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PM launches revised anti-narcotics policy



By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday launched the National Narcotics Policy to guide Tanzania on the fight against drug abuse and trafficking. Launching the policy document was part of commemorating the World Anti-Narcotics Day held in Mwanza at the national level, themed 'Invest in prevention and treatment against drugs to the household level.'

The government has been using a lot of resources in the fight against illicit drugs, but now the national policy on narcotics control will be directed at reducing the menace among the youth who are the most affected. "I'm sure now that after putting in place the policy, we'll now concentrate more on giving education to the public and the affected ones to end the crisis in the country," he said.

The intention is to ensure that use of drugs declines or totally ends in the country, he said, with analysts pointing at 2022 Population and Household Census findings that 34.5 percent of Tanzanians fall between the ages of 15 and 35, and considerable sections exposed to illicit drugs.

The premier said that if not properly directed, the youth could become a burden to society, affirming that the government's move is to nurture an honest, responsible, hardworking and patriotic youth, fully

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Rev Peter Simon Msigwa, once opposition Chadema's Iringa Urban constituency legislator and until recently the party's Nyasa Zone chairman, speaks shortly after announcing at CCM's National Executive Committee meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday that he had defected to the ruling party. At the high table are CCM national Chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Vice Chairman (Zanzibar) Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi, Secretary General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi and Vice Chairman (Mainland) Abdurrahman Kinana. Photo: State House

DPM: Works, Treasury to assist local contractors

By Guardian Reporter

EXPERTS at the Works ministry need to formulate a supportive strategy for empowering local contractors to smoothly implement projects assigned to them.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr Doto Biteko issued this instruction at the contractors and service providers' symposium in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, demanding that the Works ministry liaise with the Treasury on the issue for best outcomes.

Underlining the pivotal role of local contractors in bolstering the country's economy, he said it was vital to empower them, pointing at the need to widen

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UK exports in view as Trademark Africa, diplomats, TAHA team up

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) is working with the Tanzania High Commission in the UK along with Trademark Africa (TMA) in a horticulture exports accelerator programme.

TAHA CEO Dr. Jacqueline Mkindi unveiled this initiative at a press conference here over the weekend, affirming that the move is designed to boost exports to the United Kingdom, thereby securing vital foreign currency.

Startup export firms and seasoned businesses are expected to benefit, as the initiative is focused on ensuring compliance with international standards and facilitating smooth market entry into the UK and other European markets.

This ambitious initiative is aimed at supplementing government efforts to increase horticultural exports, she said, highlighting that the UK market is expansive.

Firms to be enlisted include companies exporting raw or processed horticultural products such as fruits, vegetables, spices, herbs, cut flowers and cuttings, she stated, affirming that the firms have until July 20 to apply for attachment to the new facility.

Key benefits of the program include business-to-business (B2B) engagement, improvements in supply chain and traceability, certification and standards support, capacity building, trade missions and exhibitions, financial linkages, along with official recognition and support from the government, she explained.

London's approval of duty-free exports for horticultural and other commodities that was made in the second quarter of this year is expected to be chart the way to vastly

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It's clearly risky business as these Kiwira Coal Mine (Songwe Region) workers go about analysing and grading coal without some vital protective gear. Correspondent Nebart Msokwa captured this scene recently.

Nyusi set to grace 48th DITF opener

By Guardian Reporter

MOZAMBICAN President Filipe Nyusi is today expected to arrive in the country for a four-day official tour.

January Makamba, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister said at a press conference yesterday that the visit ending on Thursday shall further cement bilateral relations.

The Mozambican leader will officiate at the 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), after holding as the guest of honour, noting that tomorrow President Samia Suluhu Hassan will hold talks with her Mozambican counterpart.

The talks will focus on strengthening trade, investments, defence, education and health, where the two leaders shall witness the signing of various memoranda of understanding (MoUs) in those spheres before holding a joint press conference.

The minister asserted that the visit is vital for Tanzania as President Nyusi is concluding his

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the dialogue with banks to devise comprehensive empowerment strategies for contractors.

"Central to this initiative is fostering robust partnerships with financial institutions, facilitating tailored plans to bolster the financial standing of contractors as many local companies face capital challenges in implementing projects," he said.

In creating a conducive environment for local contractors to thrive, coordinated efforts are needed across critical sectors such as Energy, Water and Transport to align their policies and initiatives in support of local contractors, he specified.

He urged contractors to diligently manage project funds, ensuring their responsible use for construction activities and reinvestment of profits into growth of their companies.

Contractors need to uphold patriotism in executing construction projects by adhering to quality standards, thus not impairing the pace of economic growth, he said.

By encouraging adherence to quality standards and fostering a spirit of patriotism in construction practices, the government seeks to pave the way for sustainable economic growth and enhanced infrastructural development across the country, he emphasised.

The symposium marks a pivotal moment in empowering the local construction industry, seeking to ensure that it meets international standards and "serves as a cornerstone of economic advancement and national pride," the DPM intoned. Organised by the Tanzania United Contractors and Allied Services Association (TUCASA), the two-day forum brought together contractors, suppliers, manufacturers, banking and insurance institutions and other stakeholders to discuss challenges facing the sector, to recommend appropriate measures to address the challenges.

Samuel Marwa, the TUCASA chairman, expressed gratitude to the government for recognizing the potential of local contractors and investing efforts to support collective growth.

Empowering local contractors can lead to significant benefits as it stimulates job creation, enhances skills development, and retains capital within the country, thereby bolstering economic resilience, he stated.

The country has enough competent contractors and engineers to implement mega projects at the required quality levels so the government needs to trust them and provide more opportunities to participate in major construction projects, he added.



National Housing Corporation director general Hamad Abdallah (R) leads members of the Parliamentary Land, Natural Resources and Tourism Committee during their visit of the agency's housing project in Dar es Salaam's Kawe suburb yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

UK exports in view as Trademark Africa, diplomats, TAHA link up

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improve export performance, she stated. On March 17, 2023, President Samia Suluhu Hassan appointed Dr. Mkindi to the Presidential Food and Agriculture Delivery Council (PFADC), widening liaison capacity to stimulate horticultural exports, analysts noted.

Anthony Chamanga, the TAHA chief development manager, said that Tanzania's horticultural exports to Britain were on an upward curve from 2019 to 2023, reaching 11,520 metric tons valued at \$87m.

Modest growth of 130.75 metric

tons was observed in the 2019/2020 period, at 10.8 percent rise, while a surge was visible in the 2020/2021 period where exports rose by 1,169.29 metric tons, or 86.8 percent lift, he said.

The upward trend persisted into 2022, with an additional 396.54 metric tons, or a 15.8 percent increase, and during 2022/2023 exports grew by 614.50 metric tons, marking a 21.1 percent uptick, he elaborated.

Exports nearly doubled during 2020/2021 as it marked the most significant growth, he said, underlining that Tanzania's horticultural sector has a firm foothold in the UK market.

The country is shipping significant quantities of avocados, cut flowers, bitter melon and green beans, he said, noting that recent years have exhibited dynamic shifts in export trends, mirroring changes in crop popularity and global demand.

For instance, avocado exports showed remarkable growth, from 947.46 metric tons in 2019, dipping to 851.75 metric tons in 2020, and soared to 2,392.65 metric tons in 2023, he explained, attributing the surge to heightened global health consciousness and improved yields," Chamanga explained.

Similarly, bitter melon exports rose

from a mere 75 metric tons in 2021 to 340.35 metric tons in 2023, fueled by increasing international demand, he said.

Conversely, rose flower exports plummeted from 256.43 metric tons in 2019 to negligible levels by 2021, while green bean exports dropped from 299.73 metric tons in 2020 to 56.04 metric tons in 2023, signaling a shift away from this crop.

On the brighter side, cut flowers maintained relative stability as exports increased from just 776 metric tons in 2019 to 146.18 metric tons in 2020, holding steady through 2023, he added.

PM launches revised anti-drugs policy

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contributing to their own development and that of the wider society.

"Through this gathering and in the whole of this week I am sure that people who are here will be envoys to spread education against use of drugs," he declared.

The government will strengthen clubs against the use of drugs in schools, colleges and other learning institutions to stem the menace in schools and colleges, he said.

Last year drug enforcement authorities seized over two million kilograms of cannabis, illustrating how the government is working hard to fight the menace, he said.

"We want Tanzanians to keep away completely from taking drugs, he said, citing the services of medically assisted treatment (MAT) centres for service to bring their health status back to normal," he said.

Since 2018 the government has given directives to district councils and sat with banks, telling them to support youths who have stopped to take drugs, he recalled, affirming that youths can be supported if they form productive groups to participate in development activities.

Youths who have stopped to take drugs need to be supported with start-up cash to enable them to engage in income generating activities, he added.



Home Affairs Hamad Yussuf Masauni (R) pictured in Tanga at the weekend presenting a prize to Ismail Khalid for emerging winner of a Quran reading competition held in celebrating the establishment of an Islamic institute based in the city. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

Six dead in separate motorcycle crashes

By Guardian Correspondents, Iringa, Njombe

SIX people died and one was injured in separate road accidents that occurred in Iringa Municipality and Wanging'ombe District in Njombe Region at the weekend.

In Iringa, four people, including three children of the same family, died after being run over by a truck when a motorcycle they were travelling on fell down.

Acting Iringa Regional Police Commander Alfred Mbena said the accident occurred on Friday at around 7pm at Ipogolo slope in Iringa Municipality when motorcycle rider tried to overtake a cargo truck with registration number RAG 450N before hitting it, leading to the acci-

dent.

The deceased are Hassan Baurani (27), a motorcycle rider and resident of Ipogolo and three pupils of Ipogolo Primary School: Hellena Thomas (12) a standard seven pupil, Ally Tenywa (9) a standard one pupil and Gabriel John (5) a kindergarten pupil.

"The motorcycle rider was taking the pupils back home to Iringa town after school when the accident occurred," he said.

Mbena said the bodies were preserved at Iringa Regional Referral Hospital before being buried on Saturday at Cagliari cemeteries in the municipality.

In the second accident, two servants of Wanging'ombe District Council in Njombe Region have died after

a motorcycle they were travelling on got into an accident.

The deceased include Raufu Samu (34) Assistant Nursing Officer who was the motorcycle's rider and passenger Patrick Chaula (38) a Medical Officer. In the accident another Asia Chitiku (28) also a Medical Officer was injured.

Acting Njombe Regional Commander (RPC) Ally Kitumbu said the accident occurred on Friday at around 7.15pm at Igwachanya Village and that the officers died while receiving treatment at Njombe Regional Referral Hospital.

He said the servants who were on a motorcycle with registration number T MC 894 DTU Boxer make got into an accident after being hit by a Mitsubishi Verossa vehicle with

number T107 DQN.

Kitumbu said recklessness of the vehicle's driver identified as Noah Kipanga was the cause of the accident as he didn't consider other road users and that the law enforcers launched a manhunt since he escaped soon after the accident.

Njombe Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka said the council has lost important people in health sector.

He directed Wanging'ombe District Council to ensure that all the deceased's benefits are released urgently for their families not to suffer.

Claudia Kitta, Wanging'ombe District Commissioner, said doctors and nurses did all their efforts to rescue the lives of their fellows servants unsuccessfully.

Nyusi set to grace 48th DITF opener

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second term in office, thus bidding farewell to the Tanzanian public.

Mozambique and Tanzania have cordial relations predating Mozambique's independence in 1975, as its liberation party FRELIMO was largely using the border with Tanzania to organise the armed struggle against Portuguese colonial rule.

FRELIMO founder leader Dr Eduardo Mondlane was killed in a ghastly parcel bomb incident in Dar es Salaam in 1969 and buried in Tanzania, with relations growing bigger as President Julius Nyerere coordinated diplomatic efforts towards the finalising of colonial rule in Southern Africa up to 1980 when Zimbabwe attained majority rule.

In 1977, Tanzania and Mozambique signed an agreement to establish a Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) but due to the low economic activity in border regions of the two countries, not much was achieved despite holding a total of 15 meetings of the commission since then.

With reforms being accelerated and other challenges cropping up, there is greater room for strengthening co-operation in defence and security, immigration, trade, investment, tourism, agriculture and transport, officials say.

Tanzania has been in the forefront to support Mozambique overcome various security challenges, the minister noted, citing the country's participation in peacekeeping efforts in Mozambique.

Terrorist groups who earlier failed to operate in the southern regions of Tanzania decamped to the northern part of the vast Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique, also spreading terror to Niassa and Nampula provinces.

President Nyusi will proceed to Zanzibar for a private visit before returning to Mozambique via Abeid Amani Karume International Airport, the minister added.



Women in Management Africa (WIMA) executive director Dr Naike Moshi pictured in Dodoma city at the weekend addressing an MSME Day 2024 meeting on the achievements made by - and challenges facing - women in the business sector in Tanzania. This year's theme for the Day is "Leveraging Power and Resilience of MSMEs to Accelerate Sustainable Development and Eradicate Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises". It underscores the critical role MSMEs play in achieving the 17 global sustainable development goals (SDGs) and fostering economic resilience. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Fond memories as WFP rep departs Dar after two terms

By Guardian Reporter

THE outgoing World Food Programme (WFP) Country Representative to Tanzania Sarah Gordon-Gibson has said she will always have fond memories of the country she called home since 2020.

Speaking in Dodoma where she paid a courtesy call on Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Dr Selemani Jafo at the weekend, Gordon-Gibson who has been transferred to Chad, said she will always remember hospitality of the people of Tanzania and the stunning beauty of the country.

She promised that she leaves but the organization will maintain strong relations with the government of Tanzania in various aspects, including protection of the environment.

She expressed hope that her successor will continue and strengthen cooperation with the government of Tanzania to help the country attain food security.

"I thank you for the cooperation of the Vice President's Office with me and the organization as a whole; my departure is an opportunity for us to continue the cooperation because leaders come and go but WFP will continue to work in this country," she said.

Dr Jafo thanked her for the cooperation with the VPO and the government in gen-

eral during her tenure as country representative.

He said that the office will remember her for her performance and contribution since her appointment as country representative of the organization for two consecutive terms in Tanzania.

He commended Gordon-Gibson for WFP's contribution to the 10/30 agenda to promote agriculture in the country through the projects they initiate that aim to strengthen the economy through the sector.

Minister Jafo described her as a hard worker and a person who cooperates with communities, the Office of the Vice President and the government as a whole.

"My sister Sarah, despite the fact that you have completed your term and are leaving this country, we wholeheartedly welcome your successor who will come and we believe that he or she will continue all the good initiatives you have started, especially in the environment," he said.

Likewise, Minister Jafo urged her to convey greetings to leaders at the WFP headquarters in Paris and to the resident representative who will take her place.

It will be remembered that before becoming resident representative of WFP in Tanzania, Gordon-Gibson worked in various countries including Morocco, Mauritania and Niger.

MSMEs Day: Women called on to make use of business opportunities

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

WOMEN owners of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Dodoma Region have been challenged to be proactive and tap opportunities brought by the government.

The challenge was made yesterday by Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule, saying there are a lot of opportunities in the region and other parts of the country where women can participate.

In a speech read on her behalf by Mary Mabaya, the RC noted that the government has availed a lot of chances that female traders can uti-

lize just like their male counterparts.

She was addressing a workshop and dialogue session that brought together over 100 leaders of Women-led Small and Medium Enterprises (WSMEs) organized by Women in Management Africa (WIMA).

According to her, WSMEs have been facing several challenges such as lack of capital, favoritisms and prohibitive traditions. As a result, they struggle to strike a balance between family and business activities as well as market networks.

"Women should acquire more knowledge, embrace modern technology and pursue projects availed

by the government and other stakeholders" she said.

WIMA Founder and CEO Dr Naike Moshi said that the meeting was to commemorate the 2024 Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Day.

The day offers an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas on how key stakeholders, including policy makers, large companies, financial institutions and the international community can support micro, small and medium-sized businesses to advance positive changes.

Dr Moshi said that leaders who attended the event collectively oversee

more than 50,000 women-led SMEs and manage over 10000 community groups, showcasing the vibrant and substantial contribution of women to the local economy. According to her, the central theme that emerged from the discussions was the critical issues of access to finance, adding that many WSMEs face significant hurdles in securing the necessary funding to start, sustain and grow their businesses.

The challenges, she said, include stringent loan requirements, high-interest rates and limited access to financial literacy resources.

"Celebrating SMEs Day with this impactful workshop reinforced our

dedication to empowering women in business," she said.

She added that the insights gained from the leaders in Dodoma will inform the future initiatives, ensuring that support for the growth and sustainability of women-led businesses across Tanzania.

MSMEs account for 90 percent of businesses, 60 to 70 percent of employment and 50 percent of GDP worldwide.

As the backbone of societies everywhere they contribute to local and national economies and to sustaining livelihoods, in particular among the working poor, women, youth, and

groups in vulnerable situations.

MSMEs hold the potential to transform economies, foster job creation and promote equitable economic growth if given adequate support.

The MSME Day event aims to highlight their pivotal role and explore opportunities for their further advancement.

The United Nations General Assembly designated 27 June as "Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises Day" to raise awareness of the tremendous contributions of MSMEs to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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Open University of Tanzania vice chancellor Prof Elifas Bisanda (L) speaks at the launch of the university's industrial advisory committee in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He is with deputy vice chancellor (Academics, Research and Professional Advice) Prof Alex Makulilo (2nd-R) and the Director of Higher Education in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, Prof Peter Msofe. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Six schools in Muheza get green flags for conservation initiatives

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

SIX primary schools in Muheza District, Tanga Region, have been awarded green flags for environmental conservation efforts by the Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education.

The schools located around Amani-Nilo forest reserve corridor received the internationally recognized green flags at the weekend after successfully completing a seven-step programme required for the coveted environmental awards.

Zigi, Kambai, Kwemdimu, Kwezitu, Antakae and Msasa IBC primary schools are the education institutions that were awarded the flags.

The schools execute Eco-Schools programme coordinated by Nature Tanzania with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) 'Tuhifadhi Maliasili' activity.

Emmanuel Mгимwa, Director of Nature Tanzania, said that through Eco-Schools programme, pupils undertake environment conservation activities at their respective institutions.

"Eco-Schools programme provides environment education to pupils who in turn relay the same skills back home to their communities," he said.

"The programme provides a framework for learning and action which affords a wealth of opportunities for linking education for sustainable development,"

he said. Eco-Schools feature greener environments, gardens of trees and dedicated conservation lessons usually forming part of their curricula.

Green flags have been awarded to 13 rural schools in Tanzania in the financial year 2023/2024.

There are 48 schools that have been awarded green flags in the country with other 100 schools still working towards attaining the award.

Eco-schools' approach can be adopted at all levels of education from kindergarten to universities.

Recently, the project conducted an assessment in six primary schools to understand the effectiveness of the Eco-School programme.

The assessment showed that all six primary schools were actively implementing eco-schools activities such as tree planting, bee keeping and gardening.

The assessment also revealed that 63 percent of teachers were implementing a teaching and learning approach that integrates environmental education into the school curricula using participatory lesson plans and schemes of work known as 'investigation'.

Nature Tanzania found that six functional eco-committees were formed and active in leading the Eco Schools programme in the respective schools and ensuring school-community partnership for forest protection.

Six environmental clubs were also established and functional in the programme schools.

New system to offer farmers correct info about agriculture

By Getrude Mbago

THE Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has handed over two special agro-systems to the government in a move meant to strengthen farmers' access to information and related services to boost productivity.

Dubbed 'Farmer Registration System and Agricultural Information System' designed under FAO's Hand-in-Hand (HIH) initiative is expected to address several key challenges that have long impeded agriculture development.

The system will specifically help in tackling duplicate services which is one of the major issues faced by Tanzanian farmers due

to proliferation of multiple digital agricultural extension services offering conflicting information. The confusion has often left farmers unsure about the best practices and inputs for their crops.

Speaking during the handover event held in Arusha at the weekend, Vailet Kazimoto, Head of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at the Ministry of Agriculture, emphasized the system's role in complementing the government's ongoing digitalization efforts in agriculture.

She said the new integrated systems will streamline services, ensuring that farmers receive consistent, accurate and reliable information, something which is

expected to greatly enhance efficiency and effectiveness of agricultural advice, leading to better farming outcomes.

"Considering that we are moving from traditional agriculture to digital agriculture, this system will help create a solid foundation for serving our farmers in a digitalized manner, ultimately boosting production," she stated.

She said successful implementation of the systems will require regular capacity building and support to ensure that all users can effectively utilize the new tools.

Moreover, continual monitoring and evaluation will be necessary to identify areas for improvement and to scale up successful prac-

tices.

Mponda Malozo, HIH Manager at FAO, expressed gratitude to the government for its decision to digitalize agriculture and for choosing FAO as a collaborative partner in the initiative.

"We have witnessed the government's willingness and we are very pleased to be part of this journey. Our aim is to support digital agricultural transformation to enhance production and improve lives of people in Tanzania," he said.

He said the handover of the systems represents a significant leap forward for Tanzanian agriculture, embodying the promise of technology to solve complex

problems and drive development.

"With the new agricultural information system, data will now be readily available, improving logistical planning and execution. This is particularly important for ensuring that produce can be transported efficiently from farms to markets, reducing post-harvest losses and improving farmers' incomes," he said.

He said enhancing farmer profiles which is a crucial aspect of the digital transformation is the enhancement of farmer registration system.

"Keeping this system updated with seasonal cultivation plans and needs is essential for in-

formed decision-making and planning. The upgraded agricultural dashboard, incorporating geographical information system visual maps, will allow for real-time monitoring and analysis of agricultural data. This will enable the government and other stakeholders to respond promptly to emerging issues, plan better and implement targeted interventions," he said.

"This transformation is not just about increasing productivity; it's about creating a sustainable agriculture sector that can adapt to the changing climate, meet nutritional needs of the population and contribute to economic growth."

Heart complications dominate Arusha free medical campsite

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

HEART complications are a major health problem affecting people in Arusha Region, it has been announced.

This was said here at the weekend by Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) Executive Director Dr Peter Kisenge during climax of the seven-day free medical treatment camp.

Dr Kisenge said cardiovascular diseases topped medical ailments at the Arusha free health service initiative.

"We have managed to diagnose many cases with serious ones being referred to our institute in Dar-es-salaam," he said.

According to the medical expert, a total of 183 patients were taken to JKCI awaiting further treatment.

"Heart problems have become a threat in Tanzania because even young children become victims," he said. At the Arusha camp at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium, a total of 53 children were found with atrial septal defect and were also referred to the JKCI for surgical treatment.

The cost of their surgeries, according to the expert, is 636 million/- all footed by the government.

Tens of thousands of people from all over the Arusha Region and environs gathered at the free medical camp to have their several diseases attended to. The camp was served by 450 medical practitioners, including doctors, nurses and physicians assembled from different hospitals across the country.



A woman reported to have lived with obstetric fistula for 38 years (R), testifies to Shinyanga Regional Referral Hospital's Medical Officer In-charge Dr Luzila John shortly after undergoing free surgery at a five-day health camp in Shinyanga municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Govt to spend 29bn/- on livestock vaccination campaign in 2024/25

By Correspondent Christina Haule, Morogoro

THE government has allocated 29bn/- for the national livestock vaccination campaign to address zoonotic diseases this financial year.

Dr Benezeth Lutege, acting Director of Veterinary Services (DVS) in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, said this here yesterday

when speaking during graduation of 30 youth who accomplished four-month training on veterinary issues.

The training was held at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and organized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with financial support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Dr Lutege said that the vaccines will begin to be administered to cattle, goats, sheep and chickens and will be in tandem with anti-rabies.

"In this campaign, we target to reach more than 17 million cattle, 17 million goats and sheep, and more than 40 million chickens at the government's expense, meaning owners will not have to pay anything," he said. He appealed to livestock

keepers to prepare for the vaccination and identification since all animals vaccinated will be given ear tags.

He said that the current vaccination situation has improved after the government created good environment for vaccine production in the country whereby three factories produce livestock vaccines, including the Kibaha-based

Tanzania Vaccine Institute which has reached the level of producing seven types of vaccines.

Other vaccine factories are Esta Bio-Scientology Limited located in Kibaha which also has eight types of vaccines and the Morogoro-based Novabi which produces three types of vaccines.

Prof Riziki Shemdoe, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Live-

stock and Fisheries asked the graduates to ensure that they put their 30 research reports in one book to help understand findings for the country's development.

FAO Country Representative to Tanzania Dr Nyabenyi Tipu said youth capacity building programme is an important issue that brings development to livestock resources and helps reduce poverty.



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE, TANZANIA

The Aga Khan University is a pioneering institution of higher education whose mission is to improve the quality of life in the developing world and beyond, through world-class teaching, research and healthcare delivery. AKU educates students for local and global leadership from campuses and teaching hospitals in six countries, primarily in Asia and Africa. It generates new knowledge to solve problems that affect millions of people, especially the most vulnerable. The University is a private, not-for-profit institution and part of the Aga Khan Development Network (www.aku.edu).

Established in 2004, the Aga Khan University Medical College Tanzania seeks to provide high quality education for health professional leaders who will then go on to become reputable specialists generating a positive and lasting impact in the lives of their patients and in the communities they serve. It provides individuals with the opportunity to practice medicine at the highest level of education and research. The four-year training program leads to the award of a Master of Medicine in various specialties, including Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics & Child Health, and General Surgery. Candidates are selected for programs based on merit and their commitment to mastering the 21st century skills necessary to excel in medicine. The teaching style is evidence-based and involves direct hands-on practice under the supervision of experienced faculty, utilizing state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities at The Aga Khan Hospital in Dares Salaam, a Joint Commission International Accredited (JCIA) hospital.

The Aga Khan University, East Africa invites applications for the position of Chair, Department of Family Medicine Tanzania.

Reporting to the Dean of the Medical College in East Africa and the CEO AKH-Dares Salaam, the department chair is primarily a faculty member in the department and is also the department's chief academic, clinical and administrative officer responsible to both the faculty of the department and to the Aga Khan University. These dual roles require that the chair interpret University policies to the members of the department and ensure their effective execution and at the same time represent individual and group concerns of department members to the Medical College administration and to the University. The chair is expected to provide visionary leadership of the department and to oversee the departmental strategic planning to improve the quality of the clinical, educational, and research programs. Such planning should be considered within the overall vision of the University, the Medical College, and the Aga Khan Hospital, Dares Salaam. The Chair will also be expected to be the liaison between the department, other AKU departments and relevant external bodies and/or agencies.

Educational Qualifications and Experience:

- Appointable as an Assistant Professor or higher;
- Master of Medicine (Specialization in Family Medicine) is required. Sub-specialization will be an added advantage;
- Registered, or registrable, and allowed to practice by the Medical Council of Tanganyika (MCT);
- Minimum of 5 years' experience as a successful administrative leader at an academic institution. Should have served as a division chief, vice chair, or chair who has developed academic leaders, mentored and developed junior faculty, and identified and recruited diverse students, trainees, staff and faculty;
- Understanding of the complex financial pressures facing academic medical centers and health care delivery organizations and experience with strategies to control and reduce cost of care (length of stay, appropriate use of facilities and resources);
- Capable of defining the research vision for the entire Department and providing basic research and grant mentorship and experience leading a successful research program, either clinical, population-based basic science or data science with proven track record of significant growth in funding, publications and national or international reputation. Maintain an understanding and be prepared to take advantage of research funding and development trends as they evolve;
- Experience of expanding and fostering strong clinical programmes and leading complex clinical programs focused on access, high quality, and outstanding patient satisfaction;
- Having a vision to recognize areas for growth and ability to lead and support faculty as they develop new opportunities a create a strong and impassioned vision for building excellence in all aspects of the academic mission;
- High reputation for personal academic accomplishments with a record of scholarly academic accomplishments as reflected in number and impact of publications, history of successful research funding, and service in national and international societies;
- Business mindset with healthcare reimbursement moving from a volume-based system to a value-based system and with an increasing focus on managing the health of populations, the successful candidate should understand and implement a strategy for these market expectations.

If you meet the criteria for this position, please email your application letter, a detailed Curriculum Vitae, and the contact information of three referees addressed to the to the Senior Manager Executive Search, Human Resources at Aga Khan University at hr.recruitment@aku.edu with the title of the position specified in the subject line. The deadline for submitting applications is 15th July 2024.

Only candidates who are shortlisted will be contacted.



PROVISION OF INFORMATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CIVIL WELL PADS TO M&P EXPLORATION PRODUCTION TANZANIA LIMITED (Ref. No. MPEP/2024/TM/003)

1. M&P Exploration Production Tanzania Ltd. (MPEP), an upstream producer of natural gas from the Mnazi Bay gas field in Mtwara region hereby invites potential suppliers to express their interest and provide information for the supply of the following:

Goods & Services for Construction of 3 x drilling well PADS

The work shall include but shall not be limited to:

- Construction of new access roads
- Upgrade of existing access roads, wherever required/necessary,
- Perform road(s) maintenance
- Do drillers camp Site preparation,
- Manage the waste and burn pits supply and installation
- Backfill and clean areas
- Deliver septic system design, construction, installation and maintenance,
- Construct grease collection pit(s),
- Construct fuel storage facilities,
- Erect camp facilities and drillers site with all necessary security (fencing, lighting, concrete bunkers, guard huts, etc...),
- Prepare the Drilling Site,
- Install and cement conductor pipe (CP) of 30" with a depth of approx. 50 meters
- Construct cellar, build access ladder, provide drainage system...
- Supply and install drilled cuttings waste pits
- Supply and install water pits
- Supply and install flare pit and garbage pits
- Provide and install fencings and gates
- Provide, install and weld membrane liner
- Realize excavations,
- Provide reinforced concrete
- Supply all necessary resources to timely and safely execute the works
- Provide septic systems

The supplier has to demonstrate the capability to deliver two platforms at the same time.

2. This call for Request for Information (RFI) marks an open, transparent, and objective tender process. Detailed scope of work will be issued to qualified bidders upon demand.
3. Potential suppliers must submit information to demonstrate their capability and competency. This must include but not limited to the following:
 - a) Proof of experience and technical capability in providing said services preferably in Oil & Gas industry.
 - b) Proof of financial capability (with latest approved audited financial statements for the past 3 years) and current annual return.
 - c) International companies with ability to team up with local entity in any form as per the Local Content Regulations, 2017.
 - d) Proof of registration with the local authorities in Tanzania or Country of Origin. This shall include but not limited to a company profile, certificate of registration with BRELA, Tax Authority certificates for Tax Identification Number and Value Added Tax, Valid Business License, Proof of registration with ERB (Engineers Registration Board), Regulatory license and permits (if applicable), Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
4. All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be made in writing and communicated by e-mail to procurement@tanzaniamp.co.tz, not later than July 19th, 2024.

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Minister wants RITA to stimulate will writing to minimise family conflicts over inheritance

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

MINISTER for Constitution and Legal Affairs Dr Pindi Chana has called on the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) to collaborate with district councils nationwide to continue educating citizens on the importance of writing will before death to minimize conflicts among heirs.

Minister Chana made the call here at the weekend while opening a training organized by RITA for district administrative secretaries from Njombe, Iringa, Mbeya and Songwe regions, saying that will is a panacea to problems after the death of someone.

She emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring peaceful coexistence among citizens.

"Today's training covered birth and trusteeship services but I also urge training organisers to incorporate issues of inheritance and will writing since as this will help resolve conflicts and empower citizens to claim their rights," she said.

Dr Chana highlighted a number of challenges where legitimate heirs such as widows and children were deprived of their assets by relatives.

According to the minister, through RITA's training, positive outcomes were expected in resolving disputes regarding property inheritance.

"The main cause of inheritance disputes is an outcome of parents failing to draft will before they die," she said, stressing the importance of will in maintaining peace in families.

Frank Kanyusi, RITA Chief Executive Officer, said that

RITA regularly organizes training and meetings for various development stakeholders and government institutions to enhance understanding of their services and discuss ways to improve efficiency.

"The Births and Deaths Registration Act recognizes district administrative secretaries as district-level registrars and the services are available in their offices.

"They are directly involved in registering births, deaths and marriages as well as collecting divorce judgments in their areas," he said.

Kanyusi further stated that district administrative secretaries' offices are where marriage celebrants obtain licences.

Recently, all marriage celebrants countrywide were required to register on eRITA system to obtain new digital

licences. "In this meeting, we will discuss and strategize on how to implement this directive effectively because it is crucial for coordinating marriage registration services," Kanyusi said.

Grace Mgeni, District Administrative Secretary for Makete District, said the eRITA system will help reach large number of citizens and reduce congestion at the agency's offices.



A resident of Mjele village in Mbeya District on a hunt for water for sale, as captured at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Increase number of CNG filling stations to ease uptake - appeal

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy and Minerals has appealed to Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) to increase the number of compressed natural gas (CNG) filling stations so that more motorists are motivated to convert their vehicle energy systems.

Dr Mathayo David, the committee chairman, made the call in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when speaking during a one-day seminar organized by the Ministry of Energy to educate parliamentarians on TPDC's implementation of strategic projects for the financial year 2024/2025.

He said that the use natural gas in vehicles has proven to be cost-effective and will save foreign currency used by the government and private sector actors to import petroleum products.

"People really want to shift to natural gas to be filled in their c but availability of filling stations remains a serious challenge. I advise you (TPDC) to ensure that every regional headquarters has at least one station," he said.

He said that at the moment, the service is available in Dar es Salaam region only, a situation that has caused inconvenience and high costs to people from neighbouring regions who follow the service there, adding that if it were available in every region,

many people would be motivated to use gas.

Dr James Mataragio, Deputy Permanent Secretary of in the Ministry of Energy, said that the ministry will continue to enable TPDC to carry out its duties, including ensuring implementation of the projects on time.

He said that seeing the importance of having many gas filling stations, the ministry has involved more private sector stakeholders to participate in the construction of CNG filling stations and allowed garages to install CNG systems in vehicles.

In the financial year 2024/2025, TPDC plans to implement various projects, including gas exploration, transportation and distribution projects to implement clean energy for cooking strategy.

Titus Kaguo, Energy and Water Regulatory Authority (EWURA) Communications and Public Relations Manager, said recently that the authority continues to encourage citizens to invest in construction of natural gas filling stations.

Kaguo said some stakeholders have been worried about investing in that new business and that is why the pace of investing in the area has been slow.

"It is true that the speed of issuing CNG permits is low but this is due to people's worries because this business is new. So far there are about 20 companies that have shown interest in investing," he said.

Taxi driver in UK still being paid as an active Nigerian civil servant

By Mansur Abubakar, Kano

IF you leave your job, it would seem logical that your salary would stop being paid, but not so for a number of former Nigerian civil servants.

They have managed to be employed elsewhere - sometimes in another country entirely - and yet continue to receive a wage from their former workplace.

News of this has reached the top and last week President Bola Tinubu ordered a crackdown.

"The culprits must be made to refund the money they have fraudulently collected," he said.

Sabitu Adams, whose name we have changed to protect his identity, has not resigned from his position as a junior official at a government agency and still gets paid each month, despite leaving Nigeria two years ago.

He now works as a taxi driver in the UK, but said that he was not worried about losing the salary as he sees Tinubu's comments as an empty threat.

Adams added that the loss of his monthly Nigerian salary of 150,000 naira (\$100; £80) would not be a great hardship, as he earns a lot more driving a taxi.

"When I heard about the president's directive, I smiled because I know I am doing better here - and not worried," the 36-year-old said.

But why not make it clear to the civil service that he had left?

"To be honest, I didn't resign because I wanted to leave that door open in case I choose to go back to my job after a few years."

Like Adams, more than 3.6 million Nigerians have relocated to

other countries over the last two years, according to official statistics.

Many young Nigerians see little prospect of earning a good living in the country - a feeling exacerbated by the collapse in the value of the naira over the past year following the reforms introduced by Tinubu since he became president.

It has become so common for young people to seek their fortunes outside the country, the term "japa" has been coined to describe the phenomenon.

It is a word from the Yoruba language meaning to escape or flee.

Tinubu said he was "struck by the revelations the head of the civil service shared regarding employees who had relocated abroad while drawing salaries without formally resigning".

The president said that not only should the money be repaid but those who were complicit in allowing it to happened should be investigated too.

"Their supervisors and department heads must also be punished for aiding and abetting the fraud under their watch," he said.

And this may have been the case for Adams.

The UK-based taxi driver admitted that he continued to be paid thanks to those in his department: "I had a good understanding with my boss and he just let me leave."

Often in such cases the salary is divided between the supervisor who keeps quiet and the person being paid, maybe along with an HR representative.

But for Adams it was even easier. "In my case it wasn't like that as my boss was a relative."

The collapse in the value of the naira over the past year is pushing more young Nigerians to seek opportunities elsewhere.

The so-called "ghost-working" is a major problem in Nigeria. Despite several crackdowns, it is believed that thousands of non-existent workers are still being paid. There appear to be very few checks and balances in place.

But this is the first time it has been suggested that people who have moved abroad are continuing to be paid their salaries on a large scale.

Auwal Yakasai, who retired as a director in charge of finance at Kano state's information ministry in 2021, said he had heard of such cases.

"To be honest I have never caught anyone red-handed," Yakasai, who worked for the government for 32 years, told the BBC.

"But I have heard numerous stories of such arrangements, where someone would still be receiving [a] salary after relocating or changing their place of work."

Since he took office in May last year, Tinubu has pledged to reduce the cost of governance and cut wastage.

In January, he directed that all official entourage to state and international events for himself and other government officials be slashed by 60 percent.

Nonetheless some have noted that there is much talk in Tinubu's administration without much action.

They cite plans to buy new planes worth millions of dollars for Tinubu and his deputy Kashim Shettima as an example.

BISMILLAH RAHMAN RAHIM



The family of the Late Dr. Omar Ali Juma invites you for prayers in memory of the **LATE DR. OMAR ALI JUMA** which will be held on **Thursday 4th July, 2024 at Ngazija Mosque, at 4:00p.m.**

Your presence will be highly appreciated.

All relatives and friends are invited.

May God rest his soul in Eternal Peace .

Amen

Envoys' worries mirror local businesses' unease with TRA

SOME top officials in the government have been busy seeking to convince key development partners that the state appreciate good governance and respect for the rule of law as key pillars of progress and prosperity.

This was the position expressed just the other day by the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister in the wake of highly critical communication to the ministry, penned by the French Embassy and obtaining the say-so of nine other foreign missions. The issue was intense concern over the tax administration practices by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) on foreign investors, with the foreign missions calling for government intervention - which raised vast eyebrows.

The extent to which concern over drawbacks in economic policy and tax administration was put across indicated that the envoys' assessment that 'the good work being done by so many to restore Tanzania's reputation as a destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is now being undermined' was hardly an exaggeration.

Yet what is surprising is that all that is listed as habitual with the tax authority is precisely what the government has been making an effort to dispel or correct, to little avail as it now appears. There is perhaps less vim and vigour compared to the heyday of the Tax Revenue Task Force.

The envoys' letter appreciated the significant progress registered in attracting and expanding quality international investment into Tanzania over the past few years.

However, it meanwhile also noted that the progress referred to faced noticeable disruption induced by TRA notices. The envoys argued that the notices were often not backed by evidence on various claims, demanding payments and account reconciliations dating back up to 15

years for foreign investors.

One directive back in 2021 was that tax claims should not be dated to five years earlier but much more recently, in which case sending tax claims to foreign investors dating back 15 years indicated not error but crafty defiance.

The letter said the headway made in attracting and expanding quality international investment into Tanzania over the last few years was at risk of being unmade by negative tendencies hampering this progress. And, for the envoys, the problem is not far to seek - it was that many of those high up in government did not believe in an environment that was good for business but where doing business was a privilege, thus onerously taxed or levied.

There has been significant turnover in the office of the TRA Commissioner General while the mood or operational habits and attitudes have largely remained the same.

There is something in United States idiom known as the 'deep state', where officialdom is in total agreement on what needs to be done irrespective of day-to-day directives or hints from the top leadership. The envoys' letter advised that good governance and best practices should be agreed through regular trade missions and meetings with foreign investors as a business community.

That was evidently given the fact that business investment registrations from those countries increased from US\$3 billion in 2022 to US\$5.5 billion last year - that is, in just over one year. The letter applauded the Tanzania Investment Centre for a job well done, but there were indications that the target lay elsewhere.

Still, a modestly important wing of the state appears to be attached to other priorities, the main concern being a 'win-win' situation in the sharing of the profits.

AfCFTA's job creation potential first calls for rise in local markets

MUCH hype is often generated when some 'local' organisation, even if it is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) secretariat as in this case, has some work to do with giant business groups.

The 'beneficiaries' in this particular case are the Mastercard Foundation and TradeMark Africa announcing a four-year fisheries programme across seven countries.

The idea is that this will enable over the creation of 240,000 job opportunities and boost trade in fish and fish products by about US\$100 million by 2028. Yes, you got it, the same US\$100 billion being recycled again.

The news was definitely that countries lined up for the project included Tanzania, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia and some island states.

The 'Women and Youth Economic Empowerment in Fisheries' programme was chiefly meant to enhance the participation of women and youths in fisheries.

This is explained by the need to work on an AfCFTA Protocol on 'Women and Youth in Trade', taken up more or less rapidly at the 14th meeting of the council of ministers responsible for trade in Zanzibar.

The programme outlook is fairly ambitious, designed to address structural challenges facing women and youth in the fisheries value chain, where there is crucially a training component meant to facilitate access to markets and finance.

How important such finance

will be and what categories of applicants it will target is a different matter.

Still, even if ready businesses will benefit alongside start-ups as public opinion wishes to see, it still can actually catalyse supply chain linkages.

The technology aspects like creating digital solutions, simplifying trade regimes, enhancing compliance with standards, thus enabling streamlined cross-border market access mean plenty of work amid vast bottlenecks.

African countries have demonstrated a habit of importing only to cover visible gaps, with little adherence to market principles as nationalist sentiments are tied up with protecting local producers.

There are times when the government faces difficulties trying to put markets on a realistic basis where consumers aren't periodically fleeced.

It might also default on abiding by regional open market grain trade, importing large amounts of fish from next door.

Challenges remain in the fisheries sub-sector, as there would have to be sufficient opportunities in agro-sector as well as industry or services for local stallholders to notice who is doing a roaring business.

Cultivating new opportunities requires breaking up state monopolies into a series of sector companies competing to provide the now monopolised services. The millions of new employees will want fish on a sustainable basis and not just when more fish is on offer.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

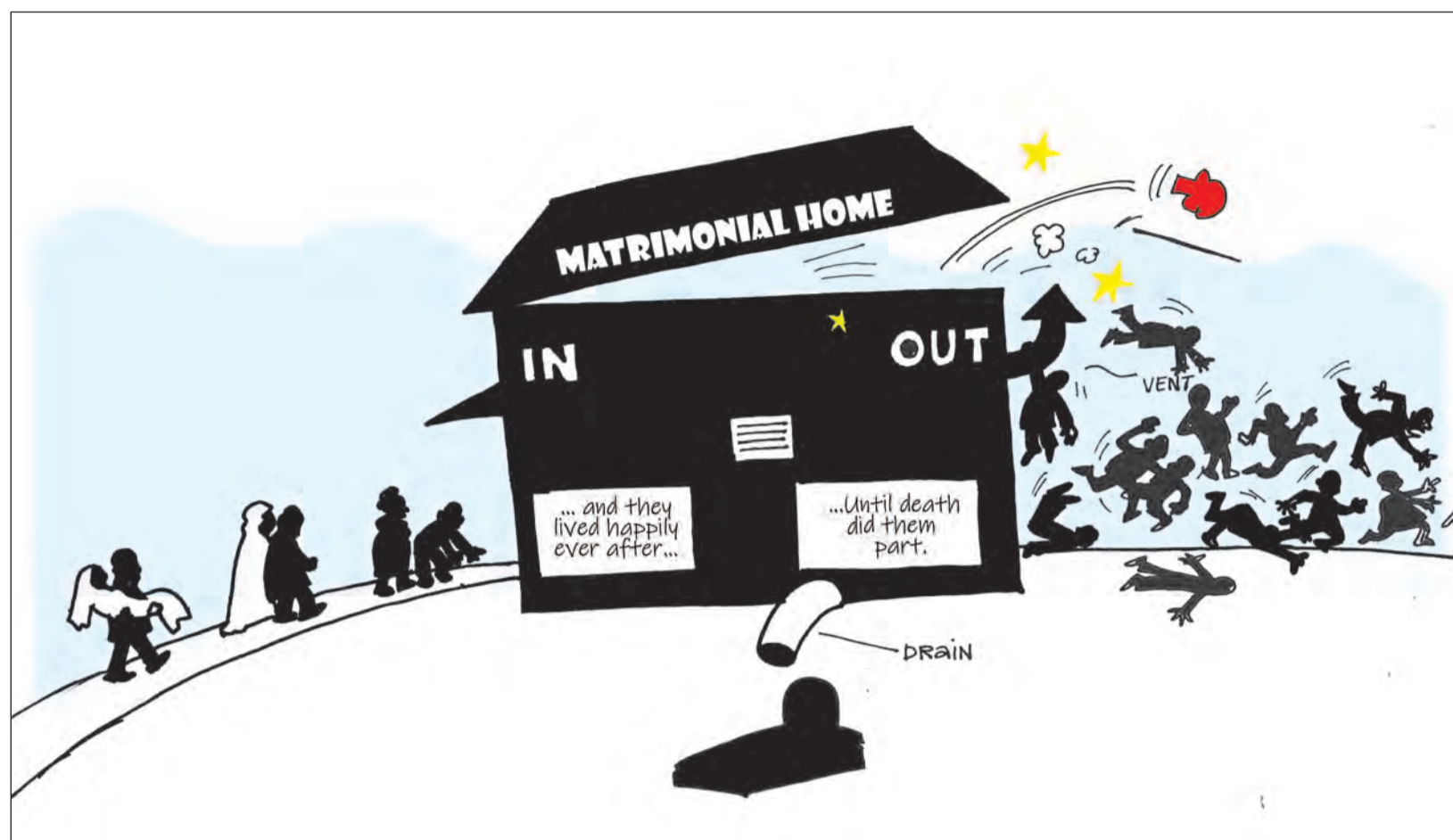
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Ethiopia's time-honoured coffee embraces vibrant business at home as well as abroad

ADDIS ABABA

HAND-PICKED by farmers throughout Ethiopia, coffee beans are sun-dried, hand-washed, roasted, ground, and then brewed multiple times a day in most households. The East African country's centuries-old coffee culture is rapidly evolving by combining cultural elements with business.

Often regarded as the birthplace of the now global coffee beans, Ethiopia is famous for its traditional coffee ceremony, which can last for hours. It also serves as an important social event, allowing relatives and friends to get together and discuss community matters. Being invited to a coffee ceremony by an Ethiopian family is considered a gesture of great respect.

While Ethiopia's time-honored coffee traditions and rituals thrive at household and community levels, with a touch of modernization, the coffee value chain has, in recent years, evolved into a more modern approach that blends cultural elements with business.

Thanks to the rapid growth of the coffee business, one can stumble upon countless traditional and contemporary coffee shops across cities and towns in Ethiopia, each offering a unique experience.

Senait Amare is one of the traditional coffee shop owners in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. While she prepares and serves coffee on site, roasting and brewing raw beans, her customers have to wait their turn in a small makeshift shop erected in one of the residen-

tial neighborhoods of the city.

"I am mostly busy serving coffee to my customers during breakfast and lunch times, as many people want to have a cup of coffee or two right after their meals," Amare said.

A cup of top-notch coffee in one of these small traditional coffee shops, often run by a single woman, would cost between 15 and 20 birr (about 26 to 34 U.S. cents). In contrast, a single cup of coffee or espresso in the fast-growing modern coffee shops, which have recently been frequented by a growing number of Ethiopians, mainly young people, would cost an average of three to five times more than in traditional coffee shops.

As a vivid reflection of the cultural tapestry, Amare's and other traditional coffee shops often add select herbs to the coffee, such as the fresh leaves of Ruta Graveolens, commonly known as Rue, for their perceived health benefits.

Amare insisted that her profit is the result of many factors, one of which is the volatile price of raw coffee beans. On average, she sells at least 70 cups of coffee per day at 20 birr per cup.

"Until recently, I sold a cup of coffee for 15 birr, but due to the rising cost of raw coffee beans and living expenses, I had to raise the price to 20 birr. The price increase deters some of my customers, but most of my regulars still come every day," she said.

Meanwhile, the growing demand for a more modern, Western-style coffee service has also created a lucrative business opportunity for companies that operate large-scale coffee processing factories.

One such case is Hadero Coffee Company, which joined Ethiopia's rapidly growing coffee value-addition business about four years ago. Named after a small coffee-producing town in the southern part of Ethiopia, the company specializes in value-addition to Ethiopia's coffee industry with a motto of "from bean-to-cup."

Mubarek Ahmed, the company's director of business development, noted that although Hadero's main goal is to increase exports of its processed coffee products to the international market, the domestic coffee market is equally important to the company's business.

"One unique thing about Ethiopia is that we consume a lot of coffee. An average person in Ethiopia consumes about three cups of coffee a day," said Ahmed, highlighting Ethiopia's vibrant coffee culture.

One of the major export destinations for Ethiopian coffee is the Chinese market, where sales have increased by an average of 27 percent in recent years, according to an Ethiopian official.

Adugna Debela, director general of the Ethiopian Coffee and

Tea Authority, said a few years ago, Ethiopia exported 8,000 to 10,000 metric tons of coffee annually to China, which was then ranked 33rd among importers of Ethiopian coffee.

"However, China has been importing up to 20,000 metric tons of Ethiopian coffee annually for the past two years, becoming the eighth-largest importer of Ethiopian coffee," Debela said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Debela said the China International Import Expo and cross-border e-commerce platforms, which serve as effective gateways for overseas brands to enter China, have presented numerous opportunities for Ethiopian coffee beans to gain popularity in the Chinese market.

Talking about the coffee sector's performance during the current Ethiopian fiscal year, Debela said Ethiopia has exported 252,000 metric tons of coffee to the world market, earning 1.28 billion U.S. dollars in the first 11 months of the 2023/2024 Ethiopian fiscal year that ends on July 7, 2024.

Ethiopia, regarded as the origin of Arabica coffee, is one of Africa's largest producers and exporters of the commodity. Coffee production is dubbed as the backbone of the country's agriculture-led economy. Widely recognized for its rich coffee quality and flavors, ranging from winy to fruity and chocolatey, the country's coffee is in high demand across the globe.



This photo taken by a mobile phone shows workers sorting roasted coffee beans at a coffee roastery in Addis Ababa on June 8, 2024. Xinhua

The big problem facing whoever wins the election

By Faisal Islam

AMID a vast expanse of rubble, dust and noise, a green crane yanks away at a corrugated roof like a frustrated dentist attempting to extract a particularly stubborn wisdom tooth.

Swindon's Honda factory - once one of the world's most advanced car factories - is being demolished, three decades after it opened.

This used to be one of the fastest-growing towns in Europe. It was one of the jewels in the crown of investments attracted to the UK by Margaret Thatcher's brand of 1980s enterprise. Swindon voted for her, John Major, Tony Blair, David Cameron, Theresa May and Boris Johnson. It was also one of the first towns to declare for Brexit, by 55%.

But last year, its council changed hands to Labour. The council has had to continue to accelerate cuts to local services, passing a budget with record cuts in order to stave off bankruptcy.

Inflation, rising care expenses, and central government grant squeezes meant cuts to libraries, the Dial-a-Ride community transport service and dimmed street lights. There has been an almost 5% rise in council tax. The council leader has warned any further cuts will affect frontline services.

What is happening in Swindon is a visible consequence of sluggish long-term economic growth. Government spending cuts, low private investment, deindustrialisation and shrinking disposable income have left scars even on what was one of the UK's famous boom towns.

The Honda site is set to become a warehousing and logistics facility. In another world, it would have been replaced by another major global manufacturer. Tesla, for example, was invited. Whereas five years ago the promise was to level up left-behind Northern towns, places like Swindon feel levelled down.

The question about growth arising in this town is vital to whoever wins Thursday's election.

Elsewhere in the world, sites like this are being re-purposed for electric car manufacturing. The Americans are pouring public money into their factories to try to compete with China, who will soon be confirmed as the world's biggest car exporter. Emerging economies from Indonesia to Vietnam to Turkey are also investing in and growing their car industries.

Indeed it was to Turkey that the entire Honda production line, including dozens of never-used industrial robots, was packed up and shipped off via the M4 and Bristol port last year.

Swindon is not just about Honda. It is part of the M4 corridor where there are plenty of jobs in the knowledge sectors, and in finance, for example at the head-



The former Honda site in Swindon will become a warehousing and logistics facility

quarters of Nationwide. The overall unemployment rate is just 2.6%, but the number of people not in work and not looking for work is 18%.

Marcus Kittridge, a former Honda engineer who now runs a cafe in the centre of town with his wife Tracey, accepts there are still "good employment prospects" but says many are at or "50p above" minimum wage, and says this has contributed to a decline in disposable income in the centre of town. "It's like a Northern town that lost its industry in the 1970s," he tells me.

They now shut the cafe at 14:00 every day because of the high price of energy. He expects to be passing on his rising costs in higher prices for the next year or two. They have also stopped selling smoothies, after a notable decline in the availability and quality of fresh fruit, which they blame on post-Brexit changes.

"We were told the quality of food was going to go up after Brexit, I can tell you now it

has not. I've barely heard any politician mention it, but it definitely has had an impact on us," Tracey says.

Might she have been a bit unlucky with her purchases of fresh produce? "If I'm unlucky, I'm getting unlucky every single day and I'm probably the unluckiest person on earth," she says.

Their experience shows that some of the undercurrents of sluggish long-term growth - high energy prices, low disposable income, low investment, and new trade barriers can combine in unusual ways.

Gary Huett, a retired graphic designer also from Swindon who got in touch as part of the BBC's Your Voice, Your Vote project inviting you to tell us what matters, wanted to know why Swindon's town centre looked like it was "rotting" and asked if anything could change.

"We've now got pound shops predominantly, and the thriving night scene, packed with the yuppie set in the 1980s and

1990s has gone and decayed."

The Conservatives say green shoots are already here. The latest growth figures for January to March show the UK now has the fastest growing economy in the G7 group of advanced economies, after last year's brief recession. Swindon's jobs record remains strong. On the Honda site, new investment has come, and the jobs, albeit in warehousing rather than manufacturing, will return.

For Labour, Swindon - a bellwether town where residents have voted the same way as the eventual national winner for the last 40 years - shows that there are no quick fixes.

They are not competing with the US or European Union (EU) with big public investments in green energy. Council spending remains unprotected and subject to the same ongoing squeeze. A looser planning regime might help build more houses or expand the solar farms that dot the countryside around the town. But the job

of transformation is very real. When asked what will happen if the economy does not grow, Labour has responded by saying some variation of "I'm not defeatist" or "we can do it".

When I interviewed shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves in Swindon, I said that if she was relying on planning changes to transform growth prospects, they were going to have to be a revolutionary, almost Thatcher-style "Big Bang". She told me: "It's big reform we are offering... unless we grow the economy we're going to be stuck in a doom loop of low growth, high taxes and poor public services."

Labour's hope is that there is a tsunami of private investment that has been held back from this country due to political and economic instability. That, the party says, can be unleashed by the tens of billions with a strong and stable pro-growth government.

When I met Chancellor Jeremy Hunt on the same day in Surrey, he said the party's fo-

cus was now on bringing tax - which his party had hiked to seven-decade highs - down.

"We put up taxes because we were helping families in the cost-of-living crisis. We were very honest about that, it was the right thing to do.

"The difference is we don't think it has to be permanent, and we are prepared to do the hard work to bring taxes down because we know a more competitive economy will see more growth and then more money for the NHS and schools."

Whoever is in Number 11 after the election, Swindon shows the massive task facing them.

It shows what an economy not growing at normal rates looks like. A former boom town struggling. The challenge is not just to deliver robust economic growth here and well beyond, but to make sure this renewal is visible to the likes of Gary, Tracey and Marcus here in Swindon and to others like them across the country.

Agencies

War-battered Sudanese white-collar workers struggle to live on side jobs

KHARTOUM

THE ongoing war in Sudan has shattered technology, health, education, and other public or private services employing numerous skillful professionals.

Sudan has been embroiled in a deadly conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces since mid-April 2023, which has claimed more than 16,650 lives, according to the Sudan situation report updated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in late June.

The war also paralyzed the entire national economy and left many firms bankrupt and public institutions closed, these professionals had to enter the highly volatile market of manual labor or become self-employed.

In the Karari locality of Omdurman city, north of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, a large shelter area for those fleeing war, former info-tech worker Bakri Merghani now sells clothing and accessories.

Before the war, the 41-year-old man served for a prestigious accounting IT company with a large salary in Khartoum.

"Soon the war broke out, my company had completely stopped, and I had to flee to northern Omdurman, where I opened a small clothing store," he told Xinhua, adding the business was bad.

"In many days there are no customers, and sometimes in an entire week, we sell things for about 5,000 Sudanese pounds (about 2.77 U.S. dollars in the parallel market)," Merghani said.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the war raised the unemployment rate in Sudan from 32.14 percent in 2022 to 47.2 percent in 2024, while a study by the American Food Policy Institute predicted Sudan to lose 5 million jobs due to the war. Tariq Shuaib, 56, a government employee before



the war, now runs a herbal medicine shop. "After the war broke out, we were looted, lost our jobs, and became without an income source," Shuaib told Xinhua, while preparing herbal solutions and other ingredients.

"Life under war is very difficult and there is no money," said the bread-earner of a family of five, noting that his remedies have served as a popular alternative to many patients who failed to get their prescribed drugs due to "scarcity and high prices."

Nevertheless, the war also revealed the bright side of humanity as Sudanese abroad donated to vulnerable families and initiatives mushroomed at home to provide urgent food aid to these households in a time of hardship.

Mohamed Abdul-Baqi, a teacher in his 59, said "such a social solidarity has greatly reduced the impact of the suffering." Sudanese state revenues dropped by more than 80 percent due to the war, Sudan's Finance Minister Jibril Ibrahim said in February.

Citing an unnamed official from Sudan's trade ministry, Al Jazeera news network reported in April that the war stopped the operation of at least 1,000 economic establishments in Sudan, mostly in the fields of industry, trade, food, and medicine, either due to material damages, looting, or burning.

The Sudanese pound, meanwhile, has continued to decline against foreign currencies, where the exchange rate of 1 dollar currently stands at 1,800 Sudanese pounds compared to about 600 pounds before the war.

Meanwhile, according to IMF's data, the inflation rate in Sudan jumped to 256.17 percent, an increase of 117.4 percent. The Sudanese government has not yet issued any reports on the inflation rate due to the war.

In recent months, international humanitarian organizations have warned against increasing famine risks in Sudan due to the prolonged conflict. On Thursday, the United Nations said the risk of famine threatens residents and people uprooted from no less than 14 areas across Sudan.



Request for Proposal (RFP) 29338

Provision of Group Life Assurance for Jhpiego Tanzania Employees

Jhpiego (pronounced "ja-pie-go"), is an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University.

For more than 45 years and in over 40 countries, Jhpiego has empowered front-line health workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families. By putting evidence-based health innovations into everyday practice, Jhpiego works to break down barriers to high-quality health care for the world's most vulnerable populations. Jhpiego's focus is on training and support for health care providers-including doctors, nurses, midwives and health educators working in limited-resource settings throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jhpiego's program management strategy recognizes the technical complexity and geographical, cultural, socio-economic and political diversity among our programs. We develop global program initiatives and technical interventions that can be adapted for country-specific applications. In support of this field-driven philosophy, Jhpiego uses a decentralized organizational structure that consists of a global "delivery system" designed to implement the entire portfolio of Jhpiego awards with assistance from key technical, programmatic and administrative staff.

Jhpiego Tanzania office hereby invites submission of proposals for Provision of Group Life Assurance for Jhpiego Tanzania employees from registered insurance companies.

Interested eligible bidders may request for a complete set of bidding documents from the following email address: TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org. A prospective bidder having any question regarding this RFQ shall send an email 3 days prior to the due date and time for submission of offers to the email address provided in this advert.

All proposals must be delivered to the physical address indicated below by **Monday, 15th July 2024 at 3:00 PM EAT**.

Jhpiego reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the bidding process and reject all proposals at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to bidders. Late proposals, electronic proposals, proposals not received shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**Country Director,
Jhpiego Tanzania,
House No. 7, Serengeti Street, Mikocheni,
P.O. Box 9170, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 756 888 388**

Was there a massacre after Kenya's anti-tax protests?

Anne Soy

IN the chaotic context of this week's violence on the streets of the Kenyan capital and a government accused of responding brutally to protests, rumours began to take on a life of their own - feeding into public anger and further stoking a situation that was already tense.

On Tuesday citizens watched in horror as a bloody day unfolded in Nairobi.

The country's police watchdog is now investigating allegations that officers shot dead protesters outside the national parliament during a day of demonstrations in which at least 23 people are reported to have died.

Within hours many Kenyans began to hear reports of another, even more brutal incident - an alleged massacre of civilians in Githurai, a residential suburb 14km (nine miles) north-east of central Nairobi.

The story quickly took hold on social media, where some people claimed more than 200 had been killed.

Reports referencing the rumours emerged in the media, followed on Wednesday by statements by reputable organisations calling for an independent inquiry. When protesters returned to the heart of Nairobi on Thursday, many spoke of the alleged massacre in Githurai as a reason.

But a BBC investigation has found no evidence of mass killings in Githurai - raising questions about how readily misinformation can spread amid a crisis.

Here we unpick how the story unfolded.

The first sense of anything significant taking place in the suburb emerged on Tuesday evening.

It had been a chaotic day across Kenya, with tens of thousands attending protests in central Nairobi which quickly escalated, leading to the storming of parliament, the shooting dead of protesters, looting and attacks on police.

After the shocking violence outside and inside parliament the demonstrators began to disperse, many headed towards their homes on the city's outskirts.

Githurai is a densely populated residential area on the Thika Highway, the main road north from the city centre.

It has rows of formal housing as well as areas of informal settlements, home to tens of thousands of commuters who make the daily trip into central Nairobi.

As dusk fell many Githurai residents suddenly be-



Police opened fire at protesters outside parliament

came aware of a significant presence of police and what many believed were the military.

Communications were patchy on Tuesday evening, with internet outages across Kenya and mobile phone signals periodically going down.

But as news of events in Githurai emerged, some videos did make their way to social media.

BBC Verify has managed to authenticate several videos posted by six different online users and from different locations around the area.

They show evidence of heavy and continuous gunfire in Githurai, around the main roundabout on the Thika Highway.

In one video, we see security forces advancing towards the protesters and some can be seen shooting - it is unclear from the video whether at the protesters or in the air, and it is impossible to know whether the guns were firing live rounds, rubber bullets or blanks.

We are yet to come across any verifiable video or image of people killed around that time.

A graphic image circulating online shows a body with at least eight bullet holes, but the nature of how it was taken makes it challenging to verify because it is taken at very close range and there are no clearly identifiable location points.

In one video clip, which we were able to authenticate by verifying identifiable locations, people can be seen walking towards Githurai.

Smoke can be seen rising from the area from a distance as the person filming walks towards the suburb. Those walking alongside the person filming are raising their hands up to show they do not pose any danger.

Another video filmed nearby the roundabout shows dozens of people gathered around the area and running away from the scene as gunfire can be heard.

In some of the videos, you can see what looks like vehicles belonging to the military or police on the road, and in two of the clips those filming talk about the road having been blocked by protesters.

Although the details are hard to verify, it is clear that a major security operation took place in the suburb.

But an analysis of social media shows misinformation about what had happened was already starting to take hold.

BBC Verify found that old videos filmed in 2022 were be-

ing reshared on social media, purporting to show protesters walking along a street carrying flaming torches at this week's protests.

The BBC Global Disinformation Unit had previously investigated the clip and discovered that it was recorded in Ghana two years ago. This is not the first time it has been misrepresented.

Despite the incomplete understanding of what happened in Githurai, as Kenyans woke up on Wednesday morning reports began to spread of an alleged massacre.

It was discussed by radio DJs, reported as rumour by some Kenyan newspapers and widely discussed online. The word "Githurai" was trending on social media sites, including X.

The state-funded Kenya National Commission on Human Rights said it had "received unverified reports of scores of residents who were killed by the stray bullets", which it said it would investigate.

And later that day the allegations were given new credibility when they were referred to directly by a leading legal organisation, the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) - a body which represents the country's lawyers and works to promote the rule of law.

Responding to widespread public anger at alleged police brutality outside parliament, LSK president Faith Odhiambo also called for an international investigation into what she called the "massacre" in Githurai.

In a press conference, carried by some Kenyan broadcasters, she said: "We call upon the international community to conduct independent investigations on the massacre meted on the residents of Githurai, Nairobi, on the night of 25 June 2024.

"I dare ask, is Githurai a protected area? Is Githurai an area that members of the public should not stay, should not live? Why was there a massacre

where people are living peacefully? We demand answers to those questions."

She added: "From social media, people have been saying that over 100 people were killed yesterday. So we cannot allow those lives to go uncounted, that the people who caused those deaths to be held accountable."

Ms Odhiambo has subsequently told the BBC that she now accepts she did not have evidence of a mass killing at the time that she gave her press conference and said she was willing to withdraw the allegation a massacre had occurred.

In an interview on Thursday, she said the LSK intended to establish a help desk in Githurai to "slowly collect" evidence of what had happened - and said in previous incidents of mass shootings in Kenya, bodies had been buried and only found later.

She said: "We need to ascertain the number. We want to set up a team to investigate the concerns that were made, the rumours that bodies were collected."

Asked specifically whether she stood by her decision to make the allegation of a massacre, she said: "Maybe in hindsight I accept that I shouldn't have called it a massacre."

Other public bodies also spoke publicly about a "massacre" at Githurai.

The word was used on Wednesday afternoon in a statement issued by the Police Reform Working Group, an alliance of organisations that campaign for better policing.

The statement said: "Reports show that police shot several people in Githurai in Nairobi - one over 40 times - between 10pm and 1am, way after the protest ended.

"We believe that the massacre that happened in Githurai was fueled by an inciteful, and insensitive address President William Ruto gave yesterday at State House. Ruto spoke at 9 pm and threatened Kenyans,

and the massacre started at 10pm."

A spokesperson for the Police Reform Working Group on Friday told the BBC the organisation's position was now that the alleged massacre at Githurai was "unverified", but declined to comment any further on its statement from Wednesday.

By Wednesday afternoon the sense of public anger about the incident in Githurai was so significant that the BBC sent a reporting team to investigate on the ground.

But by the time the crew arrived, the bustling suburb was largely calm as traders carried on with their businesses.

Many of those we spoke to confirmed Tuesday's violent confrontations between civilians and security forces.

A police vehicle was burned. "We dismantled the shell and sold what remained of it as scrap metal," one resident told us.

But no-one we spoke to reported seeing any dead bodies, nor could they identify anyone who had been killed.

However, the BBC did track down a teenager who was shot during the incident in the suburb.

Winfrey Wairimu, 16, was hit by a stray bullet as she visited her mother at her confectionery stall by a bus stop when a crowd of people ran by, pursued by security forces.

Ms Wairimu's mother Tabitha Mwaniki, 37, spoke to the BBC about what happened.

"Security officers were chasing them, lobbing teargas canisters and firing gunshots," she said.

"She called out 'Mum!' and I thought she was just in shock because of the chaos she'd witnessed. I called her name, 'Wairimu, Wairimu', but she didn't answer."

The BBC has since visited the injured teenager and her mother at Nairobi's Kenyatta National Hospital, where she underwent surgery on Wednesday for a bullet wound on her waist.

By Wednesday evening details began emerging of different allegations from Githurai - of protesters attacking police.

In its main evening bulletin on Wednesday, Kenya's Citizen TV reported that 20 officers had been injured after a police vehicle was attacked - and repeated the allegation heard earlier by the BBC that another police vehicle had been burned.

Despite the confusing picture about what had happened, Githurai remained part of the conversation in Nairobi as the week progressed.

On Thursday, BBC reporters met several people joining renewed protests in the capital who said news of the alleged massacre had in part inspired them to demonstrate.

One woman told us: "People were massacred yesterday at home. I don't understand why people are not actually talking about what happened in Githurai.

"The internet was down, electricity was down. So many deaths were recorded, we were hearing gunshots from wherever. But there's nobody actually talking about what happened in Githurai.

BBC

INVITATION FOR PROVISION OF PROJECT AUDIT SERVICES

TaTEDO Sustainable Energy Services Organization (TaTEDO -SESO) wishes to engage the services of an audit firm for the purpose of auditing the program leading the change, which is implemented in partnership with WWF Tanzania. The audit shall be carried out in accordance with international audit Standards (ISA) Issued by IAASB and International Standards on Related Services (ISRS)4400.

Objectives and Scope of the Audit.

The objective is to audit the financial report for the period 1/7/2023-30/6/2024 as submitted to WWF Tanzania and to express an audit opinion according to ISA, applying ISA 800/ISA 805, on whether the financial report of the program is in accordance with the cooperation partner's accounting records and WWF Tanzania requirements for financial reporting as stipulated in the agreement including appendices between WWF Tanzania and TaTEDO-SESO.

Interested applicants can obtain detailed reporting requirements and budget to carry out the audit upon request through email energy@tatedo.or.tz.

Only expressions of interest received within 14 days from the date of this advertisement will be considered. The audit of the program is required to be concluded before **31/8/2024**.

Executive Director,
TaTEDO SESO,
P.O Box 32794,
Dar es Salaam.

**CAPITAL
RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI
JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

TCRA engages broadcasting stakeholders to boost content

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has started engaging various stakeholders in a move to build mutual trust and ensure responsible compliance.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, TCRA director general said recently in Dar es Salaam that the move is part of 'ex-ante' regulation, which seeks to prevent or control the breaches of licence conditions and regulations. This is opposed to ex-post regulation, which focuses on reprisals including fines and sanctions.

According to him, TCRA's new approach to broadcasting content regulation underlines the authority's commitment to proactive regulation.

"This involves engaging stakeholders on issues to minimize breaches of licence conditions and regulations and subsequent punitive measures, taking into account that TCRA regulates broadcasting content in Tanzania's Mainland, while in Zanzibar, by the Broadcasting Commission," he said.

TCRA has enhanced its oversight functions in broadcasting, through stakeholder engagement, monitoring compliance and promoting quality local content. The latest initiatives include a targeted skill development programme for licenced broadcasting content service licensees. It was launched in Dar es Salaam on 25 May 2024, he said.

It starts with planning and developing policies and strategies for the sector. Regulation involves licensing infrastructure and related activities in the supply chain and content-related matters.

Broadcasting is a means of communication that reaches more audiences in real time than other mass communications media. The former is the most universally accessible means of communication.

It is thus regulated due to the nature and power of radio and television. They use a valuable national resource - radio frequency spectrum, and service providers are obliged to use them responsibly.

A regulator is also responsible for protecting consumers of broadcasting content against harmful and offensive content. Responsible broadcasting also safeguards national values.

TCRA has a dedicated five-member committee on broadcasting content. It monitors broadcasting content and ethics compliance and handles complaints. The training programme will involve the Committee and veteran media practitioners including members of the recently-formed association of veteran radio presenters.

One of the 17 recommendations of the TCRA-organized 2024 annual broadcasters' conference in Dodoma in February this year urged content service providers to introduce internal editorial policies that promoted quality content and professionalism.

A recent TCRA survey shows repeated breaches of broadcasting regulations in 10 areas. These include the presentation of content unsuitable for children before midnight. Some of the stations had departed from standard studio ethics and professionalism and did not observe accuracy, impartiality and fairness in their content.

Tanzania's digital broadcasting platforms now reach more than 50 per cent of the population, with the acquisition of decoders for land-based television services increasing by 22.4 per cent between December 2020 and March this year.

Digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasts reach 56 per cent of the population Signals delivered through satellite, a category known as direct to the

home (DTH), cover the whole country. Tanzania was the first in East and Southern Africa to migrate to DTT in 2014, ahead of the international dead; line of June 2015.

DTT has ushered in new digital television experiences in terms of superior quality, efficient spectrum use and wide programme choice through multiple channels.

April 2024 broadcasting sub-sector statistics issued by the TCRA Director General, Dr Jabiri Bakari, show increases of between 4.6 per cent and 400 per cent in some licence categories between April 2023 and April 2024. For example, district subscription television licences quadrupled from two to nine in 2024.

Digital terrestrial television licences increased by 4.6 per cent, from 65 to 68; cable television licences by 5.3 per cent; from 57 to 60 April 2024 and radio stations by 7.4- from 215 to 231.

TCRA also promotes community broadcasting as part of its greater stakeholder engagement in local content production.

The Community Broadcasting Services Regulations TCRA introduced in August 2023 seeks to boost local content production and foster greater community engagement in broadcasting.

Community broadcasting service providers are required to ensure that at least 80% of their broadcast content is around the local community. Their programmes should focus on the local community's aspirations, including education, health, economic development and culture.

Dr Bakari further explained that the regulations signified a significant step towards empowering communities through the media. They seek to ensure that broadcasting services meet respective communities' specific needs and dynamics, and foster a more informed educated and cohesive Tanzanian society, he added.

Dr Bakari explains that TCRA promotes planning, producing, distributing and airing broadcasting content that upholds the national heritage, customs and cultures of all Tanzanians.

TCRA, the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) and the University of Dodoma are implementing a phased programme to promote Tanzanian traditional dances.

Traditional dances from 120 tribes and communities would be recorded in video and audio and the contents distributed to operators for onward broadcasting.

TCRA recently met local independent content producers and urged them to enhance collaboration for their growth.

Dr Bakari told them that unity would enable the government to more effectively support their endeavours and promote the development and accessibility of high-quality content nationwide. He advised them to revive the Tanzania Independent Producers Association (TAIPA).

Dr Bakari explains in the quarterly report that TCRA would work with independent content producers to improve quality. Plans were underway to facilitate concessionary term loans to content producers and broadcasting stations as a strategy to promote local content production.

Radio and television broadcasting regulations require radio and television stations to ensure that at least 10 per cent of the local content they air is produced and supplied to the licensees by independent producers.



Dr Jabiri Bakari, TCRA director general



ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION



IN THE MATTER OF THE MERGER NOTIFICATION IN RELATION TO THE ACQUISITION OF SHARES AT EMERSON ON HURUMZI ZANZIBAR (TARGET FIRM), BY MOUNT KILIMANJARO SAFARI INC (APPLICANT)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION

(Made under Section 5(1), 49 and 50 of the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018 and Regulation 48 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2019)

The Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission (ZFCC) is an Independent Government Institution established under the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act, No.5 of 2018 to promote and protect fair and effective Competition in trade and to protect consumers from misleading market conduct.

The Act empowers the Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission (ZFCC) to review, investigate, and prohibit any proposed mergers and acquisitions that contravene the stipulations of sections 49 of the Zanzibar Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018.

Conferring to Section 50 of the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No.5 of 2018 read together with Regulation 32 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2018, ZFCC has received merger notifications to the effect that Mount Kilimanjaro Safari Club Inc (Acquiring firms) intends to acquire 82% shares of Hurumzi Limited (Target Firm) (Target Firm).

Mount Kilimanjaro Safari Club Inc is incorporated and existing under the laws of British Virgin Island Samoa, with registration number 68443. And Emerson on Hurumzi Limited as a target firm, is a private limited liability company incorporated under the laws of Zanzibar, with registration number L.30252013.

The Acquiring Firm and Target Firm are collectively referred to as the "Merging Parties" Based on Share transfer agreement entered between Emerson on Hurumzi Limited (seller) and Mount Kilimanjaro Safari Club Inc (buyer). The Acquiring firm intends to acquire 84 % Shares of the target subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement.

ZFCC is currently investigating the intended acquisitions in line with the provisions of the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018 and the Fair Competition Regulations, 2019. Pursuant to Regulation 48 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2019, parties (both legal and natural) who deem themselves as having sufficient interest in this merger, or, if the merger is not objected to, they will have or are likely to have material effect on their interests, are hereby, NOTIFIED to Director General their interests and or objections (if any) or file any information that will assist the ZFCC in reaching just and reasonable decisions with regard to Acquiring Firm's notification of the intended merger.

All such parties shall file and register such interest(s) or information by way of written submissions to the ZFCC within seven (7) days, starting from the first day of publication of this public notice. Submissions filed after the said deadline shall not be accepted.

Registration of the said interests/objections or information should be accompanied by a duly filled Form ZFCC No. 10 of the Fair Competition Commission Regulations, 2019. Failure to fill in Form ZFCC. No 10 will deny a party the right to make any oral submissions before the Commission and the presence of that party in the proceedings will be as an observer only.

Parties should take note that pursuant to Regulation 10 (4) of the Fair Competition Regulation, 2019 as applied to this Public Notice, ZFCC shall not entertain a subject of the petition where: (a) it does not fall under Act or Regulation (b) it has no material effect on competition; and (c) the same in whole or in part is before any court, tribunal, arbitration, judicial or quasi-judicial body or was previously determined by any court, tribunal, arbitration, judicial or quasi-judicial body.

Form (ZFCC NO 10) can be collected at ZFCC office.

Submissions must be submitted to the ZFCC at the address below.

DIRECTOR GENERAL,
The Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission,
Darajani,
P.O. Box 1066,
Telephone No: 0242232013,
E-mail: info@zfcc.go.tz,
Zanzibar.

Regards,

Mohammed Sijamini Mohammed
DIRECTOR GENERAL.
FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION
ZANZIBAR

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Wild elephants give names to those they talk to, study finds

By Don Pinnock

BEING addressed by name was considered exclusive to humans - until now. A new study in Amboseli National Park in Kenya has found that African savannah elephants have name-like calls for one another, in the way humans do - a finding that potentially radically expands our knowledge of language evolution.

Researchers also found a huge variety of other sounds in their communication which could constitute language, but we do not yet know how to interpret it.

While dolphins and parrots will imitate the call of another addressing them, human names are not imitations of the sounds but abstract labels. Naming objects or individuals without relying on imitation radically expanded the expressive power and development of human language.

Elephant and human evolution diverged tens of millions of years ago, but both species are socially complex and highly communicative. They live within family units and larger clan structures similar to our complex social networks. Similar needs, says the study, are likely to have driven the development of the naming of other individuals with abstract sounds.

Kurt Fristrup, a research scientist at Columbia State University, worked out a way to detect subtle differences in call structure and, with colleague Michael Pardo, trained a machine-learning model to identify who an elephant was addressing based on its acoustic features.

When they played back recorded calls, elephants responded to those that were addressed to them by calling back or approaching the speaker.



Calls meant for other elephants received less attention. Videos taken by researchers show how the elephants respond to call recordings naming them. In one, an elephant named Margaret

communication about things that do not make any sound. This process must be learned because an individual is not born knowing the names of all their future family or the world they will live in.

To do this is mentally very demanding, say the researchers, requiring an individual to make an abstract connection between a sound and who they are addressing.

Vocal labels could enhance coordinating ability when elephants are out of sight of one another and allow callers to attract the attention of a specific intended receiver while greeting rumbles are produced in close proximity when the caller and receiver have visual contact.

"Vocal labelling in greeting rumbles could possibly strengthen social bonds with specific individuals. Humans experience a positive affective response and increased willingness to comply with requests when someone remembers their name."

A study in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences last year found that elephant "self-domestication" may have led to some of their advanced traits, such as complex communication, mourning their dead, helping sick or injured elephants and even recognising themselves in mirrors.

According to the self-domestication hypothesis, humans have gone through a process of "selection against aggression" that was self-induced and not forced.

Study co-author and Max Planck Institute evolutionary biologist Limor Raviv and her colleagues looked at how African savannah elephants compared with humans and bonobos on 20 different measures. They found that all three species share some of the same physical features and display the same habits.

Elephants play, are social, have a long childhood, and "babysit" for the offspring of other members of their groups. Both bonobos and humans also do this. Additionally, wild African elephants have a shortened jawbone, which is a trait shared by domesticated animals such as cats. They also appear to be able to restrain themselves from being aggressive to others.

The team suggested that self-domestication in elephants might be related to their large size and relative strength.

"This means that elephants are generally less worried about evading or fighting other animals for their survival," Raviv said.

"This kind of 'safe environment' could relax selective pressures for aggression, free cognitive resources, and open up more opportunities for exploration, communication and play." **DM**

appears to almost immediately perk up to a rumble recording addressed to her.

Another elephant named Donatella shows the animal issuing a call response after hearing her name and approaching the recording. A separate video shows Margaret raising her head to a call addressed to another elephant, but not responding.

In the study, published in the June edition of the journal Nature Ecology and Evolution, Pardo and the team used machine-learning methods to analyse recordings of 469 calls or "rumbles - harmonically rich, low-frequency and individually distinct sounds" - made by groups in the Amboseli National Park and Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves in Kenya.

Naming has profound implications, said co-author George Wittemyer, and means elephants may be capable of abstract thought.

"If all we could do was make noises that sounded like what we were talking about, it would vastly limit our ability to communicate."

The use of learned arbitrary labels is part of what gives human language its uniquely broad range of expression.

"One of the exciting things about this study," said Wittemyer, "is it gives us some insight into possible drivers of why we evolved these abilities."

If elephants can name each other, what else are they capable of naming in their speech?

Elephants are great mimics and have many call types. Contact rumbles are long-distance calls produced when the caller is out of sight and attempting to reinitiate contact. Greeting rumbles are produced when one elephant approaches another to within touching distance and caregiving rumbles are produced by an adult or adolescent female while suckling, comforting or rousing a calf.

According to the study, vocal labels account for only a small fraction of the total variation in these sounds. They may be embedded within a call that conveys multiple additional messages. Researchers speculate that vocal labelling - abstract naming - may be the main function of "language" in wild elephants.

Most human words, including names, are arbitrary, says the study. They're not imitations of sounds or tied to physical properties. Arbitrariness is crucial to language because it enables

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 123

1 2 3 4 5
6
7
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9
10
11
12
13
14

- Across:
- 1 a topic
 - 6 narcotic
 - 7 standard things
 - 8 on a line at right angles to a ship's or an aircraft's length
 - 10 sky in Kiswahili
 - 11 hot drink taken for breakfast
 - 13 Populous country in the World
 - 14 Administrative Capital of Tanzania
- Down:
- 1 her mother city is Dodoma
 - 2 irritated
 - 3 a large venomous African snake
 - 4 Irish gaelic language
 - 5 a loud, deep, resonant sound
 - 9 a particular stage in someone's life
 - 11 Mexican dish consisting folded tortilla filled with spicy meat or
 - 12 former monetary unit of India and Pakistan

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

| | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| CEDE | AIDE | EVEN |
| YES | DRECKY | MATE |
| ALIKE | DARE | USA: SUE |
| QUEST | RIOTOUS | SUN DECK |
| SURE: AN | EDOS:NAME | ET SEQ |
| | | ROOD |

Yesterday's solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | M | E | G | A | C | D | R | O | P | O | F |
| A | N | U | B | I | A | R | O | D | E | | |
| T | I | D | A | L | S | O | M | E | N | E | |
| G | E | V | E | N | T | P | E | A | C | E | Y |
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| A | H | T | W | O | I | N | S | A | N | E | S |
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RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
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| TIME PROGRAMME | TIME PROGRAMME | TIME PROGRAMME | TIME PROGRAMME | TIME PROGRAMME | TIME PROGRAMME | TIME PROGRAMME |
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Tanzanian firm joins global entrepreneurship network

By Guardian Correspondent, Nairobi

THE East Africa Foods Tanzania (EA Foods) has been selected to join the newest class of Endeavor Entrepreneurs at the recently concluded 99th International Selection Panel (ISP) held in Nairobi.

EAF was among the 30 entrepreneurs invited to Nairobi from across the globe to make their pitches to a select panel of successful entrepreneurs, investors and corporate leaders.

They become the first enterprise from Tanzania to be selected for this impactful network.

This milestone by EA Foods is proof that "Endeavor doesn't create entrepreneurship; it already exists in every country including Tanzania. We enhance the conditions under which it can thrive," said Linda Rottenberg Co-founder & CEO, Endeavor, during the announcement ceremony in Nairobi, Kenya.

"The selection panel was very impressed by the strides you have made as a company over the more than 10 years you have been in operation. We look forward to supporting you to scale your enterprise to the next level, and inspiring the next generation of founders in Tanzania and beyond as you pay it forward. We hope to see more high-impact founders from Tanzania and to the continued growth of a vibrant ecosystem," Linda emphasized while congratulating EA Foods for making a strong pitch that earned them a place as the newest Endeavor Entrepreneurs.

Elia Timotheo and Diana Michael of EA Foods expressed their appreciation at being given the opportunity to partici-

pate in the international selection panel. "As an enterprise we are excited and are looking forward to the curated, one-on-one world-class mentorship sessions that will enable EA Foods to achieve its growth potential. These three days have been very insightful as our team has been able to interact with other entrepreneur candidates and global business leaders who have provided deep insights into how we can refine our business strategy for success," they jointly said.

EA Foods is a data and tech driven aggregator and distributor of fresh, horticultural produce in Tanzania.

The company serves at least 7,000 informal vendors daily, while sourcing fresh produce from more than 10,000 farmers from various parts of the country and making about 4,000 deliveries daily.

EA Foods bridges the tech and information gap among informal vendors and smallholder farmers, ensuring fair prices and consistent, high-quality produce for all stakeholders that work with the company.

"The two and a half days selection process involved interviews, deliberations and networking between entrepreneur candidates and global business leaders which is a very critical component that enabled them to refine their ideas and when implemented will ultimately impact the success of their businesses," said Maryanne Ochola, the Managing Director, Endeavor Kenya.

Other entrepreneurs selected include blnk (Egypt), Chickin (Indonesia), Matta (Nigeria), Pick Up coffee (Philippines) and Insider (Brazil).

DSE records 38.9bn/- turnover in Q2, 2024

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) recorded a turnover of 38.9bn/- during the second quarter of this year, an increase from 28.7bn/- recorded during similar quarter of last year.

The market report shows that the market was dominated by local investors as their participations accounted 89.44 percent and 78.04 percent of total value of shares bought and sold. However, the amount was lower than 57.6bn/- total turnover recorded during the first quarter of this year.

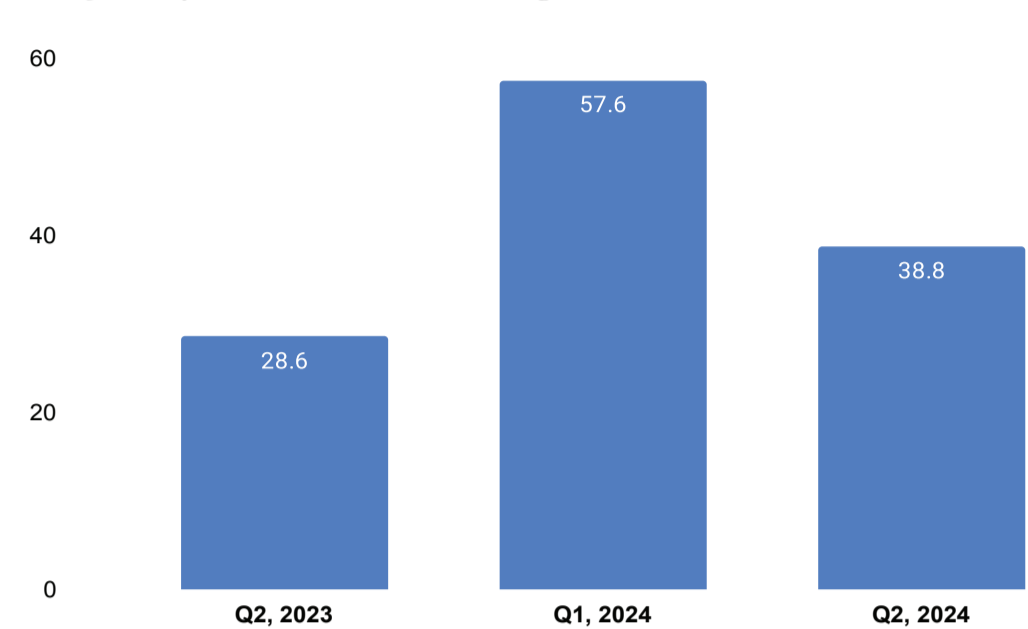
The report shows foreign investors recorded net outflows amounting to 4.4bn/- after selling shares valued 8.5bn/- against 4.1bn/- spent in purchasing shares.

Total market capitalization also gained by 1.8trn/- to 16.8trn/- at the end of the second quarter of this year from 15trn/- recorded during the end of the second quarter of last year due to gaining of share prices among local and foreign counters.

The domestic market capitalization also improved by 1trn/- after closing at 11.85trn/- at the end of the second quarter of this year from 10.8trn/- recorded at the end of the second quarter of 2023, although was lower than 11.88trn/- recorded during the end of the first quarter of this year.

According to the mar-

DSE Quarterly Turnovers in Billion Shillings



ket report, all share index (DSEI), which measures the performance of both local and cross listed companies went up during the reported quarter after closing at 2,016.97 points, compared with 1,800.04 points at the end of the second quarter of last year.

Tanzania Share Index (TSI), which measures the performance of local counters closed at 4,475.21 points at the end of the quarter, from 4,091.81 points recorded at the end of the second quarter of last year, but lower than 4,486.39 percent recorded at the end of the first quarter of this year.

The improvement of local counters share index resulted from an increase of share prices among banking, finance and in-

vestment counters, with NMB Bank counter taking the lead.

Banking, Finance and Investment Index (BI) gained tremendously to close at 5,205.50 points at the end of last quarter from 3,929.62 points recorded during the end of similar quarter of last year, led by NMB Bank, CRDB and NICO counters.

NMB share price closed at 5,200/- at the end of last quarter, compared to 3,640/- recorded at the end of the second quarter of last year, while CRDB Bank and NICO share price increased to 520/- and 800/- respectively, compared with 470/- and 435/- recorded at the end of Q2, 2023.

The Commercial Services Index (CS) slightly de-

clined during the reported quarter after closing at 2,134.27 points on June 28, 2024, compared to 2,155.32 points recorded at the end of the second quarter of last year, due to decline of Swissport counter share price.

Other counters which recorded the increased trends during the reviewed quarters were self-listed DSE, East African Breweries Limited (EABL), Jubilee Holdings Limited (JHL), TOL Gases, KCB Bank, Tanzania Portland Cement Companies Limited (TPCC), Tanga Cement (TCCL) and TCCI Investment, which recently re-branded as Afriprise.

However, Swissport, Mkombozi Commercial Bank, which recently upgraded to Main Investment

Market from Entreprises Growth Market segment and DCB Bank slightly declined during the period.

On government debt market (bonds), the report shows a total face value of 776.46bn/- and transaction value of 853.95bn/- were recorded during the second quarter of this year, lower than a face and transactions values amounting to 1.12bn/- and 1.2bn/- respectively recorded during similar quarter of last year.

The corporate bonds market more than doubled during the period after closing at a face value of 772.6m/- and transaction value of 642.9m/-, compared to a face value of 226m/- and transaction value of 202m/- recorded during Q2, 2024.

Singida cotton farmers gain modern skills in agronomy

By Correspondent
Valentine Oforo, Singida

A TOTAL of 5,008 cotton farmers in Singida region have benefitted from modern crop's planting skills training provided through Cotton Victoria Project (CVP).

Cotton Victoria Project (CVP) is a brainchild between the government of Brazil and the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Ukiriguru Center.

Speaking during the farmer's field day (FFD) held over the weekend in Mayaha village, Minyughe Ward of Ikungi in Singida Region, the Director of TARI Ukiriguru Centre and CVP Coordinator Dr. Paul Saidia said the initiative has brought major transformation in the country's cotton production corridors.

The project was introduced in the 2016/17 growing season in Mwanza region, before extended to Geita, Tabora, Katavi, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Kigoma, Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida and Morogoro regions.

Through the project, the coordinator detailed that the involved farmers have successfully succeeded in increasing production and productivity by 30 percent to 2,800kg per acre.

"We have managed to invent a useful planting machine, called Rafiki Planter, the facility which assists farmers with the easy planting process," he unveiled.



Cotton farmers in Ikungi District, Singida Region are trained on how best to grow the crop. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

"If using human power, one hectare is planted for three hours, but if using cows and mechanized tools, one hectare can be planted for one hour and 40 minutes respectively.

Juma Salum, the agriculture officer from the Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) who supervises farmers in Mkalama and Iramba districts in the region expressed that the project has assisted the region to double annual production from 2 million Kilograms to over 4 million between 2022/23 and 2023/24 growing seasons.

According to him, the region is working on to harvest 50 million Kilogram by 2025.

Solo Lameck, the leading cotton farmer in Maya-

ha village said the project has assisted him to transform his cultivation scope and productivity.

"Formerly I used to cultivate very locally, whereby I used to get between 200 and 300kg but after being empowered by the Cotton Victoria Project currently I harvest between 150 and 200kg per acre," he said.

The farmer added that through mentoring from the agricultural experts, they have learned on how to cultivate the crop organically.

"The project has transformed my economic status to the bright future, to the tune of enrolling my children at better schools, purchasing livestock and expansion of my cultivated land," he unveiled.

Thomas Daudi, the Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB)'s Cotton Victoria Project Focal Point said the vision of the initiative provided training, technical assistance and demonstration plots to thousands of cotton farmers to boost yield.

On his side, Tawanda Mutonhori, the BioSustain Project Manager said the company is working to assist the cotton farmers adopt recommended organic practices, as well as relevant technologies.

Cotton is produced in 17 regions and 56 districts by 500,000 farmers, covering a total land of 1,000,000 acres, with the production estimated between 122,000 and 370,000 tons annually.



PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL AMNESTY TO ALL EMPLOYERS WITH OUTSTANDING ARREARS OF STATUTORY CONTRIBUTIONS AND PENALTY

THE NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY (NSSF) WISHES TO INFORM ITS ESTEEMED EMPLOYERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT IT HAS OFFERED A GENERAL AMNESTY TO ALL EMPLOYERS WITH OUTSTANDING ARREARS OF STATUTORY CONTRIBUTIONS AND PENALTY AS PER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS;

- 1) Employers who will pay all their outstanding arrears of statutory contributions (principal amount) owed to the Fund on or before 31st July, 2024 and remain current in remittance of their statutory contributions by 31st July, 2024 will be relieved of 100% of any overdue penalties.
- 2) Employers who will pay all their outstanding arrears of statutory contributions (principal amount) owed to the Fund on or before 31st August, 2024 and remain current in remittance of their statutory contributions will be relieved of 75% of any overdue penalties.
- 3) Employers who do not have any outstanding arrears of statutory contributions (principal amount) as of 31st May, 2024 and until 31st July, 2024 will be relieved of 100% of any overdue penalties.

The amnesty period during which the employers are obliged to settle all their outstanding arrears of statutory contributions (principal amount) runs from 01st June, 2024 to 31st August, 2024. For more information, please contact us through toll free (call center) number 0800116773 or visit the nearest NSSF office.

Issued by:
Public Relations and Members Education Unit

Reasons for boom in filling stations unveiled

By Francis Kajubi

THE increase of imported vehicles, including private cars, modern luxurious buses, city commuter buses and cargo trucks over the last three years has played a significant role in the mushrooming of filling stations in urban Tanzania.

Also, the increase of ride-hailing business in big cities and towns across the country has also stimulated the demand for fuels.

The government and private sector are also reasonably guaranteeing sustainability and security of fuel business, due to increasing importations of vehicles.

For instance, during the financial year 2024/25 the government has allocated 890bn/- for procurement of vehicles to facilitate daily operations of government.

Way back in the financial year 2023/24, the government also allocated 554bn/- in procurement of new vehicles for the same purposes.

The country's vehicle budget for both public and private sector is estimated at 2bn/- annually, which has been good news for fuels importers.

According to Statista Market Forecast, Tanzania is projected to witness a substantial increase in revenue within the ride-hailing market, amounting to US\$143.20 million at the end of 2024.

The revenues are expected to grow annually at a rate of 12.37 percent from 2024 to 2028, resulting in the market volume projection of US\$228.30 million by 2028.

The number of users in this market is also projected to increase to nine million users by 2028, from currently estimated over four million.

The user penetration rate is expected to be 10.8 percent in 2024 and 11.6 percent by 2028. Moreover, the average revenue per user (ARPU) is expected to be US\$19.18 in 2028.

The German-based online data gathering company also projects that by 2028, 100 percent of the total revenue generated in this market in Tanzania, will be through online hail-ride sales.

Interviewed pump attendants in various filling stations in Dar es Salaam reveal that the growth in the importation of Bajaj motorcycles, Boxer motorcycles and vehicles has not only benefited the owners and the government through sales and taxes, but has further seen filling stations owners generating supernormal profits.

Statista projects that the revenue in the overall motorcycle market in the country will reach US\$262.80 million in 2024.

The market is expected to show a compound annual growth rate (CAGR 2024-2029) of 0.25 percent, resulting in a projected market volume of US\$266.10 million at the end of 2029.

The largest segment in the market is on-road motorcycles, with a projected market volume of US\$125.20 million in 2024.

It states that the country's motorcycle market is experiencing a surge in demand due to the country's growing population, incomes and the need for affordable transportation.

Pump attendants interviewed said that customers for the filling stations have been increasing on a daily basis.

Idd Yusuph, Puma Energy pump attendant at Mwenge in the city said that the station has 12 pump nozzles, six for diesel and six for petrol.

According to him, each pump attendant serves not less than 300 customers with vehicles on day shifts and not less than 180 on night shifts.

According to him, the filling station receives hundreds of customers because of the company's prestige brand that has won consumers' trust for decades now.

He said customers have currently even doubled as compared to three years ago.

"Over 3,000 Bajaj motorcycles and Boxer motorcycles drivers are served on a daily basis mostly on weekdays. A minimum of 12,000 liters are sold on a daily basis from a total daily fuel reserve which stands at 16,000 liters," said Yusuph.

The Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) re-

port for the year ended June 2022 states that in 2021/22 a total of 4.09 billion liters of petroleum products were imported into the country compared to 3.83 billion liters in 2020/21.

Ten Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) own filling stations that dominate the market share, with a collective 65.5 percent.

Puma Energy, TotalEnergies and GBP forms 10.8 percent, 10 percent and 7.6 percent respectively are the top three OMCs of the total 31 OMCs featured in the auditing report with the largest market share in imports and supply of the petroleum products.

The remaining seven OMCs with their market share percentage in brackets are MOIL (7.2 percent), Oryx Energies (6.5 percent), Acer Petroleum (5.3 percent), Lake Oil (5.3 percent), Oilcom (4.5 percent), Afroil Investment (4.2 percent) and Camel Oil (4.1 percent).

Dr Doto Biteko, Energy Minister said when tabling the ministry's budget for 2024/25 in the National Assembly in April that as of March this year a total of 2,522 petrol and diesel filling stations were licensed by the EWURA countrywide to run fuel businesses, an increase of 9.8 percent from 2,297 licensed as of March 2023.

Dr Biteko said that OMCs doubled from 31 in June 2022 to 75 as of March 2024.

Matrona Ngowi, Manager Oryx Energies at Mwenge filling station pleaded for the district councils not to issue change of land use permits to construct filling stations within human settlements that put lives and properties at risk.

"For instance, along Kwa Mtogole road, there are about four filling stations next to residential areas. I think something is wrong with the permits issuance," said Matrona.

According to her, there are places where investors should focus on putting up new filling stations.

She cited the Ubungu Maji to Kibamba suburb as a potential area where new filling stations can be constructed.

She said that along the road there are only four filling stations, one at Ubungu, two at Kimara Baruti and one at Kimara Korogwe, an area which investors need to capitalize.

"There are many trucks along the road which is an opportunity for the business community. We have one along the road, but it needs a fuel capital of between 300m/- and 400m/- apart from land and equipment costs for setting up a filling station along the road," she clarified.

She said that at the filling station there are 12 pump nozzles, six for diesel and six for petrol. The filling station has a daily fuel reserve of 14,000 liters on a daily basis of which an average 11,000 liters are



A pump attendant fills a car with fuel. File Photo.

sold to an estimated 3,600 customers every 24 hours.

"The key challenge I face at this station is for Bajaj and Bodaboda drivers to camp in front of the entrance and exit points waiting for customers. The scenario scares away truck drivers in fear of causing accidents. I have consulted the traffic police, but it seems my advice is not to work," said Matrona.

Just on the other side of the road, Oilcom filling station is offering the same service.

Feisal Rajabu, a lead pump attendant, said there are 12 pump nozzles at the station, whereby 10,000 liters of diesel and petrol are sold at the station every 24 hours serving an estimated 3,200 customers.

Bazil Jumanne, a pump attendant at Lake Oil filling stations Ilala said that he has witnessed an increase in the number of vehicles, Bajaj and Boxer motorcycles customers since November 2021.

"I serve a maximum of 700 vehicles on day shifts. Even in night shifts there are many customers. This city never sleeps. I work all night long" said Jumanne.

He said the business was quite difficult about three years ago, when most of the filling station investors opted to close their businesses.

"It seems like people make more money these days than the past three years. The filling station business is even profitable as days pass by, that's why everyone accumulating handsome bucks is rushing to open one," he said.

The Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) annual reports show that imported vehicles destined to Tanzania

have been on the rise since 2022.

From December 2022, over 2,000 vehicles were offloaded on a daily basis throughout the year at the port of Dar es Salaam.

The 2022 annual report shows that 40 percent of the imported vehicles were destined to Tanzania while the remaining 60 percent were for transit to neighboring landlocked countries.

With 40 percent of the imported vehicles it means that 800 vehicles were on a daily basis destined to Tanzania as of December 2022.

The number further translates that 292,000 vehicles were destined to Tanzania throughout the 365 days of the year 2022.

Out of curiosity, this journalist has learned that players in the transport and logistics sectors had since mid-2021 imported modern luxurious buses and trucks for fuel transportation among other vehicles.

For instance, on March 28, 2023 it was reported by online news platforms that Esther Express had imported 19 modern luxurious buses to strengthen its transportation services from Dar es Salaam to the Central and Northern regions of the country.

On September 28, 2023, five months later, Abood Bus Service introduced 12 modern dragon buses into the passengers' transportation business.

On January 12th this year, Happy Nation received 21 modern dragon buses at the port of Dar es Salaam to strengthen the company's competitiveness in the passenger transportation business.

The buses importation to the

country is catalyzing the increment in the number of filling stations opened on a daily basis.

Emmanuel Gilbert, TPDC Gas Business Manager said that the minimum cost for equipment required for construction of a fuel station in urban areas is 120m/- while in rural areas it fetches a minimum of 75m/-.

"This is the reason why business people are rushing for petrol filling stations instead of CNG filling stations whose facility equipment fetched up to 1bn/- apart from land cost," said Gilbert.

According to him, in urban areas, a fuel station project can be set up at a plot covering between 1,000 square meters and 2,000 square meters.

In rural projects, one needs a plot that covers not less than 400 square meters and that doesn't exceed 800 square meters.

This journalist has learned that the mushrooming of filling stations in urban areas has been beneficial to common people who managed to acquire land in prime areas over forty years ago.

Demand for plots in urban areas for setting up fuel stations has turned into a blessing for some of the old school landlords.

Abdallah Njoroge (73) who currently resides in Chanika suburb of Dar es Salaam sold his Tandale 1,450 square meters plot in Kinondoni district council at 800m/- in August 2022 to a businessman who wanted to set up a filling station on the land he secured from his friend at 380/- in 1972.

"I spent part of the money to build the house I'm living in today with my family and siblings that fetched only

130m/-," he said noting that he secured 120 acres of farm land in Mofu village, Mlimba district of Morogoro region and another 100 acres in Mbingu village in the same district.

The father of six, he now owns two ten-room properties for renting retail shoppers at Chanika center and Machimbo center in Ilala district of Dar es Salaam.

He owns six Bajaj motorcycles and five Boxer motorcycles all operational in the city.

The old schoolman, who still looks healthy, owns an IST car.

He has delegated the management of his belongings to his five children while staying at home with his last born son, wife and siblings.

A source who preferred anonymity, pointed out six prominent politicians who are far from the renowned businessmen in the fuel business who are actively competing in opening new filling stations thus contributing to the mushrooming in urban areas across the country.

The source said that the politicians in question have gone far to secure loans from three commercial banks whose names are withheld, seeking for loans to invest in the filling stations business.

"The government's mission of shifting to CNG consumption for vehicles is really not going to work. These people are out to make money regardless of threats posed on the environment and human lives," said the source.

This journalist has made a follow-up to reveal the truth about the six politicians alleged to compete in opening up new filling stations at the Online Business Registration System (ORS) by the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) and established that the new filling stations are registered with different names of ownership not of the alleged politicians.

The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) had on May 17, 2024 issued a public notice warning OMCs to stop allowing IT in transit vehicles and trucks to park at their filling stations premises citing that the decision behind this habit is intended at facilitating tax evasion.

"TRA urges drivers, transporters and customs agents to comply with the East African Community Customs Management Act 2004 and its regulations of 2010 regarding this matter. On the contrary, severe punishment will be given to those who violate this order," reads part of the TRA notice.

Rachel Mkundai, TRA Senior Public Relations Officer declined to comment whether the filling stations are doubted for offloading fuel on transit to neighboring landlocked countries or otherwise.

But, Hudson Kamoga, TRA's Acting Director for Taxpayer Education and Communication was on May 18, 2024 quoted by local outlets saying that the authority had discovered that cargo on transit to neighboring countries are being parked in Dar es Salaam by owners for over four days for the intention of easing tax evasion processes.



Three-wheelers on sale in Dar es Salaam. File Photo.

SMEs urged to enhance quality of exported goods

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Spices, avocado, coffee and leather goods producers have been urged to increase the quality of their products to benefit from European Union (EU) and East African Community (EAC) region.

The call was made by Safari Fungo, the Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP II)'s Country coordinator last week when speaking to participants of the capacity building training on market analysis and trade-related information with funding from the European Union (EU) held last week.

A total of 17 trainees from the ministry of agriculture, business community, Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce, The University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) were trained on ITC market analysis tools and trade related information tools.

Other topics included trade map, market access map, export potential map and how to be effective trainers to impart the knowledge to MSMEs to help them tap into those markets.

Other participants were from the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and



Participants follow proceedings of capacity building training on market analysis and trade-related information organized by the European Union. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

agriculture (TCCIA), ministry of trade and industrial Development-Zanzibar.

The training was offered by two experts from the International Trade Centre (ITC) and was meant to obtain new trainers who will train MSMEs within the country on how to add value of their product.

Sagon Djete, programme manager, EU Delegation to Tanzania and East African Community (EAC)'s said that the training aimed at ensuring that future trade professionals are equipped with the necessary skills and knowl-

edge to navigate and thrive in the complex global trade environment.

"As we embark on MARKUP II, our mission is to reactive and expand this successful network in Tanzania and extend it to the other five EAC countries that includes Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda leading up to this training of Trainers (ToT) workshop," he said

Lesaffre Vianney, International Trade Centre (ITC)'s market analysis expert called upon trainees who will become trainers to provide

knowledge and skills to MSMEs that will help them to achieve something in accordance with the business they have.

"All trainers you're responsible to play your part, you need to be creative for the trainings that you're going to provide to MSMEs to enable them export what is required in the target markets," he said

Emphasizing on quality and packaging issues, he says it is very important for trainers to teach MSMEs how to put information in a labels of their products, prepare food

product labels that are truthful, not misleading, unambiguous, meaningful and help consumers to understand the data provided with respect to nutritional information, type of food, consumer care details and other statutory requirements in line with all applicable laws and regulations.

He said being a certified trainer on Trade Map and Market Access Map it is very important and mandatory to report to ITC, any training facilitated.

Japan stock rally pace is 'slowing'

TOKYO

Investors expect the pace of Japan's stock market rally to slow in the second half, increasing the risk they will shift more money to rival markets.

The benchmark Topix index will climb about 2.9 percent to 2,890 by the end of the year, while the Nikkei 225 Stock Average will rise about 4.8 percent to 41,489, according to the average estimates from asset managers and strategists surveyed by Bloomberg. That's a fraction of the roughly 18 percent advance by the gauges in the first six months. The broader Topix surpassed its March peak on Friday intraday to a 34-year high, led by financials.

Concern over the yen's continued weakness is weighing on market sentiment. Additionally, consumers and companies have cut back on spending, while a third of Bank of Japan watchers surveyed earlier this month by Bloomberg forecast a rate hike in July.

Inflation data for Tokyo out on Friday morning picked up in June, likely keeping a potential interest rate hike on the agenda for discussions at the Bank of Japan's July meeting.

"I don't think we will see out-performance from Japanese stocks from here," said Kyle

Rodda, a senior market analyst at Capital.Com Inc. "Given the rally we saw at the start of the year, the underlying trends in the economy and policy lend themselves to more downside than upside risks."

The yen weakened to 161 to the dollar Friday and risks sliding to levels last seen in 1986. Some market participants anticipate a slump to as low as 170 per dollar.

While the weak yen benefits exporters, it also contributes to inflation via imports. That in turn holds down real wages, which many market participants see as critical for Japanese equities to gain.

Currency risks and a slowing economy have led some foreign investors to look outside of Japan. The Topix index is trading at a price to earnings ratio of around 17 times while the Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite index trades at 14 times. Foreign investors have been selling Japanese cash equities for five straight weeks, the longest streak since last March.

"We think Japan may lag China, but still do quite well to broader Asia," said Alexander Cousley, an investment strategist at Russell Investments Group LLC. "Valuations are there, with Chinese equities notably cheaper than Japanese and global equities."

Foreign investors express happiness over improvement in business climate

By Francis Kajubi

FOREIGN investors have commended the government for creating a friendly environment for investment and doing business which attracts them to invest reasonable capital in the country's economy

A section of foreign investors interviewed by this journalist at the ongoing 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) have said that Tanzania has been a leading country for creating a favourable investment environment in the East African region.

Director of Marketing and Communications GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd, Salman Karmal said that Tanzania has steadily created a good business doing environment and thus attracted them to come and invest the capital.

"Tanzania is currently increasingly guaranteeing the security of investors' capital and generating opportunities for investment capital growth. This situation has attracted GFA to invest more than \$2 million in the vehicle assembling sector," he said.

He said that after 16 years of investment in the country, the company has succeeded in introducing to the market the 600th truck assembled at the company's factory located in Kibaha district in Pwani region.

Karmal said that the FAW truck was launched by the Minister of Industry and Trade, Dr. Ashatu Kijaji.

He said the company cooperates with commercial banks to help provide loans to needy businesses who lack capital for

procuring trucks for construction and mining projects.

Minister Dr. Kijaji urged foreign investors to capitalize the DITF exhibitions by marketing their products and services at a low cost through TanTrade.

"I commend GFA for being the first company in the country that had won FAW trust and granted permission to assemble vehicles of its brand at its Kibaha based factory," said Kijaji.

She said that she is aware that the factory is undergoing production expansion with the intention of hiring about 300 new young workers. Currently the factory has employed more than 120 Tanzanian workers.

"Currently in Tanzania, we are proudly progressing with the business by setting up our own trucks assembling facility, which helps investors cut cost in importation," said Dr. Kijaji.

She said the government is working on the access to raw materials and equipment needed by industries so that they can be made available in the country and facilitate the production of various products.

Dr. Kijaji said foreign investors are important stakeholders in contributing to the country's economy as they invest foreign currency and create jobs for Tanzanians.

A coal mining businessman in Songea district, James Mbeya commended the government for continuing to create a conducive environment for doing business and investment in the country.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

ITV

| Time | Program | Time | Program | Time | Program |
|------|--------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| 5:50 | Habari za saa | 11:15 | Chetu ni chetu rpt | 17:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 6:00 | Kumekucha Kishindo | 11:30 | Art and Lifestyle | 17:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 6:00 | HABARI | 11:45 | Shamsham za pwani rpt | 18:00 | Hapa na Pale |
| 6:40 | Kumekucha | 12:00 | Art and Lifestyle | 18:15 | Mapashi |
| 7:00 | Habari | 12:15 | Meza huru | 18:30 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 12:30 | Watoletu | 18:45 | Mizengwe |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 12:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 19:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 13:00 | Meza huru | 19:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 13:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 19:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 13:30 | Meza huru | 19:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 13:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 20:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 14:00 | Meza huru | 20:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 14:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 20:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 14:30 | Meza huru | 20:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 14:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 21:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 15:00 | Meza huru | 21:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 15:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 21:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 15:30 | Meza huru | 21:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 15:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 22:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 16:00 | Meza huru | 22:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 16:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 22:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 16:30 | Meza huru | 22:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 16:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 23:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 17:00 | Meza huru | 23:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 17:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 23:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 17:30 | Meza huru | 23:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 17:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 24:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 18:00 | Meza huru | 24:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 18:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 24:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 18:30 | Meza huru | 24:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 18:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 25:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 19:00 | Meza huru | 25:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 19:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 25:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 19:30 | Meza huru | 25:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 19:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 26:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 20:00 | Meza huru | 26:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 20:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 26:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 20:30 | Meza huru | 26:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 20:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 27:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 21:00 | Meza huru | 27:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 21:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 27:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 21:30 | Meza huru | 27:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 21:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 28:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 22:00 | Meza huru | 28:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 22:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 28:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 22:30 | Meza huru | 28:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 22:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 29:00 | Shamba lulu |
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| 7:00 | HABARI | 23:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 30:00 | Shamba lulu |
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| 7:00 | HABARI | 24:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 30:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 24:30 | Meza huru | 30:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 24:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 31:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 25:00 | Meza huru | 31:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 25:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 31:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 25:30 | Meza huru | 31:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 25:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 32:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 26:00 | Meza huru | 32:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 26:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 32:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 26:30 | Meza huru | 32:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 26:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 33:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 27:00 | Meza huru | 33:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
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| 7:00 | HABARI | 29:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 36:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 30:00 | Meza huru | 36:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 30:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 36:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 30:30 | Meza huru | 36:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 30:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 37:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 31:00 | Meza huru | 37:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 31:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 37:30 | Shamba lulu |
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| 7:00 | HABARI | 33:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 40:00 | Shamba lulu |
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| 7:00 | HABARI | 34:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 41:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 35:00 | Meza huru | 41:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 35:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 41:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 35:30 | Meza huru | 41:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 35:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 42:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 36:00 | Meza huru | 42:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 36:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 42:30 | Shamba lulu |
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| 7:00 | HABARI | 37:30 | Meza huru | 43:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 37:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 44:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 38:00 | Meza huru | 44:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 38:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 44:30 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 38:30 | Meza huru | 44:45 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 38:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 45:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 7:00 | HABARI | 39:00 | Meza huru | 45:15 | Uzalo rpt: Laws of love |
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| 7:00 | HABARI | 42:30 | Meza huru | 48:45</ | |

WORLD

Biden hits fundraising trail in show of strength after dismal debate performance

EAST HAMPTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden embarked on a series of fundraising events across two states on Saturday as he works to stamp out a crisis of confidence in his re-election campaign following a feeble debate performance that dismayed his fellow Democrats.

The events are being held as many nervous Democratic donors are lamenting Biden's weak showing against Republican rival Donald Trump on Thursday night and wondering what, if anything, they could do to change the course of the race, according to interviews with more than a dozen Democratic fundraisers.

Biden and First Lady Jill Biden visited the upscale New York beach enclave known as the Hamptons for a campaign fundraiser hosted by hedge-fund billionaire Barry Rosentstein. Later in the day, he will travel to New Jersey for a fundraiser hosted by wealthy New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, a Democrat.

"I understand the concern about the debate. I didn't have a great night," Biden told the room of about 100 supporters gathered in the Hamptons. "The point is I didn't have a great night, but neither did Trump."

He added, "I promise you we're going to win this election."

Another hedge-fund founder, Eric Mindich, and his Tony Award-winning producer wife Stacey, celebrity couple Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick, and actor Michael J. Fox were all listed as members of the host committee at the New York event, according to an invitation seen by Reuters.

Biden told a rally in North Carolina on Friday he intended to defeat Republican rival Donald Trump in the November presidential election, giving no sign he would heed calls from Democrats who want him to drop out of the race. The race is very close, according to polls, and will likely come down to voters in a few battleground states.



US President Joe Biden laughs as British musician Elton John speaks during the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center grand opening ceremony in New York on Saturday. AFP

Biden's verbal stumbles and occasionally meandering responses during the debate heightened voter concerns that the 81-year-old might not be fit to serve another four-year term.

Trump, meanwhile, unleashed a barrage of criticisms, many of which were well-worn falsehoods he has long repeated, including claims that migrants have carried out a crime wave, that Democrats support infanticide, and that he actually won the 2020 election.

The Biden campaign on Saturday boasted it had raised more than \$27 million between debate day through Friday evening, but questions remain about whether the debate performance will hurt fundraising, at least in the short term. The donor class is being closely watched for signs of whether he can ride out the doubts.

Biden held a \$100 million advantage over Trump just a couple of months ago, but the Biden campaign and the Democratic National Committee entered June with \$212 million in the bank, compared with \$235 million for the Trump operation and the Republi-

can National Committee.

Many top donors called political advisers in recent days to inquire about little-known rules under which Biden might be removed from the ticket against his will and replaced at or before the Democratic National Convention in August, according to two people who fielded the inquiries.

Some donors were actively trying to reach Jill Biden, the first lady, who in turn could persuade her husband not to run, the New York Times reported on Saturday.

Reid Hoffman, a co-founder of LinkedIn and one of the Democratic Party's most influential donors, wrote in an email to friends on Friday evening that he had been inundated.

"I got a lot of emails in the last 24 hours asking whether there should be a public campaign to pressure President Biden to step aside after his (very) bad debate performance last night," he wrote in the email, which was seen by Reuters. "It certainly delivered a blow to the mood among donors and organizers."

Agencies

Xi Focus: Bearing China's lunar exploration endeavours in mind

BEIJING

UPON the complete success of the Chang'e-6 mission, which brought back the world's first samples from the far side of the moon, President Xi Jinping promptly extended his congratulations.

"The outstanding contributions you have made will always be remembered by the country and the people," Xi told all those who participated in the mission in a congratulatory message.

Xi (pictured), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, has always kept the country's lunar exploration endeavors in his mind.

It is a tradition for the president to extend congratulations upon the success of each Chang'e mission.

He also met representatives of space scientists and engineers who participated in the Chang'e-3, Chang'e-4 and Chang'e-5 missions, inquired about their work and life and took pictures with them.

For three consecutive years from 2019 to 2021, Xi highlighted the lunar exploration achievements in his New Year speech.

"Great undertakings are based on innovation, which is crucial for our future," Xi said in February 2019 when meeting representatives of space scientists and engineers who participated in the research and development of the Chang'e-4 mission.

Living up to Xi's expectations, China's researchers and engineers have taken a self-reliant and ingenious path in the lunar exploration program.

Chang'e-4 made history by being the first mission to achieve soft landing on the far side of the moon. Its rover Yutu-2 started roaming and conducting surveys on this rarely-explored terrain in 2019, leaving moving human trails on the far side of the moon for the first time.

Chang'e-5, launched in 2020, was China's first mission to collect and return lunar samples to Earth. Unlike sampling missions of the United States and the Soviet Union, China chose a complicated technological approach including unmanned rendezvous and docking in lunar orbit, which could bring back more samples and lay a technological foundation for manned lunar missions.

Based on the experience of Chang'e-5, Chang'e-6 made further innovations by collecting and returning lunar samples from the moon's far side, an unprecedented feat in human lunar exploration history.

"We must be bold in our pursuit of innovation, acquire core technologies, strive to be the backbone of the country's aerospace industry, and scale new heights in space science and technology," said Xiong Tianci, a young designer with the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, developer of the Long March-5 carrier rockets that sent Chang'e-5 and Chang'e-6 into space.

Noting that exploring the vast universe is humanity's common dream, Xi has stressed the importance of conducting international space cooperation and making contributions to the well-being of all mankind.

China's lunar exploration program stands as evidence of the country's consistent promotion of international cooperation in the field of space exploration.

China welcomes international applications for the lunar samples brought back by the Chang'e-5 and Chang'e-6 missions for scientific researches. Scientists from countries such as Australia, Russia, France, the United States, Britain, and Sweden have taken part in the research of the Chang'e-5 lunar samples.

Chang'e-6 has carried four international payloads, respectively from the European Space Agency (ESA), France, Italy, and Pakistan. Chang'e-7 will carry six international scientific instruments, and Chang'e-8 will offer 200 kilograms of international payload capacity and has garnered over 30 applications.

Xi's guidance and concern on the lunar exploration program has inspired numerous scientists and engineers, who are committed to advancing major space projects, including deep space exploration, and enhancing international exchanges and cooperation.

"We will continue to foster independent innovation capabilities and improve the independent innovation system, so as to propel bigger and further steps in space exploration," said Zhang Gao, an expert involved in the development of the Chang'e-6 probe from the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

Xinhua

Putin discusses situation around INF Treaty with Russian Security Council

MOSCOW

THE situation around the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty was the central topic of Russian President Vladimir Putin's meeting with the Russian Security Council.

"Today, we will discuss Russia's further steps concerning the unilateral moratorium on the deployment of intermediate-and shorter-range ground-based missiles," he said.

Putin recalled that several years ago the United States had withdrawn from the treaty under an invented pretext and announced its plans to manufacture such missile systems.

In 2019, Russia pledged that it would refrain from manufacturing and deploying such systems as long as the United States refuses to deploy them in any part of the world.

"Now, it is known that the United States not only produced these missile systems, but has already used them during drill in Europe, in Denmark.

Not long ago, it was announced that they are in the



Philippines. There is no information about whether these missiles were removed from there or not," Putin said.

Russian Foreign and Defense Ministers, Sergey Lavrov and Andrey Belousov, delivered reports on this topic.

Earlier, the United States announced plans to deploy intermediate-range missiles in Asia to contain China.

On August 2, 2019, the United States formally withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed by the Soviet Union and the United States on December 8, 1987.

The US justified this move by Russia's alleged refusal to comply with the American ultimatum-like demand that the new 9M729 cruise missiles be eliminated as they violated the INF Treaty.

Moscow vehemently denied these accusations, saying that the technical parameters of the 9M729 missile is within the parameters allowed by the treaty and presented counterclaims to

Agencies

PM Modi releases three books on former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi released three books on the life and journey of former Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu via video conferencing yesterday.

The book release event was organised at Anvaya Convention Centre in Gachibowli in Telangana's Hyderabad, on the eve of the 75th birthday of the former Vice President Naidu.

Hailing the former Vice President, PM Modi, in his virtual address, said, "Tomorrow, July 1st, is Venkaiah Naidu's birthday. His life journey has completed 75 years. These 75 years have been filled with extraordinary achievements. These

75 years have been marked by amazing milestones. I am happy that today I have the opportunity to release his biography as well as two more books. I believe that these books will inspire people and show them the right direction of national service," PM Modi said in his address.

"I have had the opportunity to work with Venkaiah Naidu for a very long time. When he was the national president of the party, when he was a senior cabinet colleague in the government, when he was the Vice President of the country and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha," PM Modi said.

The books released by the Prime Minister include the biography of the former Vice President titled 'Venkaiah Naidu



- Life in Service', authored by S Nagesh Kumar, former Resident Editor of The Hindu, Hyderabad edition.

Another book is 'Celebrating Bharat - The Mission and Message of M Venkaiah Naidu as 13th Vice-President of India', a photo chronicle compiled by IV Subba Rao, former Secretary to the Vice President of India. The third book is a pictorial biography in Telugu titled 'Mahaneta - Life and Journey of M. Venkaiah Naidu',

authored by Sanjay Kishore.

Earlier, Prime Minister Modi called on the former Vice President at his residence in the National Capital.

"Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi Ji called on me at my residence No. Thyagaraja Marg, in New Delhi," former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu said in a post on X on June 25.

"I conveyed my heartiest congratulations to Shri Narendra Bhai Modi Ji on being sworn in for his third term as Prime Minister of India. In our interaction, we exchanged our views on matters of national interest. I am certain that Bharat will scale new heights of glory under his leadership in the years to come," he added.

ANI

Ethiopia's time-honored coffee embraces vibrant business at home, abroad

ADDIS ABABA

HAND-PICKED by farmers throughout Ethiopia, coffee beans are sun-dried, hand-washed, roasted, ground, and then brewed multiple times a day in most households. The East African country's centuries-old coffee culture is rapidly evolving by combining cultural elements with business.

Often regarded as the birthplace of the now global coffee beans, Ethiopia is famous for its traditional coffee ceremony, which can last for hours. It also serves as an important social event, allowing relatives and friends to get together and discuss community matters. Being invited to a coffee ceremony by an Ethiopian family

is considered a gesture of great respect. While Ethiopia's time-honored coffee traditions and rituals thrive at household and community levels, with a touch of modernization, the coffee value chain has, in recent years, evolved into a more modern approach that blends cultural elements with business.

Thanks to the rapid growth of the coffee business, one can stumble upon countless traditional and contemporary coffee shops across cities and towns in Ethiopia, each offering a unique experience. Senait Amare is one of the traditional coffee shop owners in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

While she prepares and serves coffee on site, roasting and brewing raw beans, her

customers have to wait their turn in a small makeshift shop erected in one of the residential neighborhoods of the city. "I am mostly busy serving coffee to my customers during breakfast and lunch times, as many people want to have a cup of coffee or two right after their meals," Amare said.

A cup of top-notch coffee in one of these small traditional coffee shops, often run by a single woman, would cost between 15 and 20 birr (about 26 to 34 U.S. cents). In contrast, a single cup of coffee or espresso in the fast-growing modern coffee shops, which have recently been frequented by a growing number of Ethiopians, mainly young people, would cost an average of three to five times more

than in traditional coffee shops.

As a vivid reflection of the cultural tapestry, Amare's and other traditional coffee shops often add select herbs to the coffee, such as the fresh leaves of Ruta Graveolens, commonly known as Rue, for their perceived health benefits.

Amare insisted that her profit is the result of many factors, one of which is the volatile price of raw coffee beans. On average, she sells at least 70 cups of coffee per day at 20 birr per cup.

"Until recently, I sold a cup of coffee for 15 birr, but due to the rising cost of raw coffee beans and living expenses, I had to raise the price to 20 birr. The price increase deters some of my customers, but most of my

regulars still come every day," she said.

Meanwhile, the growing demand for a more modern, Western-style coffee service has also created a lucrative business opportunity for companies that operate large-scale coffee processing factories.

One such case is Hadero Coffee Company, which joined Ethiopia's rapidly growing coffee value-addition business about four years ago.

Named after a small coffee-producing town in the southern part of Ethiopia, the company specializes in value-addition to Ethiopia's coffee industry with a motto of "from bean-to-cup." Mubarek Ahmed, the company's director of business development, noted that al-

though Hadero's main goal is to increase exports of its processed coffee products to the international market, the domestic coffee market is equally important to the company's business.

"One unique thing about Ethiopia is that we consume a lot of coffee. An average person in Ethiopia consumes about three cups of coffee a day," said Ahmed, highlighting Ethiopia's vibrant coffee culture. One of the major export destinations for Ethiopian coffee is the Chinese market, where sales have increased by an average of 27 percent in recent years, according to an Ethiopian official. Adugna Debela, director general of the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority, said a few years ago, Ethiopia exported

8,000 to 10,000 metric tons of coffee annually to China, which was then ranked 33rd among importers of Ethiopian coffee.

"However, China has been importing up to 20,000 metric tons of Ethiopian coffee annually for the past two years, becoming the eighth-largest importer of Ethiopian coffee," Debela said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Debela said the China International Import Expo and cross-border e-commerce platforms, which serve as effective gateways for overseas brands to enter China, have presented numerous opportunities for Ethiopian coffee beans to gain popularity in the Chinese market.

CPC releases report ahead of 103rd founding anniversary

BEIJING

THE Communist Party of China (CPC) released a statistical report yesterday, one day ahead of its 103rd founding anniversary.

According to the report issued by the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, the CPC had more than 99.18 million members at the end of 2023, up by over 1.14 million from 2022.

The CPC had about 5.18 million primary-level organizations at the end of 2023, an increase of 111,000 compared with the previous year.

The CPC has maintained its great vitality and strong ability by focusing on the primary level, continuously reinforcing the foundations and shoring up weak links, and strengthening its organizational system and membership, the report says.

Data from the report shows that nearly 2.41 million people had joined the CPC in 2023, with 82.4 percent of them aged 35 or below.

Party membership has seen positive changes in terms of its composition. The report reveals that more than 55.78 million Party members, or 56.2 percent of the overall membership, held junior college degrees or above, 1.5 percentage points higher than the level recorded at the end of 2022.

By the end of 2023, the CPC had over 30.18 million female members, accounting for 30.4 percent of its total membership, up 0.5 percentage points from the previous year. The proportion of members from ethnic minority groups grew by 0.1 percentage points to 7.7 percent.

Workers and farmers continue to make up the majority of CPC members, accounting for 33 percent of all members.

Education and management of Party members continued to improve in 2023, with over 1.26 million study sessions held by Party organizations at all levels.

Also in 2023, the incentive and honorary mechanism



People visit the site of the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China in east China's Shanghai, Oct. 1, 2022. (Xinhua/Liu Ying)

for Party organizations and members continued to play its due role. During the year, 138,000 primary-level Party organizations and 693,000 Party members were commended for their excellence.

CPC organizations at the

primary level continued to improve in 2023. At the end of the year, there were 298,000 Party committees, 325,000 general Party branches and about 4.6 million Party branches at the primary level in China.

In 2023, the team of

leading Party officials continued to strengthen, facilitating China's rural revitalization drive. At the end of 2023, there were nearly 490,000 secretaries of Party organizations in villages, 44 percent of whom held junior college degrees

or above.

In the meantime, the practice of assigning "first secretaries" to CPC village committees has continued. There were a total of 206,000 "first secretaries" working in villages at the end of 2023. *Xinhua*

India, Bangladesh hold 7th commissioner level Joint Group of Customs meeting in Shillong

SHILLONG

INDIA and Bangladesh held the 7th Commissioner level Joint Group of Customs meeting in Shillong on June 27-28.

The meeting was held to foster cooperation, enhance efficiency and advance shared goals in customs administration in order to strengthen collective efforts in customs enforcement, trade facilitation, and border security, the Ministry of Finance said in a press release.

For the meeting, the four member Bangladesh delegation was led by Md Kamruzzaman, Commissioner, Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Jashore. Commissioner of Customs Preventive Commissionerate, NER, Shillong, led the 10-member Indian delegation at the meeting.

In a press release, the Ministry of Finance said, "Following the meeting many pending issues at ground level were resolved and many other issues were highlighted to be escalated at higher-level appropriate forums, thereby leading to the resolution of many customs and trade related issues."

ANI

Only 17 pct of SDGs on track, new UN report reveals

UNITED NATIONS

WITH just six years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), global progress is alarmingly insufficient with only 17 percent of the targets are currently on track, according to a new UN report released on Friday.

The 2024 Sustainable Development Goals Report revealed that nearly half of the 17 goals are showing "minimal or moderate progress," while over a third are either "stalled or regressing." These goals, adopted by UN member states in 2015, aim to bring peace and prosperity to people and the planet.

"This report, known as the annual SDG report card, shows the world is getting a failing grade," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the press conference launching the comprehensive stocktake.

"The takeaway is simple – our failure to secure peace, confront climate change, and boost international finance is undermining development. We must accelerate action for the Sustainable Development Goals, and we don't have a moment to lose," he stressed.

The report identified several significant obstacles to progress: the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating conflicts, geopolitical tensions, and worsening cli-



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (C) speaks at a press conference launching the 2024 Sustainable Development Goals Report at the UN headquarters in New York, on Friday. *Xinhua*

mate chaos.

It noted that in 2022, an additional 23 million people were pushed into extreme poverty, and over 100 million more were suffering from hunger compared to 2019. Civilian deaths in armed conflict also skyrocketed last year. Furthermore, 2023 was the warmest year on record, with global temperatures nearing the critical 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold.

Guterres emphasized the urgency of boosting international cooperation, stating: "we must not let up on our 2030 promise to end poverty, protect the planet, and leave no one behind." The report outlined key priorities to address the deficits, which include finance for development, resolving conflicts, and surge in implementation.

The SDG investment gap in developing countries is 4 trillion U.S. dollars per year.

It is crucial to rapidly increase funding and fiscal space, as well as reform the global financial system to unlock funding. With nearly 120 million people forcibly displaced by May 2024 and a 72 percent increase in civilian casualties between 2022 and 2023, the need for peace is more pressing than ever.

Massive investments and effective part-

nerships are vital to drive transitions in key areas such as food, energy, social protection, and digital connectivity, according to the report.

The report comes ahead of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, taking place at the UN headquarters in New York from July 8 to 17.

Under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, the forum will review global progress towards several goals, including ending poverty (Goal 1), achieving zero hunger (Goal 2), taking climate action (Goal 13), fostering peaceful and inclusive societies (Goal 16), and ensuring means of implementation (Goal 17).

Additionally, the upcoming Summit of the Future in September will be pivotal for realigning efforts towards achieving the goals.

The summit aims to address the debt crisis affecting many developing countries and the urgent need to reform the international financial architecture.

The SDG report highlights stark economic challenges, with per-capita GDP growth in half of the world's most vulnerable nations being slower than in ad-

vanced economies. Nearly 60 percent of countries faced abnormally high food prices in 2022, exacerbating hunger and food insecurity.

The report also pointed out gender inequality, noting that 55 percent of 120 surveyed countries lack laws prohibiting discrimination against women.

Education remains a significant concern, with only 58 percent of students worldwide achieving minimum proficiency in reading by the end of primary school. Despite global unemployment reaching a historic low of five percent in 2023, many obstacles to achieving decent work across all societies persist.

However, there are positive developments in renewable energy, which has expanded at a rate of 8.1 percent annually over the past five years.

Technological advancements have also seen significant strides, with mobile broadband accessibility (3G or higher) increasing to 95 percent of the world's population from 78 percent in 2015. *Xinhua*

Russia to continue supplying energy and food to global market despite EU sanctions, says MFA

MOSCOW

DESPITE obstacles from the European Union, Russia will continue to supply world markets with energy resources, fertilizers and food, Foreign Ministry Maria Zakharova said in a commentary following the introduction by the EU of the 14th package of anti-Russian sanctions.

"The Russian Federation - despite the obstacles imposed by the European Union - will continue its efforts to supply world markets with in-demand products, including energy resources, fertilizers and food," she said.

Zakharova reiterated that although the EU sanctions are formally aimed against Russia, they are equally harmful and undermine the security of developing countries.

"It is obvious that the EU's actions, formally taken against Russia, equally affect third countries, destabilize global commodity markets, and undermine the energy security of developing countries. However, the EU is simply indifferent to others' interests," she said.

Agencies



France begins voting in election that could hand power to far right

PARIS

FRENCH voters began voting on Sunday in the first round of a snap parliamentary election that could usher in the country's first far-right government since World War Two, a potential sea change at the heart of the European Union.

President Emmanuel Macron stunned the country when he called the vote after his centrist alliance was crushed in European elections this month by Marine Le Pen's National Rally (RN). Her eurosceptic, anti-immigrant party was a longtime pariah but is now closer to power than it has ever been.

Polls opened at 0600 GMT and will close at 1600 GMT in small towns and cities, with an 1800 GMT finish in the bigger cities, when the first exit polls for the night and seat projections for the decisive second round a week later are expected.

However the electoral system can make it hard to estimate the precise distribution of seats in the 577-seat National Assembly, and the final outcome will not be known until the end of voting on July 7.

"We are going to win an absolute majority," said Le Pen in a newspaper interview on Wednesday, predicting that her protege, 28-year-old Jordan Bardella would be prime minister. Her party has a high-spending economic programme and seeks to reduce immigration.

If the RN does win an absolute majority, French diplomacy could be headed for an unprecedented period of turbulence: with Macron - who has said he will continue his presidency until the end of his term in 2027 - and Bardella jostling for the right to speak for France.

At a voting station in Sevres, on the outskirts of Paris, 70-year-old former company director Didier Delacroix said he had voted for Macron's alliance.

"Otherwise it'll be a complete mess," he said.

France has had three periods of "cohabitation" - when the president and government are from opposite political camps - in its post-war history, but none with such radically divergent world views competing at the top of the state.

Bardella has already indicated he would challenge Macron on global issues. France could lurch from being a pillar of the EU to a thorn in its side, demanding

a rebate of the French contribution to the EU budget, clashing with Brussels over European Commission jobs and reversing Macron's calls for greater EU unity and assertiveness on defense.

A clear RN victory would also bring uncertainty as to where France stands on the conflict in Ukraine. While the party now says it would help Ukraine defend itself, it has also set out red lines, such as refusing to provide long-range missiles.

'Split vote favors RN'

Opinion polls have suggested the RN has a comfortable lead of 33-36 percent of the popular vote, with a hastily assembled left-wing coalition, the New Popular Front, in second place on 28-31 percent and Macron's centrist alliance in third on 20-23 percent.

The New Popular Front includes a wide range of parties, from the moderate centre-left to the hard-left, eurosceptic, anti-NATO party France Unbowed, led by one of Macron's most vitriolic opponents, Jean-Luc Melançon.

How the poll numbers will translate into seats in the National Assembly is hard to predict because of how

the election works, said Vincent Martigny, professor of political science at the University of Nice and the Ecole Polytechnique.

Candidates can be elected in the first round if they win an absolute majority of votes in their constituency, but that is rare. Most constituencies will need a second round involving all candidates who received votes from at least 12.5 percent of registered voters in the first round. The top scorer wins.

"If you have a very high level of participation you might have a third or fourth party that is getting into the struggle. So then of course there's a risk of split voting and we know that the split vote favors the National Rally," said Martigny.

For decades, as the far right steadily gained popularity, voters and parties who did not support it would unite against it whenever it edged closer to national power, but that may not hold true this time.

Martigny said no one knew whether candidates from Macron's camp would consider dropping out of the second round to give rivals from the left a chance of beating the RN, or the reverse.

Agencies

Power Dynamos confirm Mutale's transfer to Simba

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

POWER Dynamos Football Club have officially announced the departure of Joshua Mutale, who has signed a permanent deal with Simba Sports Club.

The news was confirmed through a statement on Power Dynamos' official website, signaling a significant move in the MTN Super League off-season.

Mutale, a Zambian midfield sensation known for his agility and attacking prowess, arrived in Dar es Salaam a few days ago to finalize registration procedures and undergo medical tests. With a three-year contract now in place, Mutale is set to begin a new chapter with Simba, a club based in the bustling Kariakoo area.

The acquisition of Mutale is seen as a strategic move by Simba, aiming to bolster their midfield with fresh talent. During his tenure at Power Dynamos, Mutale established himself as a standout performer, and his transition to Simba is anticipated to benefit both his career and the club's ambitions in the upcoming season.

The official statement from Power Dynamos detailed several player movements following the conclusion of the 2023-2024 football season. In addition to Mutale, the club announced the departure of Godfrey Ngwenya, who moves to Red Arrows Football Club on a permanent deal.

Andy Bobwa Boyeli will move to Sekhukune United of South Africa on a permanent deal, Francis Zulu will be returning to his former club, Prison Leopards, and Moses Phiri, whose loan deal has expired.

Others are Chabu Chisenga, White Mwanambaba, Hamza Adama, and Kalonji Mwepu who have reached the expiry of their contracts, and Laurent Muma, Lionel Bong, and Kouassi Kouadja who have mutually agreed to separate from the club.

The statement expressed gratitude to the departing players for their service and extended best wishes for their future endeavors.

Meanwhile, Simba are actively engaged in strengthening their squad. In addition to securing Mutale, the club is reportedly close to finalizing deals with several other notable players. These include Steven Mukwala, a striker from Ghana's Asante Kotoko, Valentino Nouma from Saint Eloi Lupopo of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Debora Fernandes



Zambian midfielder Joshua Mutale. Agencies

Mavambo from Mutondo Stars of the Zambian league.

Another name is Nathan Idumba Fasika, currently playing for Norway's Valerenga on loan from Cape Town City in South Africa. Simba's management is said to be keen on signing Fasika as a replacement for Congolese defender Henock Inonga, who was sold to FAR Rabat of Morocco.

Simba have also confirmed the signing of Lameck Lawi from Coastal Union and announced the departure of five players as they continue to reshape their squad ahead of the new season.

Looking ahead, Simba are set to begin their pre-season preparations in Egypt. The training camp will focus on readying the team for a challenging season that includes campaigns in the CAF Confederation Cup, the Premier League, and the Federation Cup.

The acquisition of Mutale and the club's proactive approach in the transfer market underline Simba's determination to build a robust squad capable of competing at the highest levels.

Fans and stakeholders alike will be watching closely as these new additions integrate into the team and as the club gears up for the upcoming season.

Ntibazonkiza still has what it takes to shine in Tanzania

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Mainland Tanzania Premier League has become the home of many foreign players.

It has become an opportunity for the footballers to redeem themselves and find new clubs elsewhere, although for some such a move becomes difficult due to their age, while young players take time to mature.

Tanzania's football has grown in recent years and it is time for aged players battling it out in the domestic top flight to get rid of the notion that they cannot contribute to the league's participating teams' success.

Burundian midfielder Saidi Ntibazonkiza, aged 37, continues to excel in the Mainland Premier League. He was, in the just-ended top flight, turning out for Simba SC - a squad that released him after the league had ended.

The player put his goal-scoring prowess to show - scoring 10+ goals in yet another season, a feat that was achieved on the back of an equally impressive run in the previous season, which had the midfielder netting 17 goals and being named as the joint-top goal scorer.

Before matchday 30 that brought the season's curtains down, so far five players from 16 teams had scored 10+ goals.

The players were Waziri Junior (Kinondoni Municipal Council FC), Maxi Nzengeli (Young Africans), Stephane Aziz Ki (Young Africans), Feisal Salum (Azam FC), and Ntibazonkiza (Simba SC).

In the list, Ntibazonkiza was so far the footballer that was, in the 2022/23, the joint-top goal scorer. Last season, the midfielder netted his 11th goal on the league's final day, when his club came up against JKT Tanzania.

Mainland Tanzania Premier League has many young players but aged players are the performers putting in the top performance.

Such a situation has been brought about by the fact that African players, especially in Tanzania, take many years to mature in soccer.

Simba SC fans have called for the team's leadership to release Ntibazonkiza, seeking to build a new team for next season.

The supporters might have a point in this matter but the fact is Ntibazonkiza can still net 10+ goals in a season for Simba SC.

The Msimbazi Street-based side's fans are yearning for a new player who can net 20



Burundian midfielder Saidi Ntibazonkiza. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

goals next season, with the squad having already brought several new forwards before the season's completion.

Congolese attacker Jean Baleke left Simba SC during the January transfer window with eight goals to his name in the just-concluded Mainland Premier League, only to be surpassed by Ntibazonkiza with 11 goals at the end of the season, such a trend is worrying.

Simba SC would have kept Baleke and he could have scored 15+ goals for the club. It is tough to get consistent strikers in the Mainland Premier League. I, for that matter, believe a striker with what it takes to net 10+ goals should be kept at a club.

Even though Young Africans' Stephane Aziz Ki scored 21 goals in the just-concluded season, it is tough for the league's clubs to get a player who can score 20 goals in one season.

A player with such prowess might turn out to be a foreign footballer. Quality forwards from outside the country can deliver that performance because the track record shows they have done that.

Before Aziz Ki scored 21 goals, former Young Africans forward Amissi Tambwe was the last player to have netted 20 goals in a single Premier League season.

A football supporter ought to think of top Young Africans strikers in recent years, ranging from Kenyan Boniface Ambani, Congolese Heritier Makambo, and Fiston Mayele to Tanzanian Simon Msvu, none of them netted 20+ goals.

Since the then Simba SC forward Meddie Kagere scored 23 goals in the 2019/20 season, there has been no striker that has beaten a 20-goal mark in Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

A good striker in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League can score 10 goals in one season. Before the last matchday of the just-concluded season, about five players had reached that mark, with Ntibazonkiza being one of them.

Soccer followers did not see his contribution because Simba SC has not had much success this year.

The Msimbazi Street-based outfit's fans may also not have had the opportunity to witness such prowess because their club did not win any of the major domestic tournaments' trophies this season.

Numbers hardly lie. In the last two seasons, Ntibazonkiza has been the top scorer for the club, he has better numbers than many of the players that are regarded as young performers in the club and league.

Ntibazonkiza can play for two more seasons at the top level and score 10 goals in either season, based on the nature of the Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

He may be deemed as surplus to requirement at Simba SC but he can still fit in any of the other clubs in the league and adapt and he already proved it when featuring for Geita Gold FC.

The Mainland Tanzania Premier League has many young strikers but they are not in the top five of the list of goal scorers in the just-ended season.

Mayele had - in his two seasons at Young Africans - not managed to net 20 league goals despite having taken the country by storm through his fancy goal celebration.

Mainland Tanzania Premier League teams should value players who score at least 10 goals in a season. As for Ntibazonkiza, age is just a number. He keeps on producing top performances.

Signing new players is always a gamble. Simba SC's Cameroonian winger Willy Onana was, before joining the squad, the top goal scorer in Rwanda Premier League with 16 goals when turning out for Rayon Sport but, at the Msimbazi Street-based side, the winger failed to replicate his best season at Kigali-based Rayon Sport.

It is a normal story. Aziz Ki had an average season in his first year at Young Africans but, in the just-concluded league, he was the top goal scorer.

Football is an age-old sport that may have a player reach 30 years and would surprisingly be regarded as an old baller.

Young Africans' Ugandan midfielder Khalid Aucho has played football for many years across East Africa, South Africa, India, the Balkan peninsula, and North Africa.

Aucho is, of late, regarded as the best midfielder in Tanzania at 30. In his absence, Young Africans struggled a lot. This means age is not a setback for a player to put his prowess to show in Tanzania.

Simba are indeed set to build their squad with the acquisition of new players next season. Ntibazonkiza could have still served the club for one more season and net goals.

The club can sign a new forward that can net 20+ goals in one season but the Burundian international should have been retained so he can come off the bench and score more goals.

Signing quality players is an area that Simba SC needs to improve if the side is to have the necessary reinforcements. This is an area Simba SC has failed to excel in recent years.

The team will sign many new players next season to build a stronger team but emphasis should be put on bringing in quality footballers. Everything should be done with an eye on fulfilling the club's requirements.

Simba have now missed out on clinching the Premier League title for three years in a row, such a failure has not come about because the outfit was weak, the side, instead, did not have an eye on roping in good players during the transfer windows.

Even though the Msimbazi Street-based club has decided to part ways with Ntibazonkiza, the midfielder deserved one more season at the club given he has been a two-time top goal scorer for Simba SC for two seasons in a row.

LeBron James intends to sign a new deal with the Lakers, AP source says

BY TIM REYNOLDS

LEBRON James is going to move toward a new contract with the Los Angeles Lakers. Paul George and Klay Thompson may simply be on the move to new teams.

And the NBA's free agency period, which officially starts Sunday, suddenly has some intrigue.

James did not exercise his option to accept what would have been a \$51.4 million contract for this coming season and instead is seeking a new deal with the Los Angeles Lakers, a person with knowledge of the decision said Saturday.

The terms of the new deal could be finalized quickly, said the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither James nor the Lakers revealed

the decision publicly. ESPN, The Athletic and the Los Angeles Times all reported the decision earlier Saturday.

Meanwhile, George made a similar decision, the nine-time All-Star choosing to not opt in for what would have been a \$48.8 million contract this coming season with the Los Angeles Clippers - a team that he's spent the past five years with, averaging 23 points per game. He'll become a free agent and is planning to talk to the Clippers about a new deal and also intends to hear pitches from Orlando and Philadelphia, plus potentially others, a person briefed on George's plans told AP on Saturday night.

Saturday's moves came just ahead of the NBA's free agency period, which formally opens at 6 p.m. Eastern on Sunday,

though at least \$1.2 billion in contracts already have been agreed upon because of new rules that allowed teams to speak with their own players about new deals - in many situations - starting on the day after the NBA Finals.

Among those already having agreed to deals that cannot be finalized until the new league year opens on July 6: Toronto teammates Scottie Barnes and Immanuel Quickley, Miami's Bam Adebayo, Indiana's Pascal Siakam, and New York's OG Anunoby.

It was expected that James would technically be a free agent. It's also been expected that he would stay with the Lakers.

The Lakers selected Bronny James - LeBron James' oldest son - on Thursday in the sec-

ond round of the draft, putting them in position to have the first on-court father-son duo in NBA history. And with a new deal, it's even possible that LeBron James could sign for a lower number than he could have commanded to give the Lakers additional financial flexibility for other moves.

"He is prioritizing a roster improvement," James' agent, Klutch Sports CEO Rich Paul, told ESPN on Saturday. "He's been adamant about exuding all efforts to improve the roster."

LeBron James is a four-time champion and is about \$20 million shy of becoming the first player in league history to top \$500 million in on-court earnings. Add in his many off-court ventures and investments, and his net worth has

been presumed to be more than \$1 billion for some time now.

He'll turn 40 in December and will tie Vince Carter this season in terms of most seasons played in NBA history; the 2024-25 campaign will be James' 22nd in the league. He averaged 25.7 points, 7.3 rebounds and 8.3 assists last season - as the oldest active player in the league.

And if he's going to leave money on the table, he's going to want a player who can help the Lakers contend for a title again. Among the Lakers' potential targets: Golden State's Klay Thompson, a free agent who could be on the move for the first time in his career.

Thompson, a starter on all four of the Warriors' championship teams of this era and half of the famed "Splash



LeBron James.

Brothers" duo alongside 3-point king Stephen Curry, has spent all 13 of his NBA years with Golden State. And his status - will he go back to the Warriors or not? - is one of the biggest questions that'll be answered in the coming days. It may not be financially possible for Golden State to retain Thompson.

"We want him back.

We've said that all along," Warriors general manager Mike Dunleavy said on June 24. "Hopefully he'll come back. But as far as the specifics and discussions and those types of things, I think it's important to keep in-house and that stuff. When we figure out a solution to all that, we'll have news for you."

AP

Lautaro Martínez scores twice and Argentina playing without Messi beats Peru 2-0 to end group play

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla.

LAUTARO Martínez scored twice and Argentina, playing without the injured Lionel Messi, wrapped up Copa America group play with a 2-0 win over Peru on Saturday night.

A nicely placed through ball from Ángel Di María led to Martínez's first goal in the 47th minute. Martínez was embraced by teammates afterward, then went to hug Messi, who was standing near Argentina's bench.

"I went to hug Leo for everything he means to us," Martínez said through an interpreter.

Martínez doubled Argentina's lead in the 86th minute and now has a tournament-leading four goals.

"Every time I wear this shirt I enjoy it," Martínez said. "Many want to wear this shirt. I work to show the coach that I am ready to play when he needs me."

Messi did not play as he nurses a leg injury suffered in Argentina's 1-0 victory over Chile on Tuesday that clinched a quarterfinal berth for the defending champions. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni was also absent after being suspended because of his team's late second-half return to the pitch in its previous two Copa matches.

Saturday, the Albiceleste walked out for the second half just a few seconds before Peru.

Argentina assistant Walter Samuel, who took Scaloni's place, said after the match that Messi is still day to day.

"I talked to him, and he's getting better," Samuel said through an interpreter, "but it's been just a couple of days and it's too early to tell. We want to continue to listen to him and the doctors."

Playing with nine changes to its starting lineup, Argentina controlled possession (74%) for the third straight match and had six shots on goal, while being held scoreless in the first half for the third straight match.

The game was played in front of about 64,000 fans at the Miami Dolphins' Hard Rock Stadium, which will also host the final on July 14. Most fans cheered for Argentina while wearing different versions of Messi's No. 10 jersey.

Canada played Chile to a scoreless draw in another Group A match on Saturday in Orlando, Florida, to also advance to the next round, which will be the country's first Copa America quarterfinal.

AP

Toni Kroos' retirement delayed as Germany's adventure continues at Euro 2024

DORTMUND, Germany

TONI Kroos gets another game before he retires. Germany's Euro 2024 title challenge looks more real than ever.

One of the most decorated players in modern soccer with six Champions League titles and a World Cup, Kroos wasn't flashy as Germany beat Denmark 2-0 on Saturday, but he was a calm, assured presence holding the midfield together.

Kroos already won the Champions League with Real Madrid this season. Now he's three games away from one final trophy and could face his Madrid teammate, Spain's Dani Carvajal, in his next game.

Some fans already have their eyes on the final in the German capital and sang about heading to Berlin as Germany saw out the win.

Just like another Real Madrid great, Zinedine Zidane in 2006, Kroos is ending his storied career at a major tournament in Germany. He came out of international retirement in February for one last tournament. Each game Germany plays in the knockout stage could be the last of his career.

Germany weathered a thunderstorm, hail and stubborn Danish resistance Saturday to ensure the 34-year-old midfielder will play again. Germany faces either Spain or Georgia in the quarterfinals July 5.

Zidane reached the 2006 World Cup final with France, only to headbutt an opponent, get a red card and lose to Italy. Kroos and Germany can still dream of a win on home soil and a first major trophy since Kroos and his teammates lifted the 2014 World Cup.

Until the Denmark game, Germany had not won a major-tournament knockout game since Euro 2016. The win continues the sense that Germany is finally turning things around under coach Julian Nagelsmann after years of disappointment. He took over last year with a mission to deliver a host-nation success story at Euro 2024, and has already signed an extension for the 2026 World Cup.

The decision to give Nagelsmann an extension in April came largely on the back of morale-boosting friendly wins over France and the Netherlands. Since then, Germany is unbeaten in six games including pre-tournament friendlies.

AP

'Worst Italy team in a lifetime' as holders limp out

BERLIN

THE defending champions are out of Euro 2024 and to say Italy exited with a whimper would be being kind.

Comfortably beaten 2-0 by Switzerland at Berlin's Olympiastadion, Luciano Spalletti's side failed to even put up the late fight that at least characterized the comeback draw against Croatia in their final group game.

"I don't think I've witnessed, in my lifetime, a worse Italian team than this," said former England striker Gary Lineker on BBC One.

In 2006, Italy won their fourth World Cup at this venue, beating France on penalties.

Three years ago, the Azzurri went to Wembley and crushed English dreams in another shootout to claim a third European Championship title.

There are talented players in this squad but, certainly from the showing against Switzerland, a lack of character - not the craft of Andrea Pirlo, the guile of Marco Materazzi or the grizzly nous of Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini.

Of those who started in the defeat of England in 2021, only goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, defender Giovanni di Lorenzo, midfielder Nicolò Barella and forward Federico Chiesa made Spalletti's starting XI for the limp exit in Berlin.

"From three years ago to this, it's incredible," added England captain Alan Shearer.

"I was really shocked at how bad Italy were. They offered nothing in any position, Swit-



Spalletti's coaching career began with Empoli in 1993 and has spanned 11 clubs including Roma, Inter and Napoli. Agencies

zerland toyed with them.

"They dominated that game and didn't give Italy a chance. Up top they were so weak, they offered nothing in front of goal. There was no threat. They were so poor, particularly in forward positions."

"Italy were shambolic" Spalletti worked his magic at Napoli last season to win the club's first Scudetto since the Diego Maradona-inspired triumph of 1990.

He was supposed to be on a sabbatical, spending time on his farm in Tuscany, but cut it short to take the reins of the national team when Roberto Mancini resigned in August last year.

There were Italian fans

sporting Maradona jerseys in the stands in Berlin and there was Spalletti on the bench, but there was none of the high-intensity, attacking football that made his Napoli side so enjoyable to watch last season.

"The team were timid in terms of the intensity of the game," he said. "We didn't do a good job, we weren't able to maintain a high level of intensity."

"When you are not able to win the ball back, given we don't possess pace at the back, you have to afford them space."

Spalletti only had 10 games before the tournament to whip a side that failed to qualify for the World Cup in Qatar

into shape, only reaching this tournament as runners-up to England in qualifying.

But four games into Euro 2024, and with just a win against Albania and a late draw with Croatia to show for it, Spalletti and Italy's tournament is over.

"They've been shambolic, almost," said BBC pundit Rio Ferdinand. "It's like they've not got one answer or solution for any scenario that's come up in this game today."

"Questions are going to be asked of Spalletti, I'm sure."

And they were. Immediately after the defeat, the 65-year-old was quizzed about whether he believed he could stay on as national team boss.

"That question is only natural, don't feel guilty about asking me," he said. "But that comes to the crux of the matter, it doesn't change anything for me."

"I have the responsibility for what has happened. I picked the players, and of course this is part of a process where I need to get to know players."

Spalletti bemoaned the lack of time he had spent with his squad, compared to other coaches at the tournament, injuries to certain players and even the fact Inter Milan won the title in April.

"Inter won Serie A and then I made sure they are a very professional, serious club because Simone Inzaghi kept training the team in a certain way," he explained.

"I was in touch with how often Inter were training, but perhaps you are subconsciously not as applied when you have won the league so early."

After suggesting his pushed

his players too hard in training before the draw against Croatia, this time he said he had let them rest and made six changes to his line-up.

"What happened tonight didn't come down to one single cause," he added. "But if that is the tempo, if you don't do something more in terms of tempo and intensity, it becomes a lot harder to compete, and we were under par."

Five months into his tenure in Naples, unhappy with the job he was doing, Napoli ultras stole his beloved Fiat Panda and said they would only return it if he left the club.

After this defeat, one Swiss journalist took the opportunity to quip whether Switzerland were now the Ferrari and Italy a Fiat Panda.

"You have to accept everything," said Spalletti. "Even rather tasteless allusions like yours - you are clearly a wonderful exponent of sarcasm, and you are right, what more can you say?"

"You did a better job than us, you were worthy winners, and we will try and do a better job next time."

The Napoli ultras eventually gifted Spalletti his steering wheel back when he guided them to a first title in 33 years, and the veteran does not fear question marks over his national team future this time either.

"When you want to scare me, say 'now what, now what'," he added. "I have come under pressure from day one since I decided to become a coach, to make it this far. I am very relaxed in trying to compete at this level."

BBC

Germany beats Denmark 2-0 to advance to Euro 2024 quarterfinals after storm stops play

DORTMUND, Germany

LET that patriotic fervor soar. Host nation Germany is headed to the quarterfinals at the European Championship after a wet and wild win over Denmark on Saturday.

"We're going to Berlin," sang the jubilant German fans who were first battered by rain and hail after a thunderstorm that stopped play for 25 minutes, then saw their team benefit from back-to-back video review calls that helped to set up a 2-0 victory in Dortmund.

Two more wins will take Germany to the capital for the July 14 final, in what could yet turn into a summer fairy tale for a nation whose soccer team is coming out of a sorry run of performances in major tournaments.

It could have been so different against the Danes, though.

The host-nation buzz was burst when, with the score at 0-0, Denmark defender Joachim Andersen swept home a close-range finish that looked to have put his team ahead in the 50th minute. The Video Assistant Referee spotted an offside in the buildup, a free kick was awarded and the ball was played downfield immediately, leading to a cross by David Raum hitting the outstretched right arm of - who else? - Andersen.

The VAR got involved again and a penalty was awarded. Kai Havertz converted the spot



Denmark's goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel dives but fails to save the goal from Germany's Kai Havertz at the Euro 2024, Saturday, June 29, 2024. AP Photo

kick and Jamal Musiala added a second goal - his third of the tournament, which is tied for the most with Georgia's Georges Mikautadze - in the 68th.

"We played a super game - we had crazy fans again today," Germany defender Nico Schlotterbeck said. "We're playing with euphoria, we're playing with fun, and that's what the most beautiful thing about football is."

It was Germany's first win in the knockout stage of a major tournament since 2016, since when the national team has failed to advance from the group stage at back-to-back World Cups and lost in the last 16 of the last Euros in 2021 to England.

Germany will play Spain or Georgia next and became the second team to advance from the round of 16, af-

ter Switzerland beat defending champion Italy 2-0 earlier Saturday.

Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann told German broadcaster ZDF that he used the rain delay to show his players incidents from the first half-hour of the game which his team dominated,

playing the most soccer of the tournament, in his opinion.

Indeed, the players were able to head into the confines of the locker room while thunder, lightning and torrential rain struck, leaving spectators in the front rows particularly exposed as

they scrambled higher in the stands. Many used black-yellow-and-red flags they had waved before the match, to welcome the players onto the field, as makeshift umbrellas.

"Oh, how lovely it is," some sang, and a few Danish supporters danced in waterfalls in the stands.

There was about a 20-minute delay before the rain relented and players re-emerged, undertaking warmups before play resumed a few minutes later. The pitch held up well in the circumstances.

Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand was left to rue those crucial couple of minutes when the big VAR decisions were made.

"I have the photo here," he said, whipping out his phone at the post-match news conference. "It was one centimeter (offside). In terms

of statistics and data, it doesn't make sense. This is not how we are supposed to be using VAR. "And I am so tired of the ridiculous handball rule. Joachim was running normally. It's a normal situation."

Nagelsmann sympathized with Hjulmand, saying: "I would also be annoyed if it was the other way round."

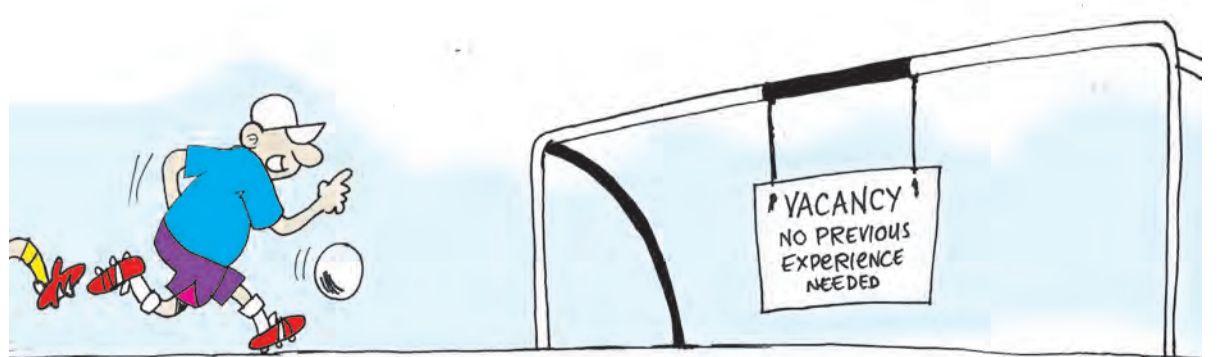
However, it's Denmark going home and Germany heading to Stuttgart on Friday.

"It was a wild game altogether," Nagelsmann said.

"We came through adversity in those seconds where it was, 'Was it a goal or not a goal?' and 'Was it handball or not a handball?' That makes me proud. The team deserves it and hopefully we are getting rid of the old memory stick and understand how good we actually are."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



'Worst Italy team in a lifetime' as holders limp out

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Zimbabwean striker Prince Dube. Agencies

Ex-Azam forward Prince Dube now a free player

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MAINLAND Tanzania Premier League giants Azam FC have finally terminated the contract with striker Prince Dube after the player met all the obligations that allow one party to break the deal.

Dube, who has been instrumental for the Zimbabwe senior national team, joined Azam FC in 2020 and has since become an integral part of the team.

The 27-year-old requested his release in March following a contract dispute after citing unavoidable reasons signaling his desire to part ways with the Chamazi-based side.

The Zimbabwean striker believed his deal was set to expire in June, but the club's stance was that the player still had two more years which would expire in 2026, which means he had two years left on his contract.

The dispute was heard before the Tanzanian Football Federation (TFF) and a committee in charge of the hearing ruled that the striker should meet Azam's demands to get his release.

In a bid to facilitate his departure, Dube reportedly offered 200m/- to terminate his contract prematurely while Azam were said to have demanded a staggering fee of \$300,000 (over 700m/-) for his release.

However, Azam have now confirmed that the obligation has been met.

A statement reads: "We would like to inform the public that we have accepted Prince Dube's request to terminate his contract with us, which he made in March 2024.

"This action follows the player's action to fulfill the contractual requirements as specified in the elements that allow one party to break the contract. We wish him all the best in his football journey and life in general."

While Dube destination is undisclosed, the transfer window suggests clarity may be in due course.

Meanwhile, according to reports, Tanzania Mainland Premier League Champions Young Africans want the player and it's believed they tabled a two-year contract for the striker last month.

Should he make the move to Young Africans during the upcoming transfer window, it could potentially reshape the team's attacking lineup, potentially impacting the roles of players like Kennedy Musonda, Clement Mzize, and Joseph Guede.

Dube is viewed as the missing firing piece in front of the goal in ambitions for the club to become dominant in the CAF Champions League and retain domestic cups, the Premier League, and the Federation Cup.

Dube's journey in professional football has been marked by significant highs and challenging lows.

After being named the Zimbabwe Castle Lager Premier Soccer League Rookie of the Year in 2016, Dube faced challenges in securing regular playtime during his stints with SuperSport United and Black Leopards in South Africa.

However, his resurgence was celebrated in Zimbabwe, where he was named the 2019 Soccer Star of the Year's second runner-up with Highlanders.

On the international stage, Dube has made significant contributions to the Zimbabwe national team, scoring seven goals in 14 appearances since his debut against Zambia in 2017.

His ability to perform under pressure and his knack for scoring in crucial moments have made him a key player for both his club and country.

Young Africans to unveil upcoming 2024/25 season squad starting today



Young Africans president Engineer Hersi Said. Agencies

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC have announced that the club's squad for the upcoming 2024/2025 season will be officially unveiled starting from today. This series of announcement will cover newly signed players, contract extensions, and those departing the team.

The 2023/2024 Premier League champions are also set to begin their pre-season training camp today in preparation for the new competition season. Head coach Miguel Gamondi has called for all new signings and existing squad members to report to camp in Dar es Salaam on July 1.

A source within the club revealed that Gamondi has communicated with club officials via phone, urging them to expedite the registration process. He emphasized the importance of having all players ready for pre-season preparations

starting today.

Young Africans' information and communication manager, Ally Kamwe, has confirmed the club's plans.

"From tomorrow (today), we will start announcing our team's camp location, as well as the squad for next season, including players who have left, those who have extended their contracts, and the newly registered ones," Kamwe stated.

According to inside information, several players are expected to be released from the club, including Farid Musa, Joyce Lomalisa, Kennedy Musonda, Zawadi Mauya, Denis Nkane, and Gift Fred.

The club's president Engineer Hersi Said provided additional details on the registration process, noting that the official announcement of new signings and contract renewals will commence today.

"We have completed about 99 percent of our registrations. The final step

is for the Information Department to introduce the players properly. We have made some necessary improvements to our squad, and I urge all Young Africans fans to stay tuned for the updates," Hersi remarked.

Young Africans have plans to hold their training camp in Europe but have also received invitations for international friendly matches in Kenya and South Africa.

Additionally, this year's 'Yanga Day' celebrations are tentatively scheduled between July 29 and August 3. This annual event is highly anticipated by fans and serves as an opportunity to showcase the team's preparations and new additions for the upcoming season.

As the club enters this new phase, the focus is on building a strong and competitive team to defend their title and perform well in upcoming competitions.

The meticulous planning and strategic player acquisitions reflect the club's commitment to maintaining its status as a top contender in Tanzanian and African football.

Simba assure fans: Right decision will be made on Clatous Chama

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club have revealed that the future of their prominent midfielder, Clatous Chama, remains undecided, and the final decision on whether his contract will be extended lies with the club's top leadership.

This was revealed in a recent update from the club's information and communication manager, Ahmed Ally, stating that his department has not yet received any official information regarding the Zambian international contract status. He urged the fans of Simba SC to remain patient as the leadership deliberates on the midfielder's future.

"All I can say is that Clatous Chama's contract with Simba SC has just ended, and until now, I have not been informed by my department to update the fans about his fate," Ahmed said. "The matter is currently being handled by our top leadership. Once they reach a decision, they will provide me with the information to communicate to the fans."

He further emphasized the importance of patience among the club's supporters, assuring them that any decision made by the leadership will be in the best interest of Simba.

"I urge the fans to remain calm. Any decision our leaders make regarding Chama will be the right one for the club's interest, and every fan should understand that," Ally added.

Chama's contract officially expired yesterday, June 30. However, according to sources within the club's leadership, discussions have been ongoing, and there is a positive direction in the negotiations.

Simba remain hopeful of retaining Chama, which is why no official farewell has been given to the player as of yet.

According to sources, if the discussions had not been favorable, a thank



Simba attacking midfielder Clatous Chama. Agencies

In addition to addressing Chama's situation, Ally provided updates on the club's registration process. He reassured fans and members that the process is progressing well and is in its final stages.

"Players signing is ongoing and nearly complete. Fans should not worry about our silence; we are finalizing the construction of our squad," Ally stated. "This week, we will start announcing all the players we have registered. It will be a series of back-to-back announcements."

"I understand the eagerness of our fans, but let me assure you that we have brought in some top-quality players. Some have already started their pre-preparation procedures for the season."

Recently, Simba bid farewell to five players and announced the signing of defender Lameck Lawi. Since then, there has been a period of silence, causing concern among some fans who are anxious to know about the squad's improvements.

Ally's statement aimed to alleviate these concerns and build anticipation for the upcoming announcements.

Simba are set to embark on a pre-season tour in Egypt this week. The tour will last for three weeks, after which the squad will return to participate in the Simba Day celebrations on August 3.

This period will be crucial for the team to prepare for the upcoming season.

The club's leadership is expected to provide a comprehensive update on Chama's situation and the new signings soon, as fans eagerly await news about their team.

The pre-season preparations intensify, and the anticipation and excitement among Simba supporters continue to build.

you would have already been issued to him, especially considering the rumors linking him with Simba's long-term rivals, Young Africans.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

