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TANZANIA

FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY, 2023

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12 dead, 63 hurt as bus, lorry collide

Tourism in sharp climb as NBS puts 2022 flow at 1.4m visitors

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TOURIST arrivals over the past year increased to 1.4m after attaining 0.9m visitations in 2021, the government has stated. Daniel Masolwa, the acting director for economic statistics at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said at a press conference yesterday that the increase of 0.5m tourists was equivalent to 57.7 per cent.

Tourist arrivals in 2022 slightly missed the 1.5m peak prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, a shortfall of 3.7 percent, he said, noting that the lifting of lockdown in most countries, tourism attractions promotion efforts within and outside the country explain the increase, he said.

The Royal Tour showcasing mixed attractions featuring President Samia Suluhu Hassan has significantly contributed to this tourism rebound in the aftermath of the COVID-19 upheaval, he stated

During the period under review, visitors from Kenya topped the list, at 166,342 arrivals, followed by Burundi (100,851), France (100,371) the United States (100,000) and Germany (67,718) plus Britain (60,116) and Poland (46,431).

The latter closely resembled Zambia (46,431) and Malawi (44,438) with 778,918 tourists from the top ten countries taking up 53.2 percent in total arrivals. Similarly, cement consumption increased to 7.5m tonnes during the period, up from 6.8m tonnes in 2021, a 9.8 percent increase. Cement consumption shows expansion or contraction of construction, he stated, noting that as an indicator it is a proxy of growth, reflecting the pace of buildings construction and civil

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People look on helplessly at the wreckage of the bus involved in a collision with a heavy-duty truck at Swila village in Dodoma Region yesterday, with the deaths of 12 passengers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent

WELVE people died and 63 were injured following a head-on crash involving a cargo truck and a passenger bus at Swila Pandambili village in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region, after midnight on Tuesday.

Awadh Haji, police commissioner heading operations and training at headquarters, told the media that reckless driving caused the accident along the Dodoma-Morogoro highway.

A bus with registration number T415 DPP operated by Frester Bus Co. travelling from Bukoba, Kagera Region to Dar es Salaam rammed into a lorry with T 677 DVX number plate.

The speeding of the passenger bus driver was the major cause of the horrific accident, he said, noting that the bus driver tried to overtake another bus in a reckless manner, leading to the head-on collision with the lorry.

Two police officers who were taking a suspect to another destination died in the accident, with Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule urging drivers and other road users to adhere to road traffic regulations to avoid accidents.

She said the government has good reasons to allow some passenger vehicles to travel during night but a few drivers are ruining this consideration by violating road safety rules.

This brings about horrific impacts and the government will not tolerate such situations, she asserted, while the capital's referral hospital chief medical officer, Dr Ernest Ibenzi said they received 15 injured people, mostly with cuts on

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Speaker queries foreign varsities' honoris causa

It is not acceptable that only foreign universities recognize the MPs' contributions to the national development agenda, but not local universities. This kind of honorary degrees trend will lead to ...

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government needs to come up with guidelines on the recognition of honorary degrees issued to members of Parliament and other leaders by foreign universities, National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson has said.

She made the declaration in the House debating chamber yesterday after legislator Rashid Shangazi (Mlalo) sought guidance on the status of honorary degrees from abroad.

She said that the Ministry of Education, Science

and Technology needs to work on the matter and advise the government and the legislature, on account of doubts surrounding the trend of haphaz-

ard issuance of such titles.
Some foreign institutions of higher learning like universities were extending honorary degrees to MPs, the Speaker noted, urging the ministry to institute measures to protect the country's reputation in education.

She said that such de

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Downpour exposes city's infrastructure underbelly

By Henry Mwangonde

HEAVY rains that pounded the city of Dar es Salaam in the early hours of Thursday brought business in the morning to a standstill in many parts of the commercial capital.

The situation, exposed the sorry state of the drainage system in the central business district as some key arter-

ies were converted into rivers, as the overnight downpour threw road traffic

Flooding continued to wreak havoc in most inner city areas, as The Guardian visited various suburbs and key bridges, where crossing was halted for

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Speaker queries foreign varsities' honoris causa

FROM PAGE 1

grees are given in consideration of the recipient's record of reasonable achievement in a specific field by tracking their rise from humble beginnings to notable achievements.

"We need guidelines in place that will protect the country from being a dumpsite for honorary degrees," she said, underlining that honorary degrees are issued based on research based evidence of the recipient's competence in such a particular field.

"You cannot compare the honorary degree for President Samia Suluhu Hassan with, for example, someone who paid US\$2,500 (6m/-) to a certain institution for an honorary degree. You pay fees for your child to study hard but you pay money for an honorary degree," she

She urged MPs to do their research and find out how many people have been issued with honorary degrees at the University of Dar es Salaam and the University of Dodoma. The issuance of honorary degrees is not an overnight matter, she emphasized.

"It is not acceptable that only foreign Universities recognize the MPs' contributions to the national development agenda, but not local universities. This kind of honorary degrees trend will lead to the spoiling of the nation's education title credibility," she stated.

Over the past year, MPs such as Rita Kabati (Special Seats), Hamis Taletale (Morogoro South East) and Joseph Kasheku (Geita) were awarded honorary degrees by different foreign universities.

Some ministers obtained PhDs within a short period of time and raised public anxiety about their theses or dissertations, the questioner has specified.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Education, Science and Technology minister, earlier told the House that honorary degrees are only offered by influential universities and there are criteria that they observe.

The Tanzania Commission of Universities (TCU) is empowered to verify awards, including academic certificates and honorary degrees issued by foreign universities and other higher learning institutions.

Usually, TCU consults education ministries and regulatory bodies for higher learning institutions of the respective countries to obtain a profile of the institution's credibility or track record.

Verification for academic awards or honorary degrees is conducted when a certain employer asks TCU to do so, he said.

If the country's education system is globally trusted then people should take courage and pursue degrees that are obtained by course work and thesis, the minister added. Intili didinini



Hope and fashion director Joyce Mrema Zanzibar (R) pictured in Zanzibar yesterday briefing Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi and First Lady Mariam Mwinyi, who toured tourism and investment pavilions at an exhibition now in progress in Zanzibar. Photo: State House

Downpour exposes city's infrastructure underbelly

FROM PAGE 1

hours, with the traffic jams spanning out from major highways to residential areas. Residents battled to clear drainage culverts and trenches, while employees were in many cases compelled to go back after failing to get transport to their work places in the

snarling jams up to mid-

morning hours.

Aziza Shaabani, a resident of Tabata who operates a mobile cash transfer kiosk in the city centre had simply to go back, saying she could not put her life at risk.

She avoided trying to board vehicles trying to brave the water, fearing they could be overcome by the waves, though many people felt confident doing that. At Mwenge Mpakani, small traders were carrying their wares to safer places as their usual trading spots were flooded, with the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) saying the ongoing rains were prevalent in Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Tanga and Arusha regions, experiencing changes in rainfall pat-

Joyce Makwata, a senior TMA official, said the period known for its long rains would continue in 'unimodal' areas for the next two months, citing a low pressure belt over northern Madagascar touching off high humidity in the Congo forests. This translates into rains in Dar es Salaam and the northern regions in particular, she said.

Usually January and February are not rainy months for these regions. she said, qualifying the rains as out of the season, with chances of continuing depending on the atmospheric patterns.

"We are following up on the weather build up and we will be reporting to the public," she said. Ongo ing rains in Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Ruvuma and Songwe are by contrast within the season and will similarly continue up to April,, she added.



Deogratius Ndejembi (L), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), presents an award to Public Service Social Security Fund director general Hosea Kashimba in connection with PSSF's close association with the 10th anniversary of Tanzania's Electronic Government (e-GA) and for its prominent presence at the Third e-GA meeting held in Arusha city on Wednesday. Looking on are President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) permanent secretary Dr Laurean Ndumbaro (4th-L) and e-GA director general Benedict Ndomba (2nd-L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ndejembi applauds PSSF for embracing use of ICT

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

DEPUTY Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) Deogratius Ndejembi has commended the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSF) for embracing the use of technology in reaching out to the public. Ndejembi made the remarks in his speech during

years of the establishment of the e-Government Authority (e-GA) which brought together various experts from the sector who are within the government.

an event to celebrate 10

"Today I have seen for myself how PSSSF has managed to set up an App which allows members to see their contributions,

this is a welcome move and I call upon e-GA to continue conducting research which will facilitate expansion of the industrial and investment sector," he

He said the move has helped to ease services provision and overcome bureaucracy which was mainly being contributed by papers

The deputy minister called upon other institutions to use technology to allow the general public and the customers they serve to easily reach them.

PSSSF operates Kiganjani and Mtandao which allows members, employers and retired members to access services anywhere using a mobile phone without necessarily visiting the

pension fund's offices. The Public Service Social Security Fund is a social security scheme established by the Public Service Social Security Act of 2018. The main purpose is to collect contributions and payment of terminal benefits to employees of public service. The act shall apply in mainland Tanzania.

Tourist arrivals: l.4m over 2022

engineering works. Cement production stood at 7.5m tonnes, up from 6.6m tonnes in 2021, reflecting a 14.9 percent increase, similarly showcasing cement exports of 0.6m tonnes, an increase from 0.4m tonnes in 2021, a pathbreaking 43.2 percent increase, he said. Cement imports decreased to 0.5m tonnes compared to

in 2021, a reduction of 17.9 percent. "The decrease in cement imports is attributable to import substitution in the cement industry," he stated.

Electricity consumption increased to 9.4m kWh, up from 7.9m kWh in 2021, amounting to an 18.6 percent increase. A total of 6.6m kWh of power was generated in the past year, from 5m kWh generated in 2021, he added.

12 dead, 63 hurt in bus-lorry collision

FROM PAGE 1

hands and on the head. Earlier, Kongwa DC Remidius Mwema said 36 injured people were rushed to Gairo district hospital and 27 others sent to Kibaigwa health centre, apart from the re-

ferral hospital. Eleven bodies out of the 12 deceased people were kept at the Morogoro regional referral hospital to enable relatives to turn up and identify them.

This accident came a few days after 20 people perished in a horrific accident in Korogwe District, Tanga Region where a Mitsubishi Fuso truck crashed into a bus with mourners travelling from Dar es Salaam to Moshi with the dead relative in the bus.

Police reports show that 80 percent of accidents are caused by reckless driving, 12 per cent relate to mechanical failures, six per cent tied to unstable weather and just about two per cent of accidents arise from poor road state.

Global figures issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for 2018 indicate that each year 1.3m people die as a result of road traffic accidents, and millions more are injured or disabled.

NATIONAL NEWS

Govt postpones second reading of UHI Bill 2022

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government has postponed the second reading of the Universal Health Insurance (UHI) Bill 2022 which was scheduled for yesterday due to uncompleted modifications noticed after its first reading.

Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson told parliamentarians yesterday that consultations on the proposed health law are ongoing at the Parliamentary Committee on Social Services and Community Development for the purpose of improving the areas that will create an easy way for the general public to receive health services through the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) member-

"The main issues that the committee is still working on are connected to budgeting and finance. In this regard, the Bill will be tabled at the time when the committee is done with its consultation with the government on financial issues," said Dr Ackson.

The Bill was expected to be presented in the National Assembly for the second time in November for all the remaining stages to its approval but was postponed to this February to pave the way for further consultation between the committee and the government.

Health minister Ummy Mwalimu told editors in Dar es Salaam late last month that the modification of the proposed law includes setting a standard benefit package of which each insurance scheme will have to provide.

The package reviewing is on fees for registration, admission, tests, medication, surgery, dental services, eyes treatment, orthopedic appliances and physiotherapy services.

The health insurance for all will cover up to six family members per home and the National Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) will be in charge of regulating the insurance and determining citizens who cannot afford to pay for the insurance cover with the government accommodating them.

In the proposed modifications of the Bill, some requirements for one to access the UHI have been slashed to five from the previous nine. The five required items are driving licence, motor vehicle insurance, and a business licence, a visa for foreigners and admission letters for university students.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Dr Stergomena Tax responds to questions from legislators in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Media Services Act amendments bill will be tabled today - Nnauye

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is today expected to table a bill for the amendment of the Media Services Act, 2016 following a criticism from key stakeholders, including the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF).

Information, Communications and Information Communication Technology Nape Nnauye told journalists in Dodoma that the government was all set to table the bill for

The clarification by the minister followed complaints by TEF, which expressed dismay over the government's earlier decision to shelve the tabling of a bill for the amendments in the on-going parliamentary ses-

He took exception to TEF's decision to go public on the matter despite government assurances that the law would be amended.

"We have involved ourselves fully

with ensuring that the law is amended, so we are surprised by the move by TEF." he said.

In a statement issued on Wednesday and signed by its chairman, Deodatus Balile, the forum stated that it had received with disappointment a statement by the Chief Government Spokesman Gerson Msigwa suggesting that the bill would not be tabled in the ongoing sessions because the National Assembly already too many sectorial committee reports to discuss to accommodate the MSA-2016

Balile said the reason given by the government for shelving the tabling of the proposed amendments was minor and TEF was worried if indeed there was any intention to amend the particular piece of legislation.

He said meetings to amend the law have thus far ended without a consensus on various sections of the law, including the powers of the Director of Information Services.

These are, namely, sections 9 and 10 which give the director's office powers to both prosecute and judge which is against the principles of good governance.

"In other professions, this role falls under the respective professional councils and boards but some officers in the government still argue that the powers should be in the hands of an individual," Balile said in the state-

He said that the disagreement

continued up to November 21, 2022 when the minister for the sector (Nape Nnauye) decided to directly take charge as chairman - which is when the other officers relented, though not wholeheartedly.

However, TEF maintains that it has been "in good communication" with minister Nnauye, AG Dr Eliezer Feleshi and several other officers - except for junior officers in the sector who appear intent on delaying the process.

Govt vows commitment to abide **KUPOTEA KWA**

by ECF programme agreements

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has assured the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that the government continues to abide by the agreements reached in the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) programme in July

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, Minister for Finance and Planning said the government has taken various policy steps to improve trade and investment climate in the country in order to spur economic growth and the country's development in general.

Dr Nchemba made the remarks in Dodoma yesterday when officially opening the meeting of experts from IMF, led by the Economic and Finance Consultant (Africa Department). Charalambos Tsangarides.

The delegation is in the country to make an assessment on the implementation of ECF programme Phase I.

It is recalled that on July 18 2022 IMF Board of Directors endorsed a soft loan totaling USD 1,046.4 million to be issued in seven phases for the strengthening of the economy and to fight the effects of climate change through the ECP programme. The minister further said through the 40-month programme, the IMF has already provided USD 151.7 million in August last year that was directed to the intended projects areas including those for economic growth, trade and fighting the effects of climate change.

In addition, USD 152 million for Phase II is expected to be issued in March this year after the ongoing IMF assessment.

KADI YA GARI

JOHN CHRISTIAN METZGER anatangaza

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High Commission of India Dar es Salaam

Date: 10.02.2023

Subject: Tender for Supply of 10 Units Of Ambulances for the High Commission of India Dar es Salaam

High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam invites sealed quotations from reputed, experienced and financially sound Companies registered under relevant Tanzanian Companies Law which can provide 10 Ambulance for High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam. The Tender document can be downloaded from the Mission's website https://hcindiatz.gov.in in the What's New Section under the heading "Tender for Supply of 10 Units Of Ambulances for the High Commission of India Dar es Salaam"



Stephen Adili (R), CRDB Bank Plc's head of consumer banking, symbolically presents sets of jerseys to a representative of Tanzania People's Defence Forces Sports Director Col John Thomas Nyanchoha in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The items are part of the bank's 11m/- worth sponsorship of the TPDF team that is expected to participate in the upcoming National Military Sports Council tournament to be held in Mtwara Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



The Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT

Recruiting for Administration Analyst

The Organization

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. The Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation. (https://alliancebioversityciat.org/)

With novel partnerships, the Alliance generates evidence and mainstreams innovations to transform food systems and landscapes so that they sustain the planet, drive prosperity, and nourish people.

The Alliance is part of CGIAR (www.cgiar.org) a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

About the position

We are searching for an Administration Analyst responsible for providing efficient and effective administrative, logistical, and operational support to the research projects and coordination office. The incumbent will be based in Arusha, under the direct supervision of the Coordinator of Administration & Operations. The person selected will act as the focal point for processing requests made by research staff following the institutional procedures to contribute to the efficient delivery of projects.

Key Responsibilities

- Maintain permanent communication and support the lead administrative aspect of research projects for planning, execution, and monitoring of travels, events, services, and contracts.
- · Preparation of requests and travels legalization in OCS/Agresso for all research units of the Alliance operating out of the Arusha office.
- Preparation of requisitions for supplies and services in Agresso and follow up on goods and services
- · Support the Coordinator of Administration & Operations with requests for research programs staff, temporary staff, and students.
- · Preparation of requisitions in OCS/Agresso and monitoring payments for national and international
- · Logistical support to all research units of the Alliance operating out of the Arusha office, visitors, and participants in courses and workshops, facilitating the flow of communication within the team.
- Monitoring of the budget execution of all research programs in the country.
- · Support the Coordinator of Administration & Operations and PIs in the daily maintenance of the office

Qualifications and requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Logistics and Procurement, Accounting, or related discipline with a minimum of 2 years of relevant experience.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office package. • Advance command of the English language, both written and spoken.
- Sound knowledge of standard office operations and procedures.
- Strong client orientation and service approach.
- Strong interpersonal, communications, and teamwork skills. • Well-developed skills in personal organization, priority setting, problem-solving, and accuracy.

Terms of employment:

This is a nationally recruited position based in Arusha, Tanzania. The contract will be for one year period, subject to a probation period of three (3) months and is renewable depending on performance and availability of resources. The Alliance offers a multicultural, collegial research environment with competitive salary and excellent benefits; we believe that the diversity of our staff contributes to excellence. The Alliance is an equal opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender.

Applications

Applicants are invited to visit https://www.bioversityinternational.org/jobs/ to get full details of the position and to submit their applications. Applications MUST include reference number Ref: 102892 Administration Analyst as the position applied for. Application and CV should be saved as one document using the candidate's last name, first name for ease of sorting.

Note: The Alliance does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing, or training). The Alliance also does not concern itself with information on applicants' bank accounts.

Applications closing date: 16th February, 2023

Please note that email applications will not be considered.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

We invite you to learn more about us at: http://alliancebioversityciat.org

12 suspects involved in Form IV exams cheating in custody, says Prof Mkenda

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER for Education, Science and Technology Prof Adolph Mkenda has said so far 12 suspects involved in the 2022 Form IV examinations cheating are in custody.

He said investigations continue at centres that were found to have cheated while letters are being written to the appointing authorities for further steps including prosecution in court to follow.

Prof Mkenda said this yesterday here when elaborating in regards to parents of 140 students who sat for the examination at Thaqaafa Secondary School in Mwanza who marched in protest to demand the government's intervention to enable the students get their examination results.

He said the government has been satisfied with the decision taken by the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) regarding 337 students who were found to have cheated in the examinations.

"We in NECTA have met with every group of those whose examinations have been revoked, we have been satisfied by that, and hence we would like to announce that a total of 560,335 students sat for Form IV examinations and 337 had their results an-

"This is 0.06 per cent of all candidates, a very small percentage but they touch fellow Tanzanians, meanwhile the results for 20 other candidates have not been annulled, they are being withheld for more investigations by the council," he said.

He said out of the candidates whose results were annulled, four of them wrote up abusive words, 51 were found with unpermitted writings in the examination room, and 10 were caught with mobile/smart phones including smart watches.

Prof Mkenda added: "25 candidates were found assisting each other in the examination room, there are also six found using WhatsApp receiving assistance from outside as happened at Mnemonic Academy of Zanzibar."

"About 206 candidates had their results annulled because they had exact same answers given in their examination papers, 140 out of whom hail from Mwanza's Thaqaafa Secondary School," he explained. He said secret reports were submitted to NECTA

regarding cheating in the examination centres and the council took the appropriate steps including going through the answers written by the candidates.

He said at Thaqaafa Secondary School examination centre there were a total of 192 candidates but only 140 had their results resembled hence they were annulled.

"We cannot have people who are incurring great expenses to us as those for Std VII examinations when we spent billions of shillings to reset the exams, this is pure economic sabotage, we believe after examinations that are also involving the police, appropriate steps will be taken," said Prof Mkenda.

Japan envoy sees innovation, tech success in 30 yrs

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AMBASSADOR of Japan to Tanzania Misawa Yasushi yesterday said that Tanzania can achieve impressive development in innovation and technology in 30 years but only if private sector is strongly involved.

The envoy said that in Dar es Salaam at the opening of the Japan-Tanzania Innovation Forum organised by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with University of Dar es Salaam and brought together 300 participants from both two countries.

He said despite impressive achievement recorded in promoting science and technology in primary and secondary school but involvement of private sector is not enough.

The envoy added that enhancing further collaboration and exchange between the two sectors is crucial to create more jobs through innovation.

He said so far Tanzania has managed to create peaceful environment making it in a position to develop in the next 30 years noting private sector is key stakeholders to enhance innovation," he said.

"We are ready to support innovation and technological development in Tanzania to ensure the innovation sector prosper and brings changes to people's lives," he said.

Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Education, Science and Technology Dr Francis Michael said Tanzania was ready to start training Swahili language in Japanese higher learning institutions.

He directed the management of the University of Dar es Salaam to initiate memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Japanese varsities trough the Japan Embassy in the country.

"It is a right time now to start teaching Swahili language in Japanese higher

M-KOPA SOLAR TANZANIA LIMITED **COMPANY NUMBER 111311**

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING IN VOLUNTARY WINDING UP

IN THE MATTER OF M-KOPA SOLAR TANZANIA LIMITED IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION (MEMBERS')] WINDING UP

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, CAP. 212.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 345(1) and (2) of the Companies Act, 2002, that a general meeting of the above named company will be held on 28 February, 2023 at 1:00 pm onwards via Zoom/Teams meeting for the purpose of having an account laid before it, and receiving the report of the liquidator showing how the winding up of the Company has been conducted and its properties disposed of, and of hearing any explanation which may be given by the liquidator.

Any member or creditor entitled to attend, and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead. A proxy need not be a member or creditor of the Company.

GEOFREY NICHOLAUS DIMOSO (LIQUIDATOR) Dated this 26 day of January 2023

GEOFREY NICHOLAUS DIMOSO

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Tel: +255 22 260 1151/2 Tel: +255 754 999 667 E-mail: Geofrey.dimoso@alnafrica.co.tz learning institutions and my office is ready to support facilitation of the ongoing process," he said.

Dr Kasabubu said the government intention is to see Swahili language is promoted in as many countries to ensure it becomes strong languages in the world.

Currently, Kiswahili is considered one of the top 10 most spoken languages in the world and in Africa, it is the most widely used native language.

The language, enjoys national status in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, is also widely spoken in parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.

Prof Bonaventure Rutinya, the Deputy Vice Chancellor-Academy at the University of Dar es Salaam said the varsity was ready to dispatch a team of trainers to teach Kiswahili language in Japanese's higher learning institutions.

He said varsity has enough staffs to train Kiswahili language in Japan noting that the management works closely to ensure the deal is accomplished.

Yamamura Naofumi, JICA Tanzania office Chief Representative said that the aim of the forum was to exchange their knowledge and experience on the field of innovation through discussions and lectures.

He said the forum will give a clear picture of the challenges, opportunities and best ways on how Tanzania can apply innovation for its sustainable development and how Japan can contribute towards the country's innovation in the agriculture sector.

Court upholds 30-year sentence against man who raped 13-year-old

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

HIGH Court of Tanzania Mwanza Zone has upheld the sentence meted out by the lower court against the appellant, Juma Joseph to serve 30 years in jail for raping a 13-year girl.

The sentence was given here on Tuesday by High Court Judge Kassim Robert after going through two points submitted by the appellant that called for quashing the sentence.

Juma was found guilty of rape by Magu District Court and sentenced to 30 years in jail.

It was alleged that on January 20 2020 at 10:00 pm 12-year old girl at a time with her two siblings were told to go to their aunt's house to fetch their father's mobile phone.

While on the way they met with the appellant who pulled aside the girl and took her inside an unfinished house, undressed her and raped her.

It was alleged in court that the girl's brothers ran away back home to inform their father after which they all went to look for the girl.

The father is alleged to have looked for the girl inside the unfinished house and found his daughter with the appellant.

After going through the prosecution's testimony, the court was satisfied beyond doubt on the guilt of the appellant and sentenced him to 30 years in jail.

The appellant, represented by Fidelis Mtewele, advocate, opposed both the verdict and the sentence and submitted his appeal that was heard on September 30 2022.

The republic was represented by Senior State Attorney Maryasinta Lazaro.

The appellant claimed that the lower court failed to evaluate the prosecution's testimony before arriving at the verdict that proved their case beyond reasonable doubt.

Secondly, the appellant claimed in his appeal that the lower court erred in depending on the prosecution's conflicting testimony.

Advocate Mtewele claimed that the first conflict to the prosecution testimony began at the hospital where the victim underwent examination querying where was the Form PF 3 was issued and duly signed.

He claimed that the seventh prosecution witness who examined the rape victim claimed that the examination was done at Kisesa Health Centre, whilst the fourth prosecution witness said she was taken to Sese Dispensary for examina-

In regard to the second conflicting point according to advocate Mtewele concerned the person who witnessed the rape, the father of the victim who alleged that he found the appellant was in the process of wearing his clothes inside the unfinished house.

The respondents' Attorney Lazaro agreed the existence of the conflicts in the testimonies in regard to the hospital that conducted the examination, but claimed there was no argument that the victim was taken to hospital, the only argument was where she was taken to among the two hospitals.

"All witnesses said the victim lived in Sese Village. The doctor who examined her said he did the examination at Kisesa Health Centre hence the conflict is minor and cannot affect the case.



Residents of the Kumburu Estate suburb of Ngomeni ward in Muheza District line up drums and buckets yesterday in a desperate wait for potable water at the only tap they depend on - but with little hope of success. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

"The conflict on who took the rape victim to the hospital, all witnesses said she was taken to the hospital by many people including her mother, hence the conflict was also minor," she claimed.

After listening to all points from both sides,

High Court Judge Robert there was no argument that the victim was taken to Kisesa Health Centre as claimed by prosecution wit-

He said after going through the testimony of the second witness, he found out that he did not mention individual names of those who took the victim to the hospital.

In the circumstances, he said, the court does not see any strong reason to quash the verdict of the lower court hence the appeal is hereby quashed," he said.

By Guardian Reporter

IN yet another milestone, Tanzania's leading digital lifestyle company Tigo, has achieved the fastest 5G download speed of 1 Gigabits per second (1Gbps) in Dar es Salaam. In addition, the company has been the first to launch 5G technology in Zanzibar. Moreover, Tigo has deployed 5G technology in Dodoma.

Kamal Okba, Tigo Tanzania Man-

Tigo achieves Tanzania's fastest 5G speed of 1Gbps

aging Director said, "We are pleased to announce that Tigo has achieved unprecedented 1 Gbps 5G network speed. This 5G ultra-wideband gamechanging download speed is the fastest in Tanzania. We at Tigo always strive to meet the ever-increasing bandwidth demand from diverse needs of customers, businesses, automation, and gaming."

"Today's landmark announcement is a result of Tigo's efforts in building a robust 5G network, and 1 Gbps is truly a huge leap forward in the 5G era to offer a speed 10 times faster than 4G speed. This will have a significant and profound change on individuals, industries, society and the economy, transforming how we live and work."

"This launch is in line with Tigo's

transformative journey and the company's objective of offering customers the best digital experience," said

Okba pointed out that "We are now competing with the developed nations who are currently rolling out 5G technology.

The latest generation of mobile communication technology in Tanzania denote that full possibilities of ubiquitous connectivity are now opened to our customers." Tigo has also launched the first 5G network in Zanzibar, which is a first in the Isles. This step continues to show Tigo's intention to continue investing in modern technologies in the islands. This is a catalyst for the communication sector, where Tan-

zania continues to benefit from modern technologies that bring new economic and social oppor-Tigo has also confirmed that they

mation about 5G services and products in the near future. Through our state-of-the art 5G technology, we aspire to help Tanzania build an inclusive digital economy

to meet various social and economic

will continue to provide more infor-



Date: 03rd February 2023

Reference: PAT/E0I/CATERING/01/2023 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROVISION OF CATERING AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES TO THE SONGOSONGO ISLAND GAS OPERATIONS OPERATED BY PANAFRICAN ENERGY TANZANIA LIMITED

1. PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Ltd. a Producer, Distributor and Marketer of Natural Gas from the Songo Songo Gas Plant ("Plant") in Kilwa District, Lindi Region hereby invites potential bidders to express their interest for the supply of the following

2. **SERVICES**

Provision of Catering and Miscellaneous services which includes the following:-

- 1. Provision of Catering Services.
- 2. Provision of Housekeeping and Camp Management Services.
- 3. Provision of Cleaning Services which includes Cleaning the Campgrounds, Recreational Area, Rooms, and Offices, Laundry, Garbage Collection and Disposal and Maintenance of the Campgrounds.
- 4. Provision of Additional Services including Managing Plant Painters and Maintenance Staffs etc
- 3. This call for Eol signifies the start of an open, transparent and objective tender process.
- 4. The Potential Bidder should be a well-established and reputable company and shall indicate that it is willing, capable, experienced, and competent in supplying the said Services preferably to the Oil & Gas Industries and those serving in the Mining Industry. Failure to indicate clearly may result in disqualification.
- 5. Potential Bidders must submit information to demonstrate their technical competency and relevant experience. As a minimum, this must include the following:
 - (i) Proof of experience in providing Sustained Catering and Camp Management services in remote areas preferably in the Oil & Gas industry and or Mining Industry (Provide 3 reference letter and a list of clienteles).
 - (ii) Proven relevant technical capability.
 - (iii) Proof of QHSE standards, i.e., Certificates of registration with a recognised institutions such as ISO standards for quality, health, safety, and environment, Safety Management system with the following: Company Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) Policy and Compliance Certificates, Document event reporting process, safety statistics for the last three years (2020,2021 and 2022), risk assessment of operations, Safety plans, appointed safety professionals representatives and committee, accident / incident investigation process and intervals of training, management of change process and safety assurance program Emergency Response Plan (ERP).
 - (iv) Proof of registration with local authorities in Tanzania. Attach Company Registration/Incorporation certificate, Tax Identification Number (TIN) and Value Added Tax (VAT) certificates, Valid Business License, Regulatory licenses and permits or compliance certificate (as applicable), etc.
 - (v) Proof of financial capability (provide latest approved audited financial statements for the past 3 years) and a Letter from your Bank.
 - (vi) For Tanzania Registered Companies provide Proof of Registration in EWURA'S LSSP Database as a Local Service Provider and current annual returns generated from BRELA Online Registration System.
 - (vii) Attach a copy of medical insurance policy.
- 6. All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be in writing and communicated by e-mail otherwise the potential bidder may be disqualified from tendering at the sole discretion of PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited.

All physical responses are to be delivered before 2pm Friday, 17th February 2023 to Bizimana Ntuyabaliwe, Deputy Managing Director, PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited, Oyster Plaza, 5th Floor, Haile Selassie Road, P.O. Box 80139, Dar esSalaam, Tanzania, (all electronic copies of the RFQ are to be sent to the email (bntuyabaliwe@panaricanenergy.com) and a copy to (rmohele@panafricanenergy.com on the last day of submission).





WASCO ISOAF Tz is a Tanzania -incorporated company with its head office in Dar es Salaam and its plant in Nzega District, Tabora Region. The Company has been contracted by the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project as a Thermal Insulation Contractor.

POSITION: SITE COMMUNICATION & INTEGRATION

PLACE OF WORK:SOJO, NZEGA DISCTRICT, TABORA REGION

REPORTING TO: SOCIAL PERFORMANCE MANAGER. ALIGNS WITH GOALS SET BY OPERATIONS MANAGER.

Purpose of role

- · Facilitate communication, interface, and integration between and across different departments, functions and levels of the Wasco Isoaf workforce at the Thermal Insultation System (TIS) coating facility (CF) site in Sojo, Nzega District.
- · Ensure that there is adequate and timely flow of information about work proceedings, terms, requirements and decisions, and that all workers at all levels are informed and have adequate information to contribute to the confident, punctual, and safe execution of their work at the CF site.
- · Cultivate an appreciation among the workforce at site of how different activities and efforts by different personnel from diverse disciplines contribute to Wasco Isoaf delivering its contracted work scope successfully.

Duties

- · Motivate the workforce to function as a team.
- Map existing official and non-official communication lines at site and how these function, and to which effect.
- · Identify all communication needs across the various work streams and operations at site.
- Identify types of information that need to be disseminated, and who the originator/ owner of each type of information is.
- Establish intra-departmental and activity interface lines.
- Establish regular, ongoing vertical and horizontal communication lines between different aspects of site operations. Disclose agreed and approved communication, information flows and interfaces to the entire workforce.
- · Establish open, transparent avenues through which the workforce can access procedures, decisions, protocols, information
- about events, Wasco Isoaf goals and progress updates including identifying key contact people that can be reached in regard to specific information types.
- · Establish regular instances for in-person exchange of information and ideas between different levels of the workforce, working on different aspects of the Wasco Isoaf scope.
- · Develop site communications based on clear, timely, accurate information and ensure information and messages are inclusively, systematically and consistently disclosed to all personnel.
- Establish a forum to provide worker feedback to site management, and vice versa.
- Establish a forum for regular cross-cultural events to systematically increase the workforce's cultural intelligence. · Service the communication, interface and integration systems to ensure they function properly; adapt and improve these if they
- are not efficient or adequate to enable information flow, feedback loops, and a well-informed workforce empowered through information.

Qualification and Experience

- Exceptional communication competence.
- · Ability to understand technical, engineering, industrial, construction environment and to translate technical content into
- understandable and accessible information. · Experience working in, leading and facilitating processes that enable and enhance understanding among multi-national and
- multi-cultural teams working in an industrial, construction and/ or high-demand production context.
- Ability to act as broker of trust and to cultivate respect and appreciation among a diverse workforce.
- · Fully conversant in English and Swahili and preferably a third language.

· High integrity and non-partial work ethic.

- Interface
- All departments/ function managers or site representatives

Apply to: hr-tanzania@isoaf.com

Please note that, should you not be contacted for more than two weeks after the deadline, consider your application unsuccessful



Deadline: 24th February 2023

NATIONAL NEWS

MPs furious as govt keeps by-laws intact

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

LEGISLATORS yesterday expressed concern at the non-observance of parliamentary resolutions requiring that various bylaws be amended

Dr Jasson Rweikiza (Bukoba Rural), the bylaws committee chairman, said in a presentation that the listed bylaws were contributing to endless harassment of people as they contradicted the parent laws.

The committee urged the respective ministries to work on the parliamentary resolutions and complete the work in six months, insisting that, "the powers that the legislature delegates to other government institutions should not be used to disturb the community."

Tabling the report, he said that bylaws related to environmental cleanness and petty traders are inconsistent, inapplicable and contradict the country's parent laws.

From February 2022 to January 2023 the committee followed up on how far parliamentary resolutions were adopted regarding minor amendments and 24 bylaws enacted in various district councils countrywide.

Committee members showed their disappointment as the relevant ministries had failed to revisit the bylaws.

Sylvia Sigula (Special Seats) said most bylaws enacted by district councils are inconsistent sembly during the sixth and seventh meetings,

with the parent laws, suggesting that the committee comes up with a resolution to amend the law relating to bylaws as a whole.

That calls for amending the Interpretation of Laws Act Cap 1 Article 37 which allows district councils to adopt and endorse bylaws before they are approved by the respective ministries.

"For instance the cleaning and hygiene bylaw for Misungwi district council requires people not open their businesses on any Saturday until 10am so that they can take part in cleaning the environment.

"The bylaws do not complement the county's economic development laws and the development vision of the country," she declared. Simai Hassan Sadiki (Nungwi) argued that the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Licensing and Rights to Benefit from Re-Sale), Regulation 2022 Article 3 (2) and (3) states that an artist should first submit the contract he intends to sign with a company to COSOTA for approval, where the copyright society will charge one percent of the contract's value as fees.

"The copyright bylaw is inconsistent with the parent law and is yet to be amended by the ministry. This is not right as many youths see the music industry as an option to formal employment," he said.

The bylaws were listed in the National As-



David Lekei (2nd-R), acting executive director for Hai District, has a word with members of the African Plantation Kilimanjaro management team and Agriculture Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS) representatives yesterday shortly before distributing 300 bags of maize for use by pupils in 42 primary schools. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

with seven ministries pointed out by the committee for delaying to amend the bylaws for non-compliance with parent laws,

The cited ministries are President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) which had four bylaws to work on, along with Finance and Planning with four bylaws, Health having two such bylaws, and Energy with three similar by-

laws.

Others are Culture, Arts and Sports with one bylaw, Works and Transport with four bylaws and Industry, Trade and Investment with three bylaws, he speci-

"There are a few ministries which have observed the bylaw amendments but veered from the terms of the parliamentary resolutions," he said, noting that this

was the case for bylaws involving Health, Treasury and Works.

The bylaws in question includes the Standards (Cooperation in Execution of (Powers and Functions) Regulations, The Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Products (Regulations), 2021, The Mining (Government Minerals Warehouse) Regulations 2022 and the Transport Licensing (Private Hire Services) Regulations 2020.

HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group

twiga UNAUDITED RESULTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Tanzania Portland Cement Public Limited Company (TPCPLC) continues to deliver strong operating results when compared to year 2021. Both the sales volume and revenue reached a record high compared to year 2021. Sales volume and revenue increased by 5% and 10% respectively. This increase is due to the continued increased demand of cement products within Tanzania and outside Tanzania.

The high availability and efficiency of the plant and machinery has contributed to the improved

INCOME STATEMENT	JAN - DEC 2022 TZS'000	JAN - DEC 2021 TZS'000
Revenue	494,716,182	449,509,302
Cost of sales	(311,469,289)	(277,156,918)
Gross profit	183,246,893	172,352,384
Other operating income	1,851,771	2,155,770
Selling and administrative expenses	(2,742,758)	(2,589,758)
Administrative expenses	(21,449,364)	(19,751,617)
Depreciation and amortisation	(20,645,405)	(19,647,478)
Other operating expenses	(2,918,648)	(5,352,943)
Operating profit	137,342,489	127,166,358
Financial items	2,755,079	870,830
Profit before tax	140,097,568	128,037,188
Taxes on income	(42,738,361)	(39,555,603)
Profit for the year	97,359,207	88,481,585

BALANCE SHEET	2022 TZS'000	2021 TZS'000
ASSETS		
ntangible fixed assets	813,318	1,006,537
Tangible fixed assets	143,311,095	145,850,876
Right of use assets	574,000	982,483
Other non-current assets	4,333,992	796,000
Ion.current assets	149,032,405	148,635,896
nventories	85,992,839	52,935,487
rade and other receivables	76,095,754	62,864,186
Other non-current assets	600,000	600,000
Cash and cash equivalents	105,512,644	114,278,364
Current assets	268,201,237	230,678,037
OTAL ASSETS	417,233,642	379,313,933
QUITY & LIABILITIES		
quity	299,739,076	272,235,501
ease liabilities	1,149,572	186,758
ong term provisions	9,605,633	7,739,484
Provision for deferred taxes	10,066,670	11,618,859
on-current liabilities	20,821,875	19,545,101
ease liabilities	3,461,375	1,044,405
current income tax payable	521,083	28,859
rade and other payables	89,784,862	83,611,599
Dividend payable	2,905,373	2,848,468
Current liabilities	96,672,693	87,533,331
CARLOT PLANSACTORS OF COLUMN AS	TO THE STATE OF TH	- A-TO-3 '43 T-46

417,233,642

379.313.933

TOTAL EQUITY & LIABILITIES

performance compared to year 2021, all within an environment where the Health and Safety of our employees and contractors is paramount. The Company continues to focus on delivering excellent customer service, selling of high quality products and maintaining strong customer relationships to enable TPCPLC to demonstrate its strength as the leading player in the industry.

The cement demand in Tanzania and in the East-African region has been growing steadily in recent years. TPCPLC is well placed to meet this growing demand and will continue to work on improving efficiency and operating performance.

The Board would like to thank all its stakeholders for their support. We have every confidence that TPCPLC will continue to deliver value for the shareholders and community in the future.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Hakan Gurdal Chairman of the Board 06.02.2023

Authorities in Singida Region launch tree planting campaign

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

AUTHORITIES in Singida region have launched a campaign to plant trees in a move to combat climate change which is wreaking havoc to key sectors.

Speaking at the campaign launching event, Natural resources, Wildlife and Environmental Officer for Singida Charles Kidua said the campaign will start at Mansau and Mtekente in Iramba district Singida region.

has been launched following reduced rains in most areas in most parts of the country saying tree planting was the solution to various effects of climate change. "Currently most areas do not receive

According to the officer, the campaign

rains which is because we do not plant trees which are important in the environ-

He said the government banned the use of plastic bags to protect the environment and promote hygiene in the country.

He said it was sad that there are women food operators who cover food with plastics saying this was dangerous to the health of consumers.

"It is time for everyone to protect themselves against these plastics which may lead to the development of cancer in human bodies," he said.

Ward Councillor for Mtekente Noeli Joseph Chole hailed a non-governmental organisation HELVETAS for distributing nursery trees to the district.

"Let this message reach out to the general public that tree planting is important because it facilitate rains but also improves livelihoods," he said. He also directed authorities in the dis-

trict to follow up on the campaigns so that it succeeds by ensuring that trees are planted and protected to ensure the intended goals are reached. Lunsanga village chairman Getrude Cha-

cha Marwa promised to follow up on the campaign to ensure the trees planted are protected through bylaws that govern local governments.

"The bylaws among them stipulate that anyone who will be found destroying trees, will be punished by the law including paying a 50,000/- fine," she said.



The bylaws among them stipulate that anyone who will be found destroying trees, will be punished by the law including paying a 50,000/- fine

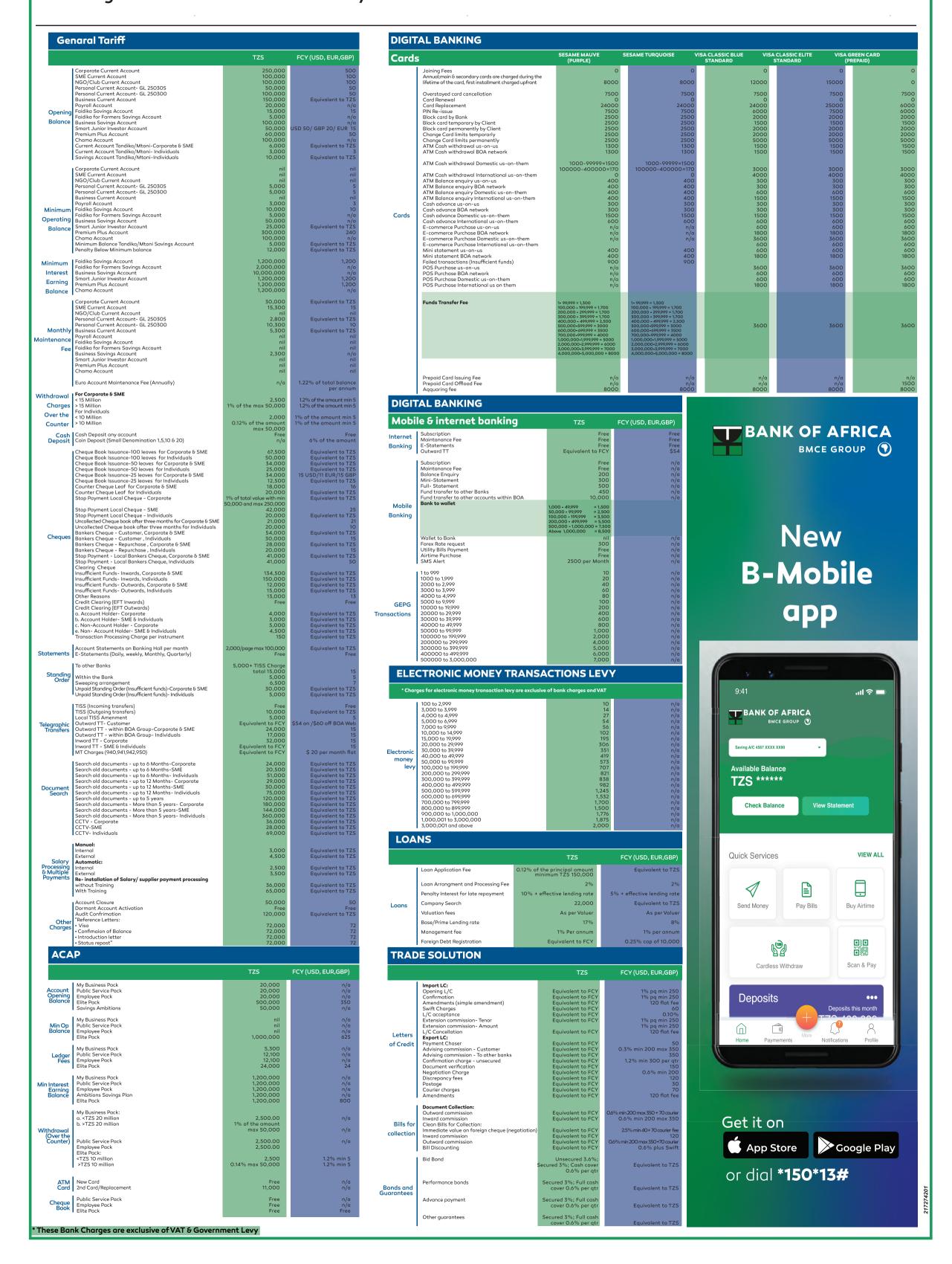
Tanzania Portland Cement Public Limited Company P.O.Box 1950 Dar-es-salaam Tanzania www.twigacement.co.tz Email: info@twigacement.co.tz





NEW TARIFF GUIDE 2023

Dear Customer, Management of BANK OF AFRICA - TANZANIA would like to inform you that there will be changes in our bank tariffs for the year 2023 effective from 13 March 2023.



EDITORIALS.OPINION



FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2023

Taking A New Look **At The News ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Indeed, we need to be keener in the way we guide business

send us an anonymous 'Letter to the Editor' noting, among other things, that it was frustrating in the difficult times we were witnessing as a nation seeing that big-name companies could bend our country's laws to their liking.

The reader sounded particularly bitter seeing that, it was with impunity that those firms ignored all manner of rules, regulations and procedures supposed to be valid for - and apply equally - to everybody as demanded by the country's very Constitution and the various other pieces of legislation.

The letter recommended that all those responsible take a truly close look at the projects devised and executed by the firms in question. These would include high-profile beach hotels and so-called resorts, lodges and wild water parks, some operating as family businesses.

The letter read, in part: "Strangely, most have been employing a large number of illegal aliens for years now. Anything between 30 and 40 of their members of staff are working without valid work permits. This includes management and head office positions. "Whenever Immigration Department officials plan to visit the projects, they are requested to go to the head office. There things are 'sorted out' the best way many Tanzanians know of and, when the guests are people short on integrity, the managers pull the purse strings and the officials will look the wrong way - and it is corrupt business as usual."

The reader was far from done, writing on: "One of the most loyal employees at one of these 'world-class' projects is in fact married to an official from the Immigration Department. Thus, inside information is known to the owners of projects and dishonest Immigration officials can be easily manipulated into inaction. "If the Immigration Department cared to check the employment contracts of foreign chefs, electricians, security staff, executive housekeepers, head

A reader once had occasion to office marketing staff, etc., against the respective work permits given to the companies concerned, there would be mountains of surprising revelations.

"Some of the foreign workers, including maintenance staff, are cash 'under the table'. If Immigration officials cared to check the hotels' staff quarters, they would easily discover that several of those quarters cannot be accounted - and this for the simple reason that the workers are illegally engaged.

"One result is that vast amounts of NSSF (National Social Security Fund) and income tax (Tanzania Revenue Authority) funds are not being paid because many of the officially employed members of staff are deliberately not being registered with NSSF." Turning more to the hospitality industry in general - and tourist hotel business in particular the reader wrote: "Health inspection regulations and procedures are similarly flouted - inspections teams are finally directed to the head office and softened up so that they do not take action against problems with hygiene." The letter was complete with a recommendation of sorts: that swoops or crackdowns should be mounted unannounced "so that the culprits do not find time to pull strings or use their connections to prevent any negative news from filtering through to the free media".

It noted that the way the firms concerned were operating was openly detrimental to the interests of Tanzania and its people as well as the reputation of the country's business environment.

"I see this whole thing as an insult and evidence of unfair competition for companies wanting to do business according to the rules and regulations of the country," the reader noted. There was an endnote: "And this is just the tip of the iceberg. The government and the media should dig deeper, and they surely stand to come up with more shocking revela-

What began as a modest experiment means much to environmental safety

IN early March 2009 The Guardian ran a survey report hinging on what the gradual phasing out of wood-based charcoal as fuel by engaging more environmentally friendly options would entail or mean.

Sources soon responded, some emphatic that an economically viable income-generating and environmentally sustainable alternative already existed in the form of micro-enterprise/ community-based biomass fuel briquette production.

It was reported that some locally trained producers including in Lushoto District were doing so using locally made presses and were reaching their own local markets.

What was especially heartwarming was that raw materials and various other resources were generally free, among them waste agricultural residues such as leaves, grasses, straws, husks, pods, corn cobs and coffee husks.

Experts said - and experience already showed these could be safely used with or without commercial processed wastes like waste paper, carton boards, rice husks, sawdust, charcoal dust and waste

In fact, one expert put it thus: "Just about anything that burns well as a carboniferous residue can be blended in to make the fuel briquette."

The expert noted that the resulting product competed very well with wood-based charcoal "both thermally and cost-wise" and that there was ample proof of that in dozens of countries across the globe.

Closer to home, by then, the technology had already been in use in the East Africa region for some six years. However, it had only been introduced to Tanzania two years earlier with specialised training and coaching for members of several villagebased groups in Lushoto.

The idea was that a wellserved and well equipped Lushoto would replicate skills and production capacity throughout Tanzania. From the standpoint of a small business standpoint, the opportunity involving the briquettes has always seemed excellent. The opportunity for local income generation with minimum start-up hassle, while directly tackling the whole deforestation issue, was becoming increasingly promising and merited closer official support right from the grassroots level and on to the national level.

It's a long 14 years since The Guardian's survey. It is only to be hoped that communities are benefiting much from the production and use of locally made quality and highly efficient briquettes ably competing with wood and charcoal.

Meanwhile, the environment should be profusely thanking all the players behind the monumental success - and hence the need to extend as much support to the undertaking as practicaThe Guardian Limited Key Contacts

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Do you really drink enough water? Does hydration impact your health?

By Michael Hunter

DRINKING sufficient water is associated with a significantly lower risk of developing chronic diseases, a lower risk of being biologically older than your chronological age, and a decreased probability of premature death.

I often write about the positive health benefits of regular physical activity. A balanced diet is a second key element to health. New evidence suggests that we should add good hydration to our definition of healthy lifestyle practices.

Today we explore a US National Institutes of Health study on hydration, as recently published in eBio-Medicine - a peer-reviewed open access medical journal.

Given historical findings in mice, the authors believed that optimal hydration might slow the aging process. They noted that lifelong water restriction increased the serum sodium in mice by five millimoles per litre and shortened their lifespan by six months (about 15 human years). If we drink lower quantities of fluids, we see a rise in sodium levels.

The researchers offer that "learning what preventive measures can slow down the aging process is a major challenge of preventive medicine". The context? We have an age-dependent chronic disease epidemic emerging as the world's population ages rapidly.

Scientists analysed 30 years of health information from over 11,000 adults in the Atherosclero-

sis Risk in Communities (or ARIC) study. They began data collection when subjects were in their 40s and 50s, and the mean age at final analysis was 76.

Here are the results: Those with serum sodium levels at the higher end of the normal range - 135 to 146 milliequivalents per litre (mEq/L) - had worse health outcomes than those at the lower end.

Participants with sodium levels above 142 mEq/L had a slightly higher risk (up to 1.15-fold) of being biologically older than their chronological age compared with those in the 137 to 142 mEq/l range).

The researchers calculated biological age using biomarkers that measure the performance of different organ systems and processes, including cardiovascular, lung, kidney, metabolic, immune and inflammatory biomarkers.

Those with higher faster-aging risk also had an over 1.6 higher risk for developing chronic diseases, including heart failure, stroke, atrial fibrillation, peripheral artery disease, diabetes, dementia and chronic lung disease.

Those with levels higher than 144 had a 1.5-times higher risk of being biologically older and a 1.2-times risk of dying early. Those with levels between 138 and 140 had the lowest risk of chronic disease.

On the other hand, those with low sodium levels also had a higher risk of early death and faster aging. Previous studies have noted this association, likely attributable to diseases causing electrolyte issues, such as sodium.

However, the study lacked information about how much water the subjects consumed.

Speaking with CNN Health, Harvard epidemiologist Dr Howard Sesso offers his take: "This study adds observational evidence that reinforces the potential long-term benefits of improved hydration on reductions in long-term health outcomes, including mortality."

Unfortunately, studies such as this National Health Institutes one do not establish a causal relationship between sodium levels and health outcomes. We need additional studies.

Still, the findings could help clinicians identify individuals at risk. For example, noting serum sodium of 142 or higher might prompt an evaluation of the person's fluid intake.

To reiterate, this National Institutes of Health study on hydration does not prove that drinking more water will prevent chronic disease or help us to live longer.

On the other hand, one needs relatively high levels of dehydration (such as you might experience during an extreme heat wave) to see negative long-term health consequences.

Of course, certain medicines (such as diuretics or "water pills") for blood pressure can affect a person's blood-sodium level. In addition, some neurologic (and other) conditions can lead to higher average blood-sodium levels.

While dehydration is relatively uncommon in developed countries, staying hydrated has upsides. For example, hydration may help if you have joint pain. Hydration helps us to ward off kidney stones. For some, sufficient fluid intake can help with constipation. So, stay hydrated.

According to several studies cited by the current study authors, approximately half the people worldwide don't meet recommendations for daily total water intake.

You might want to reconsider swapping out your water for sugarsweetened beverages. Increasing sugary drinks may increase your chances of suffering from urinary tract infections, kidney injury, and kidney stones.

How much should most of us drink? You may have heard the recommendation to consume eight glasses of water daily, but that suggestion is not evidence-based. Normal drinking should allow most of us to dodge dehydration.

Thirst drives my water consumption, and I feel best when I have had about six cups daily. My challenge is to amp this up with high-water fruits and vegetables. The year 2023 will bring more watermelon, cucumbers and celery.

* The writer, a Seattle-based radiation oncologist, says that the information in this piece is for educational purposes only and does not substitute for professional medical advice.

Amid economic crisis, Algerian media strive for sustainability

By Nourredine Bessadi

IN Algeria, a multifaceted crisis is threatening the very existence of the independent press. Several outlets have already shut down owing to the country's current economic stagnation, while others are facing serious financial difficulties to the point where they can no longer pay their own employees.

For the daily French-language newspaper El Watan, for example, a strike that began in July to claim wages owed since March ended in August, but the survival of their newspaper is still uncertain.

Across Algeria, independent media are still searching for the right business model to maintain independence and sustainability, a goal that remains elusive'

For decades, many in Algerian media have relied on institutional advertising provided by the National Agency for Publishing and Advertising, the government body the state uses to oversee editorial content. This let the media benefit from a myriad of public advertisers, as long as they maintained an editorial line that didn't cross the government in

As more and more news outlets have deviated from the government line, these outlets have seen their resources suddenly dry up. On top of this, the economic crisis that has hit the country in recent years has meant that private advertisers - such as car dealerships, which used to be a major source of advertising revenue - have now virtually disappeared.

These challenges are forcing the managers of legacy media outlets to look for alternatives and newly established publishers to adopt new business models - but not without great difficulty.

There are various options Algerian outlets are pursuing, one being paid content through subscriptions.

The late arrival of electronic payment in Algeria has prevented the press from benefiting from monetising their online content, a practice carried out in many other countries. Electronic payment remains largely insufficient in Algeria to this day.

In addition, some media outlets complain about inter-operational challenges of using online payment systems between banks and the post office, as well as the absence of services offering payment from abroad.

Twala.info is one of the outlets leading the charge in monetising online content - it is one of the few newspapers offering content paid for entirely through subscription.

Two: Google AdSense. Audience monetisation via AdSense allows publishers to generate revenue from online visits. This is the model that Algerian digital newspapers such as ObservAlgérie, Algérie 360 and Dzair Dai-

ly are using today.

Asked whether this model is viable in Algeria, an ObservAlgérie source who requested anonymity said that it depends on the number of visits to the website as well as the location of its users.

It is not possible to know exactly how much Algerian media earn from Google AdSense, and this because AdSense has established a scale that varies by country, time period and the expectations of advertisers.

Algerian online newspapers that have the majority of their readers from Europe, the Americas or the Gulf countries earn significantly more than those whose main users are based in Algeria.

The source says ObservAlgérie targets internet users based in Canada or France, countries home to an important Algerian diaspora.

It adds: "There are topics that generate more RPM (revenue per thousand impressions) than others. Articles covering political issues have a very low RPM compared to those about international flights, for example." Three: Crowdfunding. In many countries, new forms of collaborative funding are emerging as a way to innovate in the media industry and ensure the long-term sustainability of newsrooms. Often, the collaborative dimension includes a financial component.

UHC: Coverage of private sector members after retirement big deal

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

S Tanzanians eagerly await the fate of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Bill in the National Assembly, it is time to go through it by bits and understand its areas of strength and as lawmakers speak of weaknesses that have stalled its endorsement.

Among positive issues in the bill is letting private sector members continue benefiting from the scheme even after retiring. This is a shift from the previous schemes when one ceased to benefit after retirement

In fact, this is a big deal considering the fact that health insurance is cited as the most important possession after retirement. For, without it, all the landed properties, vehicles and cash just disappeared within a very short period of time due to illnesses associated with aging.

Dr Bernard Konga, head of the government's taskforce committee on health insurance for UHC says that statistics show that at least 85 per cent of Tanzanians do not have access to health insurance and this means the majority cannot reliably access medical

According to him, the current voluntary mechanism of enrollment into health insurance funds for both the private and informal sector has led to most people joining the scheme upon becoming sick.

Maintaining good health comes with high costs of medical care which in normal circumstances are out of reach for underprivileged families, especially those living in rural communities in our country. UHC will be of great help if such groups are covered.

As years go by, medical expenses increase alongside human population and as a result great care is needed in order to keep abreast with the emerging trends of non-communicable diseases whose prevalence hampers development when people pay medical bills out of pocket.

Recently, the Minister for Health Ummy Mwalimu noted that the UHC Bill has placed emphasis on the importance of the scheme in relieving Tanzanians, especially the most vulnerable ones, from digging deeper into their pockets to receive medical services.

According to the Minister, UHC endeavours to ensure reliable access to health service delivery for all Tanzanians. But the issue of cost is a big challenge to most of the people in accessing medical services and that is why people hope that UHC tackles the challenge and ensures the majority of Tanzanians are accommodated in the scheme.

It was earlier proposed in the bill that a household comprising six people should contribute 340,000/on annual basis which is a standard package whereas a contribution of six per cent be deducted from the salaries of civil servants and workers in the private

It is because of this that the National Assembly asked the government to prepare and submit in parliament how to bear the cost for all for discussion before approval for the bill.

Once approved and become a law, it is scheduled to start operation officially on 1 July of this year with a view to opening up avenues for all Tanzanians to access quality medical services wherever they are in this united republic.

It should be remembered that the government has heavily invested in the construction of dispensaries, health centers, district and regional referral hospitals and capacitated the Muhimbili National Hospital with a view to ensuring that people have access to medical services at a closer proximity. If improved and improved, it is UHC that will enable Tanzanians to enjoy services offered in these facilities.

As it is now, the scheme is mandatory but failure to enroll is not a criminal offence although there are conditions that kind of compel people to enroll so as to access other services offered by the government.

Race towards achieving UHC in Tanzania started in 2010 in a move that was inspired by various stakeholders including religious groups which urged the government to submit a bill but to no avail then.

UHC was introduced in the world after the publication of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s report which came out in 2010 after which many countries across Africa region declared their interests in implementing the idea.

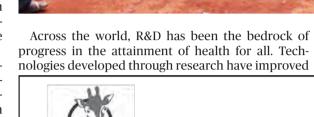
According to research released by the organization in 2021, despite tremendous progress in global health wellbeing, millions of people still suffer or die globally each year because countries do not have the right and affordable technologies to combat many long-standing health challenges.

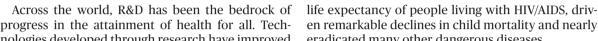
Data provided by National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) show that only 26.4 per cent of the country's total population has access to medical services.

Among the East African Community (EAC) states, it's only Kenya which has rolled out a universal health care services programme aimed at ensuring all Kenyans access quality healthcare without finan-

A proven component that accelerates attainment of UHC and its benefits to the population is investment in health research and development (R&D) which is critical in addressing the challenges currently facing Tanzania and other African countries.

More than ever before, Tanzania and other African countries are faced with the increasing threats of current, emerging and re-emerging pandemics. The latest pandemic to rear its ugly head is the Covid-19 pandemic which has thrown global health systems into a spin as countries grapple to contain it and its devastating effects.





eradicated many other dangerous diseases.



REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following:

Supply of E&I Materials such as VSDs, Soft Starters, PLC Hardware and Network Switch **Centres for New Crushing Circuit**

Qualification Criteria

Reference No.	Description		Qualification Crit	eria	
NM005/2023	Supply of E&I Materials such as VSDs, Soft Starters, PLC Hardware and Network Switch Centres for New Crushing Circuit		Preferred Make – ABB, Rock certificates. Lead time of delivery. Should Submit commercial propackages items below including	opos	al (prices) for the
	Gradining Graduat	No	DESCRIPTION	Qty	PART NUMBER
			VSD's - Make ABB	nos	
		1	90KW VSD	1	AC\$580-01-169A-4+J400
		2	45KW VSD	2	ACS580-01-088A-4+J400
		3	22KW VSD	1	ACSS80-01-046A-4+J400
		4	4KW VSD	5	ACS580-01-09A5-4+J400
		.5	DPMP-01 Control Panel Door Mounting Kit	9	3AUA0000108878
		6	PROFINET IO adapter	9	3AXD50000192779
		7	du/dt filter 90KW	1	NOCH0Z60-60
		8	du/dt filter 45KW	2	NOCH0120-60
		9	du/dt filter 22KW	1	NOCH0070-60
		10	du/dt filter 4KW	4	NOCH0016-60
		No	DESCRIPTION	Qty nos	PART NUMBER
			PLC's, Make – Rockwell (Allen Bradley)		
		1	CONTROLLOGIX AC POWER SUPPLY	1	1756-PA75
		2	CONTROLLOGIX 5580 CONTROLLER	1	1756-L81E
	3	CONTROLLOGIX ETHERNET/IP MODULE	1	1756-EN2T	
	4	PROSOFT ETHERNET/IP TO PROFINET COMMUNICATION MODULE	2	PLX82-EIP-PNC	
	5	CONTROLLOGIX 16POINT 12/24VDC DIGITAL INPUT MODULE	8	1756-1816	
	6	CONTROLLOGIX 16 POINT 12/24VDC DIGITAL OUTPUT	2	1756-0816	
	7	MODULE CONTROLLOGIX 8 POINT ANALOG INPUT MODULE	4	1756-IF8	
	8	CONTROLLOGIX & POINT ANALOG I/O OR VOLTAGE MODULE	1	1756-OFB	
	9	The state of the s		7/2/20 at 1	
		10	CONTROLLOGIX 17 SLOT CHASSIS CONTROLLOGIX 36 PIN SCREW TERMINAL BLOCK	12	1756-A17 1756-TBNH
		-11	PANELVIEW PLUS 7, 12.1"	1	2711P-T12W21D85
			Network Switch, Make – Cisco		
		1	CATALYST 2960-X 24 GIGE, 2 X 1G-SFP LAN	1	W5-C2960X-24TS-LL
		No	DESCRIPTION	Qty	PART NUMBER
			SOFT STARTERS – Make ABB		A THEORY OF THE
		1	315KW Soft Starter	3	1SFA898118R7000
		2	160KW Soft Starter	1	15FA898115R7000
	3	90KW Soft Starter	1	15FA898112R7000	
		4	75KW Soft Starter	1	1SFA898111R7000
		5	55KW Soft Starter	1	15FA598110R7000
	6	45KW Soft Starter	1	15FA898109R7000	
	7	37KW 5oft Starter	1	15FA898108R7000	
	8	22KW Soft Starter	1	15FAB98106R7000	
	9	18,5KW Soft Starter	3	15FA898105R7000	
		10	15KW Soft Starter	3	1SFA898104R7000
	11	11KW Soft Starter	2	1SFA898103R7000	
					E





Advertisement

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

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

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be	Pre-Qualification Criteria	
_	BUL-23-01-02	procured		
1	BUL-23-01-02	EoR Engagement as per Global Industry Standard Tailing Management (GISTM) requirement.	a.	The applicant must be a Geotechnical Engineering firm that is appropriately qualified, licenced, experienced, with competent geotechnical engineers and support team employed by the firm; submit ERB certificate.
			b.	The applying firm will be required to submit a written confirmation of the assignment of the individual qualified geotechnical engineer to the EoR role with at least 15 years of experience in design, construction, operation management and analysis, relevant to the complexity and potential risks of the upstream tailings storage facilities
			c.	The applying firm must have at least 15 years of experience in the design, construction, performance management, analysis and operation commensurate with the complexity and potential risks of the upstream tailings storage facilities.
			d.	The applying firm must demonstrate the availability at its disposal of
				multidisciplinary design support team in the fields of geotechnics, hydrology,
				hydraulics, hydrogeology, seismicity, environmental sciences and reclamation and
				closure.
			e.	The contractor will be required to comply with all country laws and regulations such
				as:
				I. The Engineers Registration Act, No. 15 of 1997 and Its Amendments and
				Regulations and By-Laws.
				II. Contractor legislation board.

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

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the 17th February 2023. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote reference number and description in the subject line of your email.

If you do not hear from us in 21days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

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

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Submission of Proposals

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria, submit your proposal alongside all relevant documentation to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective package reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

Queries should also be directed to nm.proposal@barrick.com

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a proposal through this advertisement.

Key Dates

Last Date to Submit Proposals

17 February 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

Heavy investment in agriculture good way out of youth unemployment

By Guardian Reporter

ETWEEN 800,000 and 900,000 young Tanzanian men and women enter the labour market each year, according to official estimates. The agriculture sector remains the biggest employer, engaging 75 per cent of the 61.7 million people as per the 2022 Population and Housing Census.

But productivity in the sector is low as it contributes merely one-third of the country's gross domestic product although it is cited to have the potential to increase incomes and improve livelihoods than any other sector given the enormous arable land resources and favourable weather.

Major hindrances to unlocking the sector' potential cited in various reports includes underinvestment whereby tools are mainly hand-hoe and ox-plough plus dependence on rain. As a result, the sector has been largely shunned by youth due to its unattractive nature.

The government has announced a plan that seeks not only to attract more young Tanzanians to the sector but also to increase productivity. Speaking recently as a panelist at the Second Africa Food Summit in Dakar, Senegal, President Samia Suluhu Hassan said that her government is well aware that the potential of agriculture cannot be unlocked without active participation of young people.

The Head of State noted that other challenges discouraging youth from fully joining the sector include difficulty in accessing pieces of land, finances, technology and mechanisation.

In the programme, she said the government will provide land and where each beneficiary will

have about 10 acres with 680,000 hectares already identified, adding that this is important because with no land to a farmer, definitely no farming activity can take place.

The President also recently spoke of 'Agenda 10/30' initiative, a campaign under the stewardship of the Ministry of Agriculture meant to see the sector's growth reach 10 per cent per annum by the year 2030. With heavy investment, this goal is achievable.

But investment by the government alone cannot unlock the potential of agriculture since farming is mainly a private sector activity. That is why support and investment by private sector stakeholders is important.

Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL)—one of the leading brewers in the country—is one of the stakeholders supplementing government efforts. Through its agroscholarship programme dubbed 'Kilimo Viwanda', the brewer sponsors aspiring agribusiness students from under-privileged families to pursue their tertiary education in the sector.

Among the beneficiaries 24 students from Igabiro Training Institute of Agriculture (ITIA) in the Kagera Region have recently received scholarships under this initiative.

Kelvin Bambanza, a first-year student pursuing a diploma in agriculture production at the institute says he had lost hope of pursuing tertiary education because all friends and relatives were not forthcoming with help.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for me to train in my field of choice so that I can serve my country later. Without it, I would have ended up idling in the streets" he said in an interview recently.

Alistidia Ndyamukama, another



Beneficiaries of Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL)'s agro-scholarship programme display their sponsorship certificates at Igabiro Training Institute of Agriculture in Bukoba District, Kagera Region, recently. Photo courtesy of SBL

beneficiary studying at ITIA expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to get education which she said will not benefit her personally but her family and country.

"I had lost hope but I heard about this scholarship opportunity on radio; I applied and a few weeks later I got the good news and here I am," she said.

During the ceremony to handover scholarship certificates to awardees, SBL Corporate Relations Director John Wanyancha, spoke on the need to increase productivity and contribution of agriculture to Tanzania's GDP, terming it a key sector for economic empowerment.

"Sponsoring education of underprivileged

students taking agricultural courses has a ripple effect across different aspects of economic development. These students will get an opportunity to learn technical skills, and they will be ready for agri-business opportunities and ultimately improving their communities," he said.

Kilimo Viwanda scholarship programme was launched in 2019 to support underprivileged students from farming communities to study agriculture courses. SBL issues certificates for the scholarships every financial year. Students are selected for various agriculture courses in reputable colleges in Tanzania and the scholarship covers total tuition fees and other academic expenses throughout their component factories an can be able perience," has to support underprivilegation for the scholarship communities to can be able perience," has to support underprivilegation for the scholarship severy financial year.

studies. Commenting on the programme, ITIA Deputy Principal Sydney Kasele commended SBL for its commitment to supporting the agriculture sector by sponsoring students to study courses that are key for the sector's development.

"This Kilimo Viwanda programme has a component that includes students visiting SBL factories and some thriving farms where they can be able to collate theory with practical experience," he said.

ITIA is one of agriculture training institutions benefiting from the sponsorship programme. Other colleges are Kaole in Coast, St. Maria Goretti in Iringa and Kilacha in Kilimanjaro region.

AWF hands over canine facility to TAWA

By Guardian Correspondent

THE African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) has handed over a canine facility to the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA).

The transfer of the facility, officially made at the TAWA base in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, is intended to strengthen the wildlife management agency's capacity to combat illegal wildlife trafficking and trade, which endangers the survival of Africa's wildlife and the ecosystems on which they rely.

IT was noted at Wednesday's event that, as one of East Africa's busiest ports, Dar es Salaam acts as a key entry point for international

trade and business.

With huge volumes of cargo lot of cargo is imported and exported through the port, Dar es Salaam has become an important hub for regional and international trade, linking East African businesses and economies to the rest of the world.

Unfortunately, it was noted, organised crime syndicates have taken advantage of the busy nature of the sea and air ports to conduct illegal wildlife trade (IWT).

"We are pleased to hand over this facility to TAWA, who have been longstanding partners of AWF since our inception in Tanzania over six decades ago," said Dr Philip Muruthi, AWF's Vice President for Species Conservation and Science.

"It is a continuation of AWF's and TAWA's joint efforts and commitment towards deterring wildlife crime in the region," he noted.

He added: "Canines play an important role in combating illegal wildlife trade because they have an olfactory system that is 100,000 times more sensitive than a human nose. They are also fast and can differentiate up to 30 different scents."

Muruthi also explained that at AWF they "remain strongly committed to working with African governments in enhancing African stewardship of natural resources management on the



continent, and this handover is an example of this partnership".

TAWA's canine unit currently consists of eight detection dogs and 11 trained detection dog handlers stationed at the Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar

es Salaam and the Kilimanjaro International Airport.

These dog-handler teams have been instrumental in both preventing illegal wildlife product trafficking and deterring offenders at key transit points. The new facility comprises ten dog

kennels, two units of handler housing, an office and a store.

Launched in 2015, AWF's Canines for Conservation Programme has been carrying out dog training, dog handler training, technical support, equipping, and tooling.

The comprehensive training takes place at a special facility in Usa River, near Arusha. Before the units are deployed to airports, harbours, and border points, wildlife authority officers from partner countries are

paired with their canine partners and undergo rigorous training as dog handlers. The programme has been

essential in reducing the trafficking of ivory, rhino horns and pangolin scales among other illegal wildlife products - and even live wildlife. Through the partnership,

AWF has also assisted to deploy anti-poaching tracker dog teams in the Serengeti, Mkomazi and Manyara national parks.

AWF is the primary advocate for the protection of wildlife and their habitats as an essential part of a modern and prosperous Africa.

It was founded in 1961 during the African independence movement in order to build continent's capacity to steward our natural resources.

The agency articulates a uniquely African vision, bridging science, education, public policy, and field programmes to demonstrate the benefits of conservation and build a future for Africa where people and wildlife thrive.

CAPITAL

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY

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 18:00-18:10HRS BOZOUK TIME

21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS
22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI

20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI

TUESDAY IME PROGRAMM

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)

WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMA

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) THURSDAY

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) FRIDAY

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 MUZIK MCHAGANGANYIKO) SATURDAY IME DROGRAMME

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

13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME

21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO) **SUNDAY** TIME PROGRAMME

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

13:00-14:00HRS DW HADIO 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









Orphan finds solace in SBL scholarship support

By Guardian Reporter

"WHEN I received my joining instructions to Join Igabiro Training Institute of Agriculture (ITIA), I didn't know what to do next because I did not have a provider to pay my school fees. The joining instructions instead, rekindled fresh memories of my parents who had passed away a few months after completion of my form four in 2020," says Alistdia as she remembers the pain of losing both parents when their contribution and guidance in her educational and career development were most needed.

The extended relatives added to her woes. Instead of paying her school fees to enable Alistidia to pursue a diploma course in agriculture at ITIA, the kinsmen to whose hands she was left, chose to make her a farm and house help exposing Alistidia to all forms of menial duties ranging from household chores to being a farm labourer. Her day would start at 5am with house cleaning, washing utensils and cooking breakfast for the family before proceeding to the farm where she would spend many hours cultivating crops and attending to a few livestock that her uncle owns.

An "A" student and determined to succeed in life, Alistidia is resourceful and one who learnt to take care for herself from a tender age - thanks to the good upbringing by her late parents whom in her own words taught her the virtues of hard work, honesty, respect for all and keeping faith never losing hope in life. So on the day of reporting to ITIA with no school fees and other joining requirements, she had one though in mind - to report to the principal's office, recount her unfortunate life experience and seek to be exempted from paying school

Unfortunately for her, this did not work out. The 20-year-old was sent back home spelling doom to her prospect of becoming an agricultural expert she always dreamed to be. While at home and convinced that her pursuit for higher education was shuttered, Alistidia's defining moment in life came a day she received a call from the same college principal, informing her that she had been awarded a Kilimo Viwanda scholarship by Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL).

Different study findings show cite various reasons for students' dropout from schools and colleges in Tanzania including lack of awareness on education matters, lack of education in the families, parents' low income, cultural aspects such as early marriages, divorce, polygamy, lack of family planning and negative attitudes towards education especially for girls and

According to John Wanyancha, SBL's Corporate Relations Director, Kilimo Viwanda scholarship program accords bright students from needy backgrounds an opportunity to pursue a diploma course in agricultural disciplines. It foots school fees and other academic related expenses for the entire duration of a beneficiary's study program - usually between two to three years.

It's now four years since SBL unveiled the program and has since given a new lease of life to over 220 students from across the country, says. The scholarships are awarded annually with beneficiaries going to study in four agricultural colleges that are partnering with SBL - ITIA located in Muleba district, Kagera Region being one of them. The other three colleges are Kaole Wazazi Agricultural College located in Bagamoyo, Maria Goretti Agricultural College in Ir-

inga as well as Kilacha Agricultural College in Moshi.

Inspired by the desire to bring resilience and sustainability into the agricultural sector, the director points out, it depends on local farmers for supplies of cereals including maize, sorghum and barley used for beer production. These supplies come from a network of over 400 small and large farmers based in Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara, Singida, Mara, Dodoma, Mwanza and Shinyanga regions. The company buys up to 20,000 metric tonnes of local grains spending around 12 billion to 15 billion shillings annually based on price fluctuations. This is about 70% of the total raw materials that SBL uses on beer production annually

The company supports the farmers by providing them with free high-quality seeds, field technical services and linking them to financial institutions for access to credit facilities. SBL envisages to increase local sourcing of cereals to 85% by 2025 in line with its growth trajectory. "SBL believes that quick realization of this objective lies in its continued support to the government in training agricultural experts whom the sector needs to optimize productivity," the director explains, adding that the company sets aside over 150 million shillings annually to fund the scholarship program.

In addition to paying schools fees and other academic related costs, the program also offers a package of other benefits to students including field attachments to give learners practical exposure to commercial farming; brewery tours to SBL factories to get a glimpse of industrial food processing; mentorship; as well as providing graduate beneficiaries with seeding capital to become farmers themselves.

"We have registered our organi-

zation, opened a bank account and completed her studies in 2022. are looking forward to the start the farming season to cultivate our own food crops and sell them to SBL," says Fatuma Mohammed, a beneficiary of Kilimo Viwanda scholarship program from Kaole Wazazi Agricultural College who

Fatuma is a member of a team of graduates from the college that SBL has leased land for them to commence from production this

"Kilimo Viwanda scholarship program embodies SBL's sustainability agenda in which the company envisions to be part of a beneficiary's life journey from being a student to becoming a successful person in life through farming entrepreneurship," the corporate relations director sums up what the program is about.



The chairman of Mwarimba village in Misozwe ward, Muheza District, pictured yesterday accompanied by police officers who had just arrived in a farm allegedly the property of another resident of the village (name withheld) which was planted with marijuana. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



1. SENIOR SOCIAL WORKER (outreach) - Young Teenage Girls in Commercial Sex Work

Amani Centre for Street Children is a nationally registered NGO based in Moshi, Kilimanjaro with its branches in Arusha and Singida Regions. Amani is seeking to recruit a dynamic, detail-oriented, self-starter professional to fill the position of Senior Social Worker (outreach) for a 3-year Pilot Program to work with young teenage girls (ages 13-17) who are street-connected and (partially) engaged in commercial sex work in Arusha.

Position description shall include but not limited to:

- Co-develop, lead the implementation, and evaluate successes of the "Teenage Girls in Commercial Sex Work" Project.
- · Frequent outreach, together with Amani's street outreach workers, into the high-risk areas of the targeted young teenage girls, to meet and discuss with them.
- Group and individual (deep) counselling sessions to these girls.
- · Responsible to coach and work closely with other field staff in the Project to ensure that equally detailed and high-quality services are provided to all girls supported by the project.
- Build positive collaboration with all involved Government departments and Community Stakeholders, and when necessary organize and conduct training workshops to them.
- Develop and implement individual rescue and rehabilitation plans for these girls.
- · Help the rescued girls to build new positive lives by conducting life skills sessions to them, and enrolling them in vocational training courses.

Qualifications:

- · Masters, bachelor's degree or diploma in Social Work, Sociology, Counseling Child Psychology, or other related discipline.
- Great relationship-builder and facilitator, especially to young teenage girls. · Ability to build positive working relations with local Government including Police and Social Welfare department.
- Excellent command of English and Swahili, oral and written. · At least 5 years' experience in working with poor urban children/youth communities (especially girls).
- Proven excellent in Computer use in Word and excel programs.
- Experience in collaborating with girls engaged in Commercial Sex Work will be an added advantage. • Willingness to do frequent outreach works in the streets and slums of Arusha to meet the girls.

Note: given the nature of this work, preference will be given to women applicants.

1. STREET WORKER (1 POSITION)

Position Description.

Selected candidate in this position will work with Street Children in Arusha with the primary purpose to build positive relationship with them and motivate them to leave the street. S/He will directly re unify new children on Street and escort all children who will be ready to leave the street to Amani (Arusha Safe House). S/He will plan and conduct sessions to street Children and keep appropriate records for all street in contact and share with social workers.

Qualifications

- · Bachelor's degree or diploma in social work, Community development, Counseling Sociology, or other related discipline. • Good understanding about realities of street Children
- Minimum 2 years of proven experience in working with children and youth with difficult behaviors.
- Willingness and strong dedication to work with street Children.
- Ability to work irregular hours under minimum supervision.
- Good Command of English and Swahili (Oral and written)

To apply, please send your detailed cover letter, resume, copies of relevant certificates/diplomas, and contacts of at least 2 professional referees to jobs@amanikids.org not later than 24th February 2023. Please clearly indicate referee's address, email, and day phone numbers.

Please Visit our website www.amanikids.org for more information.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



for a living planet

JOB VACANCIES

WWF is one of the world's largest independent conservation organizations, active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

WWF Tanzania implement its strategic plan using funding from different donors including corporates, PSP, Trust & Foundations, private individuals, and WWF Network Offices to continue with its effort of natural resources conservation for people and nature.

Therefore, WWF Tanzania offers the following various job opportunities at its Field Office in Arusha.

- 1. Operation Officer
- 2. Agroecology Officer
- 3. Social Science Coordinator

Additional information, Interested applicants may get the detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) through the following websites: https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/ Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the Head of People & Culture, via email to: hresources@wwftz.org by Friday, 17th February 2022 at 3:30 pm. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Female applicants are encouraged to apply. WWF is an equal opportunity employer and committed to having a diverse workforce

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

12 Friday 10 February 2023

FEATURE

Guardian

Work in teams and win the race: Hub-centred strategy to unleash Latin America's hydrogen potential

By Adalberto Castañeda Vidal

ATIN America has the potential to become the world's dominant exporter of hydrocarbon. According to the IEA, Latin America could produce 25 percent of the 12 Million tons (Mt) of low-carbon hydrogen exports expected by 2030.

The region is definitely taking this opportunity seriously. Over the past years, 11 countries in the region have published national hydrogen strategies. While this is an excellent policy signal, it might not be enough to win the race against other regions.

For the region to realize its hydrogen exporting potential, I would argue that governments should move from broad national roadmaps to a more tailored and assertive hub development strat-

This is because the first movers are going to be the ones securing the offtake contracts and attracting investments. Following are some considerations and proposals to promote low-hydrogen hubs across the region to turn Latin America into a hydrogen success

Hydrogen's potential in Latin America

Hydrogen (H2) is an essential component of today's energy and industrial systems. Around 90 million tons (Mt) of H2 are produced and used yearly from natural gas and coal, emitting 9-23 kg CO2/kg

Chemicals, refineries, and steel production dominate today's demand. Recent technological developments that allow the production of low-carbon hydrogen, position it as an alternative to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors. In optimistic scenarios, hydrogen's global demand can reach 115 Mt by 2030 and 528 Mt by 2050.

The two most prominent lowcarbon hydrogen types are:

Green hydrogen, produced through water electrolysis paired with 100% renewable electricity. emits (O CO2/kg H2).

Blue hydrogen, produced from fossil fuels combined with carbon capture and sequestration technologies (CCS), emits 1-3 kg CO2/ kg H2.

The global hydrogen generation market was valued at USD 129.85 billion in 2021 and is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate of 6.4% from 2022 to 2030. New value chains will be needed to support this upscaling, including installing electrolyzer manufacturing plants in the region, which could create thousands of high-quality jobs.

Latin America has a competitive advantage in the global hydrogen race as it has one of the most abundant endowments of solar and wind resources which are key for the production of green hydrogen.

From 2014 to 2023, it was the most competitive region in terms of cost of production for both solar and wind. Furthermore, fossil fuel producers in the region can build on their existing knowledge and infrastructure to develop the value chains to capture and store CO2 from existing hydrogen production facilities.

Reasons for a hydrogen-hub strategy for Latin America

Some examples of planned hydrogen hubs already exist in Chile and Brazil. However, most hydrogen strategies in the region present broad national targets that lack demarcation and definition of particular incentives directed at the most strategic locations.

A hub is a specific geographic location with resources that provide a competitive advantage for developing the hydrogen supply chain. This pathway could facilitate cooperation between public and private stakeholders and community engagement. It also may provide increased visibility to attract first

In this regard, hydrogen hubs are industrial areas with a competitive advantage in developing multiple projects for hydrogen production, distribution, utilization, and export. These hubs also have the presence of potential off-takers and existing infrastructure, which could be repurposed as the base for the hydrogen supply chain.

Hydrogen hubs can also be defined in opposition to its alternative, which is developing standalone individual projects. The lack of success of CCS projects over the past decade provide a good example of how stand-alone models face significant technical and commercial risks that can lead to inconsistent policy support and investments.

According to a study by the University of California, 80 percent of CCS projects ended in failure in the US. The projects failed due to a lack of off-takers, poor plant siting, and little support from local coalitions. These conditions impacted the project's credibility of revenues and continued incentives support, which weakened their financial footing.

It is crucial to learn from these examples to mitigate such risks, considering particular vulnerabilities in Latin America that are hard to control, such as higher capital costs and exchange rate risks.

A hydrogen hub approach as a way to mitigate investments

While hydrogen's potential is huge in the energy transition, as of the end of 2021, investments were still \$863 billion short. This is when competition with other regions comes into play. Latin American economies must show more ambitious strategies to generate new opportunities and attract that capital. The key to facilitating the



Hydrogen is an essential component of today's energy and industrial systems. Credit: Shutterstock.

strong market signals and the development of key infrastructure.

The benefits of a more focused hydrogen hubs promotion strategy can be divided into three parts: risk reductions, optimization of resource allocation, and securing policy and social support.

First, hubs can help mitigate market risks by building redundancy of supply and demand. This prevents risks associated with allocating production and demand to individual projects. Furthermore, it can help distribute technical risks among more players for the construction of key infrastructure projects, such as transmission lines, pipelines, and geological storage.

Second, according to experiences obtained from other clean energy projects, hubs are more efficient for optimizing planning and operation. Sole point-to-point projects run the risk of tailoring the technical decisions to the specific needs of one producer and one offtaker. However, with a hub approach, big market players cooperate and can involve smaller players, hence providing more opportunities to take advantage of economies of scale.

Lastly, stakeholders need to generate community acceptance and ensure the support of local authorities. Research from the Inter-American Development Bank found that of 200 conflict-affected infrastructure projects, 36 were canceled, 162 faced delays, and 116 faced cost overruns.

Therefore, community engagement cannot be regarded as a secondary requirement. A transparent hub proposal regarding its benefits, costs, and transition plans for communities and workers could help garner local support and, therefore, ensure consistent policy and social backing.

While clean hydrogen hubs can help reduce risks, optimize resource allocation, and garner local support, key decisions must be made by several actors with different goals. This creates a risk of delaying the projects or failing to reach agreements to get to final investment decisions. In this regard, it is important

allocation of capital is to mitigate risks with to consider lessons learned from failures and mitting. successes in other regions.

> For instance, Europe is at the forefront of clean hydrogen development with a top-down and stakeholder-based approach. Lessons on the role of both national and local authorities in the pioneer hubs in Teesside and Rotterdam need to be taken into consideration.

> On the other hand, while the US started following the source-to-sink model for CCUS, in 2021, it experienced a shift towards developing hydrogen hubs, which were revitalized with the recently approved Inflation Reduction Act.

Lessons from Chile's hydrogen hub expe-

In Latin America, Chile provides an excellent example of how to map and market hydrogen hubs at a global scale. In 2020, the Ministry of Energy published its National Green Hydrogen Strategy, outlining national priorities and targets. While the national strategy provided insights for three regions, in 2022, the government published a new report Antofagasta (Atacama desert) and Magallanes. Both regions have well-defined projects and are working to attract investments and secure long-term offtake contracts with international partners.

To reproduce this strategy, the first hypothesis governments need to prove is the availability of natural resources, renewable resources for the development of green hydrogen or suitable geological storage, for blue hydrogen. The regions must ideally have the presence of relevant industries with experience in similar sectors, such as natural gas producers or renewable developers, as well as potential off-

Then the government needs to devise a plan for incentives, such as tax deductions, accelerated depreciation, and customs exemptions, among others. On top of that, policy accelerators need to be implemented to allow faster deployment of technology, such as specialized land tenders and fast-track licensing and per-

Companies with international experience can work closely with local governments and federal agencies to ensure regulations do not hinder projects' development.

Parallelly, hub participants need to engage with local communities. Plans must be outlined diligently to conduct consultations and provide attractive compensation when needed. A poor implementation of this requirement can create a bad reputation for key stakeholders and the industry as a whole.

These efforts can be conducted with international organizations and development banks, which could later provide initial investments to make projects bankable. Governments can also help further mitigate risks through grants, availability-based payments, and credit enhancement tools. Government support is also crucial to secure offtake contracts through signing Memorandums of Understanding or dedicating offices to deploy what some call "hydrogen diplomacy."

While some international and regional examples show the benefits of following a hub-centered strategy, Latin American countries must face crucial challenges to make it work. First, the recent leftist that identified two potential hydrogen hubs in turn in the region may pose some uncertainties about market-aligned policies.

> With so much risk and lower margins, governments must prove they can attract and lay appropriate foundations for private investments.

> On the other hand, with the broader land requirements for hydrogen projects, companies must show their commitment to building local support and respecting communities and regulations. A clean energy business cannot be developed with old dirty tactics. The potential for the region is evident. Will Latin America be able to work in teams and win this

> Adalberto Castañeda Vidal is a second-year student of the Master of Public Administration at Columbia University - School of International and Public Affairs concentrating in Energy. He worked as a research assistant for the Center on Global and Energy Policy, where he participated in research projects about hydrogen and natural gas. He is originally from Tabasco, Mexico, and holds a bachelor's in International Relations from the National Autonomous University of Mexico.



FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2023

WHI NOW STARTS RECEIVING PRE-SELLING APPLICATIONS

FOR KAWE HOUSING PROJECT

By Guardian Reporter

atumishi Housing Investment (WHI) has started receive pre-selling applications for its Kawe residential project, which is part of Samia Housing Scheme to be implemented jointly with National Housing Corporation (NHC).

WHI chief executive officer Dr Fred Msemwa said yesterday that a total of 100 people have so far applied to buy houses and half of them have already made down payments of 10 percent.

The applications are nearly 15 percent of total housing units to be built by WHI on the project.

According to Dr Msemwa, a total of 586 housing units are expected to be built at Samia Housing Scheme in six categories, including studio units, two categories of one bedroom units, two categories of two bedrooms units and three bedrooms

This will help to accommodate people with different incomes, starting from young people with no families to those with large families.

The project, which is expected to be implemented into three phases, involves the construction



Architectural design of proposed Kawe residential housing project implemented by Watumish Housing Investment (Photo by WHI)

of eight blocks with 12 storey each.

"We expect that by 2025, owners will start to leave in their properties as the construction will take two years in maximum," he told The Guardian yesterday.

Dr Msemwa said most of the applicants are interested with studio units, and early applicants are subjected to a discount of up to five percent of the cost of the units.

Early applicants will also have advantage of selecting the location and the floor of houses unit they are intending to purchase.

"We expect many applications to continue flocking during this preselling period ahead of start of implementing the project next month,"

He said WHI hopes that, when pre-selling applications responses will be high, it will help to reduce the cost of constructing the proposed

According to him, WHI will use force account during construction stages to minimize the costs and make them more affordable for buy-

Apart from Samia Housing Scheme, WHI is also expected to implement other housing projects in Njedengwa area in Dodoma, Usa River in Arusha and teachers' houses projects in Lindi, Mtwara, Simiyu, Singida, Mwanza, Dar es Salaam and Coast regions.

He explained that affordable teachers' houses will be built in schools located in difficult environments. Dr Msemwa said WHI has also established its own construction company, which is registered as first class; with all types of construction professionals include engineers, architects and quantity surveyors.

Apart from having a constructing department (firm). WHI has also established a consulting firm with the purpose of reducing costs, which were associated with outsourcing services, to ensure affordability of its houses.

"I am confident to say that our housing prices are 10 to 30 percent

less compared with the current market price; that's why we have huge demands," he explained.

Tanzania has a deficit of three million units, with demand increasing by 200,000 units each year.

Factors contributing to the increasing housing demands including changes in the population size, high mortgage interest rates and better economic prospects among Tanzanians.

Last year the market experienced a huge demand in residential houses, the demand for commercial real estate increased slightly but remained stable overall, according to Dr Msemwa.

Demand for housing and housing loans remains extremely high as it is constrained by an inadequate supply of equitable houses and highinterest rates charged on housing loans, according to Bank of Tanzania (BoT) mortgage reports.

Mortgage market The Tanzanian housing sector's fast-growing demand is mainly driven by the strong and sustained economic growth with GDP growth averaging 6 -7 percent over the past decade, the fast-growing Tanzanian population, which is estimated to more than double by 2050, and efforts by the government in partnership with global non-profit institutions and foreign governments to meet the growing demand of affordable housing, BoT says.

The mortgage market in Tanzania registered a 2.54 percent growth in the value of mortgage loans as of 30 September 2022 as compared to the 1.24 percent growth recorded in the previous quarter.

On a year-to-year comparison, 7.01 percent growth was registered in value of mortgage loans as of 30 September 2022.

BoT reports show outstanding mortgage debt as of 30 September 2022 increased to 522.95bn/- equivalent to US\$225.46 million as compared to 509.99bn/- equivalent to US\$220.23 million reported on 30 Iune 2022.

Construction sub-Saharan Africa set to

LONDON

Analytics and consulting firm GlobalData says sub-Saharan African construction output is poised to grow at a record 3.2 percent this year, on the back of Covid-19 reconstruction efforts; however, many downside risks to growth persist.

This follows on construction output in the region having grown by 1.7 percent in 2022, as revealed in GlobalData's 'Construction Market Size, Trends and Growth Forecasts by Key Regions and Countries 2022 to 2026' report.

The firm finds that the region's post-pandemic economic recovery has been halted since the second half of last year, with the International Monetary Fund forecasting gross domestic product growth in the region to remain subdued at 3.7 percent this year, following a deceleration to 3.6 percent in 2022.

This happens while public debt has reached about 60 percent of GDP, with several countries in sub-Saharan Africa experiencing debt distress or at high risk of becoming debt distressed.

"With the gloomy economic backdrop and additional challenges specific to the construction industry, notably high construction material costs, the region's industry will remain subdued in the short term.

"Both public and private sector projects will face hurdles, with government's revenue continuing to be directed at efforts to deal with immediate socioeconomic crises, while high construction material prices will make projects unviable for the private sector," GlobalData

analyst Dhananjay Sharma states. The construction report further finds that Chinese funding has been a major source of growth for infrastructure projects in the region in the last two decades, helping Africa to narrow its \$100-billion-ayear infrastructure deficit.

However, the post-pandemic Chinese economic slowdown coupled with the substantial losses on the loans it granted to multiple countries - is resulting in a recalibration of Chinese focus on the Belt and Road Initiative and a slowdown in Chinese investment in the region.

Alongside this, a tightening of monetary policy across the developed countries is also affecting the region, while higher interest rates, driven by high inflation, are weighing on both business and household investments consumption.

Sharma explains that, over the longer term, growth is expected to pick up from 2024 onwards, with energy and utilities outperforming other sectors.

In the short term, growth will be driven by increased activity in oil and gas projects owing to continued higher prices, while longer-term investments will be driven by the shift towards green energy and the underlying potential of renewables in the region.

Along with energy and utilities, investments in infrastructure and the institutional sector will be driven by the continued realisation of the inadequacies of the current transport and utility systems and education and healthcare facilities.

Bamboo to ease world's housing and climate crises

NAIROBI

Bamboo, officially a grass, is the fastest-growing plant on earth. Many variants are ready to harvest in just three years, when they're cut down to their base from where they start to sprout again.

As bamboo grows it absorbs carbon from the atmosphere, with one hectare of bamboo sequestering about 17 tonnes of carbon a year.

And, crucially, unlike standard building materials, such as concrete and steel that emit tonnes of carbon in their manufacture, bamboo continues storing much of its carbon even when it has been turned into buildings, bridges and furniture.

The World Bank forecasts that the world's urban population will rise by 150 percent by 2045. The demand for housing in these areas will rise proportionately. As a result, many countries with fast-growing urban populations are encouraging the use of sustainable biobased materials, such as bamboo, in construction.

If managed well, bamboo has the potential to help satisfy some of the demand for affordable, decent housing and, if grown and harvested sustainably, also contribute towards Net-Zero targets.

Bamboo also has other



Bamboo has the potential to help satisfy some of the demand for affordable, decent housing. Photo by Agencies

properties that make it as or more attractive than go-to building materials. It's cheap and light, so it's easier to transport and safer to work with and, as bamboo fibres are extremely strong, it can have an impressively high tensile strength.

Perhaps, surprisingly, as it has a high water content, bamboo has natural fire resistance too. With organic treatments improving this natural resistance, it can withstand temperatures of up to 400 degrees Celsius. It's also resilient when faced with extreme weather.

The Climate Smart Forest Economy Program (CSFEP) is working on several Breakthrough Initiatives that support the use of sustainable bamboo in construction.

CASSA in Guatemala is designed to be climate resilient and when tropical storm Iulia hit in October 2022, they proved to be just that.

"The CASSA bamboo houses were some of the few houses left undamaged by the storm. The bamboo structures held up against the incredibly strong winds and, because they are built on stilts, they avoided being flooded," explains Kagisho Koza, a Consultant at strategic advisory firm together more than 150 Dalberg Advisors, who is seconded to the CSFEP.

Bamboo is deployed globally. Another Breakthrough Initiative, partnering with the Aga Khan 2020: a global public-

One such initiative, Agency for Habitat in India is now looking to creating a DIY toolkit diversify its building mafor affordable bamboo terials from mass timber housing. Each home is to include bamboo. And, African Bamboo, an Ethiopian Breakthrough Initiative, is creating more decorative bamboo features for home builders, such as flooring, cladding and decking, and it is experimenting with engineered bamboo. The destruction of for-

ests creates almost as much greenhouse gas emissions as global road travel, and yet it continues at an alarming rate. In 2012, we brought

partners working in Latin America, West Africa, Central Africa and South-East Asia - to establish the Tropical Forest Alliance

society, indigenous people, communities and international organizations, helps producers, traders and buyers of commodities often blamed for causing de-

investment in systemic change.

The Alliance, made up of

businesses, governments, civil

forestation to achieve deforestation-free supply chains. The Commodities and Forests Agenda 2020, summarizes the areas in which the most urgent action is needed to eliminate deforestation from global agricul-

tural supply chains. The Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 is gaining ground on tackling deforestation linked to the production of four commodities: palm oil, beef, soy, and pulp and paper.

As more and more successful small-scale bamboo projects are realized, this could encourage other countries to kick-start their bamboo industries to create a sustainable bamboo value chain. There are signs that this is

beginning to happen. China made the development of its bamboo industry a national priority in 2012. To boost the commercialisation of bamboo, Kenya classified it as a crop in 2020. And, Ethiopia hopes to become Africa's leading bamboo producer by 2030, with a strategic environmental plan to promote bamboo plantations and support their value-adding

activities. Breakthrough Initiatives are designed to support localised climate-smart forest economies to realize their full climate potential, contributing towards a global sustainable forest econo-

private partnership to facilitate

Within five years, the four hectares of bamboo plantations supplying CASSA, for example, are expected to provide enough sustainable bamboo to build 40 homes per year, while also providing jobs and training for the local community and having a positive climate impact.

"The people that we trained to build homes have volunteered their time and expertise to help build new climate-resilient bamboo housing for another two families whose homes became uninhabitable due to tropical storm Julia. We are convinced that a Climate-Smart Bamboo Forest Economy will help transform Punta Brava into a climate poster child, using this wonderful carbon-negative building material to build a climate-resilient community to live in our warmer and more turbulent world," says Tono Aguilar, President at CASSA.

Koza adds: "We help all our Breakthrough Initiatives with their carbon accounting. We help them work out the net climate positive benefits of their programmes and ensure that there are no unintended negative consequences on their environment, ecology or their local communities and have a clear understanding of potential mitigation strategies"

CSFEP's support focuses on areas where bamboo grows indigenously. Much of the bamboo that African Bamboo uses, for instance, is sourced from the Sidama forest in the Ethiopian Highlands. While in Guatemala, bamboo plantations are developed on degraded land.

CONSTRUCTION

SPOTLIGHT Why it's important to protect the environment

By Prudencia Paul Kimiti

wildlife is a matter of grave concern to all of us in Africa.

These wild creatures amid the wild places they inhabit are not only important as a source of wonder and inspiration but are an integral part of our natural resources and our future livelihood and wellbeing.'

Do those words seem relevant today? To me, it feels that they could have been written for the situation in which Africa, and indeed the world, finds itself today. In fact, those words were spoken by Julius Nyerere in

In his very next sentence, Mwalimu went on to speak of a 'trusteeship' of a 'rich and precious inheritance.' I will return to that idea in a moment, but first wanted to offer some personal reflec-

As many of you may know, I now live in Britain. I think it's probably fair to say that most British people have a fairly limited knowledge of Africa.

Many, if asked to name African landmarks would go straight to Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti.

So, in some ways, our environment here in Tanzania has come to typify a vast, diverse continent. Why is that important? Well, it goes to Mwalimu's point about the

environment being key to the livelihood of Tanzania.

I have a friend in Britain whose dream holiday is what he would call a 'safari'. The word 'safari' has, in Britain and elsewhere, become synonymous with wildlife.

People in Britain pay lots of money to go to 'safari parks' and see the lions, giraffes, leopards and so on that we are blessed with in our countryside. Anyway, back to my friend.

The place he would like to come to more than anywhere else in the world is here, to Tanzania, not only to see the famous Serengeti, but also the Ngorongoro crater and other, less obvious places.

He could tell you about the fish in our great lakes and even about the viper that was discovered here in southern Tanzania a few years ago.

My point is that here, on our doorstep, is an environment that is, rightly, the envy of the world - a 'rich and precious inheritance' indeed!

The economic potential of that inheritance is obvious. I make no apology for highlighting that fact.

Experience around the world shows that the most successful environmental conservation programmes are those which factor in the needs of the local com-

When the needs of nature and the needs of people come into conflict, it is the needs of people that will prevail.

The secret of successful conservation lays in educating people that their own best interests are served by protecting wildlife and the environment.

Nowhere is that truer than here in Tanzania.

So, what of the trusteeship that Mwalimu spoke of? When he was speaking, in 1961, there was only one national park in Tanzania. Now, there are twenty.

Around a quarter of all the land in Tanzania is under some form of protection, as a national park or as a game or forest reserve.

That is an achievement of which we should be proud as a nation. It is in the tradition of our people's partnership with the environment that goes all the way back to the earliest human history. It is in this part of Africa, after all, that the human story began.

We are right to be proud of that tradition, but we should not be complacent.

Pressures on the environment increase every day, from climate change, development and population expansion, to name just a few

Nyerere laid upon us was to be trustees of this inheritance and to deliver it safely



The charge that Mwalimu to our children's grandchildren.

> The work that our President Mama Samia Suluhu

Hassan is doing is a key element of fulfilling charge.

Prudencia Paul Kimiti

(pictured) is a member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) living in UK

The dearth of new offerings

Saudi, Qatar consider gigantic 'Moon' besides Dubai

Although no specific site has been chosen yet for a proposed gigantic resort resembling the moon, "multiple" developers in the UAE and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region have expressed interest in building the project, Michael Henderson, cofounder of Moon World Resorts told Zawya without revealing names of developers.

Henderson said his company is still looking into several potential locations for the mega project besides Dubai, with other contenders including Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Moon World Resorts is a Canada-based architectural design and intellectual property licensor, which has envisioned moon skyscrapers in four global locations: MENA, Europe, North America and Asia Pacific. The company intends to grant only one license to build the structure in MENA "within the next 90

Henderson's team has conceived Moon as a unique and iconic structure that will "transport millions of quests on an experiential life-altering journey" and deliver a "fully integrated destination resort experience".

The developer who wins the bid will get to decide where the Moon hotel should rise. Henderson said, adding that the top considerations for choosing the winning bidder include "scale and ability of corporation, build and operational quality, liquidity, goals and aspirations and chosen

"We will permit the regional licensee to choose the final site location," Henderson told Zawya.

The mega sphere, which is expected to attract 10 million visitors and cost \$5 billion to build, has stirred speculation over where it will be developed in Dubai, with The Palm Jebel Ali and the former site of Dubai Pearl named as potential loca-

"The former Dubai Pearl site would be an excellent location for Moon Dubai; however, there are many alternatives in the UAE and around the MENA region," Henderson said.

The Moon World Resorts would not confirm if it has already received formal offers from any developer in the UAE, although Henderson said Dubai "presents a very compelling case".

"Dubai presents a very compelling case. It already has the infrastructure, airlift capacity, tourism, brand and its leader is a true visionary. Everyone loves Dubai," Henderson added.

The Moon, a larger-than-life replica of the Earth's lunar neighbour, would ideally be built on a 30-hectare site. The structure, which will feature moon craters and textures that look realistic, will be 224 metres tall and house a luxury hotel, convention hall, event centre, moon shuttle, casino, lounges, and many others.

Global banks seek to end drought in China property debt sales

NEW YORK

investment Global banks including JPMorgan Chase & Co. and UBS Group AG are renewing efforts to gauge investor interest in Chinese developer bond sales, in hopes of revitalizing a key business following a yearlong deal drought.

Hong Kong-based debt capital market bankers have been approaching the investors, encouraged by the recent return to the primary market by major conglomerate Dalian Wanda Group Co.'s property arm after a 16-month absence, according to people familiar with the matter.

The developers that bankers are testing investor appetite for include Country Garden Holdings Co., Hopson Development Holdings Ltd., Road King InfraChinese developers' dollar bond issuance fell to six-year low in 2022 Issuance volume 2022 Source: Bloomberg Note: Data also include new notes issued in exchange offers

structure Ltd. and Yanlord Land Group Ltd., said the people who requested anonymity discussing private matters. JPMorgan, UBS, Credit Suisse Group AG, Guotai Junan International Holdings Ltd. and HSBC Holdings PLC are among those initiating such offerings, they added.

While the pitching

frenzy is part of a global trend following a broader market recovery, the pressure is especially acute on China-oriented investment banks after the country's unprecedented property crisis caused a once-lucrative business to vanish. But the bankers face an uphill battle, because bor-

prohibitively expensive for most Chinese builders even after Beijing's sweeping rescue measures triggered a strong rally.

Investment banks are urging the borrowers to seize the issuance window as much as they can, said a Hong Kongbased debt capital marrowing costs remain ket banker with a major

listed uncertainties over how from the sector was a key part sustainable the recent second- of the broader plunge in Chinaary-market rally and Beijing's related investment banking policy support may be as reasons, said the banker who also asked not to be named. UBS and HSBC declined to

Chinese brokerage. They also

comment. Credit Suisse, Guotai Junan, JPMorgan, as well as the developers mentioned above didn't respond to requests for comment.

Once one of the hottest trades in the world, Chinese developers' dollar bonds have imploded in the last two years as a government crackdown on high debt and a housing slump caused yields to surge, defaults to break records and fundraising to dry

Dollar note issuance by Chinese real estate firms fell 60% to \$18 billion last year, the lowest since 2016, Bloomberg-compiled data show. However, the bulk of the deals were notes issued by cash-strapped builders to replace maturing debt, an exercise known as a distressed exchange

revenues last year, resulting in the worst payouts at Wall Street firms in Asia since the global financial crisis and prompting big players from HSBC to UBS to slash headcounts. A turnaround has emerged since November, when Beijing

stepped up efforts to salvage the ailing housing market as economic growth overtook Covid controls as policymakers' top priority. Chinese junk dollar bonds, dominated by those from developers, have rallied for a record 13 straight weeks since then, pushing average yields down to around 15% from a record 31%, according to a Bloomberg index.

The momentum gained further traction last month, when Wanda returned to the market with a \$400 million deal, a rare offering at that time that stoked hopes for a wider recovery in dollar debt sales. The company issued another \$300 million note this week.

Egypt banks sink \$1.75bn into mortgage financing initiative

Egypt - A report issued by the Social Housing and Mortgage Finance Fund (SHMFF) revealed that banks operating in the Egyptian market have injected EGP 53.185bn of mortgage financing for 467,550 customers.

This comes within the framework of the mortgage financing initiative for low-income individuals, until the end of January 2023, accounting for 95.8 percent of the total funds that were injected within that initiative.

This comes as the companies operating in this activity injected about EGP 2.333bn to about 9,109 customers within the initiative, accounting for 4.2 percent, share of 11.9 percent. bringing the total financing to about EGP 55.5bn, serving about 486,659 customers.

According to the report, NBE acquired 27.3 percent of the total funds that were injected within the initiative, with a volume of financing amounting to EGP 15.179bn, which was granted to 132,140 customers.

Banque Misr came in the second place with a financing volume of EGP 12.875bn for 109,005 customers, with a share of 23.2 percent.

On the other hand, the Housing and Development Bank's financing recorded EGP 6.613bn for 69,920 customers with a

It was followed by Banque du Caire with a financing volume of EGP 3.356bn for 35,448 customers, with a share of 6 percent, then CIB with a financing volume of EGP 3.071bn for 23,661 customers, with a share of 5.5 percent.

In the sixth place came QNB Al Ahli Bank, with a volume of financing of EGP 2.305bn for 16,888 clients, with a share of 4.2 percent, then the Industrial Development Bank, with a volume of financing of EGP 1.765bn for 16,278 clients, with a share of 3.2 percent.

The United Bank came in the eighth place with a financ-

cent share, then the Arab African International Bank (AAIB) with a financing volume of EGP 1.158bn for 9,944 customers with a 2.1 percent share, then Blom Bank with a financing volume of EGP 715.584m for 6,028 customers with a share of 1.3 percent.

The Fund revealed that the Contact Mortgage Company topped the companies participating in this initiative, with a volume of financing amounting to EGP 838.361m, for 6,165 customers.

Al Tameer Mortgage Finance came in the second sport, with EGP 814.022m for 6,745 customing volume of EGP 1.683bn for ers, and Al-Ahly Finance pumped

12,724 customers with a 3 per- EGP 665.284m for about 539,000 clients.

The volume of funds pumped by Amlak Real Estate Finance amounted to EGP 134.252m to 320,200 clients, while Tamweel Mortgage Finance pumped 68.666m to 602 clients.

According to the fund, the Egyptian Company for Mortgage Finance pumped financing that amounted to EGP 43.042m to 429 clients, while the amount of financing of Al-Ahly United Company amounted to EGP 19.973m to 200 clients, and the Arab African International Company pumped financing of EGP 12.211m to 109 clients.

FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY, 2023

CONSTRUCTION



NEW PARTNERSHIP TO BOOST AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN AFRICA

NAIROBI

an-African housing development financier Shelter Afrique is working on an affordable housing partnership deal with Actis - a global private equity investment firm and India's real estate giant shapoorji-

Speaking when he met Actis and Shapoorji Pallonji teams in Nairobi, Shelter Afrique Managing Director and CEO Mr Thierno-Habib Hann said the partnership with the two entities would be vital in scaling up the provision of affordable housing across Africa.

"There is huge housing demand across Africa which requires wellthought-out partnerships to tackle, and India's experience in real estate development has provided us with a great learning on how to approach affordable housing in Africa," Mr Hann said.

"We are looking forward to the partnership with Shapoorji Pallonji - one of India's top real estate companies; the global private equity firm, Actis, and their local joint venture Mi Vida Homes - to see how we can scale up and replicate their model across our member States," Mr Hann quiped.

Commenting on the partner-



Dave Spooner

ship Shapoorji-Pallonji Real Estate Business Head Sumit Sapru said there were many similarities between India's and Africa's fundamental markets that Shelter Afrique could build on, adding that "We would be delighted to partner with shelter Afrique in

developing real estate sectors across Africa."

Actis Director Koome Gikunda said the joint venture with Shapoorji Pallonji was borne out of optimism and the desire to delve into the real estate sector, adding, "we hope to do a similar thing with Shelter Afrique across Africa.

Through a joint venture, Actis and Shapoorji Pallonji have delivered the first project at Garden City in Nairobi, Kenya, and are planning to launch three more projects in Nairobi.

Mr Hann said the partnership with Shapoorji Pallonji would be crucial in building Africa's mortgage market, which he says is grossly underdeveloped.

He said many countries in Africa do not have well-developed mortgage markets, noting this was a huge constraint and gap in the provision of affordable housing that needs to be addressed urgently.

"For instance, Kenya, one of the most developed markets in Africa and with a population of 50 million people, has only 30 000 mortgage subscribers and the story is the same across Africa. India on the other hand, has a well-developed mortgage sector - boasting over USD20 billion mortgage market - that's why such a partnership would be important to help us draw fundamental lessons," Mr Hann said.

According to Statista, most African countries have a very low mortgage-to-GDP ratio. In 2021 Cabo Verde was ranked first at 23.4%, South Africa came second at 23.3%, and Kenya at 2.1%. Nigeria, Mali and Uganda stood at 0,5%, while Algeria recorded the lowest ratio at 0.02%.

The mortgage-to-GDP ratio compares a country's total mortgage debt to its gross domestic product.

Africa to become nuclear hotspot

CAIRO

Backed by the IAEA, Africa is set to be one of the world's nuclear development hotspots in the coming years as the continent looks to build a safe, secure and low-carbon energy system.

A third of the almost 30 countries currently considering nuclear power are in Africa. Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria and Sudan have already engaged with the IAEA to assess their readiness to embark on a nuclear programme.

Algeria, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia are also studying the possibility of nuclear power.

As Mikhail Chudakov, Deputy Director General and head of the Department of Nuclear Energy at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), says: "Africa is hungry for energy, and nuclear power could be part of the answer for an increasing number of countries".

Government ministers and officials from several African countries discussed the potential of nuclear power in supporting sustainable development and the transition to clean and reliable energy as the IAEA released new publication on the subject during the 66th IAEA General Conference in September.

The event, "Supporting the Energy Transition in Africa", showcased the 2022 edition of "Climate Change and Nuclear Power", which is updated every two years and provides technical information and data on how nuclear power can contribute to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions

The latest publication features a detailed chapter on nuclear power in Africa. During the event, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi held a wide-ranging discussion with representatives from Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa.

"Everywhere I am hearing this global conversation about energy security, climate change and nuclear power, and whether by virtue of changes in circumstance, climate or security needs, it is quite clear that nuclear now has a place at the table," Grossi

"What I like about this discussion, is that there is no discussion without Africa. The Africans have said themselves [...] 'we need to contribute, and we need our own specific analysis of how this nuclear jewel is going to be used for African economies'."

The new publication points out that some 600 million people and 10 million small businesses in Africa have no reliable source of electricity and that, increasingly, connection to a national grid is no guarantee of electricity sup-

Blackouts are becoming more frequent, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Meanwhile, Africa's energy demand is increasing twice as fast as the global average, largely driven by urban population growth.

Through its Milestones Approach, the IAEA supports around 30 nuclear newcomer countries in Africa and around the world in their efforts to develop the necessary infrastructure for a safe, secure and sustainable nuclear power programme.

As countries in Africa consider or embark on nuclear power, Grossi stressed they would have the Agency's full support. "The IAEA will be with you every step of the way," he said.

Several countries in Africa are therefore exploring the possibility of adding nuclear power to their energy mix.

Chinese homebuyers rush to clear mortgage loans

BEIJING

An increasing number of Chinese homebuyers have flocked to banks to prepay their mortgage loans recently and they have to wait three to five months to sign off on a repayment due to the rapid increase of applications.

Both the Agricultural Bank of China and the Bank of China in Beijing told China News Service that getting a prepayment seat could take two to three months.

However, in 2021, many cities across China still saw home buyers lining up to borrow money from banks.

Analysis shows the phenomenon was triggered by three factors, which also reflect changes in the Chinese property

First, returns on wealth management products have declined.

Before Spring Festival, affected by fluctuations in the debt market, the yield of wealth management products declined significantly, and some even saw negative

Wealth management products regarded as having no risks in the past had suffered losses, which changed many people's investment and financing plans.

Data from Zhuge.com, an online house property information platform, indicate that the annual interest rate of many wealth management products has fallen loans in many cities has been dynamically



China Central Bank

to less than 3 percent, which means the returns of ordinary items are lower than the increased mortgage interests.

As a result, if homebuyers failed to find a better investment product, they turned to spending their deposits on repaying mortgage loans in advance.

At present, the annual interest rate of many homebuyers' stock loans registered 4 percent to 6 percent, while some loan interest rates issued after 2020 topped more than 6 percent. The return on most capital guarantee wealth management products is less than 3 percent.

Secondly, the interest rate of mortgage

adjusted.

China announced a dynamic mechanism for first-home mortgage rates in January, and many cities adjusted the lower limit for the rate based on property-price trends.

According to statistics of China Index Academy, in January 2023, there were nearly 20 cities that adjusted the lower limit of mortgage interest rates in China, including Zhengzhou, Tianjin, Fuzhou, Shenyang, Xiamen and other second-tier cities.

As of Jan. 31, among the 103 cities monitored by Beike Research Institute, there were 30 with first home loan interest rates of less than 4.1 percent, of which eight were second-tier cities. There were four cities

with first home loan interest rates of 3.7 percent, which is currently the lowest commercial loan interest rate in China. Li Yujia, chief researcher at the Housing Policy Research Center of the Guangdong Urban & Rural Planning and Design Institute, believes that at this juncture, many people either choose to repay their loans in advance or sell their properties after repayment and then buy a new one at lower interests.

Third, property market expectations have changes.

Li Yujia believes that the flood of prepayment is driven by a shift in property market expectations. In the past, people generally believed that housing prices would rise and asset income be far greater than mortgage costs, while many homebuyers were not sensitive to mortgage interest rates.

At present, as house price expectations reverse and house prices drop, more and more people are paying attention to mortgage loans, property management, depreciation expenses, etc.

Experts have called for appropriately adjusting the interest rate of stock mortgage loans to reduce the burden on buyers and boost consumer confidence.

Global container port congestion to decline

SEATTLE

Pre-berth waiting times showed clear signs of improvement towards the end of 2022 despite, increasing disruption due to transport sector strikes, and this trend is expected to continue through 2023.

After more than two years of widespread port congestion, we are beginning to see signs of improvement, according to the latest findings from Drewry's Ports and Terminals Insight.

Globally, pre-berth waiting time remained significantly above pre-pandemic levels through 2020-22. In 2019, waiting time accounted for just over 17% of the total port time, but in both 2021 and 2022 pre-berth waiting had increased to more than 25% of the total port time.

There were clear signs of



improvement in 2H22, despite rising levels of disruption associated with dock labour and other transport sector strikes. But despite this progress, pre-berth waiting time remains elevated above prepandemic levels, leaving much work to do.

By 4Q22, it was only the

North America and Oceania regions where pre-berth waiting remained materially (>10%) above 2019 levels. In contrast, pre-berth waiting time in Europe was 16.6% in 4Q23, just 1.2% above the 2019 average of 15.4%.

While some of the improvement across our African port sample

can be attributed to higher calls following the expansion of capacity at Tanger Med, there has been marked improvement at many other ports across the region.

Drewry expects port waiting time and congestion to return to pre-pandemic levels over the course of 2023, thanks to reduced

cargo demand, due to lower economic growth combined with a resumption of more normal seasonality. Signs of the latter are clearly evident in the first few weeks of the year which heralds more predictable times, though continued use of blanked sailings will add to average berth times.

Ports and Terminals Insight - Port industry performance and trends

The Ports and Terminal Insight is a quarterly report (PDF) covering the latest developments in the container ports and terminals market, accompanied by a new monthly report (PDF) providing regular port congestion and performance monitoring (powered by Drewry AIS analytics).

It looks behind the data and topical issues to answer both the 'cause' and 'effect' questions that matter most to senior industry stakeholders.

WORLD

Ukrainian president pays surprise visit to France

LONDON/KIEV/PARIS

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky was in the United Kingdom on Wednesday to discuss defense cooperation followed by a Paris stopover to meet French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Earlier in the day, Scholz told the German lower house of parliament (Bundestag) that despite providing military assistance to Ukraine, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) must not become a party to the country's conflict with Russia.

In London, Zelensky addressed both houses of the British Parliament after meeting Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at 10 Downing Street. He then met King Charles III at Buckingham Palace. In his Parliament speech, Zelensky thanked the UK for its support and appealed for

The UK government said in a statement on Wednesday that it had already trained 10,000 Ukrainian troops to "battle readiness" over the past six months and would "upskill" a further 20,000 this year, without mentioning the provision of jets.

In Paris, Zelensky asked again for weapons, adding that Ukraine needed heavy armament and planes "as soon as possible." A tri-party dinner was held at the French presidential office to "continue the close coordination which makes it possible to respond quickly and effectively to the needs expressed by Kiev," according to the Elysee.

During a press conference held at the Elysee Wednesday night, Macron reaffirmed "unwavering" support of France and Europe to Ukraine.

Macron and Scholz both said that France, Germany and the European Union intended to continue their "ef-



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky (right) and Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (left) hold a press conference at a military facility in Lulworth, Dorset in southern England on Wednesday. AFP

Ukraine "for as long as necessary."

In his speech to Bundestag ahead of a special meeting of the European Council to discuss the conflict, Scholz warned though against a "public competition to outdo each other along the lines of battle tanks, submarines, aircraft..." This would harm the unity of the West, he said, Xinhua reports from Berlin.

Due to increasing pressure on Germany by NATO partners to supply heavy artillery to Ukraine, the German government decided in late January to deliver 14 Leopard 2 tanks, and to permit partners to re-export from their forts" to deliver weapons. Scholz stressed Leopard stocks. In addition, the export of up to

that Germany would continue to support 178 of the older Leopard 1 tanks was later approved.

> The US followed suit shortly afterward, with President Joe Biden announcing the delivery of Abrams battle tanks to Ukraine. However, experts say it will be months before the German and American tanks are delivered.

Vyacheslav Volodin, chairman of Russia's lower house, warned last month that the supply of Western weapons to Ukraine would lead to retaliation with "more powerful weapons."

On Thursday, Zelensky, Macron and Scholz will meet again in Brussels during a special European Council meeting scheduled over

Growth in South Africa, the major trading partner of Zimbabwe, is expected to weaken further this year to 1.4 percent before reaching 1.8 percent in 2024, she said.

HARARE

World Bank.

in 2022.

ZIMBABWE'S economy is projected to grow at a modest growth rate in

2023 against a weakening global economic growth outlook, according to the

Speaking at the Eco-

the weakest in three decades.

In addition, Illieva said the weak growth in global markets will have an adverse effect on the prices of metals and other commodities which Zimbabwe depends on.

Zimbabwean economy to maintain

modest growth in 2023: World Bank

nomic and Business Outlook Symposium, organized by the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries in the Zimbabwean capital of Harare on Wednesday, World Bank

Senior Economist for Zimbabwe Stella Illieva said Zimba-

bwe's economic growth is projected to be around 3.6 per-

cent in 2023, a slight increase from 3.4 percent recorded

Commenting on global growth projections, Illieva

(pictured) said growth in the sub-Saharan Africa region

is more promising than the global outlook, as global

growth is expected to decelerate to 1.7 percent this year,

Rising geopolitical tensions and trade fragmentation

elsewhere as well as climate change shocks will result in

Weakening economic activities in the global economy

will have spillover effects to emerging markets and de-

veloping countries, which includes Zimbabwe, she said.

"Aggressive monetary policy tightening to contain high

inflation, deteriorating financial conditions, and contin-

ued disruptions from the war in Ukraine are the drivers

of this worsening economic performance on a global

a significant slowdown of growth, she said.

"Prices of gold, tobacco, and platinum have been in decline since 2022; this trend is expected to continue this year, at least for gold and tobacco," said Illieva.

Unfavorable terms of trade means higher import bill and cost of living, fewer exports, and pressure on the domestic currency and labor market, she added.

Presenting the 2023 national budget last November, Zimbabwean Finance and Economic Development Minister Mthuli Ncube projected the country's economy to grow by 3.8 percent this year, driven by favorable international commodity prices, a good agricultural season, and tight monetary and fiscal policy, among other reasons.

Moscow warns US Embassy

against using social media to

Afghanistan: Iran warns against 'transregional interference'

TEHRAN

A top Iranian security official on Wednesday warned against letting "transregional interference" in Afghanistan cause insecurity in the country and to the entire region.

Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), made the remark in an address to the fifth round of the regional security dialogue in the Russian capital of Moscow, according to the official news agency IRNA.

Shamkhani said insecurity has always been a threat to the Afghan people's lives and foreign interference can turn it into a common threat to the entire region.

He stressed the main priority is to ensure security, peace, stability and progress in Afghanistan.

Shamkhani said the way to end "the vicious insecurity-instability cycle in Afghanistan" is through the implementation of palpable mea-



Afghan burqa-clad women walk along a street in Fayzabad district of

sures by the country's caretaker players. government and other internal

Iran maintains that imposing took part in the meetings.

try through foreign interference or internal confrontation will only lead to greater instability and insecurity in Afghanistan, he stressed, noting the United States is constantly seeking to turn Afghanistan into a "platform for spreading insecurity and terror-

any political system on the coun-

Commenting on Afghanistan's assets frozen by the United States, the SNSC chief stressed that they belong to the people of the country. "Afghan people must not be deprived of their assets through cruel and illegal sanctions."

Nikolai Patrushev, secretary of the Security Council of Russia, delivered a speech at beginning of the fifth round of the regional security dialogue on Wednesday. Security officials from Iran, India, China, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan also on New York and Washington on Sept 11, 2001, the United States led a military coalition to invade Afghanistan in October 2001 to overthrow the Taliban government, which allegedly sheltered the then-leader of the terror network Osama Bin Laden. In late August 2021, the US forc-

In the wake of the terror attacks

es conducted a hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan with a military defeat, leaving the war-torn country in extreme poverty and deep pain. Public data showed that more than 50,000 Afghan civilians and nearly 70,000 Afghan security personnel reportedly had been killed during the twodecade-long US occupation of Af-

The United States has also frozen Afghanistan's overseas assets worth more than \$9b as part of its sanctions against the new govern-

interfere in Russia's affairs **MOSCOW** MOSCOW, in a note to

the US Embassy, warned that it was unacceptable to use social media to interfere in Russia's affairs and

recruit Russian youth, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said at a press conference yesterday.

According to him, Washington was warned about "the unacceptable aspects" of the use of social media to interfere in Russia's internal affairs and was also informed that Moscow expected the US to take steps to address said

"A certain signal was sent making it clear that we weren't comfortable with the ongoing recruitment, or, if we describe our American colleagues' activities more precisely, attempts to invite Russian citizens, including youngsters, to consider the possibility of moving overseas, particularly for educational purposes. We are strongly opposed to this, and that is what the note was about," Ryabkov added.

A source close to the Russian Foreign Ministry's leadership told TASS on Tuesday that a note demanding an end to attempts to interfere in Russia's domestic affairs had been handed to the US Embassy in Moscow.

Hope fading for survivors as quake toll nears 16,000 ANTAKYA, Türkiye/JANDARIS a similarly powerful tremor killed 17,000 and two of his brothers.

THE death toll from earthquakes that struck Türkiye and Syria this week neared 16.000 vesterday as hopes faded of many people being found alive 72 hours since the disaster and frustration simmered over the slow delivery of aid.

A Turkish official said the disaster posed "very serious difficulties" for the holding of an election scheduled for May 14 in which President Tayyip Erdogan has been expected to face the toughest challenge in his two decades in power.

On the ground, many people in Türkiye and Syria spent a third night sleeping outside or in cars in freezing winter temperatures, their homes destroyed or so shaken by the quakes they were too afraid to re-enter. Hundreds of thousands of people have been left homeless in the middle of winter.

The number of people killed by the quake, which struck in the dead of night and was followed by powerful aftershocks, is on course to be larger than in 1999 when

people in Türkiye's more densely populated northwest. In Türkiye, footage emerged late on Wednesday of a few more survivors being rescued, including Abdulalim Muaini, who was pulled from his collapsed home in Hatay, Türkiye where he had remained since Monday next to his deceased wife.

Rescue workers pulled an injured 60-year-old woman named Meral Nakir from the rubble of an apartment block in the city of Malatya, 77 hours after the first quake struck, state broadcaster TRT showed in live coverage on Thursday.

The death toll in Türkiye jumped to 12,873 by Thursday morning. In Syria, already devastated by nearly 12 years of civil war, more than 3,000 people have died, according to the government and a rescue service in the rebel-held northwest.

In the devastated Syrian town of Jandaris, Ibrahim Khalil Menkaween walked in the rubble-strewn streets clutching a folded white body bag. He said he had lost seven members of his family including his wife

"I'm holding this bag for when they bring out my brother, and my brother's young son, and both of their wives, so we can pack them in bags," he said.

"The situation is very bad. And there is no aid." Aid officials hope to deliver aid into northwest Syria from Türkiye on Thursday. using a crossing that had been closed since the quake. In Türkiye, many have complained of a lack of equipment, expertise and support to rescue those trapped - sometimes even as they could hear cries for help.

Further slowing the relief effort, the main road into the Turkish city of Antakya was clogged with traffic as residents who had finally managed to find scarce gasoline sought to leave the disaster zone and aid trucks headed into the area.

At a gas station near the town of Kemalpasa, people picked through cardboard boxes of clothes dropped off as donations.

After facing criticism over the response, Erdogan said on a visit to the disaster zone on Wednesday that operations were now

China plays crucial role in wetland restoration

working normally and promised no one would be left homeless.

The Turkish official told Reuters it was now too early to discuss elections given 15 percent of Turks lived in the affected area. "At the moment there are very serious difficulties in holding an election on May 14," as had been planned, he said.

Across a swathe of southern Türkiye, people have sought temporary shelter and food in freezing winter weather, and waited in anguish by piles of rubble where family and friends might still lie buried.

23 million affected

In Syria, relief efforts are complicated by the conflict that has partitioned the nation and wrecked its infrastructure.

"There are a lot of people under the rubble, there are no heavy equipment to pull them out and the voluntary teams are not able to work with light equipment," said Yousef Nahas, a resident of Salgeen in Syria's northwest, contacted by phone.

Agencies

Zambian president removes 390 inmates from death row

LUSAKA

ZAMBIAN President Hakainde Hichilema has commuted death sentences for 390 inmates to life imprisonment, a senior government official said on Wednes-

The inmates include 379 males and 11 females. Jack Mwiimbu, the minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security, said the move follows the abolishment of the death penalty in December last year and is in line with Article 97 in the country's constitution.

Xinhua

THE shrinking area of wetlands and degrading ecological functions are a challenge faced by the entire world.

Since becoming a party of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, or the Ramsar Convention in 1992, China has constantly enhanced its efforts in legislation, monitoring, science popularization, and international cooperation to fulfill its obliga-

China's wetland conservation has gone through three stages: problem identification, rescue protection, and comprehensive conservation.

So far, the country has completed over 4,100 projects to advance wetland protection and restoration. It is the only country in the world that has

done national wetland resource inves-

tigation three times. China boasts remarkable achieve-

ments in wetland conservation. Wetland ecology is constantly improving in the country.

Its wetland area, covering 56.35 million hectares, ranks the first in Asia and fourth in the world. Especially in the recent decade, China has added or restored more than 800,000 hectares of wetlands. It also has 64 wetlands of international importance and 29 wetlands of national importance. The country is home to 13 international

wetland cities, the highest in the world. The total number of wetland-type nature reserves in China has reached more than 2,200, while 11 million hectares of wetlands are included in the country's national park system with stringent protection management.

Wetland parks well combines ecological conservation, ecological tourism, and environmental education and thus generate ecological, social, and economic benefits. They are an important part of China's wetland con-

servation system. Chinese provinces and municipalities are constantly working to apply for national wetland parks and build regional wetland parks, demonstrating China's innovative approach to protecting, restoring, and utilizing wetland.

Currently, there are 29 national wetland parks and 26 provincial wetland parks in Sichuan province, and east China's Anhui province has preliminarily established a wetland conservation network that puts 51.8 percent of its wetlands under protection.

Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang province, is applying for the wetland city accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, and a provinciallevel wetland park is expected to be built near the Qiantang River in the city. It is learned that the coverage of the wetland park will be far beyond

the Xixi National Wetland Park in the city, which spans 11.5 square kilome-

Over the past few years, China has witnessed a prominent increase in the population of wild birds in wetlands. Rare and endangered bird species have started to show up in wetlands across the country and inhabit in large groups there. This indicates improved

wetland ecology in the country. The Yellow River Wetland National Nature Reserve in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan province, sits in the center of the middle channel of China's three major bird migration routes. After years of treatment, the ecology in

the nature reserve has constantly improved. There are currently 283 wild bird species in the reserve, up from 169 in 2006.

Surveys on wintering birds recently released by local authorities suggested important progress in China's ecological restoration.

According to a report by south China's Hainan province, the island province discovered 201 black-faced spoonbills this year, the most since the report started in 2003.

Another survey on wintering birds in the Hengshui Lake national nature reserve wetland park in north China's Hebei province said 64,000 birds and 60 species were spotted in the wetland

park.

People's Daily

UN says 8.3 mln people require humanitarian aid in Somalia

MOGADISHU

MORE than 8.3 million people require humanitarian assistance in Somalia where significant segments of the population are on the brink of famine, the United Nations relief agency said on Wednesday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that in the absence of adequate funding and enhanced capacity, famine is projected between April and June in the three population groups including Baidoa and Burhakaba rural districts as well as internally displaced people (IDPs) in Baidoa and Mogadishu.

"Somalis are hungrier, sicker, and more vulnerable than a year ago, pushing an ever greater number of people into reliance on humanitarian assistance for survival," OCHA said in its latest update on the humanitarian situation in Somalia.

It said even if no famine emerges, the humanitarian situation is extremely alarming since more than 6.3 million Somalis are expected to face high levels of food insecurity between January and March, including 322,000 in catastrophic levels of food insecurity.

"The cumulative levels of excess mortality could be as high as in 2011 when almost 260,000 people lost their lives, at least half of them children. In 2022 alone, 1,049 children died in nutrition centers and many more without even accessing the centers," OCHA said.

The crisis is caused by the historic failure of four consecutive rainy seasons, persistent conflict, displacement, and high food prices that have left millions of people at risk and are pushing people in Somalia to the brink of famine.

OCHA said the current drought is the longest and most severe in recent history and has surpassed the 2010/2011 and 2016/2017 droughts in terms of duration and severity.

It also said the recent escalation of the military offensive against al-Shabab, in addition to ongoing political and inter-clan tensions, has resulted in significant humanitarian impacts including increased displacement and reprisal attacks.

"Overall, it is expected that up to 450,000 additional civilians will be displaced due to conflict in 2023," it warned, noting that protection concerns include widespread forced family separation, indiscriminate attacks against civilians, freedom of movement restrictions, forced recruitment, abductions and destruction of civilian infrastructure.

OCHA believed the ongoing military operations offer both an opportunity for expanded access into areas previously under al-Shabab control as well as the increased likelihood of widespread insecurity and acute deterioration of humanitarian access.

"This uncertainty will require partners to exercise flexibility in programming to adapt to shifting insecurity, to assess and provide assistance in newly recovered areas as well as to engage in coordinated advocacy for the protection of civilians," OCHA said.

US' anti-Russian course hampers strategic stability dialogue, says Russian diplomat

GENEVA

RUSSIA is not evading dialogue with the United States on international security and strategic stability but Washington's anti-Russian course hampers these discussions, Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN Geneva office Gennady Gatilov said



matic Worker's Day marked on February 10. He recalled that "back in June 2021, when Geneva hosted a meeting of the Russian and US presidents, a substan-

tive dialogue on how to establish cooperation on issues of based on the latest AI theories and strategic stability, risk reduction and future arms control was held." But "later the situation developed in a different direc-

tion and the Americans have refused from any contacts role in promoting the development of with us," Gatilov (pictured) went on, adding that coop- AI and the digital economy. eration that the tendencies that emerged in 2021 and in subsequent communication "were devaluated by the US" cities across China are constructing or destructive course geared toward undermining Russia's planning to build intelligent computing security." "The dialogue was interrupted by them," he centers, most of which are in the east of

at Russia's initiative, it "cannot be resumed only at Russia's will," the Russian diplomat explained.

"Here, it is necessary to take into account the United States' position, its readiness to take into account our legal security interests. So far, they are speaking only about issues of their interest and ignore our concerns."

"The resumption of contacts in the sphere of security looks quite problematic, since the United States is pursudigital economy. ing an anti-Russian course, setting conditions for possible

is out of the question now," he said and expressed the computing power is constantly expandhope that "the situation will change in the future."

However, for these ends, the United States "must finally realize its responsibility for international peace and security not only in its interpretation but also in the in the interpretation of the overwhelming majority of UN mem- million standard rack units were in ber states," he said, adding that a constructive dialogue is service at the country's data centers possible only if the US drops its anti-Russian policy.

Here, it is necessary to take into account the United States' position, its readiness to take into account our legal security

Japan out of step with its words

WHAT Japanese say and what they mean can be two entirely different things, and in this context the Japanese word honne refers to real, inner feelings, and the word tatemae refers to the feelings one expresses publicly.

As confusing as such behavior may be for non-Japanese dealing with Japanese in sundry matters of daily life, imagine the difficulties it poses for diplomats, where properly grasping the slightest nuances can be critical.

"Recent remarks by Japanese leaders about China leave one wondering what their honne is," says Wang Qi, a researcher of East Asian affairs at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. While Japan constantly reassures China that the two countries are partners rather than adversaries, in Japan's dealings with the United States and NATO it constantly hypes the so-called China threat, Wang says.

Many academics and diplomats have aired views similar to those of Wang, and the Chinese injunction "honor your promises and act prudently" is one that is common currency in such circles when talking about China and Japan. Indeed, it has come up in talks between President Xi Jinping and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, when Foreign Minister Qin Gang talked on the phone with his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi and almost every time at Chinese Foreign Ministry daily briefings when talk turns to Japan.

Contrary to China, whose policy toward Japan has been consistent and forthright, the escalation in rhetoric that Japan resorts to talking about



NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida hold a joint media briefing on January 31, 2023 in Tokyo, Japan. (PHOTO / AP)

China is there for all to see and hear: from "worry" to "serious concern" and "grave concern" to "the biggest strategic challenge".

"Actions speak more loudly than words," Wang says. "Based on the way Japan has acted recently, one can hardly conclude that it is keen to work in a collaborative way with

Wang referred to Japan's recent curbs on the export of equipment for manufacturing computer chips to China as well as Tokyo's military collaboration with the US and NATO said to be aimed at "containing" China.

In the 50-minute phone conversation between Qin and Hayashi, the Japanese foreign minister said he believes "Japan and China could hardly achieve development and prosperity in isolation from each other". Yet soon after that telephone call, Japan announced it would be part of socalled tech decoupling from China that the United States has advocated, restricting exports of advanced semiconductor manufacturing equipment from this spring.

The irony in all this, Wang said, is that Japan itself had once been a victim of US protectionism and sanctions, yet now it is failing to choose principles instead of sides to take a strong stand against protectionism.

The Plaza Accord in 1985 resulted in a very strong yen and further hurt Japanese exporters, which ended with Japan falling into the abyss of what is widely called the lost three

Aggressive path

On the military front, Tokyo has chosen an aggressive path, remilitarizing itself and inviting NATO and the US to meddle in East Asia, disregarding a balance of power that has kept the region in peace for more than 70 years.

In talks with US President Joe Biden and NATO Secretary-General Jens

Stoltenberg over the past few weeks, Kishida made no attempt to hide his ambition to vie for hegemony in Asia by putting on display an aggressive Japan committed to growing its military and with few qualms about using military might as a tool of statecraft.

Shigeki Nagayama, a law professor at Tokai University in Japan, said the Japanese government's move of welcoming other military blocs' involvement in the Asia-Pacific region is to enhance its own defense capability, and will only heighten the risk of instability in the Asia-Pacific.

"Japan's self-defense forces already conduct joint exercises and training with NATO countries and can integrate command and combat systems if needed," Nagayama said. "It has now become possible for NATO to intervene in East Asian affairs, which is bad for stability in the region and for Europe. It is very disturbing."

Japan's hostility toward China does not come without a hefty price. For

one thing, economic ties between Beijing and Tokyo that have flourished in recent years are now showing signs of fraying. China Customs said that South Korea overtook Japan as the country's fourth-largest trading partner last year, with trade valued at \$362 billion.

Wang said: "The semiconductor curbs could further hurt Japan's economy because after all it is a strategy of US corporate monopolies using apparent coercive means to maintain technological and economic superiority over its allies and independent states in the Global South.

"Washington does not care about slowing down global technology upgrades and economic development. It only cares about diverting the world away from global cooperation toward the US-favored realm, and in the process Japan's interests are not considered at all."

Another consequence is in the security sphere, because, despite domestic protests, Kishida is offering Tokyo to Washington as the bulwark of its security interests in Asia and the front line in a possible confrontation.

Yoichi Komori, an emeritus professor at the University of Tokyo, said the US and NATO are using Japan as a shield in case of conflict.

"That's what the US and NATO want. It's very dangerous for Japan to give full play to its self-defense forces in East Asia, which is also contrary to Article 9 of Japan's Constitution. We, as the people, must not allow it."

Agencies

Intelligent computing a new engine driving China's digital economy

AN artificial intelligence (AI) supercomputing center was recently launched in Ningbo National Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone, east China's Zhejiang province, which is able to perform at 100 Pflops in half-precision

In north China's Tianjin municipality, the first-phase project of an intelligent computing center was completed at the end of 2022. It includes over 850 enterprises and research institutes, and boasts a combined computing capacity of 120 Pflops.

Besides, a number of projects focusing on smart healthcare and smart office have been inked recently at an insouthwest China's Sichuan province, which was officially put into operation

Intelligent computing centers, built adopting advanced AI computing architecture, provide computing, data and algorithm services. They play a crucial

Statistics show that currently over 30 the country. Central and western parts Moscow insists that since the dialogue was frozen not of the country are also following this

> The innovative development of intelligent computing centers is expected to become a new engine accelerating the progress of AI and relevant industries.

> Computing resource is an important foundation for the development of the

As the digital economy prospers, new business forms and models diversify That is why, any mutually respectful and equal dialogue application scenarios, and the scale of ing with rising demand.

> According to statistics recently released by China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, over 6.5 last year, and China's computing power scale expanded 25 percent annually on average in the past five years.

> Statistics from the International Data Corporation, a market intelligence company, indicate that China's intelligent computing power reached 268 EFlops



A cluster of supercomputing enterprises located in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, contributes to the city's innovative transformation and development. (Photo by Long Wei/People's Daily Online)

last year, and is expected to see compound annual growth of 52.3 percent in the next five years.

As the scale expands rapidly, intelligent computing centers adapt to the needs of the industry and provide a better and newer model of computing power supply, said Shan Zhiguang, Director-General of the Department of Informatization and Industry Development under the State Information Center.

"Intelligent computing centers will become major production and supply centers of computing power in the intelligent era," Shan added.

Intelligent computing centers can support various kinds of technological innovation. They can build a safe, trustable and reusable environment for technological development, which offers intelligent computing services and accelerates the process of research and development

Besides, intelligent computing centers are an integrated application carrier for new information technologies. The construction and massive use of these centers will promote the upgrading of communication networks, big data, AI and other technologies.

Last August, China's Alibaba Cloud, one of the world's largest cloud computing companies, launched a full-stack intelligent computing solution, the Feitian Intelligent Computing Platform, which supports the construction of two super-large-scale intelligent computing centers.

One of the centers, located in north China's Hebei province, comes with a designed AI computing power of 12 EFlops. Another one in Ulangab, north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region can offer 3 EFlops.

A research project on targeted therapeutic medicines launched by the College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering of Peking University has benefited from the full-stack intelligent computing solution.

The solution enabled the research team to establish a data set that significantly improved the team's computing efficiency, providing the statistical basis for an AI-assisted prediction model.

Intelligent computing centers nurture new business models. The intelligent connected vehicle industry, which is now on the "fast lane," is a good example.

In January this year, Haomo.AI, a Chinese autonomous driving startup, set up an intelligent computing center with a total computing power of 670 PFlops. The computing center has effectively lowered the company's training cost for autopilot models, significantly improved computing efficiency and upgraded the vehicle perception architecture.

It is estimated that during 2021-2025 period, cities' investment in intelligent computing centers could expand core AI industries by 2.9 to 3.4 times if 80 percent of computing power is operational in these centers.

People's Daily

MH17 downing: International investigators suspend probe

THE HAGUE/SYDNEY

AN international team of investigators has suspended their investigation into the downing of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 in 2014 citing lack of evidence.

"The purpose of this investigation was to find out the truth, and I think we have come further than we ever imagined in 2014," Digna van Boetzelaer, deputy chief public prosecutor of the Netherlands Public Prosecution Service and leader of the MH17 team, told a press conference here.

Flight MH17, en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, was blown out of the sky on July 17, 2014. All 298 people on board died, among them 196 Dutch citizens.

The Netherlands, Malaysia, Australia, Belgium and Ukraine worked together to conduct the international criminal investigation of the cause of the crash and those thought to be responsible.

The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) said that it had learned a lot about the decision making process regarding the provision of a Buk missile, the weapon that was used to shoot down flight MH17 over Ukraine in 2014.

Although the investigators ob-

tained new information about the Russian government's role in the downing of the flight, the evidence is not enough to launch a new lawsuit, according to the JIT. Russia has denied any involve-

ment in the downing of MH17.

"The high bar of complete and conclusive evidence is not met," the investigators concluded. Therefore, there is too little evidence to start a new lawsuit.

On Nov 17 last year, a Dutch court sentenced three suspects in absentia to life imprisonment for their involvement in the downing

The three were also ordered to pay more than 16 million euros (\$16.5 million) in damages to the relatives of the victims.

Meanwhile, the Australian government on Thursday said it had acknowledged the decision by international prosecutors to suspend their investigation, Reuters reports from Sydney.

"Today's announcement will be distressing for many," Foreign Minister Penny Wong said, adding Australia remained committed to pursue its ongoing case with the Netherlands in the International Civil Aviation Organization.



In this file photo dated to July 17, 2014, people walk amongst the debris at the crash site of a passenger plane near the village of Grabovo, Ukraine. An international team of investigators has suspended their investigation into the downing of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 in 2014 citing lack of evidence. AP

Friday 10 February, 2023

Güardian

How digital technology promotes Bongo Flava artists

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tango

DANCE music continues to lose popularity, as far as music lovers in Tanzania are concerned, with the genre's artists finding it more difficult to make a living by solely banking on their musical careers.

This is the outcome of various factors that negatively affected the dance music industry.

Such factors associated with the decline of the dance music market are, among others, the COVID-19 pandemic which witnessed people being ordered to avoid unnecessary gatherings to avoid the spread of CO-

With music bands needing revelers to attend live performances, the restrictions brought about the financial crisis that faced the music troupes.

The biggest factor turns out to be the advancement of technology as well as music fanatics' penchant for new generation music, Bongo Flava.

In the past live shows were seen as the most viable means of making money for music bands in Tanzania.

Popular dance music bands like Tanzania One Theatre (TOT) Band, African Stars Band, alias 'Twanga Pepeta', Mchinga Sound Band 'Wana Kipepeo', African Revolution Band 'Wana Tam Tam', as well as Double M Sound Band, were established.

Such dance music bands had despite earning a lot of cash, widened their fan base in every corner of the country because people at that time liked the genre.

Over the years, technology and innovation have not only hit the science sector but also the music indus-

Digital technology has particularly changed the music business at every level. It has as played a key role in shaping the music industry, and the progression from the phonograph and analog tape machines to digital recording software and internetbased streaming services.

Technology has changed how people create music, composers can produce films from their home studios, and musicians can play for fans around the world through livestreamed performances.

Songwriters can record albums and release them on digital distribution and streaming platforms without ever either landing or signing a record deal.

For example, now Bongo Flava artists have great achievements compared to their dance music counterparts, as the former is gaining a lot of money within a short time because

Through technology, an artist can compose, sing and release a single piece of music via live streaming platforms like Boomplay and through social media and make a lot of money from the particular musician's fans

downloading, tags, likes, and views. In an interview with The Guardian one of the music professionals explained that in the modern music business, digital technologies cannot be avoided.

He said that with options to focus on performance, studio, or audio technology, music producer, sound crafters, cameraman, video directors and all auxiliary persons related to the music industry have to embrace the technology.

They need to have skills and knowledge of digital technology in navigating the complexities inherent in the music industry today.

How did the digital era change the music business?

The fact remains the advancements in digital technologies led to



Bongo Flava musician, Faustina Mfinanga, alias 'Nandy'.

monumental shifts in most aspects of the music business.

Early digital recording hardware and software made the recording process cheaper and simpler, to some degree.

Compact discs ostensibly improved the quality of audio for consumers and minimized manufacturing and distribution costs.

Digital technologies led to growth in the music industry at first. Then came Napster. The internet became advanced enough that users could share and download music online. Pirating music no longer demanded dubbing tapes and burning CDs.

People could download virtually any song they wanted through filesharing platforms – for free.

This caused revenue in the music industry to plummet. Paid digital distribution platforms, most notably iTunes, followed shortly after Napster and revolutionized the monetization of digital downloads.

Streaming services like Spotify have more recently revolutionized how people consume music. However, while these platforms now constitute the bulk of music industry sales, revenues still haven't returned to levels before the age of Napster.

Is the influence of technology on the music industry entirely nega-

While the digital music revolution inarguably hurt music industry giants in terms of sales, it also leveled the playing field between big music businesses and smaller ones like indie record labels.

Advancements in home recording software allow musicians to record at a low cost. Digital distribution platforms also let artists and small labels sidestep larger industry-controlled distribution channels.

Social media and video streaming services enable artists to connect with fans directly, reducing the need for expensive PR campaigns.

In general, the digital era has led to a democratization of the music industry, improving opportunities for artists and professionals of many

Innovative music technologies are also integral to the creation of a lot of modern music.

Software-based virtual instruments and MIDI technology allow people to use millions of sounds in the production of their music, which musicians can program and manipulate in complex ways.

This offers a great deal of creative potential to the tech-savvy composer or producer.

How have music professionals pivoted during the digital era?

Musicians and music businesses have had to diversify revenue streams in creative ways to make up for lost sales.

The live music industry has always been an important source of income for performers, audio engineers, venues, promoters, and other professionals.

Thus, many people in the music industry began to focus more on live music as the digital era decimated album sales.

About five years past, live music across the world including Tanzania, saw steady growth over the last two decades. But

Since the COVID-19 pandemic erupted, musicians have been monetizing live-streamed performances over social media platforms using donation links or paid access ser-

What happened to Heritier Makambo's second stint at Yanga?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

INALLY, Tanzania's football giant, Yanga, has parted ways with DR Congo national, Heritier Makambo, who was once a favourite forward at the outfit.

Coming from Guinea's Horoya AC, he returned joyfully to Yanga about 18 months ago. This return was not expected by him and the

He previously arrived at the Jangwani Street club for his first spell almost miraculously. The Talisman was brought by the former Yanga head coach and fellow DR Congo national, Mwinyi Zahera.

Football fans in Tanzania did not know the forward's potential but suddenly he became a star because of his ruthlessness in front of opponents' goals.

He was boosted by the presence of midfielder Ibrahim Ajib along with the other midfielder Feisal Salum.

The trio's biggest problem was that they played for Yanga when the outfit was in dire

However, Makambo managed to rise to prominence and left Tanzania as a muchimproved footballer.

He went to Guinea's Ligue 1 Champions Horoya AC and the goal-getter was forgotten in Tanzania.

Yanga then found a stable investor in GSM Group, which started turning the squad's fortunes around.

With GSM Group's sponsorship, Yanga signed forwards like David Molinga from DR Congo, Ivorian Yikpe Gnamien, and Ghanaian Michael Sarpong but none of them could match Makambo's prowess.

Suddenly Yanga wanted to strengthen themselves and

He arrived at the airport with great joy but his arrival was accompanied by another Congolese striker, Fiston Mayele, even though not many football followers had noticed the latter's potential.

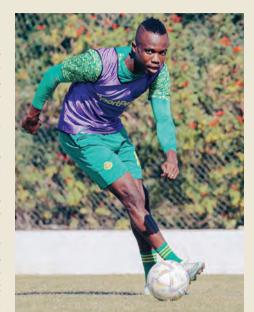


PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

go while Makambo jetted in having ended his stint in West Africa. Mayele arrived humbly but many Yanga fans had high hopes for Makambo's presence.

With Yanga being formed by new stars such as Khalid Aucho, Yannick Bangala, Djuma Shaaban, Jesus Moloko, Farid Mussa, and others, it seemed as if Makambo would shine brighter than he did in his previous spell.

It seemed like Makambo had in his first stint shone brighter when playing with average foot-

How would the goal-getter have managed to adapt to the new-look Yanga? And when he scored a good goal in the club's international friendly against Zambia's Zanaco FC, held during the conclusion of a week of social activities done by the Jangwani Street squad, dubbed 'Wananchi Day', it looked like Makambo would have a better continuation for the second half of his life in Yanga.

However, Yanga suddenly found itself falling for Mayele. From the moment the new attacker scored the winner against cross-town rivals, Simba SC, in decided to bring Makambo the Community Shield, Mayele did not look back.

> Suddenly Makambo's goal celebration style was extinguished by Mayele's fascinating celebration style.

And today Makambo has left Yanga while the entire community at the club is not shocked, Mayele came from DR Conthey have confidence in Mayele. ted in as the second choice, then tion has been taken by Musonda.

He has done a lot for the outfit's followers in the short time he had served the side. The basic question is, what has happened to Makambo?

There are many issues, one of them being since he was turning out for Horoya AC, Makambo was not getting a chance to play for the side.

He might have returned to Yanga while coming from a side that had the footballer having little playing time, Yanga did not realize this.

Another issue is, Mayele began shining immediately after he was

given the opportunity, and head coach Nasreddine Nabi believed in the forward and slotted him directly into the first team.

There is something that I believed that Nabi was wrong. He was giving Makambo a few minutes. However, various reports claim that Makambo was not showing his edge even in train-

What would have likely destroyed Makambo the most was Mayele's presence. Some players tend to fulfill their roles well when they are under pressure.

Once Mayele was the first choice, Makambo was to some extent losing his place at Yanga. Players are thriving under pressure and there are players like Makambo.

If he was alone he would have known that Yanga fans were set to be waiting for goals from him. He would have found himself under a lot of pressure to perform well in every match.

But right there if Makambo was the number one striker in the team, it is clear that Nabi would have to plan for him regularly, an approach that would have restored the goal-getter confidence.

Instead, being mostly restricted to the bench at Horoya AC affected the footballer and the situation kept on troubling him at Yanga.

I believe if Makambo was the first choice and then youthful forward Clement Mzize was slotthe former would have understood the great burden he could have had.

When he found himself being fielded as the second choice, he did not have much pressure and that is why currently Mayele has a lot of pressure in his position because he knows he ought to score regularly.

First, Mayele knows that he is a dependable goal-getter but then he realizes that he has his race with other clubs' forwards battling for Premier League's golden boot.

I still believe that if Makambo would have got a chance to play in other modest Premier League teams like Coastal Union, Kagera Sugar, or Mtibwa Sugar, he could still have helped them better than the sides' attackers.

Another big issue that lead to Makambo's departure from Yanga is the fact the squad not only hardly depended on him but also it is now financially stable.

Prominent teams are normally impatient with footballers that take a long time to prove their

They have money, why wait for a footballer to return to form late? They part ways with a footballer that has yet to make his presence felt and look for a better replacement.

Makambo was too late to regain his form at Yanga, I know that the outfit wanted to get rid of him at the end of last season but it had no choice.

It is dangerous for a footballer to play for a prominent side when a such footballer is struggling to regain his edge. It is even worse should there be another footballer that is doing well in the same position.

And now Yanga and the rest of the sports enthusiasts in Tanzania have officially laid the welcome mat for Zambian striker Kenneth Musonda.

They have to wait for a while to ascertain his virtuosity but there is no doubt that he has come to the club to help Mayele score goals.

Yanga looks to hardly trust youngster, Mzize, and the squad feels he is not ready to play tough international matches in place of Mayele, should the Congolese pick injury and, as a result, the youthful striker's posi-

Serengeti Migration Marathon and **Anti Poaching Run set for August**

By Correspondent Joseph

MORE than 400 runners are expected to take part in this year's edition of the Serengeti Migration Marathon and Anti-Poaching Run which will be held in Mara in August.

The two-day event is organized by Serengeti Tourism Sports Agency (SETSA) and the executive secretary of the organization, Samwel Nyankogoti, said preparations for the race are going on very well.

He said the Great Serengeti Migration Marathon uses sports to promote tourism along the western side of the Serengeti National Park and it is set to take place from August 26-

The official said on the first day it will be held at Migumu, Serengeti, with the competitors featuring in 42km, 21km, 10km, and 5km while the second-day event, which is known as Serengeti Anti Poaching Run, will take place at Fort Ikoma area and will involve 10km and 5km.



Some participants of last year's edition of the Serengeti Migration Marathon and Anti Poaching Run pose for a group photo ahead of the showdown held in Mara. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SERENGETI TOURISM SPORTS AGENCY

He said the Serengeti Migration Marathon and Anti Poaching run is open to all runners, with emphasis on local and foreign social runners (tourists who will visit Ikongoro/ areas of Grumeti, Ikona, and Ngorongoro) and there will also be fun runs for local companies, institutions, and special groups.

Nyankogoti explained that there will be awards that will be handed

over to winners in each category, he however could not make the awards public.

The official noted:

Migration Serengeti Marathon and Anti Poaching Run will be held in August, we have already started the preparations, marathon aims to promote and develop tourism in Serengeti and

Mara in general, open

for communities around the area and also encourage the culture of exercising.'

"The marathon also "This year's edition of aims to sensitize people on Anti Poaching in Serengeti and reserve areas of Ikongoro, Grumeti, and Ikona Wildlife Management Area (WMA), all athletes are invited but our priority is on social runners, not runners, as our awards business opportunities will suit social runners,"

The Serengeti Migration Marathon and Anti Poaching Run started in 2020 and the race's name comes from one of the biggest events that happen yearly inside the Serengeti National Park, where some of the wildebeests migrate between Serengeti and Maasai Mara National Reserve. It is during this time when a large number of tourists visit the Serengeti to witness one of the world's wonders.

"The event also allows participants to not just witness the migration but also be part of it by running between the groups of migrating wild animals along the Serengeti National Park, Ikona WMA, and Ikorongo/ Grumeti game reserves," he said.

The marathon is sponsored by Serengeti Breweries Limited through its brand, Serengeti Larger, Grumeti, Franfrut Zoological Society (FZS), TANAPA, TAWA, Ikona WMA, and Zara Tours.

Man United's slow start angers Ten Hag in draw with managerless Leeds

LONDON

MANCHESTER United manager Erik ten Hag criticised his side's "unacceptable" start to Wednesday's 2-2 draw with managerless Leeds, despite battling back from 2-0 down.

Leeds sacked Jesse Marsch on Monday following a run of seven league games without a win.

Caretaker manager Michael Skubala had just one 20-minute training session to prepare for the trip across The Pennines, but the visitors had been on course for a first victory over United since

Wilfried Gnonto gave Leeds the perfect start after just a minute and Raphael Varane's own goal doubled their advantage early in the second half.

Marcus Rashford's 20th goal of the season sparked the United fightback before Jadon Sancho's first goal since September stretched the Red Devils unbeaten run at home to 16 games.

"You can say we won a point because when you are in a derby and come back from 2-0 down it is good," said Ten Hag after the first of two Premier League clashes in five days between the sides.

"But on the other hand when you start a derby like we did it's unacceptable. You have to be ready to fight and we weren't ready for the battle." A point leaves third-placed United still seven

points adrift of leaders Arsenal, having played two

The draw is more valuable to Leeds, who edge one point clear of the relegation zone.

- Casemiro missed -United badly missed the presence of the suspended Casemiro in midfield, which allowed

Leeds to counter-attack at will. Gnonto has been a consistent bright spark of an otherwise sad season for Leeds and exploded the game into life after just 60 seconds as he found the

bottom corner for his fourth goal in seven games. United should have been level by half-time as Alejandro Garnacho fired just wide and then saw a shot cleared off the line by Max Woeber after the

However, the home side were slow out of the blocks after the break and were punished.

Argentine had rounded Illan Meslier.

Gnonto was at the heart of the move again as he released Crysencio Summerville down the left and his cross was turned into his own net by Raphael Varane.

"I think it instills belief in the players that they are good enough at this level," said Skubala, who remains unsure if he will be in charge for the visit of United to Elland Road on Sunday.

AFP

Juventu's off-field battles heat up as rivals Fiorentina come to town

MILAN

JUVENTUS host Fiorentina in one of Italian football's most enduring and fiery rivalries on Sunday but once again the focus is on the off-field matters looming over their troubled campaign.

Juve are back in the top half of the Serie A table after Tuesday's 3-0 cruise past Salernitana. boosted by star striker Dusan Vlahovic putting his injury problems behind him with a nicely taken brace, his first goals for the Turin giants since mid-

But their season has been severely compromised by the 15-point penalty inflicted last month for what the Italian Football Federation ruled was illicit transfer activity designed to artificially boost their accounts, with the 'Old Lady' 13 points away from the Champions League positions.

Juve are appealing the judgement at Italy's highest sporting court -- the Olympic Committee (CONI) -- while also awaiting a preliminary hearing next month which will decide whether the club and its former leadership will face a separate criminal trial for accounting offences.

Both probes are in supporters' crosshairs after a video from 2019 was released on Monday in which one of the three Turin prosecutors heading the criminal investigation, Ciro Santoriello, said he was a Napoli fan and "hated Juventus".

Also unearthed was a 2021 social media post from a member of CONI's court -- who will likely not be ruling on Juve's appeal against their points deduction -- criticising the club and former chairman Andrea Agnelli after the aborted launch of the European Super League.

Before Tuesday's Salernitana stroll Juve's new chief football officer Francesco Calvo demanded "respect" for the club but did not call for the head of Santoriello, a respected financial crimes expert in Turin's anti-mafia investigative unit.

"Comments removed from their proper context can take on a different meaning to what they had in the correct context," Calvo told DAZN.

"This is also true for Juventus and all the people involved in the investigation."

Rather than supporting Santoriello, Calvo's message was that the extensive wiretap evidence from the criminal investigation which was leaked all over the Italian media is partial and does not tell the whole story.

LeBron has defied odds, with no drop-off in sight

By TIM REYNOLDS

eBRON James is 38 years old. He is in Season 20 of his NBA career. He is, by conventional basketball-playing standards, ancient.

History says his decline should have started already.

Except it hasn't. Not even close. And count that as just another example of what sets James apart from so many other greats, so many other superstars of their sport who were good enough for long enough to climb atop some lists in the record books.

The NBA's new scoring leader – he caught Kareem Abdul-Jabbar on Tuesday night, one Los Angeles Lakers great taking the record from another – is still one of the very best in the game. He is talking about playing two more years, three more years, maybe more. He could raise the scoring-record bar so high by the time he retires that it would be, at best, highly unrealistic for anyone to catch him.

"I know I'm still playing at a high level. ... I've been able to do some incredible things in this league," James said after he scored 38 points on the record-setting night to lift his career total to 38,390 - three more than Abdul-Jabbar, whose reign atop the NBA scoring list ended



LeBron James

"And hopefully I can do some more incredible things before I'm done."

The unfortunate part about most longevity records is this: Young athletes don't set them. By design, they're usually broken by athletes who are at or near the end of their career.

Take Pete Rose, for example. Rose got his 4,192nd career hit – a record-breaker, one where he passed Ty Cobb's official total (some say Rose actually had the record a few hits earlier, but the recognized number for Cobb by Major League Baseball remains 4,191 hits) – on Sept. 11, 1985.

At that moment, when after almost 39 years. Rose lined that hit off Eric Show, he was a .304 career hitter. But after the record-setter, he batted .225 for the remainder of his career. In fairness, he was 44 and 45 years old during that

stint of batting .225. He slowed down. It happens to everyone. Well, almost everyone.

"I think about the wear and tear on LeBron's body and the lack of sleep and the 3 1/2 games a week, season after season, how he takes care of himself," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "I hope the young players pay attention to that. Anyone who's ever been around LeBron, he's always working on his body."

Tiger Woods got 79

wins in 295 PGA Tour starts between 1996 and 2013, a ridiculously highfor-golf 27% winning rate. Since then, after off-the-course issues and a slew of injuries, Woods has won three times in 62 starts. He has tied Sam Snead for the alltime wins record on tour with 82. No one would dare doubt that Woods can find a way to get one more win and claim the record outright, but few would also say that

Wayne Gretzky caught Gordie Howe for the all-time NHL goals record and was still every bit The Great One – his moniker for decades now. But over his last of the biggest records a

it should be considered

five seasons after setting the record, Gretzky's production predictably dipped a bit. He averaged 0.25 goals and 1.1 points per game over those last five seasons, at the ages of 34 through 38. Before that, he averaged 0.71 goals and 2.2 points per game.

Even Abdul-Jabbar, after catching Wilt Chamberlain in 1984, saw his numbers decrease. Before the record, Abdul-Jabbar averaged 27.0 points. Afterward, 17.7 points.

"Kareem was a great player his entire career, even after setting the record," said Pat Riley, his coach with the Lakers and now the president of the Miami Heat. "The record didn't change anything for him."

There are two notable exceptions to the notion that says player production almost always must drop off after setting records.

James is the first one. Kobe Bryant averaged 17.6 points in his 20th season, a record for anyone who played that deep into their NBA career. It won't be a record much longer. James is averaging 30 per game in his 20th season.

The other exception is Tom Brady.

The recently retired seven-time Super Bowl champion never slowed down after catching Drew Brees for three quarterback can have most completions, most touchdowns and most yards.

Consider what Brady did this season, his 23rd, at 45 years old: 4,694 yards, 25 touchdown passes, a career-best and league-high 490 completions, a careerbest and league-high 733 attempts. It might not have been his best year, but it was still incredibly prolific.

"There's always going to be a part that wants to play and a part of me that feels like I can play," Brady said on his "Let's Go!" podcast when explaining his retirement decision. "I think there's just a decision to know that it's the right time. I think for me, it's going to end at some point and now's the time."

Brady never dropped off. Ever.

So far, we can say the same about James. He continues to defy Father Time.

And now, sit back and watch how many more points he adds to this total. Barring injury, 40,000 points will happen. If he plays two or three more full seasons, 42,000 or 43,000 isn't unthinkable.

"He's going to extend this record even further," Abdul-Jabbar told TNT after the game Tuesday night. "And it'll be interesting to see how far it goes."

AP

LeBron's off-court legacy complements his basketball success

likely.

By TIM REYNOLDS

MYA Smiley is a student at the University of graduation to become a social worker that helps foster kids.

Her education and career path would not have been possible, the sophomore says, were it not for a scholarship and counseling that she received from the LeBron James Family Foundation. "He's lifechanging," Smiley said.

For accomplishments on the basketball court - four championships, 19 All-Star Game nominations and his coronation as the NBA's all-time leading scorer - it is James' ambitious pursuits off-the-court that may ultimately distinguish his legacy from other superstar athletes.

co-founded James a successful media entertainment company, bought stakes in storied professional baseball and soccer franchises and, with a big assist from product endorsements, his net worth is estimated to have grown above \$1 billion. The off-court achievement that James is most proud of, he the NBA, I knew I wanted says, is working to uplift the lives of people like to my community," said Smiley in his hometown of Akron.

Many athletes have excelled in one or more of these areas. But few have done all of them as well as James, who passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the NBA's career scoring on Tuesday record night. James now has Family

38,390 points, three founded in 2004. at more than Abdul-Iabbar retired with.

"His goal, I believe, is Akron thanks to an assist to have 10% of his wealth Then it began looking at from LeBron James, and go to causes and support after-school programs, she is determined upon communities, which is with students scattered an amazing goal," said Delpy a professor of sports management at George Washington University. "I would say he's maybe above and beyond others, just on that aspiration alone."

> James is, by any measure, an overwhelming success. And he makes Smiley – one of the many people in Akron who have received financial support from his foundation – believe that she can be a success as well.

> "If I did not have the LeBron program, I probably wouldn't have ever gone to college. I would be living in a not-so-positive environment," said the 19-year-old Smiley.

> "His ability to help people's futures," she added, "is what makes LeBron a great person."

James, who entered the NBA straight after high school in 2003, planned early on to use his talents, fame – and, yes, his growing financial resources – to have on impact on the world beyond basketball.

"Even before I got into to find a way to give back James. Although James bounced from home to home during his childhood, and experienced financial insecurity for many of those years, he also was given enormous support from friends, neighbors and educa-

The LeBron James Foundation,

first gained local attention by giving away bikes and backpacks. across several dozen schools, and eventually created a public school currently serving about 575 third through eighth graders. Today the school includes a family resource center that provides a wide-range of services to parents, including mental health, financial literacy, legal

aid and GED courses. Just down the street from the school, the foundation provides rent-free housing to as many as 16 different families - when needed – and it has plans to build 50 units of affordable housing.

couldn't have guessed how much it would grow," James said in late January. "But we got here by listening and responding to our community and what they need."

James has made over \$400 million in NBA salary during his time with

the Los Angeles Lakers. Another \$100 million is 2-1/2 years or so.

for Nike, GMC, AT&T and grounded." many more multinational companies. He owns a piece of the Boston Red Sox and Britain's Liverpool football club. His went on television to entertainment company, announce that he was SpringHill – named after the modest apartment complex he grew up in – is valued at \$725 million and has produced movies for HBO and Netflix. "He's been a brilliant

example for millions of kids, especially kids with lesser opportunity and haven't had the same advantages as others," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said in 2018, a sentiment he's repeated many times since. "They see in this guy somebody who has consistently exhibited excellence in the workplace and gives them a voice and lets them know that you can speak about anything."

focus on giving back to Akron because of the help people there gave to

Cleveland, Miami and him and his family. "He's never lost sight of that," said Michele Campbell, on the way in the next the executive director of James' foundation. James is a pitchman "I think that keeps him

Just how down to earth "King James" really was got called into question in 2010. That's when he leaving Cleveland to play in Miami. Billed as "The Decision" – and broadcast on ESPN – the live event was widely ripped as egotistical. But from James' perspective, the broadcast raised around \$4 million for charity, a fact that was

largely overlooked. Just a couple of years later, James would use his star power to help draw attention to a cause bigger than himself.

In the aftermath of the 2012 death of Trayvon Martin – a Black Florida teen who was wearing a hoodie when he was fatally shot by a neighborhood James puts so much watch volunteer – James tweeted a photo of Heat players wearing hoodies and bowing their heads

that included the hashtag "WeWantJustice."

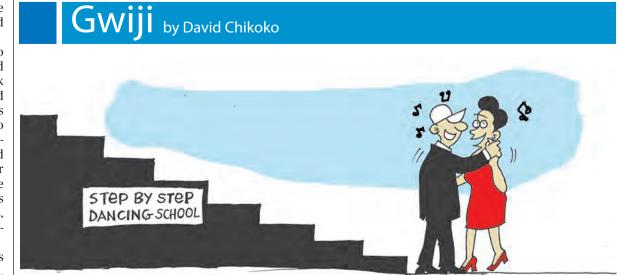
In 2020, James helped lead the "More Than A Vote" movement, which included registration and early-vote drives and stressed the need for people – particularly Black voters - to get to the polls to fight disenfranchisement.

Also in 2020, in the aftermath of the Minneapolis killing of George Floyd, James was one of the players calling for an end to racial inequality and police brutality.

"Everything I do," James said late last year, "has to have a purpose."

James has all the money and all the fame that he ever wanted or needed. His NBA records, including the scoring title, are going to last for a very long time. As will his off-court

endeavors. "His ability to help others and put others first is what makes him a great person," Smiley said. "Not the baskets he shot."



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LeBron has defied odds, with no drop-off in sight

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By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

coach

Mexime

challenged

head

his outfit's attackers to score

many goals that will enable

the team to finish in one of

the top 10 positions in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League.

The Bukoba-based club has

eight games left before this

season's NBC Premier League

This week Kagera Sugar

notched a 0-0 draw with Poli-

si Tanzania that was at home

at Ushirika Stadium in Moshi.

The outcome has left Kag-

era Sugar posting 26 points

from 22 games in the Premier

League log, winning eight,

drawing eight, and losing

Kilimanjaro.





eastafrica

:00 Kipenga Xtra :00 Planet Bongo

Uganda set to host Taifa Stars in Egypt for AFCON qualifiers

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimb

FEDERATION of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) has chosen Egypt as the country which will host next month's 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers' tie between Uganda and Tanzania.

Uganda's Cranes host neighbours Taifa Stars on March 20 in a Group F clash but FUFA has no certified stadium at the moment to host a match of such magnitude according to CAF.

Tanzania will have no pressure heading to the north, harbouring memories of garnering a 1-0 victory over Uganda at Martyrs of Beninah International Stadium in Benghazi, Libya on September 24 last year.

The FUFA president Moses Magogo confirmed Cranes' games, starting with one against Taifa Stars set to be played away from home before revealing which nations could offer hosting rights.

"In this case (of having no certified stadium), we play games away from home," he stated.

"We are considering countries like Zambia, Malawi, or Egypt because they are the nearest that we can talk about. Amongst our immediate neighbours, none of them has a stadium apart from Tanzania that we play against so technically we can use their home."

Now The Guardian understands that Egypt has been chosen by the Ugandan federation as the alternative and a statement on the matter will soon be made public according to an anonymous source close to the Mengo establishment.

Egypt has several CAF and FIFA-certified stadiums to host Category One competitions and it remains to be seen which one accommodates Cranes' fixtures.

Concerns about where Uganda will host its games reports indicated earlier after St. Mary's Stadium, Kitende failed to pass the CAF standards to host the qualifiers.

Mandela National Stadium is still under renovation and thus Uganda is forced to look for another alternative home venue beyond its borders.

Tanzania will host the reverse fixture at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on March 28 with Taifa Stars having two must-win games to define their fate for the forthcoming AFCON scheduled to take place in Ivory Coast in 2024.

Stars are yet to have a new head coach ahead of these deciding ties with the Tanzania Football Federation's leadership stating it is in the final stages of making the new head coach public.

Uganda's Cranes and Tanzania are pitted in Group F

alongside Algeria and Niger.

It should be noted that the six group games will be staged in three windows with each team playing two games every window.



Mexime calls for efficiency from

Kagera Sugar striking force

Kagera Sugar head coach, Mecky Mexime.

Mexime revealed that he is not satisfied with the poor results they are currently registering, so every player should ensure that he fulfills his duties, espe-

cially in the attacking area. The gaffer stated: "Since Anuary Jabir was injured, we have been having a difficult time, but we cannot regret that... others ought

to show their competence and value when one of them is missing."

coach pointed out: "By

looking at numbers, it's

worrying we are not

winning games and we

are edging to halfway of

the second half we are

lacking in front of goal and

we keep conceding goals

which we need to have a

good ratio in attack and the

defensive.'

Mexime revealed: "We have eight games left and the position we are in is not too bad although we can move higher, it is a big challenge for me as a coach who continues to improve my team day by day."

Kagera Sugar's head

League, Kagera Sugar has not scored a single goal, a situation that confirms the lack of quality of the club's offensive line. The squad is expected to lock horns with Namungo

of this season's Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier

FC at the Kaitaba Stadium in Bukoba, with the visitors experiencing inconsistency since 2023 began.

The visitors will however be eager to turn things around, aiming to battle it out in continental football after collecting 29 points from 22 games having garnered eight victories, a draw in five ties, and nine defeats.

Kagera Sugar defender Datius Peter revealed that they will ensure that they get good results in the remaining

The fullback acknowledged some difficulties have come about because each team giving its all towards the completion of this season's

Premier League. Peter said: "We were able to keep a clean sheet in two previous games but we didn't score a single goal to grab a win, we have to be solid at

the back." "I'm sure goals eventually will come if we take our chances in each game and we might get something on it," In the last four games Peter pointed out.

Kili Marathon Fun Run participants urged to register

By Guardian Correspondent

GRAND Malt 5km race participants of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon still have a chance to register manually despite the closure of the registration exercise as the other entries have reached capacity.

The Grand Malt Brand Manager. Pamela Kikuli, called on those who have not registered for the Fun Run to turn up during the race number collection exercise in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and Moshi.

"The organizers have informed us that there is still room for registration of the Fun Run but this will be done manually at the number collection centers so participants should turn in numbers to register," she said

She said the Grand Malt Fun Run has gained popularity over the years and that the non-alcoholic drink was proud to sponsor the event for almost a decade now as this will be the ninth time

Pamela noted: "This is a race for all ages from the aged to the very young ones and they can all consume Grand Malt as it is a nonalcoholic produced by TBL Group and that it has given the event a major boost."

The official revealed: "The quality of sponsorship and consistency by Grand Malt, which is a popular energizing nonalcoholic drink produced by TBL Group, has given the event a major boost."



A section of runners battles it out in the recent Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon, which took place in Moshi.

"We have seen this race grow in numbers and popularity as it incorporates people of all ages who run for fun," Pamela noted.

The official stated that the 5km race comes with a lot of fun events in which people from all walks of life take

part.

Grand Malt with its healthy qualities compliments participants' passion for running.

The Kili Marathon, she said, is normally a time for families and friends to get together, run or walk togeth-

er and participate in the pre and post-marathon activities which participants combine with tours of the various attractions in and out of Moshi which include Expo as well as musical and cultural events.

Other sponsors include

Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km, Tigo- 21km Half Marathon, water table sponsors TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies and official suppliers Kibo Palace Hotel, CMC Automobiles, KK Security and Keys Hotel.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

