promoting self-reliance in green and low-carbon science and technology, saying that the treatment of new pollutants responsible for climate change must be a key sector in China’s fundamental research.

Xinhua

India is at the right place and time, says Nita Ambani

NEW YORK

INDIA is at the right place and time and its rich culture is attracting people around the globe, according to Reliance Foundation Chairperson Nita Ambani. Speaking to ANI in New York, where her Foundation has supported an art exhibit “The Tree and the Serpent” at The Metropolitan Museum of Art she said,

“This is our fourth exhibit at the MET (museum). We

started in 2016 with Nasreen Mohamedi and also at NMACC (Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre) we have the vision of bringing best of the world to India. So I am kind of delighted to be here and be a part of this large exhibit.”

The exhibit “The Tree and the Serpent” is a piece of Buddhist art from the period 2nd century BC to 4AD.

“So I am really excited to be here. India is the cradle of Buddhism and Buddhism

is intertwined with Indian ethos.”

She said her Foundation is also looking at collaborating with various museums of the world and to bring art to India.

“In last three months after we opened (the NMACC), we saw footfalls of 5,000 to 6,000 a day. Just for two exhibits we had over one and a half lakh people coming. India is at the right place and time now. So much of Indian culture is interesting people around the

globe,” she said.

India’s first-of-its-kind, multi-disciplinary cultural space, the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, was opened around three months ago, aiming to showcase the best of India across music, theatre, fine arts and crafts to the world.

The Centre was named after the founder and chairperson of Reliance Foundation Nita Mukesh Ambani. The cultural centre is housed within the Jio World Centre, located in

the heart of Mumbai’s Bandra Kurla Complex.

When asked how much influence India has in the West and how it has changed in the past few years, Nita Ambani said she could see the transition in front of her eyes.

“I came here first as a young bride at 21 and today I sit here as a very proud Indian. There has been so much global interest in Indianness and Indian culture and so much appreciation for what India holds.

I think our young Indians are leading the way for this change. I met the Indian diaspora at the White House and the excitement of meeting them was palpable. They are doing so well in healthcare, at NASA, at culture, at media and at businesses,” she said.

Referring to Indians who are heading international corporations, she said she thinks the confidence on India is “so high”. “It’s wonderful to see this happening.” ANI



Return to dialogue diplomacy in Ukraine conflict, says India at UNGA

NEW YORK

INDIA’S permanent representative to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj (pictured) expressed India’s deep concern about the conflict in Ukraine and urged for an immediate cessation of hostilities as well as a return to dialogue and diplomacy at United Nations General Assembly Annual Debate on Ukraine. She also emphasized that this is not an era of war.

Mentioning the loss of lives and the misery for the people the conflict has resulted in, particularly for the women, children and elderly, India’s permanent representative to the UN said, “India continues to remain concerned over the situation in Ukraine. With millions becoming homeless and forced to take shelter in neighbouring countries, reports of attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure are indeed deeply worrying.” “We are concerned about recent developments in the region which have not helped in securing the larger cause of peace and stability,” she added.

“We have urged that all efforts be made for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an urgent return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. The global order that we all subscribe to is based on international law, the UN Charter and respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all States. These principles must be upheld without exception,” she said while addressing the UNGA annual debate on Ukraine.

Speaking on India’s attempts to maintain peace in the region, Kamboj said, “In light of my Prime Minister’s repeated engagements with both, it is essential to emphasize that we firmly believe that this is not an era of war. It is with this understanding and spirit that India actively participates in this debate.”

The permanent representative further added, “We have consistently advocated that no solution can ever be arrived at the cost of human lives. Escalation of hostilities and violence is in no one’s interest.”

Kamboj emphasised again that “however daunting that may appear” dialogue is the only answer to settling differences and disputes. The path to peace requires us to keep all channels of diplomacy open.

She also mentioned how the war has affected the entire global south region.

“It is also unfortunate that as the trajectory of the Ukraine conflict unfolds, the entire global south has suffered a substantial collateral damage. It is thus critical that the voice of the global south be heard and that their legitimate concerns be duly addressed,” she said.

She also mentioned that India’s approach to the Ukraine conflict will continue to be people-centric. ANI

THE North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit, which was held on July 11 and 12, once again revealed the organization’s Cold War mentality. It issued a communique that distorted China’s position and policies and deliberately smeared China, exposing NATO’s dangerous attempt to meddle in affairs beyond its geographical scope, create division, and foment confrontation.

This proved that NATO has never reflected on the troubles and disasters it has brought around the world, which plunged many of its member countries into security dilemmas. However, it is still in its Cold War dream, seeking further expansion and creating new troubles around the globe.

NATO in Cold War dream undermines global peace and stability

As a so-called defensive alliance, NATO “defends” itself by waging wars. After the end of the Cold War, it has repeatedly lit the fuse of confrontation and created wars around the world, from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Kosovo, from Afghanistan to Iraq, and from Libya to Syria.

According to incomplete statistics, the wars launched or participated in by NATO after 2001 have killed hundreds of thousands and displaced tens of millions of people.

The root cause for the current warfare and security dilemmas in Europe is NATO’s long-term addiction to expansion and confrontation. George Kennan,

the former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union noted that expanding NATO would be the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post-Cold War era.

NATO has unshirkable responsibilities for the Ukraine crisis. Before the crisis escalated, the Minsk Agreements reached by relevant parties and the efforts made by the international community could have had the opportunity to maintain peace. However, NATO kept provoking conflicts, which once again brought the European continent to warfare.

Since the full escalation of the Ukraine crisis, NATO took advantage of the situation and tried to expand and perpetuate

the crisis, which made it more difficult to resolve the crisis through political means. Facts prove that the so-called defensive alliance is exactly a saboteur of global peace and stability.

Again, the NATO summit this time invited a few Asia-Pacific countries, with an aim to enhance its collusion with the latter. It even blatantly claimed that the “Indo-Pacific is important for NATO.”

However, NATO’s intention to move eastward to the Asia-Pacific region is all too clear. The claim that it remains a regional alliance and does not seek a geopolitical breakthrough is just weakly stated.

The scope of NATO’s activities is far beyond the North Atlantic region. Over the years, the organization has taken great pains to expand its so-called partnership network.

It meddles in the affairs of Eurasia with its Partnership for Peace program, interferes in the affairs of the Middle East and North Africa with the Mediterranean Dialogue, plans to enter the Gulf with the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, and expands toward the Asia-Pacific region with a global partnership program.

A trick frequently used by NATO to seek expansion is fanning up the so-

called “security threat” and provoking value confrontation. At the NATO summit this time, the alliance arbitrarily sold the “China threat” theory and groundlessly claimed that China is a “systemic challenge.” Its true intention was to peddle security fear and seek excuses for its expansion into the Asia-Pacific.

To maintain the long-term prosperity and stability of the Asia-Pacific, regional countries need to respect each other, carry out open and win-win cooperation and properly handle their disputes. NATO’s eastward foray into the Asia-Pacific would only intensify regional tension and trigger bloc confrontation and even a new Cold War. *People’s Daily*

End of grain deal won't cause food crisis thanks to Russia's supplies – newspaper

ROME

THE suspension of the grain deal will not lead to a food crisis and an increase in grain prices thanks to sufficient supplies from Russia, the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera notes on Tuesday adding that grain exports from Russia are close to all time high.

According to the newspaper, Russia supplies a large amount of grain to the market at reduced prices, which contributes to a decrease in global prices, so the rise in food prices that was observed a year ago has ended.

For this reason, the forecast of "food apocalypse" is wrong, the newspaper notes. The publication also reminds that African countries are not the main recipients of Ukrainian grain.

The grain deal came to an end on July 17. Russia refused to extend it again because the part of the deal envisaging the removal of obstacles for Russian agricultural exports had not been implemented.

Apart from that, Moscow has repeatedly stressed that the bulk of grain that was meant to be supplied to the poorest counties was shipped to Western countries. Russian presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov said that Moscow was ready to resurrect the deal but only after its part related to obligations to Moscow was fulfilled.



Philippine giant wins bid to run Durban container terminal

MANILA

TRANSNET has selected Manila-headquartered International Container Terminal Services (ICTSI) as the preferred bidder for a joint venture to develop and upgrade the flagship Durban Container Terminal Pier 2.

Over a 25-year term, ICTSI will partner with Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) to develop and upgrade Transnet's biggest container terminal, handling 72% of the Port of Durban's throughput and 46% of South Africa's port traffic.

The finalisation of the process follows approvals from government in terms of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), Transnet has said.

ICTSI is one of the biggest container terminal operators in the world and manages 34 terminals in 20 countries including ports in Australia, Indonesia, China, Mexico and Brazil.

The group, which is listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange, was established in 1987 by billionaire Enrique Razon Jr. The Razon family has been involved in the ports industry since 1916.

According to Forbes, Razon is worth \$8 billion, and is the third-richest person in the Philippines.

"Private sector participation in Pier 2 is a key catalyst for repositioning the Port of Durban as a container hub port," said Transnet Group CEO Portia Derby. "We are delighted to have a global player of ICTSI's standing on board to drive this process."

The partnership with ICTSI will help reposition the terminal for best practice performance, ensuring growth in volume throughput, and will support the terminal in providing operational and commercial support to access global shipping line call routes.

This will not only improve the logistics associated with servicing South African ports, but will play a significant part in stimulating exports and imports.

Transnet plans to grow Pier 2's current capacity of 2 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) to 2.8 million TEUs. This is aligned with plans by Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) to increase the current container capacity in the entire Port of Durban from 3.3 million TEUs to an eventual envisaged capacity of 11.4 million TEUs.

"The partnership in Pier 2 is a major step forward for our programme to bring in global expertise to improve efficiencies at our terminals, and bodes well for our ongoing plans to crowd in the private sector in areas identified for growth," said Derby.

A total of 18 responses were received to Transnet's initial call for request for interest and a total of 10 bids were shortlisted in response to a request for qualifications. Of the shortlisted respondents, six bidders submitted proposals.

In terms of the transaction, a new company will be formed to manage the operations at Pier 2, in which Transnet will have majority ownership of 50% plus one share. Pier 2 employees will be seconded to the new entity and will retain the same terms and conditions before and after the introduction of the private sector partner.

Agencies



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World's top LNG players eye more, greener gas investments

TOKYO

CURRENT investments in gas infrastructure are falling short of what is needed, officials at an industry conference in Japan said on Wednesday, citing the role they say the fuel has to play in both global energy security and the transition to net zero.

Big producers have in recent years promoted gas as a transition fuel in the push for cleaner energy - a move fiercely resisted by environmentalists - as renewables like wind and solar face technical factors like intermittency of supply.

In video remarks played during the LNG Producer-Consumer Conference in Tokyo, the energy minister for the United Arab Emirates said that to date, there has not been enough investment in the sector.

"Lack of investment is affecting both producers and consumers, and their access to affordable and reliable energy and economic growth," Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei said.

"Do we have enough investment in gas and LNG to cover for converting all coal plants in the world to gas? The answer is no," he said.

Gas has a long-term role to play in the global energy markets, Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency, told the conference in a video message, though he added there is a "strong need" to cut emissions from gas supply.

"The challenge is how to balance the near term needs for additional gas supply when the global markets are volatile, with (the) longer term (need) of reaching our climate goals," he said.

"We think that strategies to future proof investments in gas infrastructure are needed, (eg) by incorporating technologies like carbon capture and storage throughout the value chain, or by allowing for the integration of low emission gas," he said.



United Arab Emirates Oil and Energy Minister Suhail al-Mazrouie (center) arrives to attend the 32nd ordinary meeting of the Oil Ministers of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for the Gulf states held in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, on September 24, 2013. AFP

nologies like carbon capture and storage throughout the value chain, or by allowing for the integration of low emission gas," he said.

Methane leaks

A leading argument against natural gas's environmental credentials is the threat posed by leaks of methane, its main com-

ponent, from infrastructure.

The global energy industry last year released some 135 million tonnes of methane, a potent greenhouse gas responsible for roughly a third of the rise in global temperatures since the industrial revolution, into the atmosphere.

Japan, the United States, South Korea, Australia and the EU signed a joint state-

ment during the conference to support methane reduction measures.

"This initiative is an unprecedented cooperation among energy players to achieve a cleaner energy value chain by employing energy producers to reduce methane emissions," Yasutoshi Nishimura, Japan's industry minister, told the conference.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is currently touring the Gulf, a major oil and LNG producing region, promoting Japanese technology for greener fuels including hydrogen.

The director general of the European Commission's energy department Ditte Juul Joergensen stressed the importance of cooperation between global LNG producers and consumers.

"Last year's gas market shock was not the first and most likely will not be the last," she told the conference. **Agencies**

Microsoft to charge more for AI, secure Bing from leaks

MICROSOFT on Tuesday said it would charge at least 53 percent more to access new artificial intelligence features in its widely used office software, in a glimpse at the windfall it hopes to reap from the technology.

The company also said it would make a more secure version of its Bing search engine available immediately to businesses, aiming to address their data-protection concerns, grow their interest in AI and compete more with Google.

At its virtual Inspire conference, the company said customers would pay \$30 per user, per month for its AI copilot in Microsoft 365, which promises to draft emails in Outlook, pen documents in Word and make virtually all an employee's data accessible via the prompt of a chatbot.

The voluntary upgrade is on top of publicly listed, monthly plans ranging from \$12.50 per user to \$57, meaning the copilot could triple costs for some Microsoft customers.

In an interview, Jared Spataro, its corporate vice president, said the tool would pay for itself through time savings and productivity gains. The copilot summarizes Teams calls, for instance.

"You don't take notes in meetings anymore, don't attend some meetings," he said. "It just changes the way you work."

Spataro declined to forecast revenue from copilot, which at least 600 enterprises have tested since its March unveiling. The AI program, potentially expensive to operate, is not yet generally available.

In the meantime, Microsoft is pointing businesses to Bing Chat Enterprise, a bot in its search engine that can generate content and make sense of the internet, included with subscriptions used by some 160 million workers.

Unlike the public Bing that millions of web surfers have



Professor of computer science at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich and director of the Microsoft mixed reality and AI lab in Zurich Marc Pollefeys, poses next to Spot, the four-legged robot from Boston Dynamics during the event in Avully, near Geneva, on July 13, 2023. AFP

accessed in recent months, the enterprise version will not allow any viewing or saving of user data to train underlying technology. An employee would have to log in with work credentials to gain the protections.

The rollout follows grow-

ing industry concern about staffers entering confidential information into public chatbots, which human reviewers could read or AI could reproduce with careful prompting.

Asked if Bing users were unprotected until now, Spataro said Microsoft had made its

privacy policies clear and was eager to bring AI to consumers. The company also announced the ability to upload images and search related content, like Google allows.

Its corporate push for Bing may aid efforts to wrest search advertising share

from Google at \$2 billion in revenue per percentage point gain. It may also draw customers to Microsoft 365 Copilot, an AI upgrade giving access to business data and compliance controls.

Agencies

China's Yangtze River Delta builds momentum for high-quality development with IPR

THE Yangtze River Delta region in east China, one of the country's economic hubs, boasts high economic vitality, high-level opening up and strong innovation capability. It holds nearly 1/3 of China's valid patents and a quarter of the country's valid registered trademarks.

The region enjoys full-chain circulation of intellectual property rights (IPR) factors, which contributes to its high-quality development.

So far, the region has nurtured over 1,800 demonstration enterprises with intellectual property advantages, which drive the comprehensive improvement of the region's industrial competitiveness. Centering on integrated circuits, biomedicine, artificial intelligence and other key areas, the region established seven industrial IPR operation centers and 24 national-level patent navigation service bases to achieve breakthroughs in core technologies.

Last year, the amount of patent pledge financing in the region jumped 72.6 percent year on year to 186.26 billion yuan (\$26.05 billion), accounting for nearly half of China's total. Besides, the region is also home to 29 national-level IPR protection centers and fast-response IPR service centers, as well as over 400 mediation organizations for IPR disputes.

Focusing on improving mechanisms, smoothening the flow of factors, strengthening protection, optimizing services and deepening



A minimally invasive surgical robot is exhibited at the 9th China (Shanghai) International Technology Fair in east China's Shanghai, June 15, 2023. File photo

reforms, the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) is promoting the high-quality integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta with IPR improvement, said Liang Xinxin, spokesperson of the CNIPA.

The three provinces and Shanghai municipality in the Yangtze River Delta region have established complete cooperation mechanisms and made a lot of explorations in strengthening IPR protection, optimizing the business environment and serving market entities, Liang added.

Over recent years, a series of new mechanisms and models related to IPR have been piloted in the region, and achieved positive results.

In Jun 2021, China's newly

amended Patent Law entered into effect, which has added stipulations on a new patent open licensing system. According to the law, after a patentee declares to the patent administrative department to grant an open license and specify the royalty, anyone can exploit the patent in accordance with conditions during the implementation period of the open license.

In May 2022, Shanghai took the lead to pilot the open license. "Open license has built a bridge for universities, research institutions and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to transfer and commercialize their achievements," said Rui Wenbiao, head of Shanghai Intellectual Property Administration.

According to Rui, 50 enterpris-

es and institutions in Shanghai have opened 240 patents, and 58 of them are free of charge. The city has introduced 610 patents opened by patentees outside of Shanghai, including Tsinghua University. Shanghai Jiao Tong University has reached a 10-million-yuan deal of an open license with an enterprise, Rui said.

The mechanism of the patent open license is just a miniature of the institutional innovation made by the Yangtze River Delta in IPR.

In April 2023, Hefei of Anhui province issued the first intellectual property securitization for SMEs that feature specialization, refinement, uniqueness and innovation in the region, with a scale of 123.5 million yuan.

Zhejiang province, which is adjacent to Anhui, took the lead in undertaking a pilot reform of the data IPR. It has launched China's first public deposit platform for data IPR, and issued the country's first rule for data IPR protection for open-source communities and first pledge standard on data IPR, so as to make data ownership clearer, better exploit IPR and make proofing of IPR easier, said Gu Wenhui, deputy director of Zhejiang province's intellectual property administration.

China's first national pilot project for the standardization of data IPR also landed in Zhejiang, Gu told People's Daily.

Boehringer Ingelheim, a German multinational pharmaceutical company, owns patents of its

self-developed innovative medicines in its Shanghai office.

"We feel the importance attached by the Chinese government to IPR protection and to maintaining fair market competition," said an executive of the company.

As the number of patents owned by foreign enterprises in China keeps growing, IPR is contributing significantly to the high-level opening up of the country.

In the Yangtze River Delta region, Shanghai has launched a special campaign for the protection of foreign companies' IPR for three years in a row, during which over 60 IPR disputes and infringement cases were handled.

Shanghai, in collaboration with intellectual property departments from Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui provinces, has carried out regular dialogues and exchanges for foreign enterprises to understand their demands for IPR protection, and inform them of IPR laws, regulations, services and measures.

To assist China's high-level opening up, the CNIPA launched pilot programs aiming at establishing permanent representative offices of foreign patent agencies in IPR service clusters, including the Suzhou New District and the Jiangning district of Nanjing, Jiangsu province, building them into international hubs of IPR services," said Liang.

People's Daily



Vijana basketball outfit's players put their skills to show in training at the center's court in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

2023 Miss Tanzania sponsors unveil awards for winners

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE 2023 Miss Tanzania sponsors, StarTimes Tanzania, yesterday announced the prizes for the winners of the beauty pageant that include a Mercedes Benz worth 30m/-.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam when unveiling the prizes, StarTimes Tanzania's Director of Marketing and Content, David Malisa, said: "The finals of 2023 Miss Tanzania are expected to be held on July 21, the winner's prizes are Mercedes Benz car worth more than 30m/- along with 10m/- in cash prize."

Malisa pointed out: "The first runner-up will get a cash prize totaling 5m/-, and the second runner-up will get 3m/- while the fourth-placed and fifth-placed models will get 1m/- apiece."

He further noted that the finals will be broadcast live through ST Bongo channel number 401 for dish users and channel 161 for antenna users channel users.

Suffice it to say that StarTimes will continue to take care of its customers by making sure they get the best

entertainment and content so that they can keep watching various programs through the StarTime decoder, he noted.

He noted: "We have, in cooperation with our partners- The Look and Quantum Infinity- been on a journey to restore the honour of this beauty contest."

"I would like to take this opportunity first to thank other stakeholders that have come forward to cooperate with us in achieving our goal, starting with all sponsors who worked with us this year," he pointed out.

The 2023 Miss Tanzania beauty pageant was officially launched last month, with a total of 20 contestants looking to contest for the title.

The pageant's winner will be determined on Friday and she will represent the country in the Miss World.

The participants of Miss Tanzania have stayed in the camp for the past two weeks and all of their activities were broadcasted directly through ST Bongo channel number 401 for dish users and channel 161 for antenna users.

IOC's Bach says key to Russian decision for Paris Olympics is athletes' respectful conduct

GENEVA

THE key factor in weighing the IOC's ultimate decision on letting Russians participate at the 2024 Paris Games is how well athletes behave in international competitions, the Olympic body's president Thomas Bach said Tuesday.

"It's too soon to draw final conclusions," Bach said, adding "we have the responsibility not to punish athletes for the acts of their government."

The International Olympic Committee has pushed sports governing bodies this year to approve some athletes from Russia and its military ally Belarus competing as neutrals for international competitions including Paris qualifying events.

Bach has previously said the IOC can take its own final decision "at the appropriate time, at its full discretion" which could include barring Russians and Belarusians as their countries' war on Ukraine continues.

On Tuesday, Bach clarified the IOC's interest is mainly in ensuring athletes behave well in competitions, not how the war progresses.

"Right now it is more to monitor the situation on the field of play, whether the rules are respected, the conditions are respected, by everybody," Bach told reporters in an online briefing ahead of next week's one-year countdown to the Paris opening ceremony.

Soccer and track and field have taken the toughest positions against Russia, excluding teams and athletes within days of the invasion of Ukraine starting in February 2022.

Russia was removed from trying to qualify for the men's and women's World Cup in soccer.

The IOC shared that view when war started days after the closing ceremony of the Beijing Winter Games, citing Russia's breach of the traditional Olympic Truce pledge agreed at the United Nations and security concerns for athletes.

Tennis and cycling continued to let Russians and Belarusians compete as neutrals - but not in team events - without their national identity, and the IOC and Bach have pointed to their success.

Ukrainian tennis players, including Wimbledon semifinalist Elina Svitolina, have refused to shake hands with opponents from Russia and Belarus leading to crowds at Roland Garros and Wimbledon booing what they saw - not seemingly always accurately - as a breach of protocol.

"We can see that this is working pretty well," Bach said Tuesday. "They are respectful and they make it clear they went to compete against the best athletes of the world."

Governing bodies of individual Olympic sports have the final say which athletes compete and their umbrella group, known as ASOIF, said in May that finding a common position has been difficult in trying to define neutrality and what exactly is a team sport.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport was involved in helping to define neutrality, which the IOC has advised should include no active support for the war and no contacts since February 2022 with military or state security agencies. AP

Namungo FC garners new sponsors

By Guardian Correspondent

INDI-based Namungo FC has signed a sponsorship contract with Insignia Limited, manufactures of Coral Paints, as part of the club's preparations for the tough 2023/24 NBC Premier League.

Armed with a transformative strategy and the backing of esteemed sponsors, Namungo FC's quest for NBC Premier League glory has ignited the hearts of the club's devoted fans.

Finishing fifth in the 2022/23 season's Premier League had Namungo FC falling short of the club's dream of representing Tanzania in one of the 2023/24 Africa inter-club showdowns.

However, rather than succumbing to disappointment, Namungo FC has harnessed the setback as motivation for doing well in the coming season.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, the club's patron and a Member of Parliament for Ruangwa Constituency, graced the emotional contract signing with Insignia Ltd, which was accompanied by the launching of the club's jerseys for the new season.

Majaliwa expressed his profound admiration for the team's tenacity.

"Namungo FC's spirit of resilience is a testament to their dedication and love for the beautiful game," he stated.

"Their journey exemplifies the essence of sportsmanship, unity, and the unwavering spirit of Tanzanian football," he added.

Majaliwa emphasized the significance of the team's transformative strategy in their quest for continental success.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the extensive preparations already underway, with



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (R) hands over Namungo FC's jersey to Insignia Limited Managing Director, Isaac Nigano, in Ruangwa, Lindi on Tuesday during the announcement of the firm's sponsorship for the club through the Coral Paints brand. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Namungo FC's players currently undergoing intensive training at a camp in Manyara.

This dedication reflects Namungo FC's commitment to stepping up and securing a position among the top four teams in the upcoming season.

He acknowledged the challenge of clinching the Premier League's top two spots mainly dominated by domestic giants Simba SC and Yanga.

The Prime Minister assured Namungo FC fans at a full-packed Majaliwa Stadium on Tuesday evening that the outfit's primary focus is on securing a position in the top four to earn a ticket to either of the continental competitions.

It is not just the top-tier sponsors that have bolstered Namungo FC's resolve, the unwavering support and unity among the fans, members, and lovers of the team have as well forged an unbreakable bond.

Twaha Mpembenwe, Namungo FC's Board of Directors Chairman, expressed his heartfelt wish to see Namungo FC move forward in the Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup.

"The success of our team lies in our unity, our collective passion for the sport," Mpembenwe, also a Member of Parliament for Kibiti, noted.

This sense of togetherness has fostered a resilient team spirit that continues to uplift Namungo FC in the club's quest for greatness.

The support from Coral Paints has been more than financial, it has been a partnership that extends beyond the stadium.

The company's commitment to the team's success goes back to the renovation of the stadium and, now, providing state-of-the-art jerseys for various matches.

Isaac Kiwango, Insignia Company's Managing Director, lauded Namungo FC's dedication and revealed that the company's sponsorship guarantee for three years spans multiple areas for improvement, signaling a long-term partnership focused on growth and success through capacity building.

He however stopped short of disclosing the value of the sponsorship, pointing out it would help to transform the club.

The NBC Premier League's kick-off, slated for August 15, will mark the beginning of an exhilarating journey as Yanga seeks to defend the top honour.

Majaliwa disclosed Namungo FC, inspired by the club's unwavering support and transformative strategy, aims to etch its name in history and soar to new heights, not only for the outfit's footballers but also for the entire nation.

Lottery company launches new promotion

By Guardian Correspondent

A lottery company, Biko Tanzania, has launched new promotion known as 'Bikoboost' to create economic opportunities for Tanzanians.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Biko Tanzania's Chief Executive Officer, Charles Mgeta, pointed out it is his firm's great expectation that the new game will become a major source of income for Tanzanians compared to other firms' games.

The new promotion's launch, according to Mgeta, is special for Biko's customers so that they can try their luck in winning millions of money.

Biko Tanzania has benefitted stakeholders that are using such an opportunity for development.

Since the lottery company was established in the country, many Tanzanians have been winning cash prizes from the company's games, and some of them have walked away with other awards including motorcycles 'Boda Boda' and houses.

Mgeta noted they have put in place a good system to allow Tanzanians to win money easily, a situation which shows the success of the company's mission for the country.

The Biko Tanzania Chief Executive Officer pointed out: "Biko is the life of many Tanzanians that decide to use it to get money that will improve their lives, that's why this game has become more popular and supported."

"That's why we have now decided to improve by introducing a new product known as Bikoboost, which will see customers plan their winnings, everyone can win up to 10 times," he said.

Mgeta disclosed that planning for winning is based on a person playing Biko, when he/she deposits 5000/- in the game and secures a win in Bikoboost, he/



Biko Tanzania's Chief Executive Officer, Charles Mgeta, speaks to the media in Dar es Salaam yesterday as the firm launched a new promotion, known as Bikoboost, to create economic opportunities for Tanzanians. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

she can multiply his/her winning up to 10 times.

The official noted if a participant earns 5000/- and plays 10 times, he/she will receive a gift of 50,000/- instantly on his/her phone.

A person will win depending on the amount of cash he/she will deposit, the winning start from 2500/- to 10m/-, and a participant will be required to deposit either 1000/- or more to participate in the game.

Mgeta revealed: "This is a great opportunity for Tanzanians, in which if a person receives a Bikoboost message informing him/her he/she has won 100,000/-, he/she is told to plan for a win and decides to deposit another 10,000/- to win 1m/-."

"This means now Biko Tanzania's wheel of fortune has become even sweeter, that's why the instant prizes are plenty and the big draws that are conducted every weekend add to the enthusiasm of becoming Biko millionaires," he said.

The Biko Tanzania Chief Executive Officer disclosed that if an individual has 1000/- on his/her phone, he/she already has what it takes to win up to 10 times once he/she resorts to play via either a phone or vis-

iting the company's website, www.biko.co.tz.

Mgeta noted that those who use mobile phones with no internet connection will have to dial *150*01# and thereafter choose number 4 (Bill Pay), then choose number 3 to enter the company's number 505050. He/she should later enter either number 2456 or the word 'Biko' and, thereafter, enter his/her transaction password to deposit either 1000/- or more to stand a chance to win the cash.

Mgeta noted those owning smartphones will be required to visit the company's website www.biko.co.tz and easily register so they can have their accounts based on their phone numbers, while also setting passwords to protect their accounts.

"We have decided to start this procedure to give Tanzanians a chance to be proud of this game that was established specifically for people to win and improve their lives," Mgeta said.

"It is a continuation of our services as is the case for our sports betting game, Bikosports, which has participants using the website www.bikosports.co.tz to take part in it online," the Biko Tanzania Chief

Executive Officer noted.

"A person with a Bikoboost account will be able to put his/her money in it so that if he/she decides to transfer money while he/she is playing, such an exercise could be much easier," Mgeta stated.

The Biko Tanzania Chief Executive Officer added people owning either smartphones or phones with no internet connection have an equal chance of winning because all phone numbers can be used for the game regardless of the means an individual uses to take part in the Biko game.

He disclosed that when the customer enters the company's system by either a mobile phone or logging in through the website, www.biko.co.tz, then his/her number will enter the 'wheel of fortune' and he/she has to wait for an sms informing him/her of his/her Bikoboost win.

Mgeta noted: "Biko is the lottery for Tanzanians, they are all witnesses of how people have raked in cash and are continuing to do so, that's why winning 1m/-, 5m/- or 50m/- is quite normal for us."

"Instead of just lazying about, all Tanzanians should be excited about the opportunity to win from this easy-to-play lottery, its winnings are genuine," Mgeta revealed.

Biko Tanzania also has a sports betting game, Bikosports, for various sports which sees people play live through www.bikosports.co.tz.

Mgeta revealed Tanzanians can continue benefitting from the Bikoboost and Bikosports games, which have revolutionized betting, adding people who want more information on the games can communicate with the company's customer care staff via the number 022220100.

O'Sullivan fit for World Cup opener as Ireland vow to get physical

SYDNEY

Experienced midfielder Denise O'Sullivan is fit for Ireland's opening match at the Women's World Cup against co-hosts Australia today after being hurt in the abandoned friendly with Colombia.

O'Sullivan was rushed to hospital last week after a fierce tackle in a closed-doors warm-up match against the South Americans that was called off after 23 minutes with the Irish players "fearing for their bodies".

There was concern that the 102-cap star had sustained a leg fracture that could jeopardise her tournament.

But coach Vera Pauw said Wednesday that she had made a remarkable recovery and was fit to play in front of an estimated 80,000 fans at Stadium Australia in Sydney on the opening day of the World Cup.

"We are very open, we have nothing to hide. Denise is fit, she will play," Pauw said, adding that the 29-year-old had resumed full-contact training.

Despite their worries over Colombia's physicality captain Katie McCabe said they could give as good as they got and were ready for similar treatment from the Sam Kerr-led Australia, one of the World Cup favourites.

"We knew obviously that Colombia were going to be physical but that is going to be the case in every game," said the long-time Arsenal player.

"We're Irish, we don't shy away from physicality, it's ingrained in us, the hard-working team we are.

"So yes, we are ready for Australia to be physical tomorrow, we'll be prepared to match it."

Ireland are at their first World Cup and Pauw admitted that Australia's greater experience could prove crucial.

But the Dutchwoman, who has previously coached the Netherlands, Russia, and South Africa, said Ireland had plenty of their own talent to trouble the hosts.

"They have huge experience, they have class players, they have immense pace so we know what we are going to face," she said of the Matildas.

"We are very realistic of our chances here, but we play every game to win and hope we can also show our qualities."

Ireland head into the match having lost three of their last four games, twice against the United States and to France earlier this month.

Their only victory this year was a narrow 3-2 triumph over Zambia.

But they will be buoyed by upsetting the Matildas 3-2 in 2021, the only time the two sides have previously met.

AFP

Philippines hope 'meteoric rise' to debut World Cup changes everything

DUNEDIN, New Zealand

IN a country obsessed with beauty pageants, basketball and boxing, the Philippines women's team hope to ignite interest in football when they make the nation's World Cup debut this week.

Long minnows in the sport, the Philippines have never played at a FIFA World Cup, either the men's or women's.

All that will change tomorrow when the women's side under their Australian coach Alen Stajcic play Switzerland in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Stajcic calls their journey from "almost ground zero" to the World Cup "miraculous".

Half of his players do not belong to a professional club and some have been "running around the block on their own" for training, he said.

"It's been a meteoric sort of rise for the team," the 49-year-old told AFP via Zoom prior to the World Cup.

"The challenge for us is to somehow maintain and sustain that improvement, not be happy with where we got to."

Since Stajcic's appointment as coach in late 2021, the Philippines have jumped from 68 in the FIFA rankings and are now a best-ever 46th place.

It began with the Women's Asian Cup in early 2022 when they made the semi-finals, losing to South Korea but securing a historic World Cup berth.

They followed it up with bronze at the Southeast Asian Games last year, then won the regional AFF Women's Championship on home soil.

"We don't have fields"

The Philippines are in Group A at the World Cup alongside co-hosts New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland.

They will not be expected to get out of the group, but defender Hali Long said: "I would like to think we're going to go in there and do more than just participate."

"We're going in there to compete with everything we have to show."

The team hope getting the Philippines to their first World Cup can be a game-changer for football in the country.

AFP

Infantino urges fans to 'seize moment' on eve of Women's World Cup finals

AUCKLAND

FIFA president Gianni Infantino urged fans to "seize the moment" yesterday and snap up Women's World Cup tickets, with the opening match yet to sell out on the eve of the tournament.

There have long been concerns about sales in New Zealand, which will stage the opening game today when the co-hosts face Norway at the 50,000-capacity Eden Park in Auckland.

Australia play the Republic of Ireland in the second game today in a sell-out at Sydney's Stadium Australia, which can hold about 80,000 fans.

FIFA secretary-general Fatma Samoura said that 1.375 million tickets have been sold for the month-long tournament, surpassing the overall figure for the 2019 Women's World Cup in France.

That tournament had 24 teams, compared to 32 for the upcoming one.

As of Wednesday, tickets were still available on FIFA's official website for almost all World Cup matches, including New Zealand's clash with former champions Norway and both semi-finals.

"My only message that I want to get out here is to seize the moment, be



FIFA president Gianni Infantino speaks during a press conference in Auckland.

proud of what you have been able to achieve here, in New Zealand, in Australia," Infantino told reporters in Auckland.

"Be proud of what will be the biggest event -- not just sports event -- that has been organised here so far," he added at a press conference that was far more low key than his interventions at last year's men's World Cup in Qatar.

"Today I feel tired because I just landed, but I feel very happy," he said in a playful nod to a controversial speech he delivered in Doha when he claimed to feel "gay", "disabled" and "a migrant worker".

New Zealand will stage 29 matches out of a total of 64 during the month-long World Cup.

Jane Patterson, the

World Cup's chief operating officer in New Zealand, said earlier this week that the total number of tickets sold for games in the country stood at just over 320,000.

"The number of tickets sold already a month ago exceeded the number of tickets sold in total in France," said Samoura, sitting alongside Infantino, who was noticeably more reserved than usual.

"Our expectation in terms of numbers is reached.

"However, we still have tickets available for some matches so my only plea is don't wait until the last moment."

- New Zealand eye historic victory -

While Australia, led by one of the world's best

players in Sam Kerr, are hoping to make the most of home advantage to go far into the knockout rounds, New Zealand's aims are much more modest.

The Football Ferns, ranked 26th in the world, have never won a match in any of their five previous appearances at the tournament.

"Our goal is pretty clear. We want to win our first World Cup match. We want to make it out of the group," captain Ali Riley said ahead of meeting a Norway side featuring former Ballon d'Or winner Ada Hegerberg.

"This is an opportunity for this country to not just be a rugby country but wake up their love for football," added

New Zealand coach Jitka

Klimkova.

The co-hosts and Norway are in Group A along with debutants the Philippines and Switzerland, while Australia and Ireland are in Group B with Nigeria and Olympic champions Canada.

Holders the United States, who are aiming to win an unprecedented third consecutive title and a fifth overall, begin their campaign against minnows Vietnam in Auckland on Saturday.

The biggest challenges to the reigning champions are expected to come from last year's Euro winners England, who start against Haiti on Saturday, and Germany, who do not play their opening match until Monday.

Meanwhile, staging the Women's World Cup will "wake up" New Zealand's passion for football, the co-hosts' coach Jitka Klimkova said on Wednesday's eve of the tournament.

Football remains well behind rugby, cricket and other sports in popularity in New Zealand, which is jointly hosting the World Cup with Australia.

New Zealand have also never won a Women's World Cup game in 15 attempts, but they hope to change that when they face the 1995 champions Norway in the first

game of the tournament on Thursday in Auckland.

"It is an opportunity for this country to not just be a rugby country but wake up their love for football," said their Czech coach Klimkova.

Taking up the theme, captain Ali Riley added: "Hopefully this time we will achieve our goal of winning a World Cup game and doing that at home, and that will make it my greatest game of my career."

"This feels like an opportunity with the sporting culture, inspiring young people."

After facing Norway at the 50,000-capacity Eden Park -- better known for hosting the All Blacks rugby team -- New Zealand face minnows the Philippines and Switzerland in Group A.

New Zealand are ranked 26th in the world and have won just once in their last 11 matches, but Klimkova is backing them to shine in front of their own fans.

"The hard work and preparation brought us to where we are now," she said.

"At this stage the preparation is done and now it is time to shine, and I really believe these players will shine."

AFP

Player revolt, Putellas fitness overshadow Spain's World Cup charge

WELLINGTON

SPAIN are still among the favourites at the Women's World Cup but missing several key players because of a dispute and with concerns about Alexia Putellas' fitness they are taking the hard path.

La Roja are in confident mood ahead of their opener against Costa Rica in Wellington on Friday but they are undoubtedly weaker for the absence of stars protesting against the Spanish football federation (RFEF) and coach Jorge Vilda.

Only three players who were originally part of a 15-strong protesting group were selected for Australia and New Zealand -- Aitana Bonmati, Mariona Caldentey and Ona Batlle, all at Barcelona.

That means Patri Guijarro, who struck twice for Barcelona as they won the Champions League, and club teammates Mapi Leon and Sandra Panos are all missing.

Two-time Ballon d'Or winner Putellas is in the squad after returning from a serious knee injury, but there are lingering fears about her fitness after she cut short a training session on Monday in New Zealand.

Team sources insisted the early departure had been planned.

The trio of returning players are back after stepping down from their position, ostensibly satisfied that sufficient improvements were being made in the areas the players demanded.

Discontent between



They're a national team filled with record-breaking superstars, but Spain's national team have been plunged into chaos just months out from the 2023 Women's World Cup. Agencies

players on the one side, and the RFEF and Vilda on the other, had been brewing for some time.

Issues included the atmosphere around the camp, Vilda being too strict, the team's lack of success under the coach since his reign started in 2015, and disputes over travel arrangements and staff numbers.

In September 2022 the situation exploded -- 15 of the squad emailed the RFEF to say they did not want to be considered for selection citing their "emotional state".

"This is a farce, on the world stage," said Vilda at the time.

"It's hurting women's football."

- "Practically resolved" -

The RFEF backed the coach and he omitted the protesting players for friendlies against Sweden and the United States in October, which Spain drew and won respectively.

Victory over world champions the United States strengthened Vilda's position as less-

er lights and younger players showed their quality.

Two further friendly wins, including a 7-0 trouncing of Argentina, cemented Spain's conviction they had made the right decision to back the coach. Spain have lost just one game since the protest began.

Vilda named a provisional squad for the World Cup in early June with Bonmati, Caldentey and Batlle returning. The other 12 players either stayed firm in their stance or were not selected despite making themselves available again.

The coach maintained his loyalty to many of the players he had turned to in the interim.

"We've always been looking to solve this conflict and it's practically resolved," said Vilda.

"We're focused on the players who are committed."

- "We are not rebels" -

The RFEF has improved the players' travel arrangements, extra fitness staff and physios are available, and the players are less tightly monitored during call-ups.

However, some did not think the RFEF went far enough.

"It makes me sad as I deserve

(to go) and I contributed to getting the team there," said Mapi Leon in May, reiterating why she was continuing her protest.

"It's not a decision that you take lightly and it's not easy. My decision is clear. Mapi Leon has a way of living and she has values to stick to.

"I can't go back, there has to be changes."

Spanish reports suggested Barcelona star Putellas acted as a mediator between the returning players and the RFEF, and although she is not the team's captain, she is their footballing leader.

Putellas, who had backed the complaints but did not join the initial boycott because of her injury, did not like the tag of "rebels" some gave the players.

"We are not rebels," she said in March.

"It's exhausting having to constantly call for improvements to perform better."

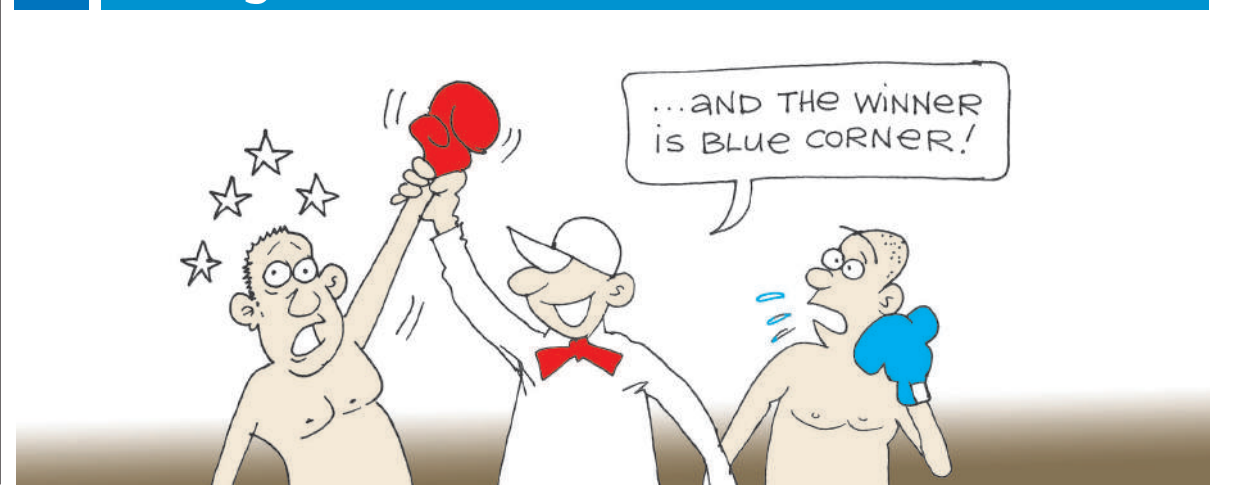
With the double Ballon d'Or winner back -- albeit with her fitness in question -- Spain believe a first World Cup triumph is possible, even if the bitterness lingers.

"We are sixth in the world rankings," said Vilda.

"Spain has never had such a complete side with such good chances, we want the World Cup to start."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Infantino urges fans to 'seize moment' on eve of Women's World Cup

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Yanga's South African winger, Mahlatse Makudubela.

Yanga's new signing promises to live up to expectations

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC confirmed the signing of midfielder Mahlatse Makudubela 'Skudu' after his exit from relegated South African outfit Marumo Gallants on Tuesday.

'Skudu', as he is fondly known back home, will become the first South African player to play in the NBC Premier League when the 2023/24 campaign starts on August 15.

The 33-year-old midfielder will wear number 6 on his shirt, which was previously worn by Feisal Salum 'Fei Toto'.

'Fei Toto' left Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, after a legal saga and has since joined city rivals Azam FC.

'Skudu' sat down with his new outfit's official online television channel to express his thoughts on signing for Yanga and what it means to be allocated the number 6 jersey that had been trending for days on social media.

The midfielder noted: "It's a pleasure to represent the Green and Yellow Nation. The welcoming was very warm, I already feel at home."

"Following Yanga on social media, I saw the number 6 trending but I couldn't understand what's the story behind it. The vibe caught my attention and I started following Ali Kamwe's Instagram page," 'Skudu' revealed.

"The Yanga fans are such vibrant supporters and they hype these things so it started catching my interest and the people back home. That's how I found out about jersey number 6," the player noted.

The South African acknowledged the burden of expectations on his shoulders both literally and figuratively but was confident enough to say he will live up to the huge demands at Yanga.

"I am very honoured, it means the world to me, the confidence and trust they have in me by giving such a number. I understand it is a tough number," 'Skudu' pointed out.

"I am very humbled and will live up to the expectations. I know it comes with a lot of pressure. Pressure is something we need in life to grow out of our comfort zones."

"I was on the verge of signing for a club in South Africa when I saw the president's call. Who doesn't pick up a president's call? I am honoured."

"The success of the club speaks for itself. When you are a player you want to associate with the best club. When the president called, I couldn't say no because you look at the club's history, what they have achieved, winning the treble, and finishing as runners-up in CAF Confederation Cup, it says a lot," the player stated.

Simba SC players' jersey numbers for 2023/24 season revealed



Some Simba SC footballers participate in drills in Turkey recently as the club has gone for pre-season preparations for 2023/24 showdowns that include Premier League and CAF Champions League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASFC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC has a serious job in the outfit's hands to challenge for the NBC Premier League title again in the 2023/24 season.

The club, popularly known as 'Msimbazi Reds', finished second last season, five points behind champions Young Africans SC, and is now tasked with going again while making an impression on the CAF Champions League and African Football League.

Failure at the domestic front would be disappointing for Simba SC, given the ambitious and expensive transfer market the club has embarked on so far.

Fabrice Ngoma, Che Malone Fondoh, Willy Essomba Onana, David Kameta, and

Aubin Kramo Kouame have all arrived at the club, with more expected to follow.

The new signings, except Ngoma, have already been handed their new squad numbers by Simba SC.

Ivorian winger Kouame has taken the number 24 left behind by midfielder Hassan Dilunga, who has joined JKT Tanzania.

The left-footed winger who arrived from ASEC Mimosas can play upfront or at either wing.

He was one of the stand-out players in the CAF Confederation Cup last season with four goals in 12 games

to help ASEC Mimosas reach the semi-finals. He also had three goals in the CAF Champions League.

Following his move from Rwanda's Rayon Sports, Onana has been allocated jersey number 7. Onana had a successful two-year stint with Rayon Sports finishing the 2022/23 season as the league's top scorer.

Chris Mugalu was the most recent player to wear Onana's new shirt. Emmanuel Okwi and Deo Kanda are amongst others to don jersey No.7 in recent seasons.

Another Cameroonian arrival, Che Malone will

wear No.6 - the same number he had at Coton Sport. The 24-year-old enjoyed a terrific campaign at Coton Sport and was voted Cameroon's League most valuable Player.

New right fullback Kameta takes over Joash Onyango's number 16 shirt. Onyango has moved to Singida Fountain Gate FC on a season-long loan deal.

Kameta is returning to the Msimbazi Street outfit, having spent two years on loan at Biashara United, Geita Gold FC, and Mtibwa Sugar. He was signed by Simba SC from Lipuli FC at the start of

the 2021/22 season.

Sadio Kanoute, who previously wore jersey No.13 during his first two seasons at the club, will now don the No.8 jersey.

Nassoro Kapama has also shifted from jersey number 35 to 18. The number was vacant following Erasto Nyoni's release last month.

The remaining members of the squad will retain the numbers previously held during the 2022/23 season.

All in all, the list is preliminary at this moment, and a lot of changes could still happen. We will have to wait and see how the squad looks once the transfer window closes on August 31.

A full list of squad numbers can be seen below:

1. Ally Salim, 4. Jean Baleke, 5. Israel Mwenda, 6. Malone, 7. Willy Onana, 8. Sadio Kanoute, 10 Pape Ousmane Sakho, 11. Peter Banda, 12. Shomari Kapombe, 15. Mohamed Hussein, 16. David Kameta, 17. Clatous Chama, 18. Nassoro Kapama, 19. Yasyon Mzamiru, 21. Jimmyson Mwanuke, 22. John Bocco, 24. Aubin Kouame, Moses Phiri (25), Kennedy Juma (26), Aishi Manula (28), Henock Baka (29), Ahmed Teru (31), Dennis Kibu (38), and Said Ntibazonkiza (39).

Prime Minister to grace 2023 NBC Dodoma Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa is expected to be the guest of honour in this year's NBC Dodoma Marathon scheduled for July 23 in Dodoma.

The annual charity marathon, now in its fourth year, targets to raise a total of 500m/- million.

The funds will be directed towards the fight against cervical cancer, as well as providing scholarships to local midwives as the bank's support in the fight against maternal deaths.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule told journalists in the region yesterday that the preparations for the annual event, which is expected to attract over 6,000 runners from inside and outside the country, are in top gear.

"First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to NBC Bank for organizing this great event for the fourth year in a row. Dodoma is well organized and ready to receive all participants who are going to take part in this year's charity marathon," she said.

NBC Managing Director Theobald Sabi said in addition to fulfilling the goal of supporting the fight against cervical cancer, this year's marathon would also include

a second important objective of supporting maternal health through education funding for midwifery students in collaboration with the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation.

"Good news in this year's

marathon is that we have added a second agenda. Previously, we had only one goal, namely contributing to the fight against cervical cancer in collaboration with ORCI, but due to the success we have achieved, we

felt the need to add another new agenda to contribute to improving maternal health through education funding for midwifery students, in collaboration with a new partner, the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation," he said.

According to Sabi, through funding for midwifery students, the marathon will help to address the shortage of midwives and thus reduce maternal death.

"We are also continuing our strategy in the fight

against cervical cancer, where we have already collected more than 500m/- that helped reach the cervical cancer screening for more than 23,500 women and the treatment of more than 1,300 women, we are proud of these successes," he said, calling on the community to participate in the marathon to support the efforts.

The NBC MD thanked the various organizations and companies such as Sanlam, Jubilee General Insurance,

Garda World, Cheknocrafts, Icea Lions Insurance, Metropolitan Life Insurance, Strategies Insurance, Hans Paul, SBC-Pepsi, and Aramex for their sponsorship to make the marathon a success.

Dodoma District Commissioner Jabir Shekimweri thanked NBC for selecting Dodoma for the marathon and assured the bank that the district government had completed all the necessary preparations to make the race a success.



Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule (C), speaks to the media in the region yesterday when announcing the completion of preparations for the 2023 NBC Dodoma Marathon. She has been flanked by NBC Managing Director Theobald Sabi (L) and Dodoma District Commissioner, Jabir Shekimweri. The race aims to raise 500m/- to support the fight against cervical cancer and educate midwives to reduce maternal deaths. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Flexibles by David Chikoko

