

National Pg 2
Operation to nab illegal migrants



National Pg 3
Employees urged to respect code of ethics



National Pg 4
5.4bn/- allocated for telecom towers



Guardian BUSINESS

UDSM, UDOM shine at sub-Saharan Africa Huawei ICT competition for year 2021/2022

Total Energies lands governments praise over commitment to being carbon-neutral

TBS: 75 pct of imported vehicles come fitted with unsuitable tyres

Women farmers in Kishapu District push for revival of irrigation schemes

Samia adding 500m/- in new funds to Coast water project

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday said that the government has disbursed an additional 500m/- to the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) to complete the supply and distribution infrastructure in the ongoing 17.7bn/- project in Coast Region.

DAWASA chief executive office Cyprian Luhemeja said that the water project will supply clean water to more than 200,000 residents, having a 5.4m litres capacity, with implementation starting July 2019. Since then the total coast has ballooned to 19bn/-, he said.

The president assured the DAWASA management and the audience that if the additional money is properly utilized, the government will release more funds to make sure that the project is properly completed.

The project launch came at the right time as the government marks the Water Week, observed on March 23 to 27 each year, she said, highlighting that additional funds are meant to cater for the first phase of water distribution to villages and wards.

Completing the Mlandizi water project will help to eliminate the threat of epidemics, she said, urging Chalinze District

LHRC: Private candidates, questioning outcome vital

By Guardian Reporter

THE Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has come up with 12 recommendations, including challenging presidential election results in court and allowing private candidates allowed in a bid to strengthen democracy in the country.

LHRC managing director, Anna Henga issued these demands in a press conference on priority issues listed by LHRC following the president's reception of the task force report and tasking it with coordinating recommendations from different sources.

The centre monitored the task force presentation to President Samia Suluhu Hassan and decided to list specific recommendations to help the task force as it moves to receive recommendations from various stakeholders in line with the president's guidelines.

LHRC proposes that presidential election results be contested in court if there are verifiable grounds for hearing the demand, taking this position from what was decided by the Arusha based African Court on Human and People's Rights (AfCHPR) in the case filed by Jebra Kambole against the United Repub-

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan unveils plaque at Chalinze in Coast Region yesterday to launch the Mlandizi-Chalinzé-Mboga water project. Looking on include Water minister Jumaa Aweso (4th-L), Chalinze legislator and Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Ridhiwan Kikwete (3rd-L), and Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) CEO Cyprian Luhemeja (L). Photo: State House

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EU hands 1.7trn/- aid for 2021-27 projects rollout

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA and the European Union (EU) yesterday signed three grant agreements for 180m euros (469bn/-) to support gender initiatives; transform cities and digital programmes in the country.

The grant is part of euros 703m (over 1.7trn/-) financial resources

committed by the EU to Tanzania under the multi-annual indicative programme stretching from 2021 to 2027.

Emmanuel Tutuba, the Treasury permanent secretary said at a press conference that the agreement marks the first EU funded series of projects under the annual action programme for 2021. A core project

is titled gender transformative action "breaking glass ceiling," taking up euros 70m (over178bn/-), others being the green and smart cities project allocated euros 75m (over 191bn/-) and the Digital4Tanzania e-governance support project with euro 35m (over 89bn/-) allocations.

The funding is part of the euros 426m (1.1trn/-) package agreed when

President Samia Suluhu Hassan visited EU headquarters in the Belgian capital of Brussels, holding talks with EU president Ursula Von der Leyen and European Commission president Charles Michel last month.

The EU is a key strategic partner in supporting the country's develop-

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Tea factory handed to joint venture firm

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government yesterday handed over the massive Mponde Tea Factory lying idle for nearly 10 years to a public sector joint venture entity for revival.

The estate now belongs to Mponde Holding, jointly owned by the Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) and the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF). Assets handed over include three vehicles, with Treasury registrar, Mgonya Benedicto delivering them to Paul Kijazi, director of the firm and chairperson of the board. The handing over was witnessed by PSSF director general Hoseah Kashimba and is WCF counterpart Dr



This will increase job opportunities and boost economic growth, he stated, promising the necessary cooperation whenever needed to ensure that the intended purpose in reviving the factory is achieved.

John Mduma. WCF and PSSSF hold 84 per cent shares in the firm, shared out at 42 shares each, while 16 per cent of shares remain with the Treasury. The registrar appealed to the two entities to revive the factory as it has been dormant for the past 10 years, lauding the board of Mponde Holding as well as PSSSF and WCF man-

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Form 281d

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSING AGENCY
Advertisement of Winding-up Petition
Pursuant to Rule 99(1) of the Companies (insolvency) Rules 2005

Misc. Commercial Case No. 7 of 2022

IN THE MATTER OF: MARKET INSIGHT LIMITED

A Petition to wind up the above-named Company of:

Address: The Registered office of the Company is at Songea CBD Mfaranyaki, Ambajani Street, Mfaranyaki Road, Plot No. 298 Block X, P.O.Box 132, Songea-Ruvuma Tanzania. Email address: mwasikilihana@gmail.com and milcoalsongea@gmail.com, Mob: 0712 059 249

presented on: 15TH MARCH, 2022

by:(name and address of petitioner) PETROFUEL (T) LIMITED OF P.O.BOX 14525, PLOT NO.33/1&34/1 MBAGALA INDUSTRIAL AREA, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA.

Claiming to be a creditor of the Company, is fixed for orders at THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA, COMMERCIAL DIVISION AT DAR ES SALAAM

ON: 29TH MARCH, 2022

At 8:30AM IN THE MORNING

(or as soon thereafter as the petition can be heard)

Any person intending to appear on the hearing of the Petition (whether to support it or to oppose it) must give notice of his intention to do so to the petitioner or his / its Advocate in accordance with Rule 104(1) of the Companies (Insolvency) Rules 2005 by 16:00 hours on the business day before the date of the hearing given above.

The Petitioner's Advocate is: S. Ishengoma, SA Law Chambers, Advocates, PPF Tower, 4th Floor, Ohio /Garden Avenue Street, P.O. Box 22691, Dar es Salaam Mobile: 0786222242 Email: adv.ishengoma@gmail.com, s.ishengoma@salawchambers.co.tz REF: SA/115/PFL)

Dated: 21ST MARCH, 2022.



EU hands 1.7trn/- aid for 2021-27 projects rollout

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ment agenda, he said, elaborating that this has been shown by the magnitude of financial assistance the regional bloc has extended to Tanzania. This relationship has been steady since the first partnership agreement between EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states was signed in 1975, he explained.

The latest accords will cover project areas in both parts of the Union, and they are fully aligned with the respective development visions, he further noted.

The agreement has a component of direct support to the national budget, the preferred financing modality for the government, he asserted, expressing the view that the projects will have a transformative impact in the selected cities and in digitalisation and gender objectives.

"The signing of the agreements confirms the strong willingness of Tanzania and the EU to promote a mutually beneficial partnership," he emphasised.

Resident EU Ambassador Manfredo Fanti said the agreement was part of the Global Gateway, a new European strategy to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors and to strengthen health, education and research systems around the world.

"Very concretely, in Tanzania, the EU will start rolling out its Global Gateway in three directions; first, it will contribute to the development of quality infrastructure, promote wellbeing in the cities of Mwanza, Tanga and on Pemba Island," he explained, noting that the work involves EU member-states as "Team Europe" to maximize its impact.

The programme will support the digitisation agenda of the government to connect goods, people and services, increasing economic efficiency and empowering women and girls by promoting their rights and unlocking their strong potential to boost the Tanzanian economy, the envoy added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has an audience with Qatari host counterpart, Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz, in Doha yesterday. Photo: PMO

LHRC: Private candidates, questioning outcome vital

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lic - Case No. 18 of 2018, she said.

The court ruled that Article 41(7) that prevents anyone to contest presidential election results in court was contrary to provisions of the 1981 African Protocol on Human rights.

LHRC views allowing private candidates as rhyming with the decision of the court in the Rev Mtikila vs. Repub-

lic, case no. 11 of 2011.

She was of the view that private candidates would help reduce the itinerary of adopting individuals hailing from other parties if discord occurs in the original party the prospective candidate belongs.

The LHRC proposals affirmed the 50+1 format for winning the general election, raising stakes for equal gender representation in decision-making levels. "by inserting a spe-

cial provision that will put in place a condition in the policy or any law to abide by gender equality."

Other proposals include requiring the police force not to interfere in political parties' activities whether during election campaigns or not, with district executive directors being removed from election supervision at the constituency level.

The activist body similarly demands that the director of elections,

the chairperson of the National Electoral Commission and commissioners thereof should be obtained through application by advertising those posts. Election commissioners should represent the major political parties, civil societies, religious institutions and academia, she further stated.

Being elected unopposed should be removed as the lack of another party contesting against the candi-

date doesn't mean universal acceptance. Even if the candidate will pass unopposed he or she ought to face a yes or no vote from the electorate, she emphasised, similarly raising the need for an electronic voting system.

LHRC proposes amendments to the Political Parties Act to remove changed in its provisions conducted in 2019 that retarded the growth of political parties, the director added.



Finance and Planning ministry permanent secretary Emmanuel Tutuba (R) and the European Union's Ambassador to Tanzania, Manfredo Fanti, in jovial mood in Dar es Salaam yesterday when exchanging just-signed documents on three agreements for 469.4bn/- in EU grants for, among other things, developing a government digital network project. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Immigration announces special operation to nab illegal migrants

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

COMMISSIONER General of Immigration Dr Anna Makakala has announced a countrywide special operation to nab people who have entered and living in the country illegally.

The one-week operation named "Sakasaka", also aims at inspecting the legitimacy of existing visitors and determining whether they meet

the country's criteria and conditions.

Dr Makakala made the announcement yesterday here soon after she arrived and inspected immigration workshop and received a report from the regional leadership on how they had prepared to conduct the operation.

She warned on the behaviour of some Tanzanians who are using the illegal immigrants to get income as they are the ones who have been stimulating the illegal arrivals

of the immigrants.

"There are some Tanzanians who are not patriotic who have been supporting the immigrants and facilitating their illegal entrance into the country," she said.

She said the immigration has continued to work closely with other security organs to fight the illegal trade and entrance in the country.

Dr Makakala hailed the Morogoro region for performing well in the control of illegal immigrants and promised

that they will prioritise various improvements and projects.

She said they have got new employment of 820 youth who will be sent in various regions to increase the workforce including Morogoro.

"In controlling illegal immigrants especially from Ethiopia who are mostly being found stranded and fail to continue with their journeys with others ending up in prisons, we have come up with a special visa system that will

provide guidance and direction on how to combat the use of illegal routes," she explained.

In addition, she said the Immigration has made a huge contribution in the economic growth especially in serving foreign investors who have continued to come to the country.

She added that issuance of work and investment permits took fewer days than it was in the previous years.

Samia adding 500m/- in new funds to Coast water project

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residents to protect water infrastructures for prolonged sustainability in the coming decades.

She commended the DAWASA management for what has been done so far, urging the entity to focus on water supply and distribution. The minister, Jumaa Aweso said that the government had implemented 463 water projects in a period of one year, again referring to the 500m/- expected to be issued to DAWASA to ensure supply and distribution of clean water to all residents in the zone.

The project will serve residents of Chalinze, Ubena Zomozi, Ngerengere and Mboga with clean and safe water, an extensive area in Bagamoyo district, and while in Kibaha district one ward so far lacking assured water supply will be reached later in July.

In the wider Dar es Salaam metropolitan area, the government had disbursed 25bn/- to implement water projects especially procuring water pipes in the past year, he said.

The water week is devoted to raising awareness on public responsibility in water conservation initiatives, especially the need to protect and conserve the country's water resources, the minister added.

Tea factory handed to joint venture firm

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agements for the efforts to bring the factory back to production.

This will increase job opportunities and boost economic growth, he stated, promising the necessary cooperation whenever needed to ensure that the intended purpose in reviving the factory is achieved.

The factory was closed in 2013, after Usambara Tea Growers Association (UTE-GA) indicated that the group had no plans to develop the factory after it was sold to them in 1999, one among scores of failed privatizations where the firms were handed to indigenous investors.

The Treasury registrar thus reclaimed the factory and

the tea plant was restored in January 2016, the registrar intoned, while director Kijazi lauded the government's decision to take back the factory. He pledged to do everything possible to achieve the factory revival goals for enhanced employment, tea crop development, and contributing to GDP growth.

The factory was commissioned on September 14, 1971 and officially opened on December 28, 1973 by then Prime Minister and Second Vice President, Rashid Kawawa. It was built by the now defunct Tanzania Tea Authority (TTA) to serve small-scale tea farmers in Lushoto and Korogwe districts in Tanga Region, he added

By Guardian Reporter

Dar, Qatar vow to boost trade

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday met with and held talks with Qatar Prime Minister, Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani in which they agreed to strengthen various economic sectors including trade.

"I have represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the talks aimed at boosting ties between Tanzania and Qatar and we have had the opportunity

to meet various officials as part of continued cooperation between our two countries," he said.

The PM made the remarks yesterday, saying the meeting took place at the Qatar Prime Minister's Office, in Doha, Qatar.

He said among the main issues dis-

cussed is the strengthening of the Joint Commission for Cooperation in order to expand more areas for cooperation between the two nations, to use well the opportunity in having long time diplomatic relations.

The Prime Minister said among the issues they discussed is to enhance trade

through Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and Tanzania Chamber of commerce with their Qatar counterparts and that the activities will be monitored by relevant ministries to make sure the agreements are implemented.

He added that recently there will be a joint meeting of Qatar traders who have

shown interest to visit Tanzania.

The PM said the government will coordinate their visit to meet with their Tanzania counterparts through TPSF in order for them to discuss many issues of investments. Ajaliwa said apart from strengthening ties the two leaders also agreed to exchange experiences in the

education sector whereby Tanzania students will get the opportunity to study in Qatar and those from Qatar to come to study in Tanzania.

"We continue to cement cooperation in areas that will spur our economic growth, including tourism in which we receive many tourists from Qatar through Qatar Airways that brings in many tourists who visit Ngorongoro, Serengeti, Mt Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar islands," he said.



Vodacom Tanzania Foundation director Rosalynn Mworia (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend with Shinyanga Region nurse-midwife Flora Kajumla to whom she had just presented a 'Mwanamke wa Shoka' award through the health sector category. This was at the Kitchen Party Gala 2022 organised by EFM. The foundation, through its M-Mama project, sensitises pregnant women in the region on the benefits of using their mobile phones to access emergency services and thus save their lives and the lives of their babies by easily landing transport services when they experience severe pain. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mchechu promises to work on various obstacles including project completion

By Guardian Reporter

THE newly appointed Director General of the National Housing Corporation (NHC), Nehemiah Mchechu has promised to work on the various obstacles including timely completion of projects and initiating new ones to ensure Tanzanians have access to better housing.

He underscored the need to commercialise cities through construction of new commercial buildings and houses in collaboration with investors. He said the demand for houses in the country is high.

He made the remarks yesterday when addressing NHC staffs in Dar es Salaam region. He was last week appointed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to hold the position which he previously served under the fifth phase government.

"We need to beautify our cities by constructing new houses in collaboration with investors. We need to come up with strategies to meet the rising demand for houses in our country," he said, urging employees to work diligently.

Mchechu added: "We did a lot during my tenure in office in the past eight years; I want us to work together and implement several other projects within four years. We need to work tirelessly to meet people's expectations."

He added that despite completion of the two major projects—Kawe 711 and Morocco Square, employees should be innovative to come up with other projects that would contribute to the country's economic growth.

Mchechu said that NHC plans are to complete the current projects and initiate new ones with the aim of achieving the government's target of improv-

ing residential areas. He said those who think they cannot go with his working pace should request for transfers as he is going to change most of the working systems.

He insisted on NHC managers to enhance revenue collections and make sure all tenants who have not paid their rent fees are removed from the houses with a permit from the director general.

He said cooperation's priority is to meet the market demand, and that currently NHC has a capital totaling 5.1trn/- which allows it to make changes in the housing sector.

He thanked the government for the re-appointment to lead NHC pledging to work diligently and ensure professionalism for enhanced productivity.

Mchechu was firstly appointed to lead NHC as the Director General in March 2010 and was able to increase its capital from 1.5trn/- to 4.5trn/- in 2018.

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1. The public is hereby notified that there will be a movement of special load from **Holili to Moshi** by vehicle with registration number(s) **KDB189J / ZG5310, KCW051Z / ZG2320, KBO 628Z/ZE 0941 & KCW052Z / ZG3212 of Spedag Interfreight.**
 The Journey is scheduled to start on **24.03.2022 to 05.04.2022**

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- Bidders are requested to submit Technical and Financial Proposals each be enclosed in a separate envelope and marked "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" respectively. The two envelopes shall then be enclosed in a single envelope.
- Bidders must submit the proposals in a sealed envelope by hand to: The Country Director, Plan International Tanzania, Plot no. 496 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam before 5PM Monday, 11st April 2022, marked the respective RFP number. Not to be opened before 5PM Monday, 11st April 2022. Electronic and Late bids will be rejected.

Country Director
Plan International Tanzania
Central Technologies House
Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area

Minister calls on building supervisors for VETA projects to have action plans

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

DEPUTY Minister for Education, Science and Technology Juma Kipanga has called on all supervisors for VETA colleges' building projects to have in place action plans that will help them to follow up construction work more closely for timely completion.

Kipanga issued the directives here at the weekend during his inspection of the ongoing Mbarali District VETA training college, calling upon the experts to have task plans that will guide them in the procurement of building materials and work schedule for the projects completion.

During the inspection of the project he discovered that there was no task plan, suggesting that if had it been in place, the project would have been completed early.

The deputy minister explained that in order for the Mbarali VETA College to be completed they must abide by the finalising plans for each structure while showing what work was being done at any particular stage.

He added that the College's construction was supposed to be completed March 31, this year in order to receive students from various fields who had applied for enrolment.

For his part, Mbarali District Commissioner,

Reuben Mfune assured the deputy minister that they will increase supervision speed to enable its completion by the given date.

He thanked the deputy minister for visiting the project for inspection to satisfy himself what was going on.

He appealed to VETA to complete the project quickly and that he will be making frequent inspections of the project.

Mbeya Region education officer, Ernest Hinju said a total of 3,000 students from Mbeya Region have been selected to join VETA training and that Mbarali College will also accommodate students in various fields of study.



Mbeya Region education officer, Ernest Hinju said a total of 3,000 students from Mbeya Region have been selected to join VETA training and that Mbarali College will also accommodate students in various fields of study



Tanzania Breweries Limited employees based in Mwanza city take part in an environmental hygiene operation in the Iloganzala segment of the shores of Lake Victoria yesterday in marking campaign commemorating the International World Water Day. The firm is rated as a frontline advocate of the preservation of water resources and sources, including by investing in water stewardship programmes meant to provide clean and safe water to communities. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Producers of avocado seedlings plead for processing factories

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PRODUCERS of avocados seedlings from Mbeya region have appealed to stakeholders and the government to build factories for adding value on the crop to enable them gets reliable markets for farmers.

The request was given here yesterday by "Avocados First" group in Mbeya who are en-

gaged in the production of avocados seedlings.

Janeth Mwamlima, one of the avocados seedlings producers said the business has enabled them meet their cost of living for them; hence the avocados processing factories, including those making avocados lotion will assist in enhancing the crop's demand in the market.

She said, for them the in-

crease in the value chain on the crop will be beneficial because the demand for them seedlings will increase; hence, they will have to increase production.

James Pilla, another seedlings producer said apart from establishing their group in 2021 and recognised by the regional authorities, they have already started receiving tenders from

various farmers' companies needing the seedlings for planting.

She admitted lacking adequate expertise in seedlings growing; hence they called on the Uyolet Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyolet) to provide them with the needed training.

She said avocados crop has great opportunities because it

has provided employment from seedlings producers to farmers in their fields and they are ready to receive training on the better way of avocados seedling production.

"It is an opportunity for Mbeya Region as well as beyond as for now the crop has been like gold in the fields," she said and adding that the avocado seedlings markets was grow-

ing fast as their Avocados First group had the capacity to grow 5,000 to 7,000 seedlings depending on the global market.

He said the group expects to prepare seedlings beds for planting between 20,000 to 30,000 seedlings in 2022/23.

Avocado researcher at TARI-Uyolet, Daud Mbongo said they decided to assist the Avocados First group by giving them

training for profitable production.

For his part, the director of TARI-Uyolet Centre Dr Tulole Bucheyeki said the centre is researching on various crops including fruits including avocados, and added that avocado's quality is very much needed to enable accessing foreign markets and they were ready to provide education to growers.



Zanzibar Chamber of Commerce executive director Hamad Hamad (3rd-L) and Peak Performance International Tanzania CEO Philemon Kisamo sign an MoU in Dar es Salaam on Monday under which the latter agency will conduct training for ZNCC staff and members. Second left is ZNCC chairman Ali Amour. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

5.4 billion/- set aside for installing telcom towers in Mwanza

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MORE than 6,000 residents of Nyampande Ward in Sengerema District, Mwanza Region will benefit from mobile phone services after the government and development partners spent 5.4bn/- to construct 40 telcom towers in Mwanza Region.

In the project, 18 towers have been completed and 22 are in various stages of completion while 2,500 residents out of 6,000 of Nyampande Ward now use data services in their mobile phones through their telcom tower.

This was revealed by the Parliamentary Infrastructure Committee during its inspection of the Nyampande tower project.

The panel's chairperson, Seleman Kakoso said they are satisfied by the construction of the tower that has adhered to acceptable standards.

Hence he called on the Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye to oversee the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) appropriately in collaboration with telcom companies and see how people are to benefit from mobile phone services to the maximum.

For his part, Nnauye said the tower projects are being implemented jointly with the government and telcom providers, and the aim for the government to supplement funds thereto is to facilitate telcom companies to provide better mobile phone services to the people.

Sengerema District Commissioner, Senyi Ngaga said they were overseeing the construction of 10 towers that have been sponsored by the government through UCSAF of which six have been completed and four are in various stages of completion.

UCSAF Chief Executive Officer, Justina Masiba said the construction of the tower is implemented jointly between the government and UCSAF and Vodacom and the government has injected 167m/- for the project.

The parliamentary panel has inspected various development projects including mobile communications, installing of postcode address and the national broadband projects.

Livestock strategy up for big transformation

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE livestock sector is up for big transformation including 1.92trn/- plan earmarked for implementation aimed at creating bigger projects without government's support.

The remarks were made by the Permanent Secretary in the Livestock and Fisheries ministry (Livestock Division) Dr Tixon Nzunda when addressing officials and workers of the ministry's livestock sector at a meeting held

here at the weekend.

Dr Nzunda stressed that it is their responsibility to continue involving more stakeholders in implementing much bigger plans without the government dependency.

He said the plans aim to make available better livestock breeds, great changes for beefing up water services, livestock fodder and other animal's feed, improving livestock health and improvement to livestock extension services to make Tanzania a country without livestock

diseases.

The deputy minister added that other issues for big plans is to strengthen research services and training, adding value to livestock products and improve activities of nation ranches in which the government has provided 47bn/- of which 16bn/- is set for development projects.

He said what he now wants is to see every ranch is self-reliant and called on dormant ranch and auction supervisors to resign, else

they must increase production.

He added: "I know you were being provided with small operational budgets, but beginning the next budget I will beef up support to make sure livestock farms and auction centres have enough working tools.

"I will increase the budgets for auction centres to enable them collect more, and if they fail to do so they will be fired.

"I will never transfer the corrupt, embezzlers or thieves of public funds; I will suspend

them and take legal steps."

He added that he will establish work contracts and workers will be assessed for their performance and provided with incentives for them to work harder as well as for innovation and writing up projects' plans," he added.

Dr Nzunda said the aim of the ministry is to see officials, directors or heads of departments are assessed through open criteria, hence he called on them to change in their work performance and abandon working routinely.

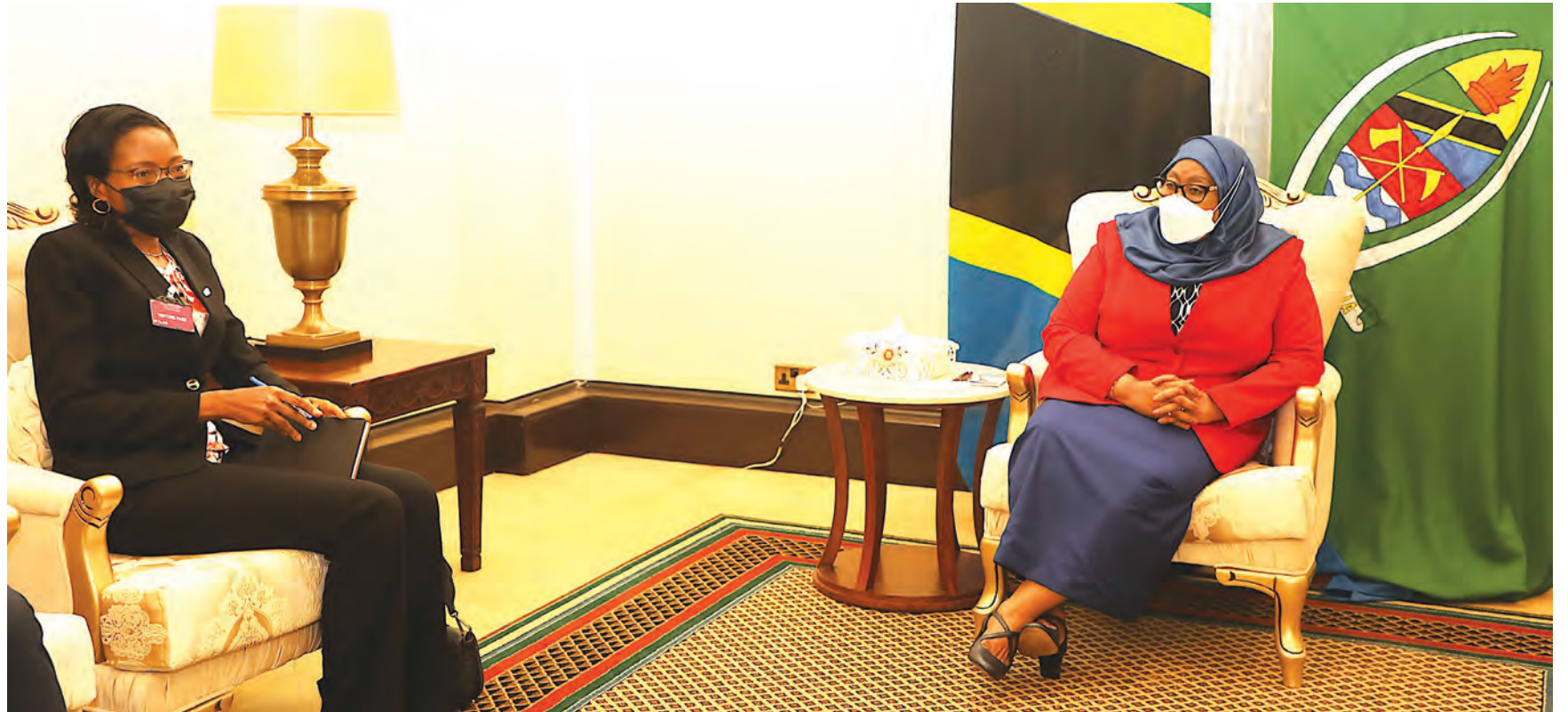


President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership is an epitome of strong leadership and positive macro-economic reforms

Ruth Zaipuna: Celebrating one year of massive achievements



NMB Bank Chief Executive Officer Ms Ruth Zaipuna.



President of the United Republic of Tanzania Samia Suluhu Hassan when she met and held talks with the leadership of NMB Bank led by Chief Executive Officer - Ruth Zaipuna.

NMB Bank is closely linked to the Tanzanian economy. The ongoing macro upswing is directly reflected in our balance sheet growth and structural tailwinds have provided a good backdrop for our growth momentum. In turn during the first year of Her Excellence President Samia's reign, the bank delivered industry record-breaking performance, delivering profit before tax of TZS 420 bln (2020: TZS 301 bln), up 41 percent YoY. The strong growth in profitability is on the back of solid operating income growth of 18 percent YoY - both from net-interest income growth of 19 percent YoY due to increase in loans and advances and increase in non-funded income by 15 percent YoY reflecting increased customer activities on the bank's channels.

By and large, our strong performance in 2021, is attributed to the conducive operating environment in Tanzania, that fosters, private sector-credit growth, and hence providing requisite impetus for strong balance sheet and income momentum. Containment of Covid-19 outbreak through adoption of necessary measures including rollout of vaccination program in Tanzania, has also sustained private side consumption, and therefore stimulating client activities, and personal loans growth—further boosting our total revenue growth momentum.

The market has also been liquid as the government continued to spend on the mega projects. Our customer deposits grew by 25 percent YoY to TZS 6.4 trillion at the end of December 2021 compared to TZS 5.3 trillion in December 2020. Therefore, the improving macro-economic landscape under Her Excellency President Samia, provides NMB Bank and the sector at large with a positive medium-term outlook. Indeed, these are



President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassan receiving various hearing and visual aids, computers, balls and jerseys from NMB Bank Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ruth Zaipuna to help solve the challenges of students with special needs at Benjamin Mkapa Secondary School, Dar es Salaam.

exciting times for the NMB Bank and the sector at large.

Apart from execution of NMB Bank's strategic plan, what are the major policy factors that may have contributed to such performance during the past one year?

In the past one year, NMB Bank and the Tanzanian Banking Sector at large remained sound and well capitalized. During the period NMB Bank posted strong performance results and remained the market leader, with profitability market share of 40 percent. The Banking sector also posted strong profitability results, with large banks sharing a record net profit of TZS 715 Bn. The strong Industry performance was driven by solid income growth and a decline in impairment provisions. Digital banking services continue to expand driven by increasing financial inclusion and mobile penetration rate. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, BOT continued to take a series of policy measures to bolster the banking sector, including cutting down the discount rate, reducing the statutory minimum reserves (SMR) requirement, and eased loans restructuring to support the increase in market liquidity and to spur private sector credit growth.

Therefore, the resilience and growth of the sector can largely be attributed to have been supported by monetary policy, prudential and regulatory measures undertaken by the Bank of Tanzania towards improving the business environment and efficiency in financial services delivery. As one of the aggressive market players in the banking sector, we leveraged-off some of these accommodative measures to ensure that we continue to support our customers during the pandemic.

NMB Bank and the sector at large, is expected to continue with the growth

trajectory supported by the on-going implementation of accommodative policy measures which are aimed at sustaining long-term economic growth and increased credit to the private sector.

NMB Bank recently announced the issuance of loans to the agricultural sector at an interest rate not exceeding 10 percent. Is this in any way linked to the recent policy guideline?

In recognition of our responsibilities as a vehicle for sustainable social-economic prosperity in Tanzania, the bank has created a long-history of supporting growth of agriculture and agri-related sectors (being the mainstay of most Tanzanians) and continues to play a big role in supporting the development of the sectors through various products and services. Our focus and contribution in the agriculture sector continued during the year, whereby in October 2021 we were the first bank to set aside a special agriculture fund of TZS 100 bln in loans at interest rates not exceeding 10 percent per annum to support players along different stages of the agri-value chain, including farmers, input providers, service providers, entrepreneurs, and small and medium processors. The bank has taken this initiative to further improve access to credit to bridge the financing gap, drive sustainable growth of the sectors, boost productivity along the agri-value chains, and stimulate job creation.

Since its inception in 1997, NMB Bank has played a significant role in the Country's economic development agenda and continues to support the country's growth aspirations. It has been pivotal in supporting the country's key economic sectors, as well as purposeful driving the financial inclusion agenda.

The bank remains committed to supporting the Government's efforts geared

towards driving growth of the agriculture sectors and the country's overall social-economic development agenda by widening access to financing. The TZS 100 billion agriculture fund reaffirms NMB Bank's commitment to fulfill its goal of being at the forefront in the socio-economic development of Tanzania.

Should the current conducive environment be maintained, where do you see NMB Bank Plc in the coming five years?

Looking to the future, NMB Bank is optimistic about the journey that lays ahead and the bank will continue to focus on unlocking the market potential and utilizing its strong fundamentals to create more value and shared prosperity for its stakeholders.

The execution of our Medium-Term Plan (MTP) is our key priority. We will also continue leveraging on our solid foundations, including a strong balance sheet, healthy capital levels, branch network and our digital capabilities to further sustain our business ambitions. We will continue to drive financial inclusion agenda and provide first class financial solution to our customers. We remain committed to delivering strong returns to our shareholders and we look forward to further serving our esteemed customers and supporting the communities we serve as we progress along the second half of the year 2022 and beyond.

The past one year of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership is an epitome of strong leadership and positive macro-economic reforms, which has re-stirred economic reforms in Tanzania. During the period, the banking sector in Tanzania has remained solid, sound, stable, and profitable greatly benefiting from the conducive macro-economic environment.

The banking sector posted a balance sheet growth of 24% year on year reaching TZS 38.7 Trillion in total assets (A record sectoral balance sheet). From the profitability perspective, following the strong revenue momentum and improved portfolio quality, the banking sector recorded a record profit before Tax (PBT) of TZS 1.04 Trillion.

Being the market leader, NMB Bank significantly benefited from the positive operating environment spearheaded by Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu's administration. The bank cemented its market leadership position by posting industry record PAT of TZS 289 Billion, which is a 40% growth YoY. This performance has been attributed to favorable micro-economic fundamentals and NMB's focus on delivering the best finan-

cial solutions to customers and community at large.

Reflecting on one year of Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu's administration, the NMB Bank Chief Executive Officer Ms Ruth Zaipuna had this to say on how NMB Bank has benefited from President Samia's administration.

Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan is clocking one year in office this month. In your honest opinion, how has NMB Bank Plc fared during the first year of Her Excellency President Samia Hassan's presidency?

The first year of H.E President Samia Hassan's presidency, is an embodiment of exemplary leadership, and renewed optimism following the Global Covid-19 outbreak. The 6th phase government policy responses coupled with inherently strong macro-economic fundamentals have indeed cushioned the Tanzanian economy from adverse impact of Covid-19 in 2021. As a result, compared to its peers within the region, in her first year in office, Tanzania experienced relatively stronger economic growth.

Being the leading bank in Tanzania,



The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassan talking to NMB Bank Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ruth Zaipuna during the culmination of the International Women's Day celebrations held in Zanzibar





Dr Abdulsalaam Omar (L), the Workers Compensation Fund's director of assessment, addresses a seminar for administrative officers on the benefits the fund extends to the workers dying of work-related causes or sustaining occupational injuries. It was held in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Local initiatives inspiring young girls into science field

By Guardian Reporter

GENDER stereotypes, lack of visible role models and practical hands-on experience are among key factors for low participation rate of young girls in science, technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

Even though women have made tremendous progress towards increasing their participation in higher education, they are still under-represented in these fields.

Director of Women and Electronics in Tanzania (WOET), Emma Kabali made the revelation when presenting findings of a survey conducted by the non-profit organization to find out factors affecting girls' participation in science.

"A significant gender gap has persisted throughout the years at all levels of STEM disciplines all over the world. You can't be what you can't see. How many examples of local female scientists or engineers do young girls see when they are at school?" said Emma.

She said: "Role models from the world of work can have a big impact on children—they can help them see why the subject they are studying matters. It also helps to tackle the stereotypes children have from a young age which lead them to think that certain subjects and careers are not for them."

Emma added that due to factors mentioned above, WOET launched

'The Voice' program to recognize, appreciate, uncover and amplify unsung local heroines in STEM fields.

"We hope that by showcasing female scientists in schools and communities we can encourage children to feel confident and enthusiastic about science and ultimately motivated to continue exploring this exciting sector. As part of this, we especially want to inspire girls and boost the number of female scientists in Tanzania," said Emma who is also a member of African Women Leaders Network (AWLN)-Tanzania chapter and award winner of the 'Techpreneurs of the Year under 30 East Africa 2020'.

Globally only 33 per cent of researchers are women, and they are awarded less research funding than men, and are less likely to be promoted. In the private sector too, women are less represented in company leadership and in technical roles in tech industries.

Women account for just 22 per cent of professionals working in artificial intelligence and 28 per cent of engineering graduates. These glaring under-representations limit women's ability to find inclusive, sustainable solutions to modern problems and build a better society for all.

It is high time for the government, civil society and the private sector to engage and support initiatives aiming at inspiring more young girls into STEM fields.

Government launches construction of National Mariculture Resource Centre

By Getrude Mbagi

THE government has launched construction of the state-of-the-art National Mariculture Resource Centre (NMRC) at Kunduchi area in Dar es Salaam which will see major transformation in the fisheries industry in the country.

The first phase the government will spend a total of 1.59bn/-, at the University of Dar es Salaam's School of Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Technology (SoAF) with a number of modern infrastructure being constructed to sup-

port research and production of massive fish seeds and feeds, seaweeds and research activities.

Speaking during the launch of the project which also saw signing of cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Ministry's Permanent Secretary (Fishery) Dr Rashid Tamatamah said the completion of the project will open up more opportunities for Tanzanians and thus boost blue economy.

"As you know, Tanzania is en-

dowed with abundant water resources that provide significant opportunities for fisheries and aquaculture activities thus enabling citizens to participate and benefit from the blue economy. This project has come at the right time when the government is making several efforts to transform the industry. It will see an increase of fingerlings and feed production to support entrepreneurs," he said.

He acknowledged that fingerlings and fish feed production was still very low in the country saying that in the 2020/21 year, only 22

million of fingerlings were produced out of the total demand of 115 million.

"On fish feed, the situation is also bad as the available 11 factories produced only 1000 tonnes of feed while the demand was 27,000 tonnes. Here, too, fish farmers, especially small ones, end up relying on indigenous food which also affects productivity," he added.

He said the project is implemented under the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth (SWIOFish) programme supported by the

World Bank which is aimed at increasing fishermen in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar to turn to ecotourism and seaweed farming to conserve the coastal ecosystem, protect the country's fisheries and grow the local economy.

He said the intention of the sixth phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan should be that the opportunities of the blue economy are being used effectively to bring prosperity to the people and to grow the economy.

The project will also invest in empowering more Tanzanians

with skills and equipment so as to boost aquaculture and increase the availability of fish in the country.

He said the government is committed to ensure that Tanzania becomes a leading country in East Africa in fish production due to strategies it was taking and others put in place.

"Currently, fish contribute 30 percent to food security and nutrition, we have also witnessed an increase of employment reaching 195,435 fishermen as well as 4.5 million people

who benefit from the sector including fish traders," he added.

He said achievements in the fishery sector have also been fuelled with the implementation of the SWIOFish programme which works to protect priority fisheries in the country.

He explained that in 2020/2021 a total of 483,756 tonnes of fish worth 2.4trn/- were harvested from natural water and 22,793.2 tonnes of various aquatic species worth 166.38bn/- were produced in the country.

JNHPP project execution wins committee accolades

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Rufiji

ENERGY and Minerals Parliamentary Committee has expressed its satisfaction with pace at which the government is executing the Julius Nyerere Hydropower project (JNHPP), which is expected to produce 2,115 megawatts upon its completion.

So far, the government has pumped in 3.4trn/- into the project being constructed along the Rufiji River, Coast Region, by a joint venture of Egyptian companies—Arab Contractors and El Sewedy Electric Co at a cost of around 6.5trn/-.

Parliamentary Committee's Chairperson, Dunstan Kitandula made the remarks recently when visited the construction site in the Stiegler's Gorge dam along the Rufiji River, Coast Region.

Kitandula who is the Mkinga MP said there is a great improvement since the committee inspected the project in 2021.

"I congratulate contractors because they have reached 90 percent of the construction of 8 key components," he said, noting that speed of construction is encouraging.

Project coordinator, Eng Lutengano Mwandambo said that many activities in the project have been completed in-

cluding the construction of a permanent bridge that is among of key components in the project.

He said that the bridge has a length of 250 meters and width of 12 meters that will be linked with tarmac road of 1.3 kilometers from entry gate and 2.1 kilometers from the bridge to project areas.

"Everything here is on the right path as staffs get their emoluments on time," he stated.

Geita Urban MP, Joseph Kasheku called for a current report of the project to be related with its development so as to assure Tanzanians that the project is going on as scheduled.

Energy minister January Makamba said: "My ministry takes it as a challenge but reports need time and enough concentration because it's a strategic project million of Tanzania are expecting to get indirect jobs here."

Makamba also said, while the main dam is in good progress, the government drafts the budget for three other projects, namely the construction of a transmission line of 40 kilometers to Chalinze, the construction of Chalinze substation, and roads to Mkuranga and north-eastern regions.



NMB Bank Plc's Dar es Salaam zone manager, Donatus Richard, has a word in the city yesterday with Temeke District entrepreneurs at an NMB Business Club conference on the conducting of business amid the Covid-19-era crisis. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Prof Ndalichako calls on employees to abide by code of ethical conduct

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PROF Joyce Ndalichako, minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled) called on workers in the ministry to embrace the government commitment and inculcate ethics at work.

At the same time, she reminded them to follow up on the government efforts to empower youths at all levels, saying that experience shows that many young people in the country are increasingly becoming proactive to the government support initiatives.

Speaking at the launch of the workers' coun-

cil, the minister reminded the workers to shun any kind of corruption and work towards achieving the government goals.

"I therefore urge you to work in accordance with the government guidelines, be creative and open opportunities for youth development and employment," she said, adding that the target is to create eight million jobs.

The minister reminded the meeting that she was impressed by seeing how cross-section of youth in Arusha had shown great enthusiasm in green house agriculture. She added that it is the ministry's responsibility to empower youth.

She called on the Tanzania Union of Govern-

ment and Health Employees (TUGHE) branch at the ministry to work with the management to ensure conducive working environment and cooperation.

Prof Ndalichako called on the management to ensure there is client service charter to help people know their duties and responsibilities and obligations. "Let the doors to dialogue remain open to foster cooperation and development," she added.

In response, the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability Prof Jamal Katundu promised to work on all the observa-

tions of the minister.

He said, "I will today start working on the issue of client service charter and give feedback as soon as possible" he said, adding that the management will work closely with the council for the betterment of the government.

He also thanked the minister for the devotion to push for development at the ministry which has seen budget allocation for the ministry increased tremendously.

According to the PS several improvements have been made at the ministry since Prof Ndalichako took the helm of the ministry, adding that a lot more is expected.

Prof also promised that the management will work closely with TUGHE and the council, noting that the council helps in opinions and analysis of ministry budget.

TUGHE branch chairperson at the ministry, Godfrey Chacha also promised to act on the minister's directives, adding that his group will show a good example of cooperation with the management.

"We are optimistic that through good cooperation we will achieve the targets," he said, adding that aim is to support government initiatives in development.



365 DAYS OF



HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN IN OFFICE



MARKS REMARKABLE STRIDES IN THE CAPITAL MARKET FRONTIERS

Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania has set legacy of exemplary strides in the capital market frontiers in her 365 days in the office. Commenting on the significant performance attained, the Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA), Mr. Nicodemus Mkama highlights that, the notable achievements were a result of conducive policy, regulatory and operational environment provided and supported by the Sixth Phase Government under the noble leadership of Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan. In addition, economic diplomacy and international relations done during the visit of Her Excellency Samia to foreign countries have attracted more participation of foreign investors in Tanzanian capital markets, thus resulting into the following key achievements:

- Total value of investment in the capital markets increased by 12.02 percent to reach TZS 32.67 trillion as at 28th February 2022, compared to TZS 29.16 trillion as at 28th February 2021;
- Combined trading turnover of equities and bonds increased by 19.2 percent, from TZS 2.6 trillion to TZS 3.1 trillion compared to recorded in the corresponding previous period;
- The trading turnover of treasury bonds also increased from TZS 2.1 trillion to TZS 2.9 trillion, representing an increase of 38.1 percent when compared to the previous corresponding period; and
- Net Asset Value (NAV) of Collective Investment Schemes increased by 55.8 percent to TZS 868.51 billion as at 28th February 2022 compared to TZS 557.28 billion recorded during the corresponding period.

The Tanzanian capital market is among the top five performing markets in Africa. CMSA, the regulator for capital market in Tanzania has been at the forefront in undertaking initiatives that has positioned the financial markets and capital markets in particular at higher heights in driving economic development and growth in the country. During the 365 days of Her Excellency Samia in the office, the Authority has implemented initiatives that have opened new market frontiers including development of thematic and innovative capital market products and services; promotion of technology-enabled financial service distribution channels; increasing the number of competent market professionals recognized internationally; and enhancement of financial literacy and public awareness.

With regard to thematic products and services, Mr. Mkama explained that the Authority is driving efforts on development of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) capital market products, including green bonds, blue bonds, social impact and ethical securities. To this end, the market has witnessed a welcoming response, whereby the following were achieved:

- The first Ethical Sharia Compliant Sukuk Bond, issued in two tranches by Imaan Finance, both of which were oversubscribed. The first tranche raised TZS 2.7 billion, a success rate of 136 percent, and the second tranche raised TZS 2.03 billion, a success rate of 135.3 percent. The proceeds from the bond will be used to finance Sharia compliant businesses;
- The first social impact bond (NMB Jasiri bond) worth TZS 40.0 billion which complies with the requirements of the International Capital Markets Association (ICMA). The proceeds of the bond will be used to finance start-ups, micro, small and medium enterprises owned and led by women, youth and people with disabilities;
- Bond for development of Housing and Settlement issued by Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company (TMRC), which raised TZS 8.89 billion, a success rate of 127 percent; and
- Bond for expansion of cotton ginnery and edible oil business issued by Afrisian Gining Limited worth TZS 58 billion.

Mr. Mkama further added that, in enhancing operations of the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), CMSA approved revised Stock Exchange Rules that facilitate listing of new products and services, including sustainable equities; sustainable exchange traded funds; sustainable mutual funds; exchange traded notes; green bonds; blue bonds and ESG reporting. These developments have improved trading activities on the stock exchange and are expected to enhance access to finance and usage of financial products and services, thus increase liquidity in the market.

Mr. Mkama also pointed out that, during the 365 days of Her Excellency President Samia in the office, CMSA in collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) spearheaded efforts towards development of Municipal and Subnational bonds in Tanzania. The proceeds from issuance of the bonds will be used to finance commercially viable and bankable projects of Local Government Authorities (Cities,



HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN IN OFFICE
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Municipals, Towns and Districts) and subnational entities including water and sewerage authorities. The initiatives are part of implementation of the Government's Alternative Project Financing (APF) Strategy which was launched by Honourable Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba, Minister for Finance and Planning of the United Republic of Tanzania. To ensure effective and efficient implementation of APF strategy, National Facilitation Team has been formed and was launched by Mr. Emmanuel Tutuba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning.

In the technology space, CMSA has approved use of technology-enabled applications such as Sim Invest and Hisa Kiganjani for the subscriptions and trading of securities in the capital markets. The initiative has facilitated access and usage of capital market products and services to a wider segment of population in urban and rural areas, particularly participation of retail investors in stock exchange trading and subscription for units of collective investment schemes. The Authority is currently collaborating with stakeholders in developing a framework for operation and regulation of crowdfunding platforms. Crowdfunding broadly involves funding a project or venture by raising financial resources from a large number of people. The endeavour is expected to facilitate access to finance for start-ups, small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

As part of the initiatives to increase the number of competent market professionals recognized internationally, CMSA is collaborating with the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI) of London, United Kingdom to conduct Securities Industry Certification Courses (SICCs) in Tanzania. The objective of SICCs is to enhance capacity of market professionals in keeping pace with developments in the global market space. Market professionals certified under the SICCs are globally recognized and eligible to apply for licenses to provide services in Tanzania, across the East African region and internationally. The number of market professionals recognized internationally increased from 494 to 667 representing an increase of 22.9 percent for the period. Similarly, the number market intermediaries licensed by CMSA increased from 144 to 154 representing an increase of seven percent.

In bolstering public financial literacy and awareness on the opportunities and benefits available in the capital markets, CMSA is implementing various programs, including tailor-made capital market seminars; roadshows and exhibitions; participation in the World Investor Week; media programs; and financial literacy program for the Youth through Capital Markets Universities and Higher Learning Institutions Challenge (CMUHLIC). CMUHLIC is a capital market competition for students in universities and higher learning institutions whose objective is to enhance financial inclusion and literacy by testing knowledge and understanding on issues related to capital markets. The Challenge has attracted over 70,133 participants, recording an increase of 43.7 percent

compared to the participation of 48,662 recorded for the period ending February 2021. Positive outcomes of the challenge include creation of over 10,000 actual investors in listed securities; development of the Young Investors Forum with more than 6,000 members, whose objective is to provide financial literacy and experiences for the youth in subscription and trading of shares. The Challenge has also facilitated incorporation of a public listed company that has created more than 10,600 jobs.

Mr. Mkama added that, the African Market Hub report for February 2022 has reported the Tanzanian capital market as among the top five performing markets in Africa. In addition, the World Bank Report on assessment of movement of capital, goods and services under the East African Common Market Scorecard 2020 has raised the score for Tanzania by 157 percent from 7 out of 20 to 18 out of 20. The assessment has placed the Country in the second position in the EAC region, reflecting significant strides in the capital markets on the free movement of capital. Currently, there are no restrictions in the flow of capital in equity, corporate bond and collective investment schemes operated in capital markets.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Mkama affirmed that Tanzanian Capital Market Sector is safe and resilient and will continue to contribute fuelling growth of competitive industrial economy for human development. In addition, Mr. Mkama wished Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan good health and success in her endeavours towards bringing economic and social development in the Country.



NICODEMUS MKAMA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
CAPITAL MARKETS AND SECURITIES AUTHORITY

Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world

24 March commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch astounded the scientific community by announcing to a small group of scientists at the University of Berlin's Institute of Hygiene that he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus. According to Koch's colleague, Paul Ehrlich, "at this memorable session, Koch appeared before the public with an announcement which marked a turning-point in the story of a virulent human infectious disease. In clear, simple words Koch explained the aetiology of tuberculosis with convincing force, presenting many of his microscope slides and other pieces of evidence." At the time of Koch's announcement in Berlin, TB was raging through Europe and the Americas, causing the death of one out of every seven people. Koch's discovery opened the way toward diagnosing and curing tuberculosis.

In 1982, on the one-hundredth anniversary of Robert Koch's presentation, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) proposed that 24 March be proclaimed an official World TB Day. This was part of a year-long centennial effort by the IUATLD and the World Health Organisation (WHO) under the theme "Defeat TB: Now and Forever." World TB Day was not officially recognised as an annual occurrence by WHO's World Health Assembly and the United Nations until over a decade later.

In the fall of 1995, WHO and the Royal Netherlands Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV) hosted the first World TB Day advo-

cacy planning meeting in The Hague, Netherlands; an event they would continue co-sponsor over the next few years. In 1996, WHO, KNCV, the IUATLD and other concerned organisations joined to conduct a wide range of World TB Day activities.

For World TB Day 1997, WHO held a news conference in Berlin during which WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima declared that "DOTS is the biggest health breakthrough of this decade, according to lives we will be able to save." WHO's Global TB Programme director, Dr. Arata Kochi, promised that, "Today the situation of the global TB epidemic is about to change, because we have made a breakthrough. It is the breakthrough of health management systems that makes it possible to control TB not only in wealthy countries, but in all parts of the developing world, where 95 per cent of all TB cases now exist."

By 1998, nearly 200 organisations conducted public outreach activities on World TB Day. During its World TB Day 1998 news conference in London, WHO for the first time identified the top twenty-two countries with the world's highest TB burden. The next year, over 60 key TB advocates from 18 countries attended the three-day WHO/KNCV planning meeting for World TB Day 1999.

U.S. President Bill Clinton marked World TB Day 2000 by administering the WHO-recommended directly observed therapy, short-course (DOTS) treatment to patients at the Mahavir Hospital in Hyderabad, India. According to Clinton, "These

'Learning for All' promotes the equity goals underlying 'Education for All' and the SDGs

THE human mind makes possible all development achievements, from health advances and agricultural innovations to efficient public administration and private sector growth. For countries to reap these benefits fully, and Tanzania is no exception, they need to unleash the potential of the human mind. And there is no better tool for doing so than education.

Twenty years ago, government officials and development partners met to affirm the importance of education in development—on economic development and broadly on improving people's lives—and together declared Education for All as a goal. While enrolments have risen in promising fashion around the world, learning levels have remained disappointingly and many remain left behind. Because growth, development, and poverty reduction depend on the knowledge and skills that people acquire, not the number of years that they sit in a classroom, we must transform our call to action from Education for All to Learning for All.

First, foundational skills acquired early in childhood make possible a lifetime of learning. The traditional view of education as starting in primary school takes up the challenge too late. The science of brain development shows that learning needs to be encouraged early and often, both inside and outside of the formal schooling system. In the primary years, quality teaching is essential to give students the foundational literacy and numeracy on which lifelong learning depends. Adolescence is also a period of high potential for learning, but many teenagers leave school at this point, lured by the prospect of a job, the need to help their families, or turned away by the schooling cost. For those who drop out too early, second-chance and informal learning opportunities are essential to ensure that all youth can acquire skills for the labour market.

Second, getting results requires smart investments—that is, investments that prioritise and monitor learning, beyond traditional metrics, such as the number of teachers trained or number of students enrolled. Quality needs to be the focus of education investments, with learning gains as the key metric of quality. Resources are too limited and the challenges too big to be designing policies and programs in the dark. We need evidence on what works in order to invest smartly.

Third, learning for all, it means ensuring that all students, and not just the most privileged or gifted, acquire the knowledge and skills that they need. Major challenges of access remain for disadvantaged populations at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. We must lower the barriers that keep girls, children with disabilities, and ethnic linguistic minorities from attaining as much education as other population groups. "Learning for All" promotes the equity goals that underlie Education for All and the SDGs. Without confronting equity issues, it will be impossible to achieve the objective of learning for all.

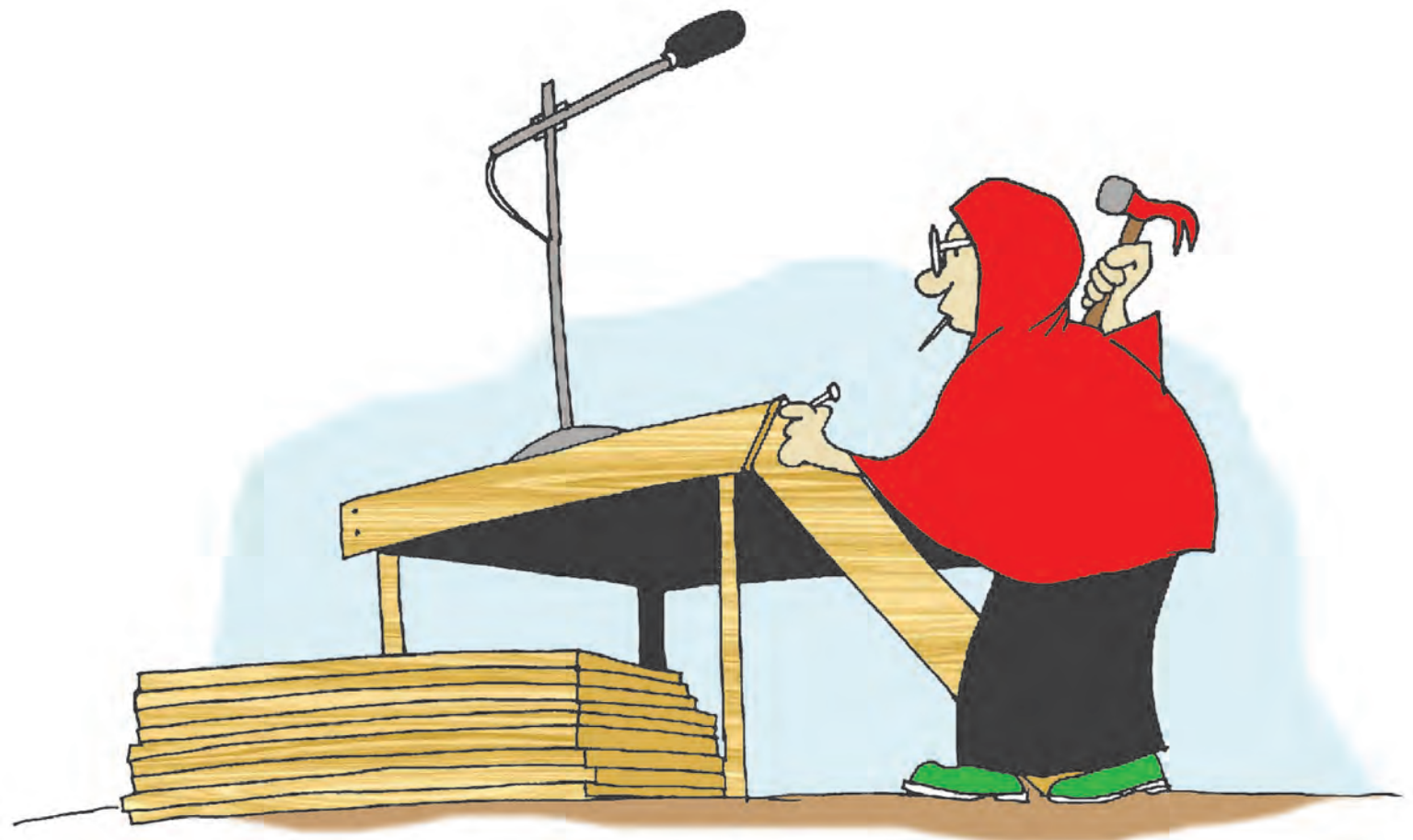
Achieving learning for all will be challenging, but it is the right agenda for the next decade. It is the knowledge and skills that children and youth acquire today—not simply their school attendance—that will drive their employability, productivity, health, and well-being in the decades to come, and that will help ensure that their communities and nations thrive.

When the people are educated, it will be easier to lead them. When people are educated, they will be able to think better and apply innovations into the ways of doing things in the environment. Education in itself cannot do the work but educated people can be used or bring about the necessary development in the environment or the nation.

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Why Goodluck Jonathan should run

By Zebulun Ogueri

ZEBULUN Ogueri canvasses the need for the former president to contest the 2023 Presidency.

It is increasingly becoming clearer by the day that as far as 2023 presidential election goes, former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan has no hiding place. This is as a result of growing calls from different strata of the country beckoning on him to contest Nigeria's make or mar presidential election next year.

Since Nigeria rejoined the comity of democratic nations in 1999, presidential election has been an extremely sensitive issue. It has overtime become the most powerful and influential position that confers the greatest sense of belonging to the federation on any ethnic or geopolitical area that produces the president.

As a result of this, at every general election, every segment of the country craves to have a piece of the "national cake" by producing the number one person.

The questions now therefore are: which region has produced more presidents or heads of state? Which region has not produced any, considering the issue of rotational power in order to correct the vexed issue of imbalance among the six geopolitical zones, especially the North-South power block? Under the present circumstance, whose turn is it between the North and South power block in 2023?

Already, this has started generating heat among the gladiators as the nation gradually and stealthily moves closer to 2023 and as the momentum has continued to build up.

It is important to underscore one basic fact that one major factor that will largely determine the overall outcome of the election is power rotation, which is between the North and South political blocs. This is what has defined the attitude and the internal democratic practices of the major political parties that will participate in the forthcoming election.

It has equally attracted some of the biggest political groups such as the Progressive Governors Forum (PGF) made up of governors on the platform of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Governors Forum, which is made up of the governors of the leading opposition party, caucuses of political parties at the two chambers of the National Assembly, the political parties, socio-cultural groups, among others.

It is imperative to put the record straight on this matter. Since independence, the North has produced Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as the prime minister, Generals Yakubu Gowon, Murtala Muhammed, President Shehu Shagari, Generals Muhammadu Buhari, Ibrahim Babangida, Sani Abacha, Abdulsalami Abubakar, late President Yar'Adua and the current President Buhari. On the other hand, the South has produced Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe (South-East as Colonial Governor-General and Head of State under the parliamentary system of government), General Aguiyi-Ironsi (South-East), General Olusegun Obasanjo (South-West), President Obasanjo (South-West) and President Goodluck Jonathan (South-South) who served one tenure plus.

Beginning from 1999 when the country began a new democratic dispensation, the South took the first shot through Obasanjo who handed over power to the North (Yar'Adua). Yar'Adua did not finish his tenure and GEJ completed the



joint-ticket tenure and did a first term and was not allowed to do his second tenure under national and international conspiracy. In 2023, Buhari would have spent a good eight years in office. Naturally, it is now the turn of the South to take a shot at the presidency.

Considering the rotational system, it's obviously the turn of the south and realizing that former President Jonathan performed creditably well during his first four years in the office, groups and individual have been calling on him to come out and contest the 2023 presidential election to enable him complete his remaining four years.

The ruling All Progressives Congress, APC led the pack of the groups clamouring for Jonathan to contest in 2023 as it publicly declared that the party will give the former president an opportunity to contest for the presidency if he joins the ruling party.

The National Secretary of the party's Caretaker, and Extra-ordinary Convention Planning Committee, John Akpanudodehe was said to have made the declaration while featuring as a guest on Channels Television's Politics Today.

Speaking further, the APC official said the ex-president will be granted a founding member status if he joins, adding however that the opportunity that will be given to Jonathan is not automatic, noting that he would compete with other members of the party before getting the ticket.

"I am hearing that for the first time that we are expecting the former President. That will be great news. We will welcome him; that will also strengthen the party", Akpanudodehe was quoted to have said.

Apart from the APC's assurance, some northern state governors have also at one time or the other called on the former President to come out, contest and complete the fours left for him to be president in accordance with the pro-

visions of the 1999 Constitution as amended.

Just last week, a group operating under the aegis of Citizens Network for Peace and Development (CNPDP) called on former President Jonathan to run for the office of president in the 2023 general election.

It also asked the ex-president to dump his party, the Peoples Democratic Party, and join forces with President Muhammadu Buhari in the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) to achieve this goal and appealed to President Buhari to support the former president.

The National Coordinator of CNPD, Raphael Okorie, who made the call in Abuja, said the group is ready to mobilise at least eight million citizens to return Mr. Jonathan to the office of the president.

He said the group wants the former president to accept the offer to serve and rescue Nigeria at a crucial moment like now "because of his track records in office."

Also, another group operating under the aegis of Nationalists Movement for GEJ 2023 has called on former President Jonathan to contest in the 2023 presidential election.

The National Coordinator of the group, Engr Abidde Robinson, made the call at a media conference in Abuja, while explaining reasons why the former President is to contest the election, as Nigerians want him back to Aso Villa. According to Robinson, Jonathan remains a great statesman, patriot, and national pacifier whose pedigree and track record proves he has the magic wand that Nigerians want to change the present situation of things.

"Nigeria is on the march again. As the countdown to 2023 Presidential elections begins, all patriotic Nigerians must deeply reflect on this adage that says, "when a child falls, he looks front but when an adult falls, he looks back to see what caused his fall.

"We the Nationalists Movement, a non-partisan, very patriotic and nationalistic Nigerians of like minds all over the world poised to promote, build and sustain national ideals have carefully identified former President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan as a great statesman, patriot, and national pacifier whose pedigree and track record proves he has the magic wand needed to soothe ethnic tensions in different parts of the country.

"We are therefore, passionately pleading with H.E. Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan to yield and not resist the wishes and calls of majority of patriotic Nigerians from home and in the Diaspora to come back to Aso Rock Presidential Villa in 2023 because: Our national unity, peace and security needs to be preserved now than before.

"He is a unifying force; he is trusted, dependable and the most accepted politician across board in contemporary Nigeria and he is a democrat who builds, entrenches and deepens strong democratic culture and institutions, not strong personalities.

"He is well known for his civil approach in tackling national issues to ensure the rule of law, social justice and equity are promoted and protected, he is a very good manager of our economy. Under him, Nigeria's economy was number one in Africa and the fastest growing economy in the world; he ran an all-inclusive government that gave every part of the country a sense of belonging in terms of policies and appointments.

"He speaks and acts for national interest, not sectional or parochial interest; Under him, every one's vote count; his political ambition is not worth the blood of any Nigerian; He encourages dialogue in conflict management rather than force; he preaches and practices the politics of give and take and not winner takes it all; and Nigeria and Nigerians now needs a popular leader like Dr. Jonathan with a track record of integrity and statesmanship to bridge the north-south alliance in 2023.

"It is in view of the above that majority of patriotic and nationalistic Nigerians and friends of Nigeria from all works of life are pleading with Dr. Jonathan to accept this critical national service once again", stated.

With these calls coming from credible organizations and individuals who have realized the need for the former president to once again mount the seat of power come 2023, time has come for him to come out clearly and accept the clamour to salvage Nigeria from the current prevailing predicament.



**THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 23rd March 2022

United Republic of Tanzania

Project Name : CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ZANZIBAR

Loan No : 0872

Contract Title : PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF KIFUNDI SECONDARY SCHOOL IN NORTH REGION PEMBA

Reference No. MoEVT/BADEA/CW 3/2022

1. The Government of United Republic of Tanzania represented by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar under Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has received a loan from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) toward the cost of the **CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ZANZIBAR**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF KIFUNDI SECONDARY SCHOOL IN NORTH REGION PEMBA**.
2. The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training – Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for *PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF KIFUNDI SECONDARY SCHOOL IN NORTH REGION PEMBA, including One 2-Storeys Classrooms and Administration block, One 2-Storeys Staffs Quarter block, One 2-Storeys Boys' and Girl's Hostel block and One Single Story Cafeteria block, construction period is 30 months including 18 months for construction of buildings and 12 months defect liability period.*
3. On the basis of a competitive bidding, restricted to Arab, African or Arab-African firms, according to the procedures of BADEA and in coordination with the Government" (as per the loan agreement).
4. Interested eligible bidders from Africa or Arabs or Afro-Arab firms may obtain further information from Ministry of Education and Vocational Training – Zanzibar, Secretary of Tender Board, pmu@moez.go.tz or moevt.pmu@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 7:00 am to 3:00 pm at the address given below
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders from Africa or Arabs or Afro-Arab firms upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Tanzania Shillings Three Hundred Thousand Only (TZS 300,000.00)**.

The method of payment will be by Banker's Draft, Banker's Cheque or Cash payable to: Principal Secretary Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar.

ACCOUNT IN USD:

Account name: Mapato Elimu.

Account No. : 075630400

Bank Name: The Peoples Bank of Zanzibar Limited.

ACCOUNT IN TZS:

Account name: Mapato Wizara ya Elimu.

Account No.: 0404399000

Bank Name: The Peoples Bank of Zanzibar Limited.

The Bidding Documents will be sent by post or courier. The cost of courier shall be the responsibility of the firm.

6. Bids shall be valid for a period of at least One Hundred Twenty (120) days after Bid Opening and must be delivered to the address below at or before Thursday, 5th May, 2022 at 10:00 am, electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids shall be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at Thursday, 5th May, 2022 at 11: 30 am.
7. All bids MUST be accompanied by an "Original Bid Security" in an acceptable form as described in the Bidding Document amounting to at least TZS 176,000,000.00.
8. All Bids must be accompanied by a Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and/or Sexual Harassment (SH) Declaration.
9. The address referred to above is: -

**The Secretary of the Tender Board,
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training,
Ground Floor, Room number 17/18,
Mazizini Area, Airport Road
P.O Box 394, ZANZIBAR.
City/Country: Zanzibar town - Tanzania
Email: pmu@moez.go.tz , moevt.pmu@gmail.com , info@moez.go.tz**



**THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 23rd March 2022

United Republic of Tanzania

Project Name : CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ZANZIBAR

Loan No : 0872

Contract Title : PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF MFENESINI SECONDARY SCHOOL IN URBAN WEST REGION UNGUJA

Reference No. MoEVT/BADEA/CW 1/2022

1. The Government of United Republic of Tanzania represented by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar under Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has received a loan from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) toward the cost of the **CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ZANZIBAR**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF MFENESINI SECONDARY SCHOOL IN URBAN WEST REGION UNGUJA**.
2. The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training – Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for *PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF MFENESINI SECONDARY SCHOOL IN URBAN WEST REGION UNGUJA, including One 2-Storeys Classrooms and Administration block, One 2-Storeys Staffs Quarter block, One 2-Storeys Boys' and Girl's Hostel block and One Single Story Cafeteria block, construction period is 30 months including 18 months for construction of buildings and 12 months defect liability period.*
3. On the basis of a competitive bidding, restricted to Arab, African or Arab-African firms, according to the procedures of BADEA and in coordination with the Government" (as per the loan agreement).
4. Interested eligible bidders from Africa or Arabs or Afro-Arab firms may obtain further information from Ministry of Education and Vocational Training – Zanzibar, Secretary of Tender Board, pmu@moez.go.tz or moevt.pmu@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 7:00 am to 3:00 pm at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders from Africa or Arabs or Afro-Arab firms upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Tanzania Shillings Three Hundred Thousand Only (TZS 300,000.00).

The method of payment will be by Banker's Draft, Banker's Cheque or Cash payable to: Principal Secretary Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar.

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7. All bids MUST be accompanied by an "Original Bid Security" in an acceptable form as described in the Bidding Document amounting to at least TZS 176,000,000.00.
8. All Bids must be accompanied by a Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and/or Sexual Harassment (SH) Declaration.
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**The Secretary of the Tender Board,
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World TB Day: Call for more investment to eradicate the disease

By Felister Peter

DESPITE concerted efforts by the government and various health stakeholders to eradicate Tuberculosis (TB), Tanzania remains one of the countries with the highest prevalence of the disease, accounting for 87 per cent of all patients worldwide.

The disease has continued to be a national and global epidemic since it was declared so in 1993 with the World Health Organization (WHO) global TB report of 2021 indicating that 26,800 deaths occurred in the specific year and 32,000 deaths in 2020.

According to WHO, Tanzania was estimated to have 133,000 TB patients in 2021, but only 84,791 new cases were reported, meaning there were 48,209 unreported cases, equivalent to 36 per cent.

Tanzania will join other countries to celebrate World Tuberculosis Day tomorrow to raise awareness about the devastating health, social and economic impact of the disease. This year's theme is 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives'.

The Management and Development for Health (MDH) works to assist the government in implementing various health interventions including TB and HIV/Aids services at the community level as well as health facilities with support from the Global Fund, U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

At community level, the organization implements its activities in seven regions namely Kagera, Mara, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Tanga. The regions are among the 16 regions countrywide that are supported by the Global Fund.

At facility level, MDH Tanzania implements HIV/Aids care and treatment services in four regions of Kagera, Geita, Dar es Salaam and Tabora with support from the PEPFAR and CDC. The regions were chosen for TB intervention due to the fact that between 20 and 30 per cent of HIV patients are also infected with TB.

Dr Anna Kiravu, Senior TB/HIV Manager at MDH Tanzania says that TB and HIV/Aids have close links whereas recent statistics show that 30 per cent of people with TB are living with HIV and it is estimated that be-



A mobile TB screening service at Apex Resources gold mine in Chunya District, Mbeya Region. The drive for early diagnosis and treatment took place from March 13th to 19th this year. Photo/ Guardian Correspondent

tween 10 and 15 per cent of people living with HIV are infected with TB.

On deaths, she says, 2019 data indicate that almost 44 per cent of all the deaths of people living with HIV/Aids were caused by TB.

"A single person with TB who has not started medication can infect between 10 and 15 people," said Dr Kiravu during a recent interview, adding that the organization has been providing education to health workers whereas in 2021, a total of 150 practitioners from four regions received the training.

According to her, those vulnerable to TB include cancer and diabetes pa-

tients, people living with HIV, children and miners. The list also includes prisoners and boarding school students due to congestion in dormitories.

Dr Hassan Mataka, Programme Manager in charge of Community TB Services at MDH Tanzania said this year's TB day theme 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives' is a call to the government and stakeholders to continue investing in the improvement of TB care and treatment to control infections as well as deaths.

"The theme reminds us that we still need to continue to invest resources to save lives; a lot has been done so far but

more still needs to be done," he said.

Dr Mataka said a number of achievements have been attained at community level since the organization started interventions in TB treatment whereas in 2021, a total of 23,241 new cases (27 per cent) were identified at community level out of 87,140 new cases notified countrywide. In the same year, at facility level, a total of 3,842 HIV positive persons were diagnosed with TB in Kagera, Geita, Tabora and Dar es Salaam. Dar es Salaam's Tembeke District is leading nationally with the highest number of TB patients due HIV/Aids prevalence and improved laboratory network.

He said the organization contributed to the increase in case detection in both public and private health facilities and provided training to 1,680 Community Health Workers (CHWs) in seven regions, supported transportation of sputum sample from non-diagnostic health facilities to TB

diagnostic facilities whereas a total of 128 motorbike riders from 56 district councils are paid allowances each month to do the job.

He said that MDH Tanzania has also trained 840 Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlet (ADDO) officers who have been enabled to identify and refer presumptive TB cases to facilities and training to 560 traditional healers who were equipped with knowledge on how to identify and refer presumptive TB cases to health facilities.

To improve access to TB diagnostics, MDH strategically supports activities that improve TB diagnostic technologies through provision of modern equipment, provides training on laboratory technologies and supports super users to conduct troubleshooting, maintenance and module replacement of testing site machines, he added.

On challenges, Dr Mataka said the outbreak of COVID-19 affected TB treatment as some patients stopped attending clinics which endangered their lives and people around them. He added that some TB patients, especially those from poor households, face catastrophic costs which contribute to their failure to properly follow medication as sometimes they cannot travel to health facilities due to lack of money.

"The country's geographic position makes it difficult for service providers to reach all the areas; there are limited TB diagnostic facilities (1,600) compared to over 8,000 health facilities which offer services," said Dr Mataka, calling upon patients to seek proper medication instead of seeking 'treatment' from traditional healers.

The government is implementing a number of strategies including the Leprosy Strategic Plan to achieve the goals of reducing Tuberculosis (TB) cases by 50 per cent and number of deaths by 75 per cent by 2025. Sustainable Development Goals target 3.3 calls for governments to end TB, HIV/Aids and malaria epidemics as well as neglected tropical diseases, and combat hepatitis, waterborne diseases and other communicable diseases by 2030.

Tanzania shines in women representation but work is not over

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

WITH recent and previous appointments of women to positions of power both in public and the private sector, Tanzania is not doing badly when it comes to gender parity.

But according to stakeholders, the work ahead is still cut out for the country to have a place among nations that leveled playground for both men and women.

The sixth phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been commended for adhering to these conventions, and for its commitment to implementing them amongst other rights.

Speaking last week in during TGNP's launch ceremony of a book entitled 'Women's Representation in Leadership and Decision-making in Tanzania, 2005-2020' last week, the guest of honour Amb. (rt'd) Nyasugara Kadege lauded the government for appointing women to positions that were formerly believed to be reserved for men.

"Women to hold high positions of power is not a privilege; it's our right," she said.

The retired envoy also commended TGNP for grooming different women leaders through their training programmes, saying that such grooming is a key for the nation to have competent leaders at all levels.

Kadege challenged women who aspire to be leaders to face challenges and obstacles without fear if at all they want to leave behind a legacy in the form of a work well done.

Anette Otilie Pettersen, Adviser for Cultural Affairs and Gender Equality at the Norwegian Embassy in Dar es Salaam said that Norway is committed to helping and ensuring that Tanzanian women gain a stronger position in the family, in the community, nationally and on the international arena.

"The fundamental aim of Norway's gender equality efforts is to increase the opportunities available to women and girls, promote their right to self-determination, and further their empowerment," she said.

"Unfortunately, the reality is that women are significantly underrepresented at all levels of decision-making processes and in governing bodies. Evidence shows that women's economic and political participation is fundamental to economic growth and peaceful societies."

Investing in equal opportunities for all has been Norway's most valuable investment and primary generator for its economic growth, she added.

Norway, through the Norwegian Agency for



Lilian Liundi, TGNP Executive Director (holding a microphone), speaks in Dar es Salaam last week during the launch of a book on women representation in leadership and decision-making in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo/Correspondent Daniel Semberya

Development Cooperation (NORAD) supported TGNP in strengthening women's political rights and empowerment in eight regions of Tanzania from 2018 to 2021.

"I would like to convey warm greetings from Tord Bruland and his team at NORAD; they are all very satisfied with TGNP's efforts and asked me to say a big thank you for the good cooperation," she said.

Pettersen lauded TGNP for the launch of a report on women's representation in leadership and decision-making in Tanzania 2005-2020 and the women and leadership database.

"I would also like to encourage TGNP to share your experience regarding women and leadership database with other partners such as the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) which is also supported by Norway. Together, we are stronger," she said.

In October last year, Norway got a new government which has a strong focus on gender equality. The importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) has been given a special focus. If women cannot decide over their own bodies, it affects their ability to participate - also in decision-making and political issues.

In light of this, she expressed hope that Tanzania will continue to prepare and promote strong women who can take the lead not only locally but also regionally and internationally.

According to her, over 15 years ago, Norway was the first country globally to pass a law that required that 40 per cent of board members in the different companies in the country should be women.

"This procedure brought quick major changes by increasing the number of women

in leadership in the country. Empowering women economically and their participation in political issues is a major factor for ensuring equal justice to all," she said.

"The modern competitive economy needs the best talents without considering gender."

She said Norway will continue to prioritise gender equality and defend women rights especially on leadership.

Taslim Madhani, Deputy Director for Analysis and Planning in the High Commission of Canada in Tanzania said that her government will work hand in hand with local women's rights organizations.

"Supporting women's efforts and capacity building is a cornerstone of Canada's feminist approach as they play a central role in spearheading change," she said.

She added that Canada understands that

when women's organizations are given support and flexibility, they are able to bring meaningful change and support other women in all their diversity.

"This is why Canada launched a \$150 million Women's Voice and Leadership programme to support local women's rights organizations to fight for equal rights in over 30 countries. In Tanzania, we are proud to work with TGNP and Women Fund Tanzania on this programme."

Tanzania is a party to various regional and international instruments which protect women's rights. Most of these instruments task state parties to abolish discriminatory practices and take legal and administrative measures to protect women.

Clean water essential to curbing spread of disease in East Africa

By Guardian Reporter

ON World Water Day, the United Nations recognises the critical and multidimensional role that water plays for individuals, households, communities, governments and businesses globally.

Access to safe drinking water - a precious resource often taken for granted - is a human right. However, access to clean, affordable water remains a real challenge for many people in the East and Horn of Africa, with vulnerable groups being disproportionately affected. Beyond using it for personal consumption, water also plays an enormous role in preserving people's health.

Extensive land borders, combined with intense trade and travel, facilitate the spread of infectious diseases across countries in the East African Community (EAC) region. The region has experienced frequent previous disease outbreaks in the past, such as cholera, measles, rift valley fever, yellow fever, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, and COVID-19, among others.

Good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices, that are consistently applied, can help to curb the spread of waterborne and other communicable diseases. This is especially important in areas that experience high levels of human mobility, particularly at border crossings and transportation corridors where local communities have a higher risk of infection.

Consequently, these critical public health 'hot spots' should be targeted with timely health, hygiene promotion and access to safe water interventions.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) aims to ensure universal and equitable access to safe and affordable water for those in need, complementing safe water provision with information about appropriate sanitation practices and the systematic promotion of good hygiene.

Together with the EAC Secretariat, IOM is currently implementing a regional health project targeting more than 6 million migrants, border and host communities at 19 key points of entry (PoEs) and migration routes in the six EAC partner states: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

This intervention is facilitated through the 'Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC Region (PanPrep)' project which is implemented through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German government.

The treaty for the Establishment of the EAC provides for joint action towards the prevention and control of epidemics of communicable and vector-borne diseases, as well as pandemics that might endanger the health and welfare of the residents of the partner states.

The EAC-IOM project aims to strengthen the capacity of governments in the region to prevent and address

the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases of public health concern in the EAC region. The project also has established hand washing stations and providing access to water in up to three selected high-risk areas in each of the 6 partner states.

Through the intervention, which runs from June 2021 to May 2022, IOM is connecting hand washing facilities with sustainable, clean and running water through context-adapted interventions, for example by building water systems in South Sudan and Uganda, and connecting them to existing national water systems that are usually located far from the PoEs, and by constructing a rainwater harvesting system in Rwanda.

At Wau airport in South Sudan, a water yard with a fire extinguisher water collection point, sanitation facility and hand washing station were constructed.

"The airport administration is grateful for this intervention, as Wau airport is now the only airport in South Sudan with a reliable source of running water," said Stephen KijuYoungule, Wau airport manager.

He added: "Before, the airport administration suffered from the lack of water, and had to hire water truckers and donkey carts to supply water to the airport. It would take 2 to 3 days to arrive at the airport, and in the meantime the airport was left without water for cleaning."

To date, more than 4.7 million people have been reached by behaviour change interventions, including health and hygiene risk awareness activities and capacity building of key community influencers. Additionally, 31 fixed hand washing facilities, 3 water yards, 5 toilet/latrine blocks and 4 pipeline connections to a water source have been constructed across the 6 countries to improve access to clean water and hygiene services in high-volume migration areas.

Despite this intervention, the need remains to scale up the preparedness and response capacity of the Partner States, ensuring access to clean and running water for the entire population, as well as hygiene services, knowledge and behavioral change interventions.

IOM's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives throughout the East and Horn of Africa have included the construction and rehabilitation of boreholes and wells, water trucking, surface water treatment systems, latrine construction, hygiene promotion campaigns, and distribution of hygiene kits, among others. IOM is also working with communities and governments across the region to protect water resources.

The Organisation is committed to guaranteeing inclusion and fighting inequalities that principally affect women, girls, disabled people, refugees, and internally displaced people - who are more often the poorest and the most marginalized when it comes to their basic human rights to water. They should never be left behind.



IOM demonstrates correct hand washing practices to community influencers in Kenya. Photo: IOM Kenya

Africa to drastically accelerate progress on water, sanitation and hygiene, says report

By Special Correspondent

ACHIEVING the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets on water, sanitation and hygiene in Africa will require a dramatic acceleration in the current rates of progress, according to a UNICEF/WHO special report focused on Africa, launched yesterday at the World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal.

This special report calls for urgent action to be taken on a continent where water scarcity and weak sanitation and hygiene services can threaten peace and development.

Between 2000 and 2020, Africa's population increased from 800 million to 1.3 billion people. About 500 million people gained access to basic drinking water and 290 million to basic sanitation services, according to a report of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), launched during a session of the World Water Forum hosted by the African

Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) with UNICEF.

On the continent, however, 418 million people still lack even a basic level of drinking water service, 779 million lack basic sanitation services (including 208 million who still practice open defecation) and 839 million still lack basic hygiene services.

Achieving the SDG targets in Africa will require a 12-fold increase in current rates of progress on safely managed drinking water, a 20-fold increase for safely managed sanitation and a 42-fold increase for basic hygiene services, according to the report.

"Equitable access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene is not only the foundation of health and development for children and communities. Water is life, water is development, water is peace", said Marie-Pierre Poirier, UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa.

"In a time when water scarcity fuels conflicts and water points are tar-

geted, UNICEF calls for urgent actions. We need water, sanitation and hygiene in schools, especially for girls who may miss school because there are no toilets or because they have to fetch water. Women and children need a safe access to water. As climate change puts additional pressure on resources, we need climate risk-sensitive and resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services for children and their communities. And we need it now".

Significant inequalities persist within countries including between urban and rural, between sub-national regions and between the richest and the poorest. In urban areas, 2 out of 5 people lack safely managed drinking water, 2 out of 3 people lack safely managed sanitation, and half the population lacks basic hygiene services. In rural areas, 4 out of 5 people lack safely managed drinking water, 3 out of 4 people lack safely managed sanitation, and 7 out of 10 lack basic hygiene services.



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 23rd March 2022

United Republic of Tanzania

Project Name : CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ZANZIBAR

Loan No : 0872

Contract Title : PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF GAMBA SECONDARY SCHOOL IN NORTH REGION UNGUJA

Reference No: MoEV/BADEA/CW 2/2022

- The Government of United Republic of Tanzania represented by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar under Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has received a loan from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) toward the cost of the **CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ZANZIBAR**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF GAMBA SECONDARY SCHOOL IN NORTH REGION UNGUJA**.
- The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training – Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF GAMBA SECONDARY SCHOOL IN NORTH REGION UNGUJA**, including *One 2-Storeys Classrooms and Administration block, One 2-Storeys Staffs Quarter block, One 2-Storeys Boys' and Girl's Hostel block and One Single Story Cafeteria block, construction period is 30 months including 18 months for construction of buildings and 12 months defect liability period.*
- On the basis of a competitive bidding, restricted to Arab, African or Arab-African firms, according to the procedures of BADEA and in coordination with the Government" (as per the loan agreement).
- Interested eligible bidders from Africa or Arabs or Afro-Arab firms may obtain further information from Ministry of Education and Vocational Training – Zanzibar, Secretary of Tender Board, pmu@moez.go.tz or moevt.pmu@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 7:00 am to 3:00 pm at the address given below
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders from Africa or Arabs or Afro-Arab firms upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Tanzania Shillings Three Hundred Thousand Only (TZS 300,000.00).

The method of payment will be by Banker's Draft, Banker's Cheque or Cash payable to: Principal Secretary Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar.

ACCOUNT IN USD:

Account name: Mapato Elimu.

Account No. : 075630400

Bank Name: The Peoples Bank of Zanzibar Limited.

ACCOUNT IN TZS:

Account name: Mapato Wizara ya Elimu.

Account No. : 0404399000

Bank Name: The Peoples Bank of Zanzibar Limited.

The Bidding Documents will be sent by post or courier. The cost of courier shall be the responsibility of the firm.

- Bids shall be valid for a period of at least **One Hundred Twenty (120) days** after Bid Opening and must be delivered to the address below at or before **Thursday, 5th May, 2022 at 10:00 am**, electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids shall be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at **Thursday, 5th May, 2022 at 11: 00 am**.
- All bids **MUST** be accompanied by an "Original Bid Security" in an acceptable form as described in the Bidding Document amounting to at least TZS 176,000,000.00.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and/or Sexual Harassment (SH) Declaration.
- The address referred to above is: -

The Secretary of the Tender Board,
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training,
Ground Floor, Room number 17/18,
Mazini Area, Airport Road
P.O Box 394, ZANZIBAR.
City/Country: Zanzibar town - Tanzania
Email: pmu@moez.go.tz , moevt.pmu@gmail.com , info@moez.go.tz

Europe's wartime fuel crisis signals potential for an African renewable energy renaissance

By Jakkie Cilliers

THE European Commission's REPowerEU plan is to reduce demand for Russian gas by two-thirds in 2022 and make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels by 2030. In 2021 the European Union (EU) imported 155 billion cubic metres of natural gas from Russia, close to 40% of its total gas consumption.

Constraints on Russian oil and gas will inevitably ignite the search for new supplies in Africa, the most unexplored region globally. Already in mid-February, on the sidelines of the EU-African Union (AU) summit, Tanzania's president Samia Suluhu Hassan said tensions in Ukraine were generating growing interest in the country's gas reserves – the sixth-largest in Africa.

In addition to its solar and green hydro potential, Africa could emerge as the world's next frontier for hydrocarbon exploration as developments in Ukraine and Russia increase demand for non-Russian oil and gas. In 2021 alone, oil and gas were discovered in Angola, Namibia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Resuming and scaling up solar projects in North Africa could fully replace Russian gas as a source of European energy. In fact, Russia's invasion of Ukraine could unlock an African energy renaissance that could leapfrog fossil fuel usage in Europe and Africa. It could also stimulate and diversify North Africa's stagnant economies and make

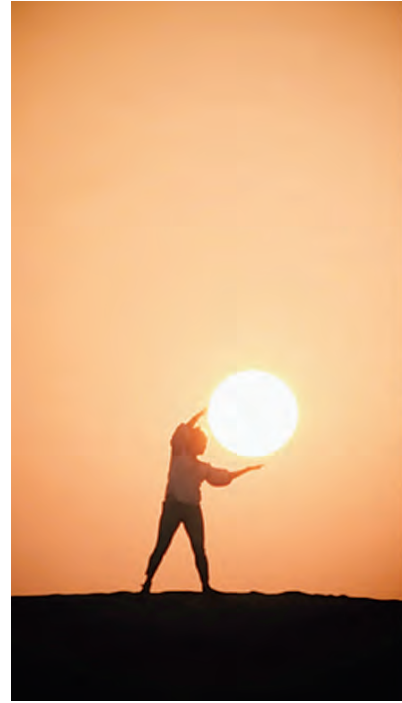
large projects such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) Grand Inga hydroelectric scheme commercially viable.

The DESERTEC Foundation has been promoting the use of large solar farms in the Sahara for decades. In North Africa, their plans were stymied by the Arab Spring instability and Germany's astonishing lack of foresight in banking on Russian gas.

Theoretically, the Sahara could supply four times the world's current energy demand. Even a fraction of that could replace the energy from Russian gas imports. Solar can also ramp up rapidly, perhaps beating the plans to build more liquefied natural gas terminals. Solar is also much more environmentally sustainable than increasing fracking in the United States or getting Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Venezuela to step up oil and gas production.

Accommodating solar electricity feed from North Africa would require additional infrastructure. Once the solar systems are up and running, they need to be connected – so the Mediterranean Electricity Ring project would have to be strengthened. More undersea electricity cables would need to be run to southern Europe and onward to the European power grid.

Some projects are already underway. Tunisia and Algeria are planning links under the Strait of Sicily to reach Italy and Spain, and plans to connect to Morocco with undersea high-voltage direct-current cables with 3.6GW capacity are being



From left: Unsplash | Wind turbines at the Gouda wind power facility in Gouda, South Africa. Unsplash | Wind turbines at the Umoya Energy wind farm in Hopefield, South Africa. File photo

discussed. Greece and Egypt are in the final phase of an agreement for a submarine interconnector with 2GW capacity.

Because Europe has the largest synchronous power grid globally, it's relatively easy to bolt on additional capacity and find alternative supply routes to transport electricity northwards. Blueprints for all of this exist, but to date, Germany – Europe's largest economy – has preferred dependence on fossil fuels from Russia.

There are challenges though. Covering 20% of the Sahara Desert with

solar panels, as was modelled in one recent study, could raise local temperatures in the desert by 1.5°C. However, the offset is a reduction in CO2 emissions that such large solar farms would bring.

Some of the associated analysis and modelling was recently published by Advancing Earth and Space Science. The authors noted that "careful spatial planning and improved solar panel efficiency will be needed to minimise the unintended consequences of massive desert solar farms in North Africa."

The consequences of such a large

project require additional research given the knock-on effects on the global climate. Meanwhile, more modest undertakings could compensate for the energy deficit that would follow ending gas imports from Russia.

When European demand is low, the spare electricity could provide energy for water desalination in North Africa. If located in the region, the associated manufacturing and maintenance requirements are an opportunity to industrialise North Africa's stagnant economies.

The potential of green hydrogen from large hydroelectric projects in Africa is the second solution in the waiting, although more environmentally and ecologically controversial. Africa has the highest untapped hydropower potential worldwide, with only 37GW of installed capacity – roughly 11% of its potential. The continent added less than 1GW in 2020 compared to 14.5GW in East Asia and the Pacific.

The main reason for low implementation is the need for transmission networks to transport electricity from dam to consumer, such as the proposed Grand Inga scheme (potential of 42GW).

The first two dams, Inga I and II, are built and Inga III is imminent. But the larger Grand Inga has been in planning since the 1950s. The mega project has been perpetually held back by poor planning, inefficiencies, corruption – and the need to lay transmission lines over several thousand kilometres to South African and Nigerian markets.

Grand Inga becomes instantly commercially viable if it uses its vast electricity production to produce hydrogen at source and convert iron ore and bauxite deposits into steel. The finished products, green hydrogen and green steel, could be shipped to Europe and elsewhere by sea.

Before Russia invaded Ukraine, annual demand for hydrogen was forecast to increase from 90 million tons to 140 million tons in 2030, with green hydrogen having a 20% share. Europe, especially Germany, is hungry for green hydrogen and views on its potential have skyrocketed since the Ukraine invasion. Africa could meet a large portion of that demand, eventually also providing energy to the DRC, which has among the lowest electricity access rates worldwide.

A Grand Inga project based on a hydrogen future and green steel could turn a white elephant project into reality, with huge benefits for a region endowed with some of the largest mineral reserves globally. Many of these minerals are crucial for a global transition to renewable energy, especially battery production.

Although reducing reliance on Russian gas won't be easy for the EU, Africa has the potential to reduce Europe's energy dependence on Russia. It could also help the global economy transition more rapidly to renewables and use that opportunity to accelerate its own development and transition directly to renewable. Who will take this forward? **DM**

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 250 00--

Word fit puzzle grid with clues on the left: 3 letters RAT, EAT, BYE; 4 letters MERE, MENU, OSLO, OMAN, REIN; 5 letters HATE, MEED, ORES, BULL; 6 letters AMPERE, RACHIS, DINER, NOBLE; 7 letters BROWSER, BULGARE, OMADHAUN; 8 letters EMINENCE, DYNAMITE; 9 letters CALAMITY.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares and clues: Across: 1 the sixth day of the week; 6 bring about or perform; 7 Country of a thousand hills; 10 tala; 11 quite, gentle and submissive; 13 Togo's Capital; 15 fever marked by severe internal bleeding; 17 ethnic group in Chemba district; 19 move towards the land; 20 hinnies; 22 a light meal; 23 a narrow passage of water connecting two seas; 24 a stiff bristle growing from the ear or flower of barley and rye.

Solutions for the word fit and crossword puzzles, including words like BULGARE, RACHIS, and various crossword answers.

Accommodating solar electricity feed from North Africa would require additional infrastructure. Once the solar systems are up and running, they need to be connected – so the Mediterranean Electricity Ring project would have to be strengthened. More undersea electricity cables would need to be run to southern Europe and onward to the European power grid.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Includes a weekly program schedule for Monday through Sunday with various time slots and program names.

Davis and Shirtliff pushes for expertise to unlock opportunities in underground water exploration

By Guardian Reporter

DAVIS & Shirtliff, the leading supplier of water and energy related equipment in the East Africa region is calling on the government to institute a policy framework to support local capacity and expertise in sustainable ground water abstraction.

As the world marked the World Water Day yesterday, the firm said will make it easier for Tanzania to tap into groundwater resources to boost access to water for more households and reduce significantly frequent water shortages experienced in the country's cities and towns.

"There is sufficient local technical know-how and access to affordable equipment to reduce the costs of accessing groundwater," said Davis & Shirtliff Country Managing Director Benjamin Munyao.

According to him, large populations spend up to a third of their day fetching water from the nearest water natural source - reducing their active income generating or economic activities time, a trend that has contributed to increased poverty levels.

"Lack of access to nearby community water infrastructure has also increased the



vulnerability of rural households to human/wildlife conflict and exposed users to risk of waterborne diseases," asserted Munyao. Historically, he said, most of the equipment required to access groundwater resources in Tanzania and across Africa has been prohibi-

tively expensive but now there are other, more affordable quality options that are readily available such as the Dayliff range of products from Davis & Shirtliff.

"New and affordable technology is driving the mass uptake of sustainable solar powered borehole pumping solutions, which are known for their inherent reliability with zero running costs and low environmental impact," he said.

Munyao suggested that promotion of solar pumping for groundwater extraction though education, incentivization should be a key aspect of policy development by African governments when looking at sustainable groundwater use.

"By pumping using solar power, remote communi-

ties with no access to the main electric grid, are able to access groundwater resources," he added.

He further pointed out that creating an enabling environment for sustainable groundwater exploration will be the greatest gift from Government to Tanzanians as the globe marks World Water Day. The United Nations has chosen the theme 'Groundwater: Making the Invisible, Visible' for the 2022 World Water Day celebrations.

According to data by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, as of March 2021, access to water in rural Tanzania reached 72.3 percent from 70.1 percent in 2020. In urban areas, the access has increased to 86 percent from 84 percent in 2020.

Jumaa Aweso, Minister

of Water and Irrigation said that the ministry targets at improving water accessibility in rural areas to 85 percent by the year 2025.

The Davis & Shirtliff Group is the leading supplier of water related equipment in the East African region. Founded in 1946, its core business activities are focused on seven principal product sectors namely Water Pumps, Boreholes, Swimming Pools, Water Treatment, Generators, Solar Equipment and Irrigation.

The group is Kenyan based and operates through a network of Kenyan branches as well as regional subsidiaries in Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Rwanda, South Sudan, DRC, Zimbabwe and a partnership in Ethiopia.

Firm takes on telco giants with cheaper internet calls

NAIROBI

TWO long-time friends who had travelled out of the country had difficulty calling each other and their families back home due to exorbitant roaming charges.

Out of their frustration came an alternative telephone service that works off an existing internet connection.

Armed with Sh11 million in own savings, Elias Mwangi and George Mukenya started Elige Communications - a voice over internet protocol (VOIP) service provider that allows calls to be made at 60 percent less than on telco networks.

"Call rates are not pegged on subscribers' geographical location, meaning that even those in the diaspora still use the service as if they are in Kenya," said Mr Mwangi, 35, an IT graduate from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

Active users

Elige, which started in 2014, operates from Westlands, Nairobi and recently unveiled an application dubbed Ambia offering its over 80,000 active users a consistent platform for calls.

Introducing the app was also partly in compliance with subscriber registration requirements of the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA).

To be connected to the Elige network, a customer downloads the app on Google playstore or Apple store on their phone, then registers as they would for a sim card.

Upon successful registration, a subscriber gets a unique number bearing Elige prefixes including 02056, 02057, 02058, and 02059.

As a way of dealing with fraudulent subscriber registrations, Ambia has a functionality that compares the face on someone's ID to a picture captured in real time.

"This enables us to confirm that the person sub-



Elias Mwangi, Elige Communications Limited's CEO, at his Westlands office

mitting the information is actually the person on the ID," says Mr Mukenya, 38.

But their entrepreneurship journey has not been without setbacks. The two have had to fiercely fight incumbents with some of their disputes ending up in courts just to earn a seat at the telcos table.

The fight for recognition as a VOIP provider has been the fiercest with one telco "devising unfair practices" that have eaten into Elige's revenues, slowing down expansion.

First, it was the telco's hesitation to sign interconnect agreements with the start-up to govern how business will be carried out between parties.

Then followed the dropping of calls coming from Elige, with the telco alleging that they are international calls yet they are internet originated calls.

In 2018, the CA fined Safaricom Sh449 million

for failing to connect calls made to smaller telecommunications firms including Elige Communications.

Gross turnover

Mr Mukenya explains that before Covid-19 struck, the firm was making an annual gross turnover of Sh86 million, but the fights with the mobile network operators have hit it hard causing revenue to drop almost 50 percent.

"What we need from the government is protection especially from the incumbents so they don't keep on interfering with our networks," he says.

The company says if the playing field was leveled, it would be talking of 500,000 subscribers.

Mr Mukenya says Ambia, the app offers a similar service as WhatsApp. The only difference is that it is operated by a local firm, thus generates revenue for government through taxes.

The app has brought competition to over the top (OTTs) players such as WhatsApp and Skype that do not pay taxes to government since they are owned by foreign firms.

"Aside from bringing competition in this space, we are able to bring revenue to the government," points out Mr Mukenya.

Owing to the nature of the service, the firm's biggest expenditure -aside from infrastructure costs -is integration with getaways such as Visa Mastercard and KCB.

These getaways charge anywhere between one and three percent of the revenue that the company makes.

Despite the setbacks, the founders are optimistic about the future buoyed by a recent review of iGrowing enterprises

In December, the regulator slashed domestic mobile termination rates (MTRs) and fixed termi-

nation rates (FTRs) to Sh0.12 from Sh0.99 effective January 1, 2022.

"At end of every month we do what we call net offs, where each operator tells the other the number of calls they've terminated on their network we pay each other the difference," says Mr Mukenya.

But being the dominant player, Safaricom has enjoyed being paid, leaving the smaller telcos with limited resources to expand.

The two however see the decision by the CA as the first step to stem the tide, allowing the smaller firms to use their savings to grow their enterprises.

"And what that means is that there will be a ripple effect where we will be able to employ more people and be able to offer an array of other products along the way," says Mr Mwangi of the firm that has seven employees.

Treasury prepares to slash M-Pesa charges

NAIROBI

THE Treasury is working on a proposal to cut M-Pesa transfer charges in a move that looks set to hurt Safaricom's revenues from a service that makes more money than voice.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani told the Senate that there was need to make M-Pesa cheaper at a time when the mobile money platform has become deeply entrenched in Kenyans' business and daily lives.

The push to review the charges will add to the battles that Safaricom is facing over its dominance, including the move to cut calling rates and calls to have it broken up and forced to run M-Pesa as a separate business from the telecoms service.

Mr Yatani said the Treasury was aware of the rising concerns among consumers and small businesses over M-Pesa's transaction charges.

M-Pesa accounted for about 99.9 percent of the value of mobile money transactions, underlining the entrenchment of the platform in Kenya's economy.

"Another source of concern with mobile money stems from the perception both by consumers and small businesses that the rents from digital technology are unfairly accruing to Safaricom Plc," said Mr Yatani in his presentation to the Senate on Safaricom's dominance.

"This is in the area of unconscionable/excessive rates and Safaricom being a critical trading partner for SMEs and consumers... We will soon be presenting some proposed amendments to deal with this scenario."

The full cost, including sending and withdrawal, of transferring Sh5,000 on M-Pesa is Sh159 while Airtel charges Sh75.

It costs Sh296 to transfer Sh25,000 on M-Pesa and Sh160 on Airtel.

Safaricom is Kenya's biggest firm by market capitalisation and dwarfs the two other operators in the mobile market - Airtel Kenya and Telkom Kenya.

The smaller operators have long argued that Safaricom enjoys a dominant position because it accounts for 90 percent of revenues in areas such as mobile money transfer, voice calls and text messages.

Safaricom has consistently rejected the accusations of dominance amid repeated parliamentary petitions for probe of market abuse by rivals.

Data from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) shows that M-Pesa grew its share of the value of mobile money transactions in the last three years to hit Sh2.206 trillion (99.9 percent) out of the total of Sh2.208 trillion worth of transactions in 2021.

M-Pesa's growth ate into the market of Airtel Money and Telkom's T-Kash in the period, with their shares dropping to 0.2 percent and 0.1 percent respectively.

Safaricom's control of the market has prompted a push for regulatory changes by its rivals who allege that the telco is abusing dominance.

The Treasury in earlier reports warned that the collapse of the M-Pesa service would cause widespread disruption in the economy.

The Treasury said a technology disaster

affecting the M-Pesa-dominated mobile transactions was now a fiscal risk, placing the money transfer systems among other potential threats to the economy that are watched keenly by policy wonks.

The report noted that various financial products have been leveraged on the M-Pesa payment channel, increasing the inter-linkages between the technology and the banking sector.

The Treasury's comment on M-Pesa charges emerged in a period when the platform has overtaken voice to become the biggest revenue earner for Safaricom, underlining the growth of the financial service that was launched on March 6, 2007.

M-Pesa has since evolved from a basic SIM card-based money transfer application into a fully-fledged financial service offering loans and savings in conjunction with local banks, plus merchant payment services.

Safaricom's Lipa na M-Pesa service, which was launched in June 2013, has aggressively recruited merchants across the country, including large and small businesses such as fuel stations, supermarkets, corner shops and eateries.

In the year ended March 2021, M-Pesa revenues stood at Sh82.64 billion, ahead of voice at Sh82.55 billion.

Overall, the telco recorded revenues of Sh264 billion, yielding a net profit of Sh68.68 billion.

In 2020, voice contributed Sh86.5 billion to the telco's revenue haul, ahead of M-Pesa's Sh84.4 billion.

Although the Treasury is now turning its guns on Safaricom, it has been a major beneficiary of the company's profit machine through taxes and dividends.

The Treasury is the second-biggest shareholder in Safaricom with a stake of 35 percent behind multinationals Vodacom Group Limited and Vodafone Group Plc, which together own 40 percent.

In the year ended March 2021, the government earned a dividend of Sh19.21 billion, after the telco paid out a total of Sh1.37 per share in the period.

The Treasury is also due to pick up another payout of Sh8.9 billion at the end of this month after the telco announced an interim dividend of Sh0.64 per share in February, payable on March 31.

The government also charges excise on mobile money transfer fees at 12 percent, which has been a contributor to the charges going up in recent years.

Meanwhile, Safaricom also pays direct corporate taxes to the government, amounting to Sh24.9 billion in the year to March 2021.

The CBK has also been weighing in on the relatively high cost of mobile money transactions, saying that it can force the charges down if it launches its digital version of the shilling.

"Assuming the central bank charges no fees for CBDC [central bank digital currency], it would facilitate small-value online transactions given relatively low (or no) associated fees compared to the current payment charges," said the CBK in a discussion paper issued last month on the proposed digital currency.

Bitcoin hits \$42,000 mark as world's largest hedge fund to invest in crypto

NEW YORK

BITCOIN broke through the \$42,000 mark on the news that Ray Dalio's Bridgewater Associates hedge fund is set to invest in the world's preeminent cryptocurrency.

Bitcoin shot up yesterday, rallying on the news that the incoming South Korean president is bullish on crypto.

The cryptocurrency market capitalisation shot up 2 percent today on the back of several positive factors, such as the EU abandoning critical legislation that would have led to an effective ban on bitcoin mining in the

Bitcoin has rallied up 3.6 percent today, breaking through the \$40,000 mark in the early hours of the morning UK-time.

Ethereum is also up 5 percent, to \$2,644, with recent data showing that Ethereum increased its transaction volume throughout 2021 to peak above VISA.

Ethereum moved \$11.6 trillion in 2021, with VISA falling behind at \$10.4 trillion in payments volume. With the onset of inflation of major fiat currencies, more and more investors are looking for an alternative to the dollar.

The inflation rate has caused US investor and fund manager Bill Gross to pledge his allegiance to bitcoin.

Speaking this week to CNBC he said: "I do think we need an alternative to the dollar as we've seen in the last week or two and that you know, there will be several survivors and I'm invested to a small extent in bitcoin."

Then a major bullish signal appeared in Asia, with the election of a pro-crypto president in South Korea on March 14.

Conservative South Korean President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol is now set to move into the Blue House in Seoul in May.

The leader of the People Power Party has not been shy in issuing contentious views on feminism, North Korea, and also cryptocurrencies.

Ethereum jumped 16.5 percent in a week to \$3,020 after its co-founder Vitalik Buterin appeared on the front cover of Time magazine.

The news that Bridgewater Associates, the world's largest hedge fund with \$150bn in assets, is to invest in bitcoin is the brightest signal yet



that institutional finance sees a long-term upward trajectory for the cryptocurrency.

The hedge fund is one of several financial institutions that are adding bitcoin to their investment portfolios.

Dalio's firm is following a July 2021 move by London-based hedge fund Marshall Wace, which was reported to be starting up its own crypto fund.

Dalio announced in May 2021 that he has a personal investment in bitcoin, but this is the first

signal that the world's largest hedge fund is planning to put its own money into derivatives backed by bitcoin.

The company told CoinDesk in February: "While we won't comment on our positions, we can say Bridgewater continues to actively research crypto but is not currently planning on investing in crypto."

Recently, there have been signals of a shift in attitude towards bitcoin from both institutions and regulations.

The Federal Reserve interest rate hike will rein in individual and corporate spending with a knock-on effect on risky assets, such as cryptocurrencies.

On Wednesday the Federal Reserve announced a quarter-point interest rate hike as prices in the US have risen at their fastest pace in 40 years.

Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell concluded a two-day meeting stressing that ongoing increases in the rate "will be appropriate".

This is the first time interest rates have been increased since 2018 and the move comes amid soaring inflation due to successive monetary expansion measures to stimulate the economy throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

But how will the hike

in interest rates affect the cryptocurrency sector?

Bitcoin has been touted as a hedge against rising inflation, however, it responds to reduced liquidity in the same way as other risky assets.

Since last autumn, when the US Federal Reserve began to taper in its bond purchases, investments in cryptocurrencies have retracted with the reduced liquidity in markets.

Elena Garidis, CFO and co-founder of Defy Trends told Yahoo Finance that crypto will ride out the impact in "relatively stable territory". She said: "The traditional markets have already priced in two rate hikes, which infers that at this point we could be in relatively stable territory

for crypto, specifically bitcoin.

However Lisa Loud CEO of Fluid Defi, aid that "crypto usually suffers a setback when rates are higher, mainly because low rates inspire investors to look for other ways to earn returns for their capital".

She added: "In this case, we have a bit of a tug of war in play because bitcoin signals are bullish for many reasons.

"I expect it will have an impact, but that impact will be mitigated by two things: first, there is increased demand for Bitcoin as a means of moving currency out of sanctioned countries; and second, a larger amount of Bitcoin capital has moved outside the US due to regulatory conditions."

Panera enters chicken sandwich competition after 2 years in making

NEW YORK

PANERA on Wednesday officially entered the chicken sandwich competition.

On March 30th, "Chef's Chicken Sandwiches" will be available at Panera locations nationwide and via the company's app. Diners will have two options: the "Signature Take" and the "Spicy Take." Both include a quarter pound of all-white meat chicken breast filet, marinated and seasoned with the chain's spice blend.

Each filet is topped with a crunchy topping. The Signature version includes parmesan crisps and topped with greens on a brioche roll; the Spicy take features crispy pickle chips alongside garlic aioli and topped with a buffalo sauce. The sandwiches begin at \$10.99.

Panera's Chief Brand and Concept Officer Eduardo Luz told Yahoo Finance the sandwich is made in "Panera fashion," with no fillers or breading, "nothing like that ... just high quality meat," taking a bit of a stab at the competition in the fight for foodies.

From the very beginning of 2021, the chicken sandwich war between fast food giants captured the attention of consumers. The big bet on those entrees paid off, but Popeyes remained on top.

The restaurant chain first dropped its chicken sandwich entree in 2019 to challenge Chick-fil-A at its own game.

"Data suggests that chicken sandwiches continue to benefit quick-service restaurants," R.J. Hottovy, Placer.ai's head of analytical research, told Yahoo Finance.

"Most chains are working to return to pre-pandemic foot traffic levels, but Popeyes remained well ahead of its 2019 visit trends in 2021," he added.

The analyst noted the boost supported Popeye's claims that it reached new customers thanks to its savory sandwich. During the year, declines in the chain's foot traffic were fairly modest, according to Hottovy.

For Chick-fil-A, the excitement around its chicken sandwich may have dimmed down, data suggests. Hottovy said it "continues to trail its pre-pandemic visitation trends;" however 2019 was "an exceptional year for its chicken sandwiches" making it hard to beat.

On the other hand, guests seem to be enjoying Chick-fil-A's chicken sandwich more, according to a survey from restaurant

review aggregator Merchant Centric.

Conducted between January and June of this year, respondents scored Chick-fil-A with an average star rating of 4.39, compared to Popeye's average rating of 3.39.

For newcomers like McDonald's, Burger King, Taco Bell and KFC, the nearly 2-year long wait to bring a chicken sandwich to the table may have been worth it, according to Placer.ai.

The Golden Arches debuted its chicken sandwich in late February with three different versions: Crispy, Spicy and Crispy Deluxe. It saw foot traffic slightly increase the week of March 1st following the debut, down only 17 percent compared to 2019 levels. That's compared to foot traffic down 29.6% the week of February 15th prior to the launch.

McDonald's seems to have been able to maintain the momentum with other efforts made in addition to new menu items like its new growth strategy, including the three 'D's': digital, delivery and drive-thru. Foot traffic at McDonald's was down just 3% during the week of December 6th, 2021.

Taco Bell unveiled a unique entree into the war with its Chicken Sandwich Taco the same week as McDonald's. The chain saw foot traffic down 34.9% compared to 2019 the week prior, which ticked up to -27.0% the week of March 1st, 2021. Afterward, visits were down just 10.8 percent the week of March 15th, 2021. As of December 6th, foot traffic is off by only 4.9 percent.

KFC rolled out a quarter-pound sandwich at the end of February for \$3.99, which may have given foot traffic a bit of a boost as well, moving from -37 percent the week of March 22nd to -23.9 percent the week of March 8th, 2021. During the week of December 6th, foot traffic was down 17 percent.

Meanwhile, Burger King released its entree the Ch'King in late May, a hand breaded chicken fillet topped with Burger King's own specialty mayonnaise-based sauce, plus pickles on a brioche potato bun.

Following the release, foot traffic was down 4.2 percent in the first week of June, compared to -13.1 percent prior to its release. The momentum may not have stuck around however, especially as consumers are spooked by the recent rise in COVID-19 cases from the omicron variant. As of December 6th, foot traffic at Burger King is down 10.7 percent.



ITV

SATURDAY 19 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Korean: Jumong rpt
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:15	Igizo: Rebeca
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean: Jumong
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Mwaka 1 wa Mh. Rais Samia Suluhu rpt
22:00	ITV TOP 10
22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15	DWTV

SUNDAY 20 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: Uzalo rpt
11:35	Bongo Movie rpt:
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Kipindi Maalum: Mwaka 1 wa Mh. Rais Samia Suluhu rpt
16:30	ITV Top 10
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Rebeca
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:15	Mizengwe
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:15	Bongo Movie:
00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt
02:05	Al Jazeera

MONDAY 21 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habai za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	ITV Top Ten

11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Usafiri wako rp
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Mjue Zaidi
13:45	Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Art and Lifestyle rpt
14:15	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	Uchumi wetu
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Albu yako rpt
18:15	DWTV: Kesho leo
18:50	Kipindi Maalum: Women Mean Business
19:00	Afya ya Jamii
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:05	Dakika 45
22:00	Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW
22:15	Soap: Love to Death
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

TUESDAY 22 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habai za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Jagina rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Afya ya jamii
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt:
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Yu wapi
18:15	Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW rpt
18:30	Uchumi na biashara
19:00	Jarida la wanawake
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:30	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF
21:45	Chetu ni chetu
22:20	Soap: Love to Death
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

WEDNESDAY 23 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Uchumi wetu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jarida la wanawake
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:45	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF
14:15	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
18:30	Ijue Sheria
19:00	Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Albu Yako
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:35	Ripoti Maalum
22:10	Soap: Love to Death
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

THURSDAY 24 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habai za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The base
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Ijue sheria rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
13:30	Igizo: Rebeca
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Jagina
18:50	Kipindi Maalum: Women Mean Busi-

19:00	ness
19:30	Usafiri wako
20:00	Soap: Uzalo
21:05	Malumbano ya hoja
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

FRIDAY 25 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habai za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Usafiri wako
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30	Chetu ni Chetu rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Chetu ni Chetu rpt
14:15	Igizo: Rebeca rpt
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
17:30	Kiislam
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean: Jumong rpt
19:00	Shamba lulu
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipima Joto
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

SATURDAY 26 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Korean: Jumong rpt
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:15	Igizo: Rebeca
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean: Jumong
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Rebeca
21:30	Art and Lifestyle
22:00	ITV TOP 10

22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15	DWTV

SUNDAY 27 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: Uzalo rpt
11:35	Bongo Movie rpt:
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwangaza
16:30	ITV Top 10
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Rebeca
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:15	Mizengwe
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:15	Bongo Movie:
00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt
02:05	Al Jazeera

CAPITAL

Wed 23 March

WORLD

UN warns against 'sleepwalking' to climate disaster

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned on Monday that the world is "sleepwalking to catastrophe" and the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal is in danger.

With the planet warming by as much as 1.2 degrees, and where climate disasters have forced 30 million to flee their homes, Guterres warned: "We are sleepwalking to climate catastrophe."

The goal to limit future warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, highlighted in the Paris Agreement on climate change, and driven home in last November's COP26, gathering in Glasgow, is now on "life support" and "in intensive care," the UN chief told the Economist Sustainability Summit.

According to the top UN official, while some progress was made at COP26 last year, "the enormous emissions gap" underscored the fact "the main problem was not solved - it was not even properly addressed."

"Keeping 1.5 alive requires a 45 percent

reduction in global emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by mid-century," he said.

According to current national commitments however, global emissions are set to increase by almost 14 percent during the rest of the decade.

Last year alone, global energy-related CO2 emissions grew by 6 percent "to their highest levels in history," Guterres said, as coal emissions surged "to record highs."

"In our globally connected world, no country and no corporation, can insulate itself from these levels of chaos."

Noting that developed and emerging G20 economies account for 80 percent of all global emissions, he drew attention to a high dependence on coal but underscored that "our planet can't afford a climate blame game."

Referring to developed countries, Guterres said that they must not put the onus on emerging economies to accelerate their transition nor must emerging economies responding by saying, "you exported carbon-



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres

intensive heavy industrial activities to us in return for cheaper goods."

"We can't point fingers while the planet burns," the secretary-general stressed.

"Countries could become so consumed by the immediate fossil fuel supply gap that they neglect or knee-cap policies to cut fossil fuel use," Guterres insisted. "This is madness."

As fossil fuels reliance continues to put the global economy and energy security at the mercy of geopolitical shocks and crises, the timeline to cut emissions by 45 percent is extremely tight, he said.

"Developed countries, multilateral development banks, private financial institutions and companies with the technical know-how - all need to join forces ... to deliver support at scale and with speed to coal-intensive economies," he added.

Although a "major challenge," devel-

oped and emerging economies must cooperate with each other for all G20 countries to deliver emission reductions.

The secretary-general said that "even the most ambitious action" cannot erase the fact that "the situation is already bad" and in some places irreversible.

"Adaptation and mitigation must be pursued with equal force and urgency ... adaptation investments need to be dramatically scaled up to keep pace with accelerating impacts," he said, calling on all donors and technical partners to work with the UN and vulnerable governments to identify and fund projects and programs.

The top UN official also pressed for new, simplified eligibility systems and increased adaptation and resilience investment.

Agencies

'Clear sign' Putin is weighing up use of chemical weapons in Ukraine, says Joe Biden

RUSSIA'S false accusation that Ukraine has biological and chemical weapons is a "clear sign" that a desperate Vladimir Putin is considering using them himself, Joe Biden has said.

The US president said Putin's "back is against the wall and now he's talking about new false flags he's setting up including, asserting that we in America have biological as well as chemical weapons in Europe - simply not true. I guarantee you," Biden said at an event on Monday.

"They are also suggesting that Ukraine has biological and chemical weapons in Ukraine. That's a clear sign he's considering using both of those. He's already used chemical weapons in the past, and we should be careful of what's about to come."

Putin "knows there'll be severe consequences because of the united Nato front," he said, without specifying what actions the alliance would take. The remarks echo previous comments by officials in Washington and allied countries, who have accused Russia of spreading an unproven claim that Ukraine had a biological weapons program as a possible prelude to potentially launching its own biological or chemical attacks.

Biden spoke after the Pentagon said it had seen "clear evidence" Russian forces were committing war crimes and that it was helping collect evidence. Last week, the US president said he thought Putin was a "war criminal", as well as a "murderous dictator" and "thug", comments the Russian foreign ministry said were "unworthy of a state figure of such a high rank" and risked rupturing US-Russian ties.

The UN's international court of justice has already ordered Moscow to halt its invasion, and a prosecutor at the international criminal court has launched a war crimes investigation.

On Monday night, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy again urged direct talks with Putin, saying: "Without this meeting it is impossible to fully understand what they are ready for in order to stop the war."

He also said his country will never bow to ultimatums from Russia and cities directly under attack, including the capital, Kyiv, and Mariupol and Kharkiv would not accept Russian occupation.

In other developments:

The Ukrainian military claimed on Tuesday that Russian forces have stockpiles of ammunition and food that will last for "no more than three days". Officials said the situation was similar with fuel. It also claimed about 300 Russia servicemen refused to carry out orders in the Okhtyrka district of the Sumy region. The claims have not been independently verified.

Biden talked to the leaders of the UK, France, Germany and Italy on Monday as part of his effort to maintain a unified front to Moscow, amid signs of cracks within the EU on how far to go in imposing sanctions on Russian oil and gas.

Earlier in the day, Biden warned the US business community of intelligence pointing to a growing Russian cyber threat and urging companies to "immediately" prepare defences. "It's part of Russia's playbook" in response to sanctions, he said.

Almost 10,000 Russian soldiers may have already been killed in the war in Ukraine, and more than 16,000 wounded, according to defence ministry figures reported in a pro-Kremlin tabloid newspaper, Komsomolskaya Pravda. Previously, the official death toll was 498. The paper later released a statement claiming it had been hacked.

Josep Borrell, the EU's foreign affairs chief, heralded new plans to develop an "EU Rapid Deployment Capacity" that could allow the bloc to swiftly deploy up to 5,000 troops for different types of crises. He insisted a "European army" will not be created.

An Associated Press reporter has told the story of the desperate conditions inside the besieged city of Mariupol after spending more than two weeks there, being hunted by Russian soldiers amid the shelling.

In Kyiv, a brand new shopping centre was destroyed in a missile attack that killed at least eight people, the largest attack yet on the capital. Here, witnesses tell their story of the destruction of Retroville.

Russia's defence ministry has accused Kyiv, without providing evidence, of planning a chemical attack against its own people in order to accuse Moscow of using chemical weapons in the invasion of Ukraine that began nearly a month ago.

Earlier this month, US national security adviser Jake Sullivan spoke with Nikolay Patrushev, secretary of Russia's Security Council, warning him of consequences for "any possible Russian decision to use chemical or biological weapons in Ukraine". The White House did not specify what those consequences would be.

Biden also said Russia used a hypersonic missile to destroy a weapons depot on Saturday "because it's the only thing they can get through with absolute certainty".

An administration official clarified on Monday evening that Biden was confirming Russia's use of such an advanced missile, but noted that the impact of the attack was unknown. One senior US defence official had earlier raised questions about the legitimacy of the Russian account.

Agencies

S. African court halts construction of Amazon HQ on sacred land

CAPE TOWN

A South African court has halted construction of Amazon's new Africa headquarters after some descendants of the country's earliest inhabitants said the land it would be built on was sacred.

The Western Cape division of the High Court interdicted the project developer from continuing with works at the Cape Town site until there had been meaningful engagement and consultation with affected indigenous peoples.

"This matter ultimately concerns the rights of indigenous peoples ... The fundamental right to culture and heritage of indigenous groups, more particularly the Khoi and San First Nations Peoples, are under threat in the absence of proper consultation," Judge Patricia Goliath said in her ruling.

The Khoi and the San were the earliest inhabitants of South Africa, the latter roaming as hunter gatherers for tens of thousands of years, and the former joining them



The Amazon logo is projected on a screen at a press conference in New York on Sept 28, 2011. AFP

as pastoralists more than 2,000 years ago.

Some of their descendants had objected to the River Club development, where Amazon would be the "anchor tenant" but

which also includes plans for a hotel, retail offices and homes, as it lies at the confluence of two rivers considered sacred, the Black and Liesbeek Rivers.

Not everyone identifying with the Khoi and San was against the project. An association of Khoi and San who supported it was among the respondents in the case.

Amazon was not named as a respondent, and the company did not respond to an emailed request for comment sent outside office hours. When the court case was launched early this year a spokesperson declined comment.

Goliath said her ruling should not be construed as a criticism of the development but that the core issue was that there needed to be proper consultation before it could go ahead.

Amazon already employs thousands of people in data hubs in Cape Town, and with over a third of South Africans unemployed authorities are keen to encourage foreign investment.

Construction of the River Club development had continued despite the case being before the court.

Agencies

Rwanda calls for joint planning to ensure sustainable water availability

KIGALI

THERE is a need for joint planning in order to ensure sustainable water availability to meet projected socioeconomic demands, a senior Rwandan official has said.

Speaking at a virtual event convened Monday to mark World Water Day which falls on March 22, Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Rwanda's minister of Environment, said joint planning to promote multipurpose dam and rainwater harvesting would ensure sustainable water availability to meet projected socioeconomic demands, and adapt to climate change impacts.

Economic development and a growing national population mean agriculture, household

and industry are getting thirstier and water-intensive energy generation is rising to meet demand, Mujawamariya (pictured) said, adding that climate change is making water more erratic and contributing to water-related disasters.

"As we balance demands on water resources, many people's interests are not being taken into account.

The value of water is about much more than its price - water has enormous and complex value for our households, health, education, economics and the integrity of our natural environment," she said, noting water resources will have a significant impact on achieving projected national gross domestic product (GDP) toward Vision 2050.



The international theme for World Water Day 2022 is "Groundwater -- Making the Invisible Visible."

The minister highlighted the value of groundwater which she said is to become more and more critical as climate change gets worse. "We need to work together to sustainably manage this precious resource.

Catchment management practices enhance groundwater recharge, while mitigating soil erosion and floods. Groundwater may be out of sight, but it must not be out of mind," she said.

In Rwanda, the Day was jointly marked with International Forest Day which is observed on March 21 and World Meteorological Day which falls on March 23, with several activities lined up to

run from March 21 to March 26.

These include raising awareness of the need to protect groundwater, water resources and forests, the impacts of climate change and how early warning systems and early actions are needed to cope with disasters.

A UN report released Monday in line with this year's World Water Day said "levels of water security in Africa overall are unacceptably low."

The report, titled "Water Security in Africa: A preliminary Assessment," which covers 54 African countries, evaluated 10 indicators and concluded that about 500 million people spread across 19 countries in the continent are water-stressed.

Xinhua

CPPCC members from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan highlight national solidarity during interview via video link

ON the morning of March 7, political advisors from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan attended via video link the second group interview during the fifth session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

During the interview, they responded to people's concerns about COVID-19 epidemic prevention and control, construction

of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as well as relations between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan.

"Hong Kong is faced with its worst coronavirus wave so far. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the central government and all the Chinese people, especially medical staff, workers and experts from the mainland who have fought against the pandemic in Hong Kong in the front line and given us great help just when we need it the most," said Kenneth

Fok Kai-kong, a member of the CPPCC National Committee as well as a member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

Residents in Hong Kong and on the Chinese mainland belong to one family and have forged a strong bond; as long as they join hands, any difficulty can be surmounted, Fok pointed out.

Noting that this year marks the 25th anniversary of the HKSAR's return to the motherland, Fok said that a priority for Hong Kong to

march from stability to prosperity is to bolster residents' patriotism and national identity.

A reliable method for promoting patriotic education is to facilitate exchanges and cooperation between Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland, said Fok, who considers it necessary to enhance Hong Kong youths' sense of national identity through communication with people from the Chinese mainland.

"The national flag and anthem symbolize our country. I hope all

the schools in Hong Kong, as well as future activities for youth and patriotic activities will place more emphasis on education related to the national flag and anthem. People should receive such education since their childhood," he noted, stressing that respecting the national flag and anthem is the bottommost responsibility of every citizen.

Fok suggested taking the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Beijing and the 15th National Games of China to be

co-hosted in 2025 by Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao as an opportunity to hold more sports-themed exchanges and activities to promote the integration of sports industry into the development of the Greater Bay Area.

Such exchanges and activities help Hong Kong youth not only realize their dreams, but make greater contributions to the overall development of the Greater Bay Area, he said. Love for the motherland and Macao and genuine support for the Communist

Party of China (CPC) is a general consensus among all walks of life in Macao as well as a mainstream value in the region, said Wu Zhiliang, a member of the CPPCC National Committee and chairman of the executive committee of the Macao Foundation.

The large-scale exhibition marking the centenary of the CPC held by the Macao Foundation last year recorded the highest average daily number of visitors among exhibitions in Macao, he pointed out.

People's Daily

EU approves security, defense plan of action in next decade

BRUSSELS

THE European Union's foreign and defense ministers on Monday approved the bloc's security and defense plan of action which, among others, will see it establishing a rapid reaction force with up to 5,000 troops that could be swiftly deployed in case of a crisis.

Josep Borrell (pictured), the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, told a press conference on Monday that the plan of action, known as the "Strategic Compass," was not a response to what was happening in Ukraine, but a "turning point for the EU as a security provider" and "a very much important step for European security and defense policy."

The Compass gives the EU an ambitious plan of action for strengthening the EU's security and defense policy by 2030.

Borrell said the Compass gave the EU the possibility to "act firmly and united" and will help it step up its ability to react in response to crisis, increase its resilience and invest in the required capabilities and defense innovation.

"The strength of our Union lies in unity, solidarity and determination. The objective of the Strategic Compass is to make the EU a stronger and more capable security provider," the bloc said in a separate statement announcing the agreement, emphasizing that the Compass "will enhance the EU's strategic autonomy."

The program involves, among other things, the development of an EU Space Strategy for Security and Defense, creating an EU cyber defense policy to better prepare for and respond to cyberattacks and expanding intelligence analysis capabilities.

Agencies



Ukraine's compromises with Russia to be put to referendum

KIEV/MOSCOW/UNITED NATIONS

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky said that Kiev's compromises at peace talks with Russia would be put to a nationwide referendum in Ukraine, the government-run Ukrinform news agency reported on Monday.

"I explained to all negotiating groups: when you talk about all these changes, and they can be historic, there is nowhere to go - we will have a referendum," Zelensky was quoted as saying in an interview with the Ukrainian public broadcaster Suspilne.

Zelensky emphasized that he stands ready for any compromises if they are supported by the Ukrainian people.

On March 18, Ukrainian Presidential Advisor Mykhailo Podolyak said a ceasefire, the withdrawal of troops and strict security guarantees with specific formulas are Ukraine's main demands at peace talks with Russia.

The fourth round of negotiations between Ukrainian and Russian delegations started on March 14 via video link.

UN to vote again on Ukraine

The UN General Assembly will vote Wednesday on a draft resolution on Ukraine, the second such resolution since the start of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, a spokesperson said Monday.

The 11th Emergency Special



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Session of the General Assembly will be held after a letter requesting the resumption was received by UNGA President Abdulla Shahid, his spokesperson Paulina Kubiak told reporters in an email.

"A draft resolution sponsored by Ukraine and other member states has been submitted and is being processed," she said.

According to diplomatic sources, the new UNGA draft resolution focuses on the hu-

manitarian situation, calling for the protection of civilians, medical personnel, aid workers, journalists, hospitals, and other civilian infrastructure.

Moscow protests Biden's remarks

Russia on Monday protested US President Joe Biden's recent "unacceptable remarks" regarding Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it sum-

moned US Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan on Monday and handed to him a demarche and a note of protest.

Biden's harsh remarks on Putin have "put Russian-US relations on the verge of breaking," it said, warning that hostile actions against Russia will receive "a decisive and firm rebuff."

Russia bans Facebook, Instagram

A Moscow court ruled on Monday to ban Facebook and Instagram in Russia, labeling the parent company of the two social networks Meta Platforms Inc "extremist."

The Prosecutor General's Office of Russia said that the lawsuit was aimed at protecting Russians from "a violation of their rights," according to local media.

Meta has violated its own rules by allowing posts with violent speeches towards the Russian military and has ignored more than 4,500 requests to remove fake information on Russia's special military operation and calls for unauthorized rallies, the prosecutors said.

The court ruling will come into effect immediately but will not affect WhatsApp messenger.

Meta is also banned from doing business in Russia as the Prosecutor General's Office and Russia's Federal Security Service accused the US giant of acting against Russia and its armed forces.

Experts warn another uptick in COVID-19 cases due to new variant

LOS ANGELES

EXPERTS warned that the United States may see another rise in COVID-19 cases in the next few weeks as the new Omicron subvariant continues to spread across the country.

Infections of the highly transmissible variant, known as BA.2, have been doubling each week, according to data of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As of the week ending March 12, BA.2 makes up 23.1 percent of all COVID-19 cases in the country, compared to 1 percent of new cases in the week ending Feb. 5, and 7.1 percent in the week ending Feb. 26, CDC data showed.

Although the original Omicron variant still makes up the majority of COVID-19 infections in the country, its prevalence has dropped to 66.1 percent in the week ending March 12.

Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said he expects "an uptick in cases" due to BA.2, but not necessarily a massive surge like other variants have caused. Fauci told ABC on Sunday the new strain is about 50 to 60 percent more transmissible than the first Omicron strain, adding that it could take over as the dominant strain in the United States.

However, he noted that the strain does not appear to cause more severe illness or evade immune responses from vaccination or prior infection.

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy also said the variant could cause a new spike in cases, but adding that the country is in a better position now than it was in the previous two years.

Several European countries, such as Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, have reported a spike in COVID-19 cases over the last couple of weeks. Health officials continue to stress COVID-19 vaccines and boosters remain the best ways to prevent serious illness from the virus.

According to CDC data, 76.7 percent of the total U.S. population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 65.3 percent has completed their primary series as of March 16.

Philippine election frontrunner Marcos endorsed by president's party

MANILA

THE presidential bid of Philippine election frontrunner Ferdinand Marcos Jr received a boost yesterday after President Rodrigo Duterte's political party endorsed his candidacy for the May 9 vote.

The PDP-Laban party, which has not fielded a presidential candidate, announced it will back Marcos, the son and namesake of the country's late dictator, who is running alongside Duterte's daughter, Davao city mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio.

Still, it remained unclear which candidate the popular Duterte would personally throw his support behind.

Marcos, commonly known as "Bongbong", was the candidate "whose platform is most aligned with the development program" of Duterte, read the resolution signed by members of the party belonging to a faction supported by the Philippine leader.

Cracks have appeared within the ruling party since last year as supporters of Duterte and another presidential candidate, Manny Pacquiao, have sought to wrest control.

Asked whether the party's choice had Duterte's blessing, party president Alfonso Cusi referred reporters to the president's office.

Presidential spokesman Martin Andanan told a media briefing it was "not clear if this is also the preference of... Duterte."



Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Junior, presidential candidate and son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, greets supporters during a rally in Las Pinas City, suburban Manila, on March 13, 2022. AFP

Political analyst Temario Rivera said Duterte's endorsement was an important factor.

"Forget about parties in our system. It is powerful families and influential politicians that count," Rivera said, adding that PDP-Laban remained "very divided."

Governor Ben Evardone, a close ally of Duterte and his party's vice-president, announced he would back one of Marcos's rivals, Vice-President Leni Robredo. He did not sign the party resolution.

PDP-Laban was created to oppose the Marcos dictatorship, Senator Aquilino Pimentel, leader of a faction in the

party supporting retired boxing star Pacquiao, said in a statement.

Marcos enjoys a strong lead in the presidential election race, according to opinion polls, which also showed Duterte-Carpio as the top choice for vice-president.

A spokesperson for Marcos did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Facts about Russia-Ukraine conflict: Zelensky says Ukraine's compromises with Russia to be put to referendum

BEIJING

THE Russia-Ukraine conflict continues on Monday as relevant parties are working to broker a peaceful solution. Following are the latest developments of the situation:

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that Kiev's compromises at peace talks with Russia would be put to a nationwide referendum in Ukraine, the government-run Ukrinform news agency reported Monday. "I explained to all negotiating groups: when you talk about all these changes, and they can be historic, there is nowhere to go - we will have a referendum," Zelensky was quoted as saying in an interview with the Ukrainian public broadcaster Suspilne. Zelensky emphasized that he stands ready for any compromises if they are supported by the Ukrainian people.

A total of nine captured Russian servicemen have been exchanged for Melitopol Mayor Ivan Fyodorov, marking the first of such swap between Russia and Ukraine, said Kremlin's human rights commissioner Tatyana Moskalkova on Monday. "The first exchange has taken place - nine people, some of them from the



list that I have been compiling based on reports. I very much hope that we will avoid any delays with these lists, cards, procedures," Moskalkova told the reporters.

Russia on Monday protested U.S. President Joe Biden's recent "unacceptable remarks" regarding Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it summoned U.S. Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan on Monday and handed to him a demarche and a note of protest. Biden's harsh remarks on Putin have "put Russian-U.S. relations on the verge of breaking," it said, warning that hostile actions against

Russia will receive "a decisive and firm rebuff."

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Monday that it will no longer continue peace treaty negotiations with Japan in response to Tokyo's sanctions against Russia over the situation in Ukraine. Moscow will also cancel visa-free travel for Japanese citizens to the four disputed Pacific islands, which are known as the Southern Kurils in Russia and the Northern Territories in Japan. The Russian side is withdrawing from the dialogue with Japan on establishing joint economic activities in these islands, the ministry said in a statement.

Xinhua

Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics injects fresh impetus into high-quality urban development and coordinated regional development

AS Shougang Park, a steel mill-turned cultural and sports complex in Shijingshan district of Beijing, was reopened after the conclusion of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, many citizens have visited the industrial park to relive the atmosphere of those exciting competitions.

Because of its unique design features and impressive industrial landscape in the surrounding area, Big Air Shougang, a venue for Beijing 2022 in the industrial park, attracted a lot of attention during the Games.

The Shougang Park, which used to be the production premises of Chinese steelmaker Shougang Group, has been praised by International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach for realizing a perfect combination of competition venue,

reuse of industrial heritage, and urban renewal.

The industrial park has witnessed how the Winter Olympics has driven the upgrading and development of Beijing. To support Beijing in bidding for the 2008 Summer Olympics and promote the transformation, development and environmental protection of the Chinese capital city, Shougang Group decided to relocate its main production premises and started to explore comprehensive transformation in 2003.

Since 2015, when Beijing won the bid to host the 2022 Winter Olympics, Shougang Park has embraced new development opportunities. It has been rejuvenated by a nation-wide frenzy for ice and snow sports. Its ironmaking raw material area was turned into headquarters of the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (BOCOG) and

clean coal plant became training field of national ice and snow sports teams. These transformations of the industrial park symbolize the precious legacies of the Winter Olympics and vividly reflect Beijing's high-quality development.

The preparations for the Beijing Winter Olympics during the past over six years have contributed a lot to the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

The Beijing-Chongli Expressway and Beijing-Zhangjiakou high-speed railway makes it possible for residents to travel between Beijing and Zhangjiakou city, north China's Hebei province within an hour; the Zhangbei renewable energy flexible DC grid test and demonstration project in Zhangjiakou has been put into operation; and focusing on treating air pollution, desertification and water pollution, Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei have strengthened joint efforts for the

management and protection of the ecological environment in the region, which have yielded more and more fruits.

As people's passion for winter sports fuels development, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region is gathering pace in pursuing a scientific and sustainable path for coordinated development. Practice has proved that by complementing one another with their respective advantages and striving for mutual benefits, the three parties involved will certainly embrace a bright future for coordinated regional development.

Hosting a safe and splendid Winter Olympics and promoting high-quality regional development have been two important and indispensable tasks for China.

Preparations for Beijing 2022 have accelerated Beijing and Zhangjiakou's transportation infrastructure connec-

tivity, joint prevention and control of ecological environment, complementarity and mutual promotion of industrial development, and joint construction and sharing of public services, achieving a win-win result for both the Olympic Movement and regional development, according to Legacy Case Studies: Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, a reported jointly compiled by the BOCOG and Beijing Sport University.

Gaojinglu community in Guangning subdistrict, Shijingshan district, has developed itself into a community featuring Winter Olympics by expanding public activity space, renovating sports facilities, and improving living environment; Zhangjiakou city has pushed ahead with the construction of 5G networks, which not only served the Winter Olympics, but promoted the upgrading of traditional

industries and facilitated the construction of a modern industrial system; Chongli district in Zhangjiakou city took the 2022 Winter Olympics as an opportunity to develop ice and snow sports, helping every one out of five local people find a job in winter sports industry.

Facts have shown that the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region is the premise and foundation for the success of the 2022 Winter Olympics, and the success of the Games has in turn given a boost to the coordinated development of the region.

The improvement in infrastructure and social atmosphere, such as roads, transportation, electric power, public services and social etiquette, has further solidified the foundation for coordinated regional development.

People's Daily

Simba SC will beat US Gendarmerie to progress to CAF CC last eight, says midfielder

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

SIMBA SC Senegalese midfielder, Pape Ousman Sakho, has said he is confident about his club's ability to secure progression to the quarterfinals of the ongoing CAF Confederation Cup.

The Tanzanian side's efforts to make certain of its progression to the knockout round much earlier took a slight tumble, given it went down 3-0 to ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast in a Group D clash that took place in Benin on Sunday.

Simba SC nevertheless is still within reach of a spot in the continental competition's last eight.

The squad needs to notch a win over Niger's Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale in the remaining fixture to take place in Dar es Salaam.

Sakho said Simba SC has a strong side, so he believes it will have a chance to win in the final Group D game against Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale and achieve its goal of reaching the quarterfinals.

The midfielder revealed: "Simba SC is a great team and has a good squad, we can get

three points in any stadium in and out of Africa. I have no doubt about our chances in our last game against Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale. I believe we will win."

"I know even our opponents will be keen on coming and winning at our home ground, but let me tell you that Dar es Salaam will not be a friendly place for them to get good results."

Simba SC will play against Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on April 3.

Current group leader ASEC Mimosas is set to jet off to Berkane to take on Moroccan side RS Berkane the same day.

The Group D positioning so far has witnessed ASEC Mimosas leading others after posting nine points.

The previous group favourite, RS Berkane, is sitting second after amassing seven points.

Simba SC has as well recorded seven points, it is positioned third as a result of having an inferior goal difference.

Bottom-placed Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale has collected five points as the squad managed to emerge victorious once and notch a draw twice.



Simba SC midfielder, Pape Ousman Sakho.

Home cookin': LeBron leads Lakers over Cavs in Ohio return

CLEVELAND

LeBRON James broke them all out – the fadeaway jumper, the fly-through-the-lane shot, some signature dunks, one over former teammate and friend Kevin Love, the patented pregame chalk toss.

Back home, in front of the fans who know him almost like family, James showed he's still the game's most dominant force.

James scored 38 points, notched another triple-double and sparked memories of his time in Cleveland, leading the Los Angeles Lakers to a 131-120 win Monday over the Cavaliers, who had a horrid defensive night.

It was James' only visit home this season – other than the All-Star Game last month – and the star from Akron thrilled fans who have followed him since he was a boy. He added 10 rebounds and 12 assists for his 105th career triple-double and sixth this season.

"I'm all out of words," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "I don't have any more. He was in control, had an all-time dunk on his old teammate – his old friend, which I'm sure they enjoyed and will talk about. What a hell of a night."

James played 11 seasons in two stints with the Cavs, who are trying to get back to the playoffs for the first time since he left in 2018. The 37-year-old said playing in front of a Cleveland crowd will always bring out his best.

"They've seen pretty much my whole life in basketball," he said. "Either seen me or heard about it, who is this kid from 40 minutes south of here playing ball at age 9, 10, 11, 12? Who is this LeBron kid? And they either drove down to see me or saw me when I came to Cleveland and played in AAU tournaments and seem me play in high school games in the Cleveland area, so they've seen me for almost 30 years,

since I picked up a basketball.

"That's the difference between this arena and every other arena in the world."

James is trying to keep the Lakers in the postseason picture in what to this point has been a disappointing season. They're ninth in the Western Conference, but as long as they have James, they've got a shot.

He has heard all the narratives about the Lakers – too old, too hurt and too disconnected – and can't be bothered.

"None of that stuff matters to me," he said. "I'm having a blast playing the game of basketball. Once I leave the arena, I leave it there. I'm really having the time of my life right now. I'm working through it and we're working through it and that's all that matters."

Russell Westbrook, who has had a poor season, had 20 and 11 assists, and D.J. Augustin added 20 points, making all six 3-pointers.

"There is nothing better than shutting people up," Westbrook said.

Darius Garland scored 29 and added 17 assists for Cleveland, which came in leading Toronto by one game for the No. 6 spot in the East. The Cavs will play the Raptors on Thursday night.

Cleveland coach J.B. Bickerstaff was angry with how his young team performed.

"We got caught up in the show," Bickerstaff said. "We allowed this moment to overtake us. You ask yourself were we really competing to win or were we just a part of it? I think tonight we were mostly just a part of it."

James scored five points as the Lakers opened the fourth quarter with a 12-2 run to go up by nine. Cleveland was still within striking distance when James, as he has done so many times to so many teams before, put the Cavs away with a thunderous dunk and jumper in the final 2:34. **AP**

Tanzania's prospects who could debut as part of new-look Taifa Stars

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL

MWEBE

DOMESTIC club football takes a back seat for the next two weeks as focus shifts to the international calendar which is an opportunity for national teams to play.

FIFA earmarked March 21 to March 29 as the final break of the 2021/22 season and this is the duration when players will be traveling back home to represent their countries in different competitions.

Tanzania is billed to play three international friendly matches.

Tanzania positioned 132nd on the latest FIFA World ranking, will face-off with the Central Africa Republic on Wednesday, Botswana on March 26, and Sudan on March 29.

Taifa Stars head coach Kim Poulsen believes it is an opportunity to test new players ahead of the 2023 African Cup of Nations and African Nations Championship qualifiers.

The Danish coach has extended first-time invitations to eight players in his 28-man squad that he made public last week ahead of the four-nation mini-tournament to be played in Dar es Salaam.

With three matches to come, Poulsen could be tempted to experiment with a number of the new faces named in his squad.

Mbeya City FC defensive midfielder Aziz Andambwile will be part of the Taifa Stars for the first time.

The 22-year-old has played 15 matches for Mbeya City FC this season and has caught the eye of the Taifa Stars boss.

The ever-present figure in Mbeya City FC Cōs XI has one



Mbeya City FC midfielder, Aziz Andambwile.

assist and one goal in the league.

Andambwile will fight it out against the likes of Novatus Dismas (Belta Tel Aviv Bat Yam-Israel), Mzamiru Yassin (Simba), Jonas Mkude (Simba), and Zawadi Mauya (Yanga).

There will be a chance for former national youth teams members, Tepsie Evance, Ben Starkie, Lusajo Mwaikenda, and Abdulrazack Hamza to impress at the senior level.

Winger Tepsie of Azam FC has amassed caps from U-17 through to U-20 level for Tanzania while Lusajo and Abdulrazack were part of the squad that won the 2021 CECAFA U-23 tournament in Ethiopia.

Despite playing for England at youth levels, highly-rated Portsmouth youngster Haji Mnoga has switched his allegiance to Tanzania.

Mnoga who plays as either a right-back or center back has already made 13 appearances for Portsmouth before being loaned out to Weymouth. He has now been rewarded with a call-up for Taifa Stars.

George Mpole is a relatively late arrival to the international scene with Tanzania.

The striker has found his feet at Geita Gold FC since deciding to call time on a frustrating spell with Polisi Tanzania.

He could finally be set to taste international football. He has scored 10 league goals for the top flight debutants.

Kenya's Tusker FC striker Ibrahim Joshua has also been handed his maiden call-up to the Tanzania national team after plundering eight goals in the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League so far.

Coastal Union, Mwalala deal dissolved

BY CORRESPONDENT CHEJI BAKARI, TANGA

COASTAL Union FC's management has unveiled that the planned deal to recruit Kenyan coach, Bernard Mwalala, as the club's new head coach has dissolved hence the leadership is focusing on another alternative way to recruit another gaffer.

Last week, there was a piece of information from a reliable source claiming that Coastal Union had entered an agreement with Mwalala to coach the team.

The Kenyan gaffer was set to take over from the then head coach, Melis Medo, who had terminated his contract with Coastal Union.

The reliable information explained that after the management of Mombasa-based Bandari FC which is under the tutelage of Mwalala had been tipped the tactician is eagerly looking forward to joining Coastal Union, the side halted the plan.

Bandari FC opted to stop Mwalala from moving to Coastal Union, insisting it will retain the gaffer until the end of the Kenyan Premier League season.

The information was further detailed that Mwalala, the former Yanga and Coastal Union striker, was to great extent ready to come to Tanzania to join Coastal Union.

Mwalala was lured by the Tanga-based club due to the coach's good records in Kenya.

His club is currently leading Kenya Premier League, therefore Bandari FC leaders refused to bless his exit.

Speaking exclusively with The Guardian, Salim Bawazir, Coastal Union's Fans, and Motivation Chairman conceded the deal to be dissolved by noting that the contract between Mwalala and his team was a great hurdle for him to join Coastal Union but all agreements were okay.

The Coastal Union official revealed: "It's true our deal to recruit Mwalala as our squad's head coach was dissolved but the issue was how to terminate the contract."

"The management of his current team refused to allow him to come until the end of the Kenya Premier League, but frankly speaking, he was ready to join Coastal Union."

"But all in all the three team's committees, Executive Committee, Registration Committee, and Competition Committee are doing all they can to make sure head coach is coming to replace Medo who quit the team after a run of poor performance in the first round of NBC Premier League."

He further said after his squad's failure to rope in Mwalala, the leadership had thought to recruit former Mtibwa Sugar and Kagera Sugar head coach, Mecky Mexime.



Bernard Mwalala

The gaffer already has a contract with one of Dar es Salaam-based sports centers.

"Despite failing to bring Mwalala and Mexime the team's management is still seeking for the head coach in and outside the country."

"The head coach will be assisted by Joseph Lazaro who is temporarily acting as head of

team's technical bench."

Earlier, Coastal Union's spokesperson Miraji Wandu had a short response after he was asked when will Mwalala join Coastal Union.

The official stated: "The deal has dissolved, that information was rumours."

Manchester City top Deloitte Money League for first time

LONDON

MANCHESTER City have topped the Deloitte Football Money League for the first time as the world's highest revenue-generating club in a 2020-21 season affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Previous leaders Barcelona dropped to fourth in the 25th edition of the table, the Spanish club's lowest position since 2013-14.

Abu Dhabi-owned City, with revenues of €644.9 million and a number of sponsors linked to the owners, climbed six places.

The Premier League champions and current leaders are only the fourth club to top the Money League after Barcelona, Real Madrid and Manchester United.

Real Madrid (€640.7m) were second and Bayern Munich (€611.4m) third. Manchester United were fifth, their lowest to date, Paris Saint-Germain sixth and Liverpool seventh.

European champions Chelsea, now up for sale and with sanctions imposed on Russian billionaire owner Roman Abramovich following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, were eighth.

Eleven of the top 20 clubs were from the Premier League, the highest proportion ever, with Wolverhampton Wanderers entering for the first time in 17th position.

"The impact of COVID-19 is stark with the lack of fans in stadia unsurprisingly causing the lowest matchday revenue in the 25 years of the publication," the report said.

"Broadcast revenue is at a record high as a result of deferrals in distributions related to the delayed 2019-20 season."

The report said Money League clubs missed out on more than €2 billion euros of revenue from the middle of the 2019-20 season to the end of the 2020-21 season, taking revenue back to the levels of nearly five years ago.

"Looking ahead to the 2023 Money League covering the 2021-22 season, we expect revenue of Money League clubs to reach record levels, as they bounce back from the effects of the pandemic and push towards collective revenues of €10 billion," it added.

Premier League broadcast rights values were meanwhile set to pull further away from the other "big five" European leagues from 2022-23.

For the first time ever all of the Money League clubs also have a women's team.

(Agencies)

Football hardman Muscat changes perceptions with coaching success

TOKYO

KEVIN Muscat was branded "the most hated man in football" by an opponent during his playing days but the Australian hopes perceptions are changing after making his mark as a coach.

England-born Muscat had a successful playing career as a tough-tackling defender with the likes of Wolves, Millwall and Crystal Palace, and won 46 caps for Australia.

But he was also involved in a series of controversial on-field incidents and was sent off 12 times.

In 2001, France coach Roger Lemerre described a crunching Muscat tackle that injured forward Christophe Dugarry as an "act of brutality".

Now 48 and manager of a Yokohama F Marinos side playing attacking football in Japan's J-League, Muscat told AFP that he is keen to "be judged separately" and says that "the perception is maybe starting to change in people".

"I want to be involved in teams that play a certain brand of football and that maybe contradicts what most people perceive to my playing days," said Muscat.

"I'm trying to forge my own way in terms of the way I coach, the way I manage and the way my teams play. That's really all I can do."

- Aussies can do it in Europe -

Muscat began his managerial career at Melbourne Victory and following a stint in Belgium took over at 2019 J-League champions Yokohama last summer after fellow Australian Ange Postecoglou left to join Scottish giants Celtic.

Muscat took Yokohama to a runner-up finish last season ahead of Andres Iniesta's Vissel Kobe and after seven games this term they are second again, having struck four goals past champions Kawasaki Frontale and winning plaudits for their fluid attacking football.

But more than changing impressions about himself, Muscat also hopes the same can be said about Australian coaches and he wants to see more of his countrymen given the chance to manage overseas.

After a slow start in Scotland, Postecoglou has propelled Celtic

above fierce Glasgow rivals Rangers - where Muscat had a spell as a player - and taken the Bhoys to a League Cup title.

"It's not doing any harm that Ange is at the forefront of people's minds now and hopefully that transcends," said Muscat.

"It's been highlighted because of the nature and the size of Celtic, but hopefully, over a period of time, more Australians get opportunities not only in Europe but also in Asia."

- Torn emotions -

On Thursday, Muscat's two worlds collide when Australia play Japan in a crucial World Cup qualifier in Sydney. He admits that he is "a little bit torn".

"The Socceroos badly need a win if they are to secure one of the group's two automatic qualification spots for Qatar and avoid a potentially hazardous playoff against a South American side."

In his days as a player Muscat was part of an Australia team that lost to Uruguay with a place at the 2002 World Cup up for grabs.

He believes the playoffs will not "faze" the Socceroos if it comes to that.

"Without doubt it's not going to be easy, but qualifying for the World Cup shouldn't be easy," he said.

"I'm pretty sure that the belief in the squad will still be really positive, but it seems that performances have drained a little bit of confidence from the team."

Muscat has been mentioned as a potential future Australia manager, having led Melbourne to two A-League championship titles.

But he is enjoying the "good challenges" of managing in the J-League and believes the change in environment "adds more to your armoury in the way you coach".

"I haven't found it difficult because I look upon these things as a challenge," he said of working "90 percent through translators".

"What gets removed is the one-on-one emotion side of things with the players, but I'm working with a very good translator and I'm able to transfer as much of the emotion in the conversation as possible."

AFP

"I'm pretty sure that the belief in the squad will still be really positive, but it seems that performances have drained a little bit of confidence from the team."

Barcelona were brilliant, Real Madrid must regroup after Clasico that defied expectations

BY GRAHAM HUNTER, ESPN SPAIN WRITER

NO matter what you read or hear elsewhere, it's a fact that Real Madrid did not lose this Clasico, in which they were utterly thrashed, "because Karim Benzema was out." Don't accept that: It's glib, it hides some key truths and it is a little typical of the modern obsession with one-phrase analysis.

As well-planned, well-coached and as scintillatingly effective as Xavi's Barcelona were in winning 4-0, a scoreline that could have been 8-0, Spain's champions-elect were truly awful individually and collectively. It starts with the coaching team themselves.

ADVERTISEMENT

Carlo Ancelotti isn't just an old-school gentleman and a blessing in Spanish football: He's a talented, high-achieving and extremely clever man-manager who, barring something utterly horrendous happening, will collect 17 points or more in his next nine La Liga matches in charge of Madrid and become the first man to win the title in each of Europe's big five leagues.

Seventeen points is the total, I'm arguing, because in order to even force Madrid to need that many in order to lift the Spanish title, Barcelona would need to take 28 out of their next 30 available points - a ridiculously big ask. If Xavi's reborn Blaugrana army won nine and drew one of their last 10 fixtures, it would be an immense achievement - and would take them to 82 points. Los Blancos already have 66 points in the bag; to reach 83 (and avoid going on the head-to-head scores between the clubs this season), they'd need just 17 points from their remaining nine matches.

Now, if either Thibaut Courtois or Benzema were suddenly absent for a long spell - something anyone with a love of football must pray does not happen - then the vista would change. Other than that, it's brutally hard to imagine Ancelotti not bringing Madrid the title that (right now) they thoroughly deserve. However, only if you haven't been paying attention to Florentino Perez over the past 22 years, can you easily imagine Ancelotti's continuity at hanging by the slenderest of threads.

The last time a Madrid side lost a home Clasico 4-0, the manager (Rafa Benitez) was given six more LaLiga matches and then, after a draw at Valencia, was sacked. The last time a Madrid side played with this lethargy, lack of attention to detail or lack of competitive spirit was in Paris a month ago.

I thought then, and still think now, that Ancelotti received the equivalent of a yellow card from his employer than night. Defeat, even for Madrid, is an inevitable occasional occurrence. Defeat without character, where the display is impoverished, which embarrasses the President - that's a wholly different matter.

Let me state here and now that this analysis is judging how Florentino Perez thinks and acts. By any normal ("old-school") standards, the final year of Ancelotti's contract should be quite safe if he follows a trophy-less season (under Zinedine Zidane) with a league and Super Cup double, which looks extremely likely. (It bears noting Fabio Capello was sacked in 2009 after winning the league, while Jupp Heynckes met a similar fate in 1998 after winning the Champions League.)

The past few coaches at Santiago Bernabeu have been hamstrung by a few elements. For example, President Perez's desire to stash financial reserves away and not spend excessively in order to sign Kylian Mbappe - and quite understandably, too. There's also the vast investment in renewing the Santiago Bernabeu until it becomes the world's greatest football stadium. And by the "force majeure" of a pandemic and its economic impact on spectator sport. All of which is to say that Madrid's squad hasn't been rejuvenated, renewed and upgraded in certain areas to the necessary degree.

So, were Ancelotti to finish this season with two trophies and, say, a Champions League semifinal, he should be awarded a laurel wreath for his head and called a hero. But it'll surprise me if this Clasico humiliation, the home defeat to FC Sheriff and the away loss in Paris don't begin a process of Florentino Perez and his praetorian guard looking around to find a replacement for the Italian ... just in case.

Sunday night's evidence does him no favours whatsoever.

Barcelona didn't simply arrive in good form, with pace and youthful vigour; they came to town with a crystal-clear game plan, with the confidence that



Any skepticism over Xavi's suitability for the Barcelona job has been steadily eroded in 2022, with Sunday's emphatic victory another compelling piece of evidence that he's the man this team needs. (Agencies)

Benzema missing was a big boost. They came to go toe-to-toe.

Ancelotti's ideas about how to cope with Benzema's absence had their roots in the Barcelona of his memories - the one his team defeated so easily at Camp Nou in the Autumn and the one that, via rope-a-dope counter-attacks, they beat in the Supercopa semifinal in January. His ideas were based on a Barcelona that could be hustled, bullied and robbed of possession, where Marc-Andre Ter Stegen was an Achilles' heel and where the Catalan club were glass-chinned and uncertain of themselves.

A reasonable tactical idea, though wrongly applied; Barcelona haven't been playing like that for some weeks now.

Where was the scouting? Who had the counter-voices in Ancelotti's team saying "right bet at the wrong time, boss!"? If he thought that the exertions of Barcelona winning in Istanbul, flying back tired, but jubilant, and the lack of meaningful training time between beating Galatasaray and facing a Clasico might add force to his tactical plan, then fair enough. But he got it wrong.

For those of you who are only reading about the Clasico and didn't watch this magical match, here's what Ancelotti tried to do.

Ancelotti wanted Vinicius, Rodrygo and Federico Valverde to buzz around Ter Stegen, Ronald Araujo, Gerard Pique, Eric Garcia and Jordi Alba with Luka Modric and Toni Kroos high up the pitch as the second line of press waiting to pick up the merest scraps of possession won by Barcelona's fallibility. Ancelotti then wanted the latter pair - two brilliant, ruthless men - to use Barcelona's cheaply lost possession to smash them with a series of quick passes in the last third of the pitch while Xavi's team were caught unawares.



Courtois was helpless to prevent Barcelona passing through Madrid's feeble press and poor organization. It should have been much worse than a 4-0 loss. (Agencies)

behaving as if it's a Sunday afternoon kick-about on the beach. What, I'd argue, has that aberration of behaviour from Madrid's most competitive player to do with Benzema's absence? And how is that Ancelotti's fault?

This type of thing was happening all over the pitch. Militao had, by far, his worst performance of the last two seasons, a night riddled with errors. As for Dani Carvajal? Well, there Ancelotti bears some blame. The Spain international hasn't played well for weeks - error-prone, guilty of gifting away possession, gifting away penalties. He shouldn't have started the match - form demanded that. Ancelotti got the decision wrong.

He got more wrong at half-time, too. The idea of going to three at the back, allowing an already utterly rampant Barcelona attack to go one-on-one against an improvised line of Nacho, Militao and Alaba was rampant folly. It was the "all-in" gesture of someone who's lost heavily and thinks one final, huge gamble might turn the night his way. Spectacular when they come off - horrible otherwise.

Eduardo Camavinga, on at half-time, copied his elders and betters by, within a couple of minutes, gifting the ball away cheaply then being robbed, easily, by Frenkie De Jong to create the third goal. Casemiro wanders back, wholly uncompetitive, un-athletic, for the fourth goal, but makes a healthy job of arguing with the referee over whether Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's second goal should or shouldn't stand. Priorities, Casemiro, priorities.

Ancelotti had a horrible night. One for which, I fear, he'll pay heavily. Benzema, with Courtois and Modric, is this team's leader, and he's playing like a footballing god right now. But his absence neither needed Madrid's Italian manager to invent a 4-1-4-1 formation that the team weren't in a position to impose, nor to suddenly risk a 3-5-2 formation when the slightest error at the back would be fatal. Nor should Benzema's absence have caused the vast majority of Madrid's players to turn in low-grade, lazy, haphazard, listless performances in a Clasico.

Barcelona were utterly devastating. Clear about their tasks, personally and tactically, riding on a vapour cloud of confidence having recently put four goals past Atletico, Valencia, Athletic and Napoli, bristling with personality and verve. It was enough for Bayern's Thomas Muller to tweet "Congrats FC Barcelona. It was a pleasure to watch this amazing performance tonight. Chapeau." That's pretty remarkable in itself, but I'll leave you with a couple of thoughts.

Ferland Mendy barely gets a mention, but his presence - fast, fit, strong, clever, technically skilled - was hugely missed. In fact, it always is. For some reason, Perez isn't Mendy's No.1 admirer, but I think that's a huge misjudgement. Mendy performs at a high level while Vinicius, ahead of him, and Alaba, just inside him, are far better and more impactful when the Frenchman is in the XI.

Secondly: This is a timely warning to Madrid that they need an immediate reset. Chelsea are not soft-bellied like PSG. Man for man, Los Blancos can think themselves better equipped than the European champions, but only if every man is on about 10 times better form than this. How can they achieve that over the international break?

Also, those of us who warned that there would be a very high cost of Ancelotti relentlessly playing Modric-Casemiro-Kroos week after week in the middle part of the season was tempting, but carried a potentially catastrophic price tag, might be about to be proven correct.

Finally, Barcelona: Just watch them. That, as we saw on Sunday night, is how you play football.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Barcelona were brilliant, Real Madrid must regroup after Clásico that defied expectations

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Fleeing Ukrainian athletes welcomed by clubs in Bosnia, Bulgaria

VARNA

SPORTS clubs in Bulgaria and Bosnia are providing refuge, training and competition for athletes escaping war in another show of global solidarity for Ukraine.

Mihail Minchev, the 34-year-old owner and trainer of Hispano tennis club near the Black Sea city of Varna, was among those responding to the Bulgarian tennis federation's appeal to help after Russia's invasion upended lives for millions in Ukraine.

"I had to do so something," said Minchev, who volunteered to host two families with three teenage female tennis players from another Black Sea city: Odesa in Ukraine.

"I could not just be an indifferent spectator and watch what is happening on TV from my couch as if it is some reality show."

One of the new arrivals, 14-year-old Sasha Groza, has won competitions in Odesa, dreams of one day winning the Australian Open, and looks up to British women's No. 1 Emma Raducanu.

"Tennis is my life," Groza said at Minchev's apartment before a training session.

She appreciates Varna's friendly welcome but cannot quite grasp what has happened. "Our fathers stayed in Ukraine, our grandmothers, grandfathers stayed in Ukraine. It's very sad."

Bulgaria's tennis association has, likewise, helped about 12 families with

young tennis players so far. It plans to include them in national tournaments without prior registration.

SHARED WAR TRAUMA

In Bosnia, memories of their own devastating conflict three decades ago fuels compassion.

"When the girls asked us why we were helping them, we said that we were children of war ourselves, running away with our mothers while others were helping us," said Anita Glibic, director of the Student Volleyball Club (SOK) in the southern town of Mostar.

SOK is hosting seven players from the Ukrainian club Balta, with four more expected in response to an open invitation to Ukrainian female volleyball players.

The club is providing accommodation, meals and training.

"We travelled for four days, ... with long stays on the borders. It was so difficult," said Varvara Koltsova, who arrived with her three-year-old son.

Another Ukrainian player Olha Kachur said at last they felt safe without war and bombs.

"I think that no person who run away from Ukraine now have a plan what to do ... Of course we want to go home to our families, our friends but now we don't know when war will end," she said.

"I feel little guilty because I'm safe and they are not." Reuters

Pride at stake as Taifa Stars kick off mini-tournament



Tanzania's senior national soccer squad 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior national football team, Taifa Stars, will kick-off a mini-tournament campaign today with a tie against the Central Africa Republic at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The mini-tournament is organized by the Tanzania Football Federation and will comprise four countries that are Central Africa Republic, Sudan, Botswana, and hosts Tanzania.

All games will be played in Dar es Salaam between March 23 and March 29.

The mini-tournament is used by the four countries as preparation for the 2023 African Cup of Nations qualifiers and African Nations Championship qualifiers.

The 2023 AFCON qualifiers are set to begin in June with four group stage games. The CHAN qualifiers

are likely to begin in July.

The four nations will also use the tournament to improve upon their FIFA rankings.

The Central Africa Republic is the highest-ranked team at position 130th, followed by Tanzania at 132nd, Sudan at 133rd, and Botswana at 149. Thus, pride in climbing up the FIFA rankings will be the main motivation in this mini-tournament.

Speaking during the squad announcement, Taifa Stars head coach Kim Poulsen insisted on the importance of preparation ahead of the crucial qualifiers marathon which will see the team play back-to-back games from June to November.

The Danish coach pointed out: "It is time to start Taifa Stars preparation for the AFCON 2023 qualifiers and CHAN."

"There is a FIFA window from March 20-29 and this is the time

to prepare for the qualifiers. Part of the preparation will see us play friendlies in a mini-tournament." "We are all ranking around the same level in the FIFA rankings, we are more or less the same. I need to see the players in international games."

"It is the right time to try to identify new and young talented players who have the potential to do a good job for Taifa Stars."

The last time Tanzania and the Central Africa Republic met was during the group stages of the 2012 AFCON qualifier where each team won 2-1 at home.

Taifa Stars squad:

Goalkeepers: Aishi Manula (Simba), Metacha Mnata (Polisi Tanzania), and Aboutwalib Mshery (Young Africans)

Defenders: Shomari Kapombe (Simba), Israel Mwenda (Simba), Haji Mnoga (Weymouth-England),

Dickson Job (Young Africans), Bakari Mwamnyeto (Young Africans), Lusajo Mwaikenda (Azam FC), Abdulrazack Hamza (Namungo FC), Mohamed Hussein (Simba), and Nickson Kibabage (KMC FC)

Midfielders: Farid Mussa (Young Africans), Novatus Dismas (Belta Tel Aviv Bat Yam-Israel), Mzamiru Yassin (Simba), Jonas Mkude (Simba), Zawadi Mauya (Young Africans), Aziz Andabwile (Mbeya City FC), Feisal Salum (Young Africans), Ben Starkie (Spalding-England), Tepsi Evans (Azam FC).

Forwards: Simon Msuva (Unattached), Kelvin John (KRC Genk-Belgium), Mbwana Samatta (Antwerp-Belgium), Reliant Lusajo (Namungo FC), Kibu Denis (Simba), George Mpole (Geita Gold FC), and Ibrahim Joshua (Tusker FC-Kenya).

Bhatia, Rana keep India's semi-final hopes alive

HAMILTON

INDIA kept their semi-final hopes alive by routing Bangladesh in Hamilton. Set up by half-centurion Yastika Bhatia along with Sneha Rana and Pooja Vastrakar's all-round exploits, India's 110-run victory at Seddon Park lifted them to the third spot on the table.

The win also boosted their net run-rate significantly, and pushed debutants Bangladesh further towards league-stage elimination.

Ten of India's 12 defeats batting first since 2021 had come on the trot heading into this World Cup.

That they could add to the victories in that tally despite opting to set a target on Tuesday was down in part to Player of the Match Bhatia's gritty half-century and cameos from Vastrakar and Rana which rescued them from 108 for 4 to 229 for 7.

Rana's four-for and Vastrakar's two wickets then broke the back of Bangladesh's chase, complemented superbly by Rajeshwari Gayakwad's 10-4-15-1.

On a turner, the Bangladeshi attack appeared resolute from the get-go. Ritu Moni and Nahida Akter, who shared five wickets between them, triggered India's slump from 74 for 0 to 108 for 4. This made it difficult for India to stage a better counterattack with the bat.

Bangladesh opened with spin and pace and kept India's openers on a leash at the start. Smriti Mandhana struggled against offspinner Salma Khatun but carted medium pacer Jahanara Alam for two successive fours in the second over.

Shafali Verma scratched her way to a 12-ball 4 but shifted gears when left-arm spinner Akter's was intro-

duced.

Verma deposited Akter in the arc between deep midwicket and long-on for a six and a four in her 12-run opening over before crunching three imperious fours against Alam to finish the powerplay at 52 for 0.

By the 16th over, though, Bangladesh had broken through the 74-run opening stand, removed both openers and even had India's No. 4, Mithali Raj sent back for a golden duck - all in the space of five balls.

Akter had Mandhana lose control of a pull that found Fargana Hoque at backward square leg. Three balls later, Verma's inability to adjust her bat speed against Moni's change of pace had her stumped for a run-a-ball 42. Then, Raj lobbed a full ball to cover soon after drinks as India slumped to 74 for 3. They were now faced with a herculean rebuild.

India scored only 28 for 3 in the second block of 10 overs, with No. 3 Bhatia being more at ease rotating the strike than Harmanpreet Kaur.

India reached 100 in 25 overs, but four successive boundary-less overs prompted Harmanpreet to attempt a risky single that ended in her being run out, thanks to a swift pick-up and direct hit from Hoque at mid-on.

Bhatia and Richa Ghosh, both relatively inexperienced, then wrested a semblance of control with a 54-run stand. Bhatia resorted to the sweep often to steal singles and boundaries, while Ghosh, who made 26 off 36, relied primarily on the cut. Playing the shot despite the lack of width one time too many, though, cost Ghosh her wicket.

India were 165 for 5 entering the final 10 overs. Bhatia persevered for 80-ball fifty but was tied up by Moni's



Sneha Rana. GETTY IMAGES

ingenuity when she took the pace off the ball again. The result: Akter, who finished with 2 for 42 after conceding 17 off her first two overs, took an easy catch at short-fine leg and Moni had her maiden ODI three-for.

Vastrakar and Rana together then added 48 to India's tally, with Vastrakar bringing up India's 200 with a flamboyant four into deep extra cover.

She finished unbeaten on 30 while Rana, inventive in accessing the reverse 'V' during her 23-ball knock, made a handy 27.

Bangladesh's inexperience against top-drawer oppositions in ODIs showed in their approach to the chase. They scraped to 19 for 2 in the powerplay, the lowest in this World Cup, as India began to tighten the screws around them.

Aided by a much-improved fielding performance than their slipshod outing two nights ago against Australia, India's five-pronged attack kept chipping away at the Bangladeshi line-up, all their bowlers at least picking up one wicket apiece.

At no point did Bangladesh appear to realistically challenge the Indian attack. However, Murshida Khatun, who struck Bangladesh's first six in ODI World Cup history, off Jhulan Goswami, and veteran Salma Khatun oozed plenty of spunk.

No. 7 Khatun, the former captain, struck a 35-ball 32 that anchored a 40-run sixth-wicket stand with Lata Mondal.

No. 11 Jahanara Alam eked out a run-a-ball 11 before Goswami yorked her. Bangladesh were bowled out for the lowest total of this World Cup so far and India had their third win of the tournament, with a must-win against South Africa coming up on Sunday.

AGENCIES

Flexibles by David Chikoko

FRAME A QUESTION TO FIT THIS ANSWER

