



National Pg 3
US supports food systems in Africa



National Pg 4
Govt to drill 67,500 wells



Business Pg 17
G20 Summit 2023



AfDB: Optimise resources, target energy inclusion

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

AFRICAN Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina (pictured) has called for investments in renewable energy in Africa, pointing out the continent's rich energy mix. In his keynote address yesterday during a session on 'Harnessing Africa's renewable energy potential', held at the ongoing Africa Climate Summit, President Adesina stressed: "Every economy can only go as far as the energy it produces." Adesina underlined Africa's tremendous potential in energy—from hydro and wind power, solar, to geothermal—which remains untapped, in the face of a staggering electricity deficit on the continent. Africa has an almost unlimited potential of solar capacity (11 TW); abundant hydro (350 GW), out of which only 5-6% is being harvested; wind (110 GW), of which only two percent is being used; and geothermal energy sources

“If countries are to go for renewal energy in large scale, they need large scale storage. This will contribute to addressing energy poverty

(15 GW), he said. In spite of this, 600 million people on the continent are living without access to electricity. Furthermore, a lack of clean energy has seen about 300,000 women dying every year trying to cook a meal. "This is not acceptable. We must make sure we achieve universal energy access, optimising and maximising the potential that Africa has, including natural gas, which is a great part of the energy mix," he said. He added: "We have to make sure we combine renewable energy sources and give Africa energy security, energy stability, affordability of energy and independence into the energy sector, to be able to power its economy." The Bank chief affirmed the importance of accelerating private sector investments in renewable energy but said this would require political support which would result in better policies and better incentives to attract private sector financing.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Mauritanian Abdeslam Saleh, Minister of Economic and Sustainable Development, who highlighted that political goodwill had resulted in the country mainstreaming energy in its key plans to accelerate access. "We are moving ahead; we have put renewable energy at the centre of our

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Samia joins food summit

■ To address youth, reflect on challenges, grace awards dinner

By Getrude Mbago



Potato dealer (R) sells his customers at Rungemba in Mufindi District, Iringa Region yesterday. One bucket was being sold at 10,000/- . Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is today expected to grace the ongoing 13th annual Africa Food Systems Summit in Dar es Salaam, to deliver a keynote address on essential investments needed to transform the agriculture sector.

Seven other presidents from African countries have confirmed intent to attend the meeting, while heads of state who arrived yesterday were presidents Evariste Ndayishimiye (Burundi), Macky Sall (Senegal), while Kenyan President William Ruto was set to arrive today (Thursday), government spokesman George Msigwa told the media yesterday.

President Samia will first address the youth meeting, receive a report on youth engagement in agriculture and discuss issues of what should be done to address various challenges thwarting various initiatives in the sector.

In the afternoon the host president will join participating heads of state, institutional experts and corporate stakeholders at a roundtable discussion where the summit resolutions will be presented, he said.

For two days participants have engaged in paintaking dialogues for reinforced commitment on food systems conversation with a thematic focus on recovery, regenerate and act, with officials saying regeneration is meant to foster food resilience as a means of wealth creation for Africa.

The host president has invited her counterparts and top officials for dinner at the State House in the evening, where an African Food Production Award will be given "to recognise champions and celebrate country pathways," he stated.

Local experts and agro-sector stakeholders

“The government has also been pushing for banks to reduce interest rates for the sector to enable youths to be attracted to secure loans

have an opportunity to widely discuss on how to transform food systems, increase the engagement of youth and women in agriculture and livestock value chains, he stated.

Revisiting themes in the opening session, he said that Tanzania has put in robust efforts to transform agriculture by putting youth at the centre of the sector, citing the US-supported Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT).

A good number of Tanzanian youth have started to benefit from the programme, he said, similarly highlighting agriculture budget increase from 294bn/- at the start of the sixth phase to 954bn/- in the current financial year.

This increase will address challenges in research, quality seeds, irrigation, extension services and construction of storage facilities in rural areas, envisaging agro-sector growth to reach 10 percent by 2030, he stated.

The government has also been pushing for banks to reduce interest rates for the sector to enable youths to be attracted to secure loans, he said, underlining that the rates have dropped to single digits from 15 per cent earlier.

The summit is preoccupied with how the continent, facing the dual challenge of rapid population growth and climate change, finds new financing mechanisms to shape a prosperous and food secure future for all its citizens.

The main theme is pegged to seeking Africa's solutions to food systems transformation, anchored around 'building back better' food systems with youth and women at the centre, officials noted.

'List notorious road stretches'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

WORKS minister Innocent Bashungwa has directed TanRoads regional managers to make feasibility studies on major road trouble spots and submit reports to the ministry for priority in budget allocations.

He issued those instructions in Parliament yesterday when responding to Katani Ahmed Katani (Tandahimba) who sought to know when the government will allocate emergency funds for refurbishing the Nguja - Mkwiti - Tandahimba road troubled stretches.

The managers need to inspect all notorious road stretches, conduct feasibility studies thereof and submit them to the ministry to accord priority, he said.

The MP had similarly demanded for a

“The contract for the 160km Mnivata - Newala - Masasi road stretch with a soft loan from the African Development Bank (AfDB) was signed on 21st June

schedule of uplifting the Mtwara - Nanyamba - Tandahimba - Newala - Masasi road to tarmac level, as reflected in the CCM 2020 election manifesto, with vocal affirmation of that intention by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The minister said building the 210 km road is being done in phases, with the 50km Mtwara - Mnivata stretch completed at tarmac level.

The contract for the 160km Mnivata - Newala - Masasi road stretch with a soft loan from the African Development Bank (AfDB) was signed on 21st June. The 100km Mnivata - Mitesa section and the 60km Mitesa-Masasi portion, along with the Mwititi Bridge were in final preparations for construction work to start.

a good number, while seeking cabinet decisions on a number of major contentions especially in relation to reservation areas.

He pointed at how the government settled a 15-year long land conflict pitting farmers and livestock keepers in Mbarali District of Mbeya Region lying within the Usangu Basin, which is also a resource base for the Ruaha National Park.

Geoffrey Pinda, the deputy minister, had earlier said that the government has waived or reduced costs involved in land surveying and issuance of title deeds, so that public entities like district councils are delivered documents for property they hold in their areas.

Responding to Stella Fiyao (Special Seats), he said the decision was reached to enable public entities to speed up surveying land or plots they hold, along with processing title deeds.

The MP had demanded what happened to

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Lands minister taking up conflict zones files

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

LANDS, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister Jerry Silaa (pictured) has announced a countrywide tour to sit with regional officials to resolve persistent land disputes.

The newly appointed minister aired this intent in the National Assembly yesterday when responding to MPs wishing the minister to work on land conflicts persisting for years in various parts of the country.

He referred to the long tour by a team of eight ministers to all regions where it was presented with a total of 975 land conflicts, resolving



Lands minister taking up conflict zones files

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plans for issuing title deeds for all public plots or land held by district councils, citing the case of Songwe Region.

The five district councils in the regions have a total of 1,679 plots and open areas holding schools, dispensaries, health centres, colleges, government offices, courts and

security units, with other areas being protected areas like forest reserves and archeological sites, he said.

Of the total number of public areas in the region, 892 are surveyed and 637 already have title deeds, he stated.

Despite waiving or reducing land surveying costs, public entities have largely failed to allocate funds to rapidly undertake that activity, he added.

Ministry launches new unit to boost agriculture sector

By Getrude Mbago

TANZANIA'S initiatives to witness major transformation in the agriculture sector has received yet another boost, with the launch of the Agriculture Transformation Office (ATO) in the country.

The ATO is a delivery unit mandated to coordinate the delivery of the sector's agricultural sector transformation and growth strategy (ASTGS).

Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe commended the move, saying that this will help coordinate effective implementation and tracking of the agricultural master plan, support in capacity building (including digital capabilities and tools) and deploy monitoring and evaluation tool.

Speaking during the launching event organised jointly by Ministry of Agriculture and the African Agricultural Transformation Initiative, Bashe said: "There is no transformation without participation. So when you look at the structure of the ATO, how it has been structured, even the transformation master plan, and how is going to be done, it involves key stakeholders including the development partners, farmers, the government officials and the like. We are looking forward to having a strong partnership, no success will happen without engagement of stakeholders."

He explained that the ATO is a result of President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan's trip to Dakar upon which she introduced what is called the Presidential Agricultural Advisory Council, which is the platform to advise her on the issue of agriculture development.

Therefore, the ATO, which engages with ministries of agriculture and that

Tanzania unveils its food systems resilience project

By Guardian Reporter

INCREASING on-farm production capacity through improving access to agriculture services (seed, research, and extension) which supports climate resilient agriculture is expected to be achieved in the Tanzania Food Systems Resilience Program (TFSRP), the government has stated.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe made this observation in remarks delivered at the official launching of the programme in Dar es Salaam yesterday, on the sidelines of the Africa Food Systems Summit.

The World Bank supported program, where back in June the World Bank approved \$300m for TFSRP while on the drawing board, will contribute to the achievement of essential resilience-building components in its results, he told the audience.

A covering statement on the programme says it is built on improving the efficiency of on-farm water use as a buffer against drought and reducing post-harvest losses associated with greenhouse gas emissions.

This will be achieved through better storage and primary processing facilities and management practices, the statement indicated, underlining that the government is responding to the challenges of climate change and food resilience by increasing its investments in agriculture.

In his remarks, the minister said that recent developments have underscored the urgency and scale of the challenge faced by Tanzania and regional governments seeking to increase the resilience of their national and regional food systems. Countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa (AFE) zone are seeking to reduce the risk of food insecurity; promote economic growth,

of Livestock and Fisheries, to design a master plan for implementation

"So its major task would be to look at the implementation and provide a report to the ministers and the presidential advisory council. This office is an independent watchdog to look at our ministries if they implement their duties as per the guidelines set to meet goals," he said.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega, said the ATO is like a mirror to help them look at themselves in terms of performance.

"It will help us build trust in development partners who financially contribute to these sectors. Basically, we are supposed to work with ATO closely," he said.

He added: "This will bring openness and accountability in spending of public funds. This is a good way of engagement and will bring positive impact," he said.

Executive Director of the African Agricultural Transformation Initiative, Safia Boly said the vision and political will demonstrated by President Samia for the Agricultural sector in Tanzania is the foundation that will shape transformation, growth and job creation.

She said despite these challenges, the government of Tanzania is exemplary in prioritising Agriculture as a driver of economic growth - the government tripled its budget for agriculture and has set-up multiple year-long strategies.

The main objectives are to increase productivity of market-oriented agriculture, accelerate commercialization, establish food security, mobilize capital from the private sector and strengthen institutions.

reduce poverty, and attain sustainable environmental management, reducing the potential for conflict and social unrest.

"In addition to the government's renewed commitment to the agriculture sector that we have recently seen, Tanzania is well-placed to be a key player in the growing momentum to address food systems resilience at the regional level," he declared, affirming that a regional perspective is critical to building resilience in food systems.

Such action will maximise trade opportunities, sharing of the relevant technologies and knowledge to maximize productivity and prevent the spread of disease, he said, pointing at the need for managing common natural resource endowments and establishing common systems for early warning to improve preparation and response.

Outlining expectations from implementing the programme, he said that TFSRP is part of the World Bank Group's regional Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) where Tanzania joins five other counties (Ethiopia, Madagascar, Kenya, Somalia, and the Comoros).

There are three regional organizations - the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the African Union Commission (AUC) who stand to benefit from a framework of programmes focused on building resilience and food security.

This framework will increase opportunities for cross learning and cooperation, he said, pointing out that the programme's technology, knowledge output and results will be shared across the region. "At the same time, the programme will open new channels for surrounding countries to share lessons with Tanzania," he added.



Norwegian Minister for International Development, Anne Beathe Tvinning (2nd R) and Deputy minister for Agriculture David Silinde (3rd R) receive a briefing from Yara Tanzania managing director Winstone Odhiambo (L) on the fertiliser manufacturing processes at the firm's Kurasini terminal in Dar es Salaam yesterday during their visit at the facility as part of the ongoing AGRF meeting. Right is the Yara International president and Chief Executive Officer Svein Tore Holsether. Photo: Correspondent

AfDB: Optimise resources, target energy inclusion

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Vision 2030-2040 development plan. With this, we envision a bright future for Africa," he said.

Mauritania is a key leader of the Desert to Power initiative, which aims at maximizing the vast solar power potential across the Sahel region, comprising Burkina Faso, Cameroon,

Chad, The Gambia, Guinea Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. The Bank-led project seeks to transform the Sahel into the world's largest solar production zone.

Malawi's energy minister, Ibrahim Matola noted that renewable energy potential offered Africa the opportunity to innovate and deliver energy access to its people.

"Renewable energy is the only way to go; but we need innovative measures for storage to address transmission and distribution losses," he said. Reports indicate that electricity losses in Africa during distribution and transmission amount to \$5 billion annually.

"If countries are to go for renewal energy in large scale, they need large

scale storage. This will contribute to addressing energy poverty", noted Simon Harford, Chief Executive Officer of Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP).

He reiterated his organisation's commitment to support African governments as they embed renewable energy at the core of their development endeavours.



Canadian High Commissioner to Tanzania Kyle Nunas (L) greets NMB Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Ruth Zaipuna at the Africa's Food Systems summit 2023 being held at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Livestock keeps 2.2 m households - minister

By Guardian Reporter

THE livestock sector is blessed with various opportunities for investment including keeping 77 million households. The sector is a big economic activity that keeps more than 2.2 million households in the country.

The observation was made by the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega in his submission of livestock issues at the ongoing 13th AGRF conference in Dar es Salaam.

Ulega said the livestock sector contributes to 805,000 tonnes of livestock, 3.6 billion litres of milk, 14.1 pieces of hides and skins per year.

He said other opportunities is in

the existence of various ecosystems farming zones that assist in the various types of livestock including southern highlands zone that is famous for milk production, central and lake zones for cattle and goat keeping for meat and northern zone for cattle and sheep farming.

"Another is the availability of farm land that can assist in the production of seeds for animal fodder.

"Easy access to markets for the livestock and products thereof in the EAC, SADC and AfCFTA zones.

Ulega named other opportunities as including the existence of a good business and political environment in the country and the huge human resources including youth and women.

He said the opportunities aim at commercial production of livestock in order to increase the production of raw materials for processing industries.

"Another issue is that the livestock sector involves the employment opportunities agenda by involving the youth and women in the Building Better Tomorrow through Livestock and Fishing Entrepreneurs (BBT-LIFE).

"This has involved the hiring of 240 youth in the BBT-LIFE plan. Those targeted have benefitted from mental innovation and concepts that aim at businesses that in turn aim to increase production, value addition and job creation," he said.

In addition, he said the livestock

sector is a huge business activity in not less than 2.2 households, or 35 per cent of all households that contribute to the production of 805,000 tonnes of meat, 3.3 billion litres of milk, 505 billion eggs, and 14.1 pieces of hides and skins.

Ulega further said in general livestock products contribute to individual consumption of 15 kgs of meat, 62 litres of milk, 106 eggs per year as against recommended 50 kgs of meat, 200 litres of milk and 300 eggs.

"The value of livestock exports is 14,700 tonnes of meat, 65,000 kgs of milk and 800,000 pieces of hides and skins earning the country 61.4m/- and USD 2.4 million," explained Ulega.



The Exim Bank chief finance officer Shani Kinswaga (L) speaks during the Tanzania Police Senior Officers annual general meeting held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. The bank urged the senior police officers to tap opportunities offered by the financial institution. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AWARD unveils five-year strategy

By Getrude Mbugo

THE African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) has unveiled a five-year strategy (2023-2027) with a major focus being on advocating for gender-responsive policies to lure more women into the agriculture value chain.

Dr Susan Kaaria, Director-AWARD said that the strategy will greatly promote and ensure the adoption of gender sensitive and responsive approaches towards engendering agriculture plans and programmes in such a way that both men and women have access to and control of productive resources and facilities to bridge gender gaps.

Speaking during the launching event in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday evening, Dr Susan said that as women representation in various sectors including agriculture was still low, taking robust efforts to close the gap was a matter of paramount importance.

"During the implementation of the strategy in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, we will purposely expand our targeting to include early career and emerging leaders for a sustainable and strong pipeline," she said. The initiatives, according to her, are expected to drastically reduce the vulnerability of women to biases in agriculture, address the unequal gender power relation and bridge gender gap.

Dr Susan said that 2023 marks 15 years since AWARD's founding in 2008 where it began as a career development programme that sought to nurture more women leaders in agriculture research development (ARD), understood the need to expand our focus beyond the individual women, for sustained results.

"We will engage with agriculture research for development (AR4D) policy practitioners at regional, sub-regional and global levels to create awareness and catalyze the design of gender responsive policies and revamp our approach to expand collaboration with actors to cultivate a gender-responsive AR4D ecosystem," she explained.

The AWARD Fellowships have contributed to building and sustaining a strong talent pool of women agricultural researchers including 1,773 beneficiaries from 260 institutions in 26 countries.

She, however, insisted that coordinated

efforts also from both government and stakeholders were needed to have concrete action steps and initiatives that will drive positive change in promoting gender-responsive policies, programmes and partnerships in the African agricultural sector.

She praised Tanzania for showing commitment to prioritising issues for women and youth in agriculture.

"I am so pleased to hear the minister for agriculture and the minister for livestock and fisheries speaking at the AGRF that Tanzania is prioritising women and youth, for me that is really wonderful," she said.

The new strategy also intends to leverage on our alumni and country chapters as champions who can play a critical role in influencing institutional transformation.

It is expected that the strategy will increase evidence on the cost of the gender gap in the agrifood systems, underscoring the case for promoting gender equality at all levels of the wider agrifood system.

Ann Vaughn, Senior Advisor for Climate Change, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID, stressed commitment to continue supporting the AWARD in the next five years to make sure that they address some of the gender inequalities that are still happening.

"USAID and the US government is taking the issue of gender inequalities seriously. More investment from the private sector is needed in issues of gender equality, to partner these efforts," she stated.

She noted that as food systems and the food security of communities and households in Africa are highly vulnerable to climate impacts, efforts were needed to strongly advocate for greater participation of all people in production. She said that if well engaged and supported, women have a great contribution in strengthening food security, transforming economies and fighting poverty.

Dr Lateef Sanni, Chairperson of the AWARD Steering Committee, noted that the strategy has a lot of stakeholders' consultation. "There is value in investing in gender mainstreaming. We need to sustain our environment, when we walk together, we are going to address many problems, we need to sustain equality and opportunity," he argued.

US announces US\$15 million to support food systems in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced new investments to support inclusive and resilient food systems in Africa, including \$15 million to provide targeted support to women, smallholder farmers, and small- and medium-sized businesses in food systems across the continent.

USAID deputy administrator Isobel Coleman and Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security Dina Esposito made the announcement yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the ongoing Africa Food Systems Forum.

They announced new investments to support inclusive and resilient food

systems in Africa, including \$15 million to provide targeted support to women, smallholder farmers, and small- and medium-sized businesses in food systems across the continent.

These investments are part of the supplemental funds deployed by the US government through Feed the Future, a whole-of-government initiative to address food insecurity and fertiliser price hikes in Africa.

During the opening session of the forum's deal room - a match-making venue to drive new agribusiness deals and commitments, Coleman announced a \$4 million investment in VALUE4HER, Africa's first agribusiness digital marketplace specifically for women.

Seventy per cent of women-owned small- and medium sized businesses

in developing countries cannot access financial services that meet their needs - a finance gap that drives gender inequality. VALUE4HER, implemented by AGRA, will help women-led agribusiness overcome the barriers by enabling them to build business networks, raise capital, and connect with buyers, financiers, and other service providers.

During a forum roundtable on the vision for Africa's fertiliser and soil health, Esposito announced a \$5 million investment to sustain Africa, an initiative that coordinates public and private sector partners to help small-holder farmers access affordable fertiliser, strengthen resilience to future fertiliser shocks, and ensure a stable and nutritious food supply.

With USAID's support, the

programme will expand and improve its ability to track fertilizer price trends and signal when help is needed. This investment enables USAID and its private sector partners to help six million farmers in sub-Saharan Africa successfully grow crops, even in the face of shocks.

During an event at the close of the forum's First Day, Deputy Administrator Coleman announced a \$6 million investment, in partnership with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and Incofin investment management, in the Nutritious Foods Financing Facility (N3F).

The first of its kind, N3F is an investment fund focused explicitly on improving diet quality and nutrition in sub-Saharan Africa through financing to small- and medium-enterprises involved in the provision of affordable, safe, and nutritious local food. The fund also prioritises investments that advance gender equality and provide at least 30 per cent of all loans to woman-owned or led small- and medium size businesses.

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DIVIDEND DECLARATION.

The 28th Annual General Meeting of Shareholders held on 25th August 2023, approved the declaration of dividend of Tsh. 50.00 per issued and fully paid up shares. The following is the approved timetable for dividend payment;

Announcement of Dividend Payment:	7 th September, 2023
Trading of Shares cum Dividend:	7 th September - 26 th September 2023
Trading of Shares Ex-Dividend:	27 th September 2023
Closure of the Members Register:	2 nd October 2023
Dividend Payment on/or about:	20 th October 2023

Dividend will be paid directly to shareholders bank accounts.

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Dar collects 1.9bn/- from levies, royalties, construction minerals

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

DAR ES SALAAM Region has collected 1.9bn/- from levies, royalties and audit from construction minerals in the 2022/23 financial year, the National Assembly was told yesterday.

Deputy minister for Minerals Dr Stephen Kiruswa revealed this in the National Assembly when responding to a question by Special Seats Member of Parliament Mariam Nasoro Kisangwi.

Among others, the construction minerals consist of sand, gravel, and crushed natural stone, various brick clays, gypsum, and natural ornamental or dimension stone.

The deputy minister said construction minerals produced in Dar es Salaam include limestone, sand and stone from Kigamboni, Mkuranga, Ilala and Kinondoni districts.

The lawmaker wanted to know in

'Assets belonging to TLC be sold and money be compensated to those alive'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

A Special committee formed to advise on the fate of Tanzanian soldiers who participated in the Second World War has advised that 15.95bn/- assets belonging to their association known as Tanzania Legion and Club (TLC) be sold and the money be compensated to those alive and their families.

The committee which was formed by the Ministry of Defence and National Service has also advised that the money should be used to offer the veterans' health insurance and their heirs.

Defence and National Service Minister Dr Stergomena Tax made the sentiments in the National Assembly during a question and answer session.

The minister was responding to a question by Kibaha urban legislator Sylvester Koka who wanted to know what the government was doing to ensure that army veterans who fought the Second World War through TLC benefit from the assets.

In response, the minister said

her preliminary question, how was Dar es Salaam region benefiting from the construction minerals produced from within the region.

"Despite the fact that Dar es Salaam Region benefits from construction minerals, 60 per cent of the minerals used for construction in the commercial capital are produced in the Coast Region districts of Mkuranga, Bagamoyo, Kisarawe and Kibaha.

He said the ministry of minerals through the Minerals Commission will continue to strengthen the production of construction minerals in Dar es Salaam to add value to the minerals so that they are beneficial to the country.

Usually the demand for construction minerals is generally high. The sector mainly consists of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) operating over 20,000 extraction sites that supply local and regional markets.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan directed that the ministry form a committee to analyze and advise on the fate of the soldiers and their assets.

She said the ministry formed the committee in July last year which established that Tanzanians soldiers who fought the war were 737 and out of the number 57 are alive while 680 have died.

On the assets, the committee established that TCL had assets worth 37.36bn/- where some were found to be in debts and others being owned by other organizations.

She said the committee also found that the veterans are in dire need of social support including health support.

"The committee advised that the assets be sold and the money be given to those alive and their heirs but also give them health insurance," she said.

According to Dr Tax the team also advised that the money be used to construct a memorial pillar for all soldiers who fought the war between 1939 and 1945.



Geita Regional Commissioner Martin Shigela (C) listens to Almansour Auto Ltd country general manager, Anurup Chatterjee when he visited the company's office in Dar es Salaam to encourage the participation of the Geita mineral exhibition that is expected to be held soon. Right is company's sales manager Filbert Masawe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt to drill 67,500 wells for irrigation to make work easier on farmers - Bashe

By Guardian Reporter

AGRICULTURE minister Hussein Bashe has said the project for drilling 67,500 wells and providing each farmer with 2.5 acres for free irrigation and 5,000-litre water tanks are among efforts to make sure farmers' activities are made easier.

The minister made the remarks in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday during the debate on soil fertility in farming at the ongoing four-day AGRF 2023 conference.

He said they also have a programme to reach 8.5 million acres under

irrigation by 2030 and that last year they had 720,000 acres under irrigation.

Bashe explained that to facilitate all this, 1.3trn/- per year on average, hence at the AGRF Conference, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been able to access USD 300 million for irrigation.

"We will also launch a USD100 million project with the African Development Bank (AfDB) starting January next year channeled to agricultures and will involve the country's youth, therefore, the aim of this gathering is to show the world the resources Tanzania has and how Tanzania will participate in their

utilisation to facilitate global trade in food especially," he said.

Regarding soil fertility, a soil expert from Alliance Biodiversity International, David Guereña advised the government to collaborate with them to solve challenges affecting crop quality and attract youth to the production sector.

He said many youth in the farming sector get despaired owing to lack of benefits because of various challenges including soil fertility.

Guereña said researchers were doing a great job to improve the value chain on crops such as quality seeds and soil

nutrients, issues that instill reluctance in the youth to take up farming.

He said the time they made their researches in farming in the country, they discovered that poor soil fertility is one of the reasons that reduces benefits in agricultural crops that keep the youth away, especially in southern areas including Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya as well as the Lake Zone comprising Bukoba and Kagera regions.

For his part the Strategic Cooperation Director from YARA International, Oystein Botillen said in the fight against poor soil fertility challenges, they have been providing education to agriculture experts and farmers, especially the youth on how to boost soil fertility by using limestone.



HAVEN OF PEACE ACADEMY

EXPERIENCED SENIOR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL NEEDED TO SERVE AT AN INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HAVEN OF PEACE ACADEMY

Haven of Peace Academy (HOPAC) is a faith-based educational institution owned and operated by Haven of Peace Trust. HOPAC was founded in 1994 for children of missionaries and has evolved into a Christian international school with a diverse student population that includes children of missionaries and full-time Christian service workers, children of expats working in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, and children of Tanzanians working in the non-profit, for-profit, and public sectors. The school is located in Kunduchi at the junction of Salasala Road and Bagamoyo Road in Kinondoni Municipal in Dar es Salaam and is currently inviting applications for vacancies of competent, experienced, and qualified teachers and school personnel.

JOB SUMMARY

The Senior School Principal is a member of the school management team and reports to the school's director. The principal oversees Grades 9 through 12 and is the educational leader of the Senior/High school; responsible for its day-to-day operation and works closely with the other school principals to deliver on the overall educational program of the school.

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- Committed Evangelical Christian
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- Meet the minimum certification standards set forth by ACSI in an area of academic instruction and leadership
- Preferred minimum 5 years' experience teaching and 2 years in administration or leadership role.
- Fluent in English, the medium of instruction
- Minimum of three years of sociology or counseling experience, preferably in a multicultural setting

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Oversee teaching process and academic programs
- Responsible for planning and presentation of school assemblies and programs
- Prepare a master class schedule (timetable) and assign staff and students to classes and other obligations, working in conjunction with the Middle and Elementary/Primary School Principals
- To co-ordinate the selection and procurement of resources and supplies for the Senior school
- Responsible for Culture/Climate, Communication with Students and Parents, involved in the Hiring Process, oversight of Admissions process, and tracking of budget.

If you are confident that you match the above criteria, please send your **Application letter and CV only** by email to personnel@hopac.sc.tz to arrive on/or before **16th September '2023**, or physically addressed to **Personnel Department, Haven of Peace Academy, P. O. Box 70027, Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA.**

By Guardian Reporter

RURAL Energy Board (REB) that oversees Rural Energy Agency (REA) activities has called on the people who received power supply from various power distribution projects by REA to use the energy for economic activities for their own economic wellbeing and that of the nation.

REB chairman, Janet Mbene issued the call on Tuesday in Mwanza as she addressed reporters after the end of a task force meeting involving REB members and contractors implementing electricity distribution projects in the rural areas of the region.

Mbene said among the Board's responsibilities is to make sure funds issued by the government and donors for rural power supply projects are not lost, but bring benefits to those intended.

In the circumstances, she said REB commends President Samia Suluhu Hassan for continuing to provide

REB: Use power from REA project for economic production activities

funds for the implementation of rural power projects.

Meanwhile, Mbene said she was satisfied by the speed in the implementation of rural power projects in Mwanza Region, saying many contractors have attained more than 80 per cent completion and hoped the projects will be finished in time as provided in the contracts.

She also thanked TANESCO officials Mwanza Region for the cooperation being extended to REA in the supervision of the projects.

She also commended the good work being done by projects coordinators in every district in the country, saying their presence has to a great extent reduced complaints from various officials, including politicians on the access of reports on the projects implementation in their areas.

Earlier, speaking at the meeting, REA

Projects Supervision Manager, Eng. Romanus Lwena said a total of six rural power projects are being implemented in Mwanza Region, naming them as - REA III First Round, REA III Second Round and Supplementary to REA Phase II

Another one is the supply of power to health centres, water wells and mining areas, factories and farming facilities.

For his part, Mwanza Region TANESCO Projects Engineer, James Kabasa thanked REA for implementing many rural power projects in the region and added that to a great extent they have reached the people in the areas who were in dire need of power.

REB Chairman, Janet Mbene is on her working visit in Mwanza Region accompanied by two Board members, Eng. Styden Rwebangila and Florian Haule.



Mara Region residents listen to Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe during a public rally recently. Photo: Correspondent Samson Chacha



MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FOR HEALTH (MDH) CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO BE SELECTED AS A SUB RECIPIENT (SR) FOR GLOBAL FUND FOR AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA (GFATM) SUPPORTED PROGRAMMES IN TANZANIA MAINLAND

Management and Development for Health, (MDH) is an indigenous-Tanzanian non-Governmental Organization that envisions a healthy and prosperous society with a mission to address public health priorities through evidence-based innovation interventions and partnership in collaboration with the Government of Tanzania, the United States Government including PEPFAR, Global Fund, other funding agencies, stakeholders and communities, MDH supports health strengthening systems, comprehensive and quality HIV, TB, Malaria prevention, care, and treatment (PCT), nutrition, maternal and child health services. MDH is governed by Board of Directors, and a management leadership of a Chief Executive Officer, directors and technical staffs with expertise in community health, medicine, nursing, data management, research, ICT, social sciences, finance and administration.

The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) raises, invests and awards funds to countries to fight against these deadly diseases. Tanzania Mainland has been awarded Global Fund Cycle 7 for TB/HIV and Malaria/RSSH components. As part of dual track financing, MDH was selected by Tanzania National Coordinating Mechanism (TNCM) as a Principal recipient (PR2) for the Non-State Actors for the HIV/TB and Malaria/RSSH components. This grant will be implemented for three years, from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2026. MDH is embarking into grant making process that include nomination of Sub Recipients for the above-mentioned components.

MDH invites applications from interested and reputable Tanzanian local organizations/institutions that would like to be considered as Sub Recipients (SRs) for the HIV/TB and Malaria/RSSH components. The SRs will be responsible for program implementation at community level within respective regions and districts. They will be fully accountable to the Principal Recipient (PR2) and with formal legal obligations towards the grant funds and implementation of agreed work plans and budgets. The organizations/institutions should meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be a local Non-Government Organisation (NGO) with legal entity status, an independent governance and supervisory board, which has an organizational structure comprising effective leadership and management as well as transparent decision-making and accountability procedures.
- Has the legal capacity, status and right to enter into a grant agreement and have the ability to receive grant in accordance to the current registration status.
- Proven organization's experience in the implementation of proposed priority HIV/TB and Malaria/RSSH modules and interventions. Should have adequate technical expertise in infectious diseases (HIV and AIDS, TB, and community/health system strengthening).
- Experience in implementation of HIV/TB and Malaria funded by GFATM as well as RSSH would be considered as an added advantage but not a must.
- Has staff (or be committed to hire staff) with relevant qualifications, skills, background and experience in the implementation of HIV, TB, malaria and RSSH projects.
- Has an appropriate procurement and supply chain management system, financial management, Monitoring and Evaluation system in place.
- Has an adequate internal control system that will enable the prompt preparation of regular and reliable financial statements and reports, should safeguard the Global Fund financial and physical assets, should be subject to and comply with acceptable auditing arrangement, ensure compliance, prompt efficient and effective operations and allow for the accomplishment of the program goals and objectives.

A table below shows components and priority modules and key interventions to be implemented-

COMPONENT: HIV
MODULE 1: Prevention Package for Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and their Sexual Partners
INTERVENTIONS
1. Condom programming for MSM 2. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) programming for MSM 3. HIV prevention communication, information and demand creation for MSM 4. Sexual and reproductive health services, including STIs, hepatitis, and post-violence care for MSM 5. Removing human rights-related barriers to prevention for MSM. 6. Community empowerment for MSM.
MODULE 2: Prevention Package for Sex Workers, their clients, and Other Sexual Partners
INTERVENTIONS
1. Condom programming for FSW 2. HIV prevention communication, information and demand creation for sex workers 3. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) programming for FSW 4. Sexual and reproductive health services, including STIs, hepatitis, and post-violence care for sex workers 5. Removing human rights-related barriers to prevention for Sex workers. 6. Community empowerment for Sex workers.
MODULE 3: Prevention Package for People Who Use Drugs (PUD) (injecting and non-injecting) and their Sexual Partners
INTERVENTIONS
1. Needle and Syringe program (NSP) for PUD. 2. Opioid substitution therapy (OST) and other medically assisted drug dependence treatments for PUD 3. Community empowerment for PUD 4. Removing human rights related barriers to prevention for PUD.
MODULE 4: Prevention Package for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) and Male Sexual Partners in High HIV Incidence Settings
INTERVENTIONS
1. HIV prevention communication, information and demand creation for AGYW in high HIV incidence settings

2. HIV prevention communication, information and demand creation for male sexual partners of AGYW in high HIV incidence settings.
3. Comprehensive sexuality education for AGYW and adolescent boys and young men (ABYM).
4. Sexual and reproductive health services, including STIs, hepatitis, post violence care for AGYW and male sexual partners in high HIV incidence settings
5. Removing human rights related barriers to prevention for AGYW in high HIV incidence settings
6. Social protection interventions for AGYW in high HIV incidence settings
7. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) programming for AGYW/ABYM in high HIV incidence settings
8. Condom programming for AGYW/ABYM

MODULE 5: Prevention Package for Other Vulnerable Populations (OVP)
INTERVENTIONS
1. Condom programming for OVP 2. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) programming for OVP 3. HIV prevention communication, information and demand creation for OVP 4. Removing human rights-related barriers to prevention for OVP 5. Community empowerment for Other Vulnerable Population (OVP). 6. Sexual and reproductive health services, including STIs, hepatitis, post violence care for OVP

MODULE 6: Prevention Package for People in Prisons and Other Closed Settings
INTERVENTIONS
1. Sexual and reproductive health services, including STIs, hepatitis, post-violence care for prisoners 2. Harm reduction interventions for drug use for prisoners

MODULE 8: Elimination of Vertical Transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B
INTERVENTIONS
1. Integrated testing and Management of the pregnant and breastfeeding women for HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B 2. Retention support for pregnant and breastfeeding women (facility and community) 3. Early infant diagnosis and follow-up HIV testing for exposed infants 4. Prevention of incident HIV among pregnant and breastfeeding women 5. Post-natal infant prophylaxis

MODULE 9: Differentiated HIV Testing Services
INTERVENTIONS
1. Facility-based testing for key population (KP) programs 2. Facility-based testing for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and their male sexual partners programs 3. Facility-based testing outside of key population (KP) and adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) programs 4. Community-based testing for KP programs 5. Community-based testing for AGYW and their male sexual partners programs 6. Community-based testing outside of KP and AGYW programs 7. Self-testing for KP programs 8. Self-testing for AGYW and their male sexual partners programs 9. Self-testing outside of KP and AGYW programs

MODULE 10: Treatment, Care and Support
INTERVENTIONS
1. HIV treatment and differentiated service delivery – adults (15 and above) 2. HIV treatment and differentiated service delivery – children (under 15) 3. Diagnosis and management of advanced disease (adults and children) 4. Integrated management of common co-infections and co-morbidities (adults and children) 5. Treatment monitoring – viral load and antiretroviral (ARV) toxicity

MODULE 11: TB/HIV
INTERVENTIONS
1. TB/HIV – Screening, testing and diagnosis. 2. TB/HIV – Prevention 3. TB/HIV – Collaborative interventions 4. TB/HIV – Treatment and care 5. TB/HIV – Key populations 6. TB/HIV – Community care delivery

MODULE 12: Reducing Human Rights-related Barriers to HIV/TB Services
INTERVENTIONS
1. Eliminating stigma and discrimination in all settings. 2. Legal literacy (“Know Your Rights”). 3. Ensuring rights-based law enforcement practices 4. Reducing HIV-related gender discrimination, harmful gender norms and violence against women and girls in all their diversity.

COMPONENT: TUBERCULOSIS
MODULE 1: TB Diagnosis, Treatment and Care
INTERVENTIONS
1. TB screening and Diagnosis 2. TB treatment, Care and Support

MODULE 2: Drug-resistant (DR)-TB Diagnosis, Treatment and Care
INTERVENTIONS
1. DR-TB treatment, care, and support 2. DR-TB diagnosis/ drug susceptibility testing (DST)

MODULE 3: TB/DR-TB Prevention
INTERVENTIONS
1. Screening/testing for TB infection 2. TB Preventive treatment 3. Infection prevention and control (IPC)

MODULE 4: Collaboration with Other Providers and Sectors
INTERVENTIONS
1. Private provider engagement in TB/DR-TB care

2. Community-based TB/DR-TB care
3. Collaboration with other programs/sectors

MODULE 5: Key and Vulnerable Populations (KVP) – TB/DR-TB
INTERVENTIONS
1. KVP – Children and adolescents 2. KVP – People in prisons/jails/detention centres 3. KVP – Miners and mining communities 4. KVP – Others

MODULE 6: TB/HIV
INTERVENTIONS
1. TB/HIV – Collaborative interventions 2. TB/HIV – Screening, testing and diagnosis 3. TB/HIV – Treatment and care 4. TB/HIV – Prevention

MODULE 7: Removing Human Rights and Gender-related Barriers to TB Services
INTERVENTIONS
1. Eliminating TB-related stigma and discrimination. 2. Ensuring people-centred and rights-based TB services at health facilities. 3. Ensuring people-centred and rights-based law enforcement practices. 4. Legal literacy (“Know-Your Rights”) 5. Increasing access to justice 6. Reducing TB-related gender discrimination, harmful gender norms and violence 7. Community mobilization and advocacy, including support to TB survivor-led groups.

All organizations applying will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- 1. Project/Program management:** must have demonstrated experience in the management of health-related projects indicating size and scope; have expertise and experience in the selected priority areas/key interventions and also an ability to hire staff with required education, background and experience to manage the key interventions. Demonstrated track record with value for money in addressing community needs and interventions designs with direct reach for the intended beneficiaries. Prior experience in managing Global Fund supported grants will be an added advantage but not a must. **(40 points)**
- 2. Financial management:** must demonstrate adequate internal financial controls system and capacity to make timely payments and accurately record and report transactions. Must be able to adhere to acceptable standards practices that safeguard the GFATM financial and non-financial and programmatic audit from time to time. **(20 points)**
- 3. Working with CBOs and other networks:** must demonstrate adequate ability to work with CBOs and other PLHV/TB networks in the implementation of the selected priority key interventions and also ability to implement the program in more than three regions, concurrently. **(15 points)**
- 4. General Management:** Have structures that provide and demonstrate effective organization's good governance and leadership with clear division of functions and roles, have effective human resources management and effective monitoring and evaluation systems in place **(15 points)**
- 5. Physical and Information technology Infrastructure:** Have adequate infrastructure –physical, material and technical resources for staff and computerized management information system for timely communications, transaction and financial and technical program reporting. **(10 points)**

Applicants should indicate one or more priorities areas they wish to be considered for. All applications must not exceed 12 pages (excluding attachments) and must be submitted in English using Times new Roman, font size 12. The arrangement of the required information should be as follow.

1. Cover page – Organization name, physical address, legal registration number, TIN, contact person and designation, type of organization –FBO, Local NGOs, CSOs, etc; as per NGO act of 2002
2. Description of organization experience as per number 1 to 5 above (do not exceed 12 pages).

Please note that the cover page and the following supporting documents which are to be submitted together with the application are not part of the 12 pages.

- Organization/Institutional profile, including a diagram and brief description of organizational structure.
- CVs of three key personnel
- Proof of registration, including, TIN
- General organizational policy and procedure manual
- Finance policy and procedure manual
- Procurement manual
- Audit reports and management letters during the past three years (most recent reports)
- M&E manual
- Description of the Information technology Infrastructure.

All applications should be in hard copies and soft copies in flash disks. Applications, in sealed envelopes and clearly marked on the left upper corner GFATM-SR 2024–2026, should be submitted to the following.

Chief Executive Officer
Management and Development for Health,
P.O Box 79810, Plot # 802,
Mwai Kibaki Road, Mikocheni
Dar es Salaam

All applications must be received not later than two weeks from first appearance in the media
 • Questions about this call may be submitted to MDH through: info@mdh.or.tz.

'11,242,736 Tanzanians have been issued with National Identity Cards as of July 31'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

A TOTAL of 11,242,736 have been issued with National Identity Cards as of July 31, which is equivalent to 55-per cent of the target to offer IDs to 20,294,910 citizens who are eligible, the National Assembly was told yesterday.

The plan now is to offer ID to the remaining 9,052,174 Tanzanians by March 2024 according to Deputy minister in the Vice President's Office, Khamis Hamza Khamis.

The deputy minister was speaking when responding to a question by special seats legislator Esther Matiko during a question and answer session.

"How many eligible Tanzanians have received their National Identity Cards and how many have registered for the same," the MP asked.

The government recently announced to introduce a new digital identity which is set for a roll out as Tanzania inches towards a digital economy.

The 'Unique Number ID' will enable all users to electronically access all the critical government services and the same from the private sector.

The new digital ID is expected to be much superior to others currently in use in that it will contain detailed information about the holder.

Unique Number ID will enable all users to electronically access all the critical government services and the same from the private sector and

will be superior to others currently in use in that it will contain detailed information.

The current national IDs, issued by the National Identification Authority (NIDA), are confined to people aged above 18 years.

Unlike NIDA IDs, 'Unique Number ID' holder would not need to possess a card but will only be identified through his or her number.

The new digital identity is being introduced in collaboration with counterpart institutions in Zanzibar responsible for IDs registration.

Digital IDs have become important as Tanzania is embracing a digital economy whereby all transactions will have to be done electronically.



How many eligible Tanzanians have received their National Identity Cards and how many have registered for the same



Njombe Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka (R), listens to Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) head of public relations department Roida Andusamile when the latter visited the BRELA booth at the 13th annual Africans Food Systems summit 2023 at Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

1,808 residents receive 5.6bn/- compensation to pave way for North Mara Mine expansion

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

THE exercise to compensate residents of Nyeheto area, Tarime District, Mara Region continues well and many people are coming up to receive their compensation.

The residents are being compensated to pave way for the expansion of North Mara Gold Mine operated by Barrick in partnership with the government through Twiga Minerals.

Barrick has set aside more than 5.6bn/- to pay 1,808 residents of the area.

Reports from North Mara Gold show that up to Tuesday last week more than 600 people came up to receive their payments.

According to Tarime District Commissioner, Col. Michael Mntenjele, the exercise follows a long time conflict pitting the people and the mine authorities.

Under these circumstances, DC Mntenjele continues to mobilise the people to grab the opportunity to pave the way for the expansion of the gold mine.

He said the government is

coordinating well with North Mara barrack, even in issues for boosting relations with the surrounding communities.

He explained that the efforts involve educating the people on the benefits of the gold mine as well as the Mine's corporate social responsibilities via various development projects for the surrounding villages.

He cited the commercial vegetables farming project run by the youth of Matongo Village that was initiated from sponsorship of Barrick North Mara and Tarime District Council.

"From the education we provide and CSR projects sponsored by Barrick in villages, the youth will be urged to stop invading the gold mine area," DC Mntenjele said.

In addition, in efforts to improve public relations with the surrounding communities, Barrack North Mara has frequently been repairing vital roads in villages to ease transport.

On the other hand, various firms owned by the indigenous work at the gold mine and contribute in creating jobs to the youth, thereby increasing money circulation in the villages.

Lender to provide seamless banking services to boost financial Inclusion

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank has reiterated its commitment to continue providing seamless banking services as part of its commitment to enhance financial inclusion across the country.

Shani Kinswaga, Exim Bank's Chief Finance Officer (CFO) made the commitment on Tuesday when speaking during the annual general meeting for Senior Tanzania Police Officers held in Dar es Salaam.

Kinswaga said that the bank seeks to continue implementing strategies to close the unbanked gap, noting that the bank remains at the forefront of redefining Tanzania's banking industry and impact on the lives of customers through seamless access to financial services, while leveraging flexible digital solutions and tailor-made services.

"We are so grateful for this unique opportunity to showcase our wide range of banking service offerings to the Police Force. As a bank, it will remain at the forefront of taking banking services close to the people right at grassroots level," Kinswaga.

He said Exim Bank earlier this year upgraded its core banking system to a more resilient and robust infrastructure, a move geared towards enriching its offerings and delivering customers a heightened sense of security, efficiency, and innovation.

"This re-affirms our unwavering dedication to evolving into more than just a conventional banking establishment. As a bank, we are committed to delve into the complete capabilities of our enhanced systems and our commitment persists in delivering beyond conventional banking services to our valued customers and the community we serve," Kinswaga stated.

Kinswaga said as the bank celebrates 26 years of being more than a bank this year, it remains committed to empowering Tanzanians through seamless access to financial services and banking products, tailor-made to their needs.

Andrew Lyimo, bank's Head of Retail Banking said the bank will continue providing customer-centric solutions to enhance service excellence to its

customers through digital channels.

The bank has various unique banking propositions that include 'Wafanyakazi Loan, Mortgage, Loan, 'Haba na Haba' and the SuperWoman account that come with added benefits to potential customers.

Lyimo emphasized that the bank's 'Wafanyakazi' loan is dedicated to salaried Government employees and can be payable up to 96 months and does not require any collateral with borrowers entitled to borrow a minimum limit of Tsh 1 million and a maximum of up to Tsh 160 million.

"At Exim Bank, we have always been passionate about creating opportunities for our customers by providing value-added services in line with delivering superior customer experience to our customers. I take this opportunity to urge all Tanzanians to embrace opportunities provided by the bank," Lyimo said.



This re-affirms our unwavering dedication to evolving into more than just a conventional banking establishment. As a bank, we are committed to delve into the complete capabilities of our enhanced systems and our commitment persists in delivering beyond conventional banking services to our valued customers and the community we serve



CCM party chairman in Mufindi District George Kavenuke, district council chairman Festo Mgina (4th R) Igoda village officials receive a key of village dispensary built by Foxes company worth 250m/- yesterday. Left is investor Geoff Foxe and his wife Mary Foxe's. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

10,000 women to benefit from environment conservation drive

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

OVER 10,000 women and their families in five regions -Dodoma, Morogoro, Mwanza, Arusha, and Geita have benefited from a campaign launched by Lake Energies Group in Dodoma.

The campaign, named 'Kumtua Mama Kuni Kichwani' involves distributing 13,500 gas cylinders to the beneficiaries.

During the launch of the campaign in Dodoma over the weekend, Matina Nkurlu, Lake Energies Group's marketing and communications

manager said that the decision is meant to support the government's efforts to restore degraded environment.

This includes reducing or even eradicating the use of firewood and charcoal energy.

"Lake Energies believes in supporting the initiatives of the Sixth Phase Government led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, particularly through the Rural Energy Agency (REA). Our campaign aligns with the environmental conservation mission, aiming to reduce or eliminate the use of firewood and charcoal energy," he

said. "We have already distributed gas cylinders in the regions of Arusha, Morogoro, Mwanza, and Geita," Nkurlu explained.

He added: "The campaign aims to ease the burden of Tanzanian women who spend a lot of time searching for firewood and charcoal for cooking and also protect them from different forest dangers, hence having much time to take care of their young one and marriage."

Job Ndugai, the Chairman of the Dodoma Region Parliamentarians, thanked Lake Energies for their

initiative.

He called upon other companies to emulate this example of supporting President Samia.

Geita MP, Joseph Musukuma described the support as timely as women have been speeding more time in searching firewood and charcoal for cooking.

Eng Michael Kyessi, Rural Energy Agency (REA) representative, encouraged Tanzanians to shift to using gas for cooking and other activities that require heat energy instead of firewood and charcoal.

He said that there are 13,500 beneficiaries of gas cylinders in the regions of Dodoma, Arusha, Morogoro, Geita, and Mwanza, who are also expected to become ambassadors in their areas, ensuring that the society completely abandons the use of firewood and charcoal energy.



Zanzibar's Minister of Infrastructure, Communications, and Transport, Dr Khalid S. Mohamed (2nd R) listens to Joseph Muhere, Airtel business director during a two-day summit of communication stakeholders from within and outside the country dubbed: Connect to Connect (C2C) aims to discuss challenges and solutions in the communication sector, particularly in digital communication methods in Africa organised by Zanzibar Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications, and Transport and mainland Ministry of Information, Communication, and Information Technology which took place in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Singida RC warns local councils on use of fake POS machines for revenue collections

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA Regional commissioner, Peter Serukamba has instructed local councils to boost their revenue collections and warned stern legal measures will be taken against those found to be using fake POS machines.

Serukamba issued the instruction here yesterday at a task force meeting attended by district commissioners, district executive directors, district administrative secretaries, councils chairmen and various district experts.

He said there has been a problem involving revenue collection and expenditure by using fake POS machines thereby denying the region of its rightful revenues.

"I appeal to government legal organs, including the PCCB to help by making investigations at inspection road barriers on crops

being conveyed," he said.

The RC added that Singida Region can be a leading region in revenue collections, environmental conservation and projects' supervision if officials will work hard and cooperate instead of merely leaving some groups doing the job.

"If we work well in environmental conservation, revenue collection and completion of development projects in time, one day we shall be Number one region nationally," he said.

For his part, Singida Region Administrative Secretary, Dr Fatuma Mganga, speaking at the meeting, appealed to DEDs that whenever they receive projects funds, before starting implementation of the projects should come out of their offices to find out the prices of various materials to be used instead of leaving the task to the purchasing officers who have always been

enhancing the prices.

"Many projects remain unfinished because the funds provided by the government get spent up before their completion and this is caused by buying the materials at higher prices, so if the DEDs will go out of their offices to check the prices, they will know their true prices," she said.

Dr Mganga appealed to the DEDs to build the habit of learning from others who are required to complete development projects in time by using the same funds provided like them.

"You will find the government issuing the same amount of funds but other local councils the same funds complete the projects without the need of additional funds - whether they be health centres or classrooms projects, but in other councils you will find the projects still at foundation stage," she added.

Heifer International, stakeholders in Africa's agriculture sector to enhance backing for youth-driven innovations

By Getrude Mbago

HEIFER International has called upon stakeholders in Africa's agriculture sector to enhance their backing for youth-driven innovations, technology adoption and the establishment of strategic partnerships.

The organisation made call in Dar es Salaam at the Africa Food Systems Forum (AGRF), where it hosted side events, networking forums, and participated in several panels that centered discussions around transformative solutions for Africa's agriculture.

Adesuwa Ifedi, Senior Vice President, Africa Programmes, Heifer International said: "Our profound experience of partnering with smallholder farmers and communities has provided us with a unique perspective - one that harnesses the innovation and energy of young innovators, alongside the limitless potential of technology, to craft scalable and enduring agritech solutions tailored to the unique needs of smallholder farmers."

The impact of these, according to him, have been transformative - driving heightened productivity, amplified incomes for farmers, job creation, unlocking commercial capital fostering agripreneurs, and elevating the capabilities of food systems.

According to Ifedi, concerted efforts need to be made to boost Africa's food systems urgently to be able to accommodate the continent's forecast population of 2.5 billion people by 2050.

"The good news is that in the face of this challenge, we are endowed with two critical tools - our youth and technology," she said. "Africa possesses the youngest population globally, with

nearly 40 percent of the continent's population aged 15 or below, as of 2022. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, an estimated 500 million people will be under 25 years old by 2050. Within this massive numbers, we see a reservoir of energy, ingenuity, and determination being leveraged to solve societal problems across the continent.

More than 3000 attendees from over 70 countries are attending this year's summit, where more than 350 experts and policymakers engaged stakeholders on ways that Africa can build back better food systems and strengthen the continent's food sovereignty - with youth and women at the centre.

"Heifer International has been working with farmers and communities in Africa for nearly 50 years to help them build sustainable and resilient food systems that can withstand shocks and stresses. Part of the organisation's work in the continent is innovative investments in young Africans working on transformative solutions and products within the agriculture ecosystem that have strengthened smallholder farmers' outputs, increasing women participation in agribusinesses, and enhancing climate-smart practices," he said.

He advocated for increased innovative capital for young innovators working on transformative solutions for the agriculture ecosystem.

Tewodros Ayele, Country Director Ethiopia, Heifer International, said: "Through various initiatives, we have provided innovative capital to young professionals developing and deploying tech innovations that are enhancing smart farming and food production across the continent. The impact of the various programs we have partnered with these young

innovators on is heart-warming and encourages us to do more."

Ayele identified one of such initiatives as the AYuTe Africa Challenge, one of the most ambitious agriculture competitions on the continent which empowers and supports young professionals who are developing and deploying tech innovations that are reimagining farming and food production across the continent.

"Since 2021, we have awarded up to US\$1.5 million annually to our AYuTe Champions," said Ayele. "Our support doesn't end there. We also deploy a team of expert advisers - accomplished business veterans - to support AYuTe Africa Champions as they translate this funding into aggressive business expansion strategies."

Traditional funding avenues often fall short in meeting the unique demands of young agripreneurs. It's here that innovative financing steps in - crowdfunding, impact investing, venture capital - these approaches have the potential to unlock the door to funding that can drive groundbreaking change. This is not just about providing financial support; it's about recognizing the potential for high returns - not only in terms of profits but also in terms of social and environmental impact."

These initiatives aim to bolster smallholder farmers and communities, ultimately raising incomes and catalyzing a transformation in the continent's food systems.

He noted that Heifer International, being a leading global nonprofit working to end hunger and poverty in low- and middle-income countries, has experience of working with farmers and communities in Africa for nearly 50 years to help them build resilient food systems that can withstand shocks and stresses.

Embrace agroecology, African leaders urged

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

AFRICAN leaders have been urged to elevate agroecology as the cornerstone for transforming the agri-food system, cultivating resilience, and empowering small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers to confront the challenges posed by climate change head-on.

Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) said in a statement issued at the ongoing Africa Climate Week 2023 (ACW) of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) climate meeting in Nairobi. The meeting brought in more than 10,000 participants from across the African continent.

AFSA urged African leaders to advocate for the inclusion of agroecology within the climate negotiations and the outcomes of the Africa Climate Week tomorrow.

AFSA draws members from the largest social movement comprising farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous

communities, and civil society organizations across the continent.

So far the alliance held a three-day regional summit on climate change, biodiversity conservation, and food systems in the Congo Basin, in Kinshasa, DRC and over 200 representatives and participants from six Congo Basin countries such as Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon.


The alliance tasked African states to provide funding towards sustainable food systems, recognizing the urgency for a substantial and deliberate increase in financing for small-scale farmers, fishers, pastoralists, and indigenous communities to usher in sustainable food systems through the principles of agroecology.

"We also urge African leaders to commit resolutely their states to safeguarding the rights of local and indigenous groups in the Congo Basin, recognizing their pivotal role as stewards of the forest, and

acknowledging their indispensable contribution to its preservation and conservation" said part of the statement.

The alliance also condemned both foreign and local conservation endeavours that come at the grave cost of the rights of the people of the Congo Basin and also it denounced spurious climate solutions, such as carbon credit schemes, REDD+, and Climate Smart Agriculture, which undermine sustainability, impede climate adaptation and mitigation, and regress our collective progress.

"We seize this moment to emphasize the significance of African-driven, people-centred, and sustainable solutions to the pressing climate crisis. While these platforms offer vital opportunities for discourse on climate solutions across various sectors, it is disheartening to acknowledge that the relentless impacts of the climate emergency continue to reverberate throughout Africa," the statement reads in part.



TENDER FOR SALE OF USED EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office invites interested bidders for the sale of the following used equipment and furniture:

S/N	Description
1	Used Caterpillar 150 KVA Diesel generator. The new set was procured and imported in November 2021.
2	Two used 20 feet containers.
3	Different used Information Technology (IT) equipment (Laptops, printers, monitors etc...) and furniture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LOT 1, used laptop, desktop computers and monitors, - LOT 2, Used Air conditioners, Fans, Water dispensers, - LOT 3, used Printers, audio-visual equipment, Network Switch, UPS, and others, - LOT 4, used Office Furniture

The Equipment and furniture may be viewed at the UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office, 59 Mtwara Oysterbay Compound during the working hours from 09:00 - 12:00 Hours from 05/09/2023 - 14/09/2023. A viewing appointment should be made by contacting Ms. Lilian Bujimu on Mobile 0766 603 461 or Mr. Leonard Kisenha on 0754 288 391. The tender conditions are as follows:

- 1) The equipment and furniture will be sold "as-is where-is" basis without any warrantee whatsoever.
- 2) The bid shall be valid for a period of 10 working days.
- 3) Bidders can submit their offer either by LOT or by piece.
- 4) The opening of the bid shall take place on 15/09/2023 at 10:00AM at UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office premise in the presence of bidders or their legal representatives.
- 5) The bidder/s determined to be winner of the bid shall execute the contract agreement for the sale of used equipment, furniture, or both with UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office within seven (07) calendar days of the notification of that effect.
- 6) The successful bidder/s shall pay full tender amount within 48 hours from the notification of award. Payment shall be in bank transfer to UNESCO account in Dar es Salaam and a transfer confirmation document must be provided to UNESCO.
- 7) The buyer must pay, if any, in full of the assessed duties and taxes (Unless it is exempted) to the government and present the evidence of payment before the equipment is released and transfer papers signed.
- 8) UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office reserves the right to reject the bid in total or partially and will not be under any obligation to accept any of the bids received.

Tender must be submitted to UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office by indicating the offer amount and currency by **mentioning the LOT number for the Information Technology (IT) equipment and furniture** both in figure and in word on or before the deadline date of 14/09/2023 before 4:00 PM in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

The Head of Finance and Administration
UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office
59 Mtwara Crescent, Oysterbay
P.O. Box 31473
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania
TENDER FOR SALE OF USED EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

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Govt must do more on Dar transport woes

HERE are no two ways about it, as conditions are at the moment, driving around Dar es Salaam is a nightmare at best of times.

It is further depressing that this uncomfortable situation is unlikely to ease any time soon, despite efforts in widening some of city roads to four or even eight lane carriageways, the construction of rapid transit motorways or even flyovers at busy intersections.

And talking about rapid transport motorways (mwendokasi), the Kimara-Magogoni Ferry rapid transport system inaugurated seven years ago is yet to show any tangible relief it has provided to the Dar commuters' transport woes.

In fact, at times the entire system becomes closed due to rains which flood the Jangwani stretch of the infrastructure due to what was clearly poor workmanship in its planning.

When the so called Tanzanite bridge was planned for construction over the Indian Ocean to connect Coco Beach coastline and Aga Khan hospital area, critics pointed inverted government priorities, saying the bridge over the flood-prone Jangwani stretch connecting Magomeni and Kariakoo areas ought to have come first.

However, it would be wrong to heap blame for all the Dar commuters' transport woes entirely on the Government, local or central.

It is true that Dar es Salaam's road network was never designed to accommodate the amount of vehicular traffic that plies the labyrinthine grid that makes the roads and streets of this large metropolis.

On the other hand, this desperate situation is exacerbated by the very bad road manners one encounters in the city; regrettably by all types of road users.

It is by no means certain whether even the police know why motorists in this city punch the Highway Code on the nose.

Further, it would appear that the law enforcement forces are as well overwhelmed by the scale of wanton disregard of laws and simply the absence of good road manners.

Just imagine the audacity being displayed by our motorcyclists in wanton disregard of traffic lights at intersections - they just dart away against red lights, right in front of a traffic cop. Their arrogance is unimaginable.

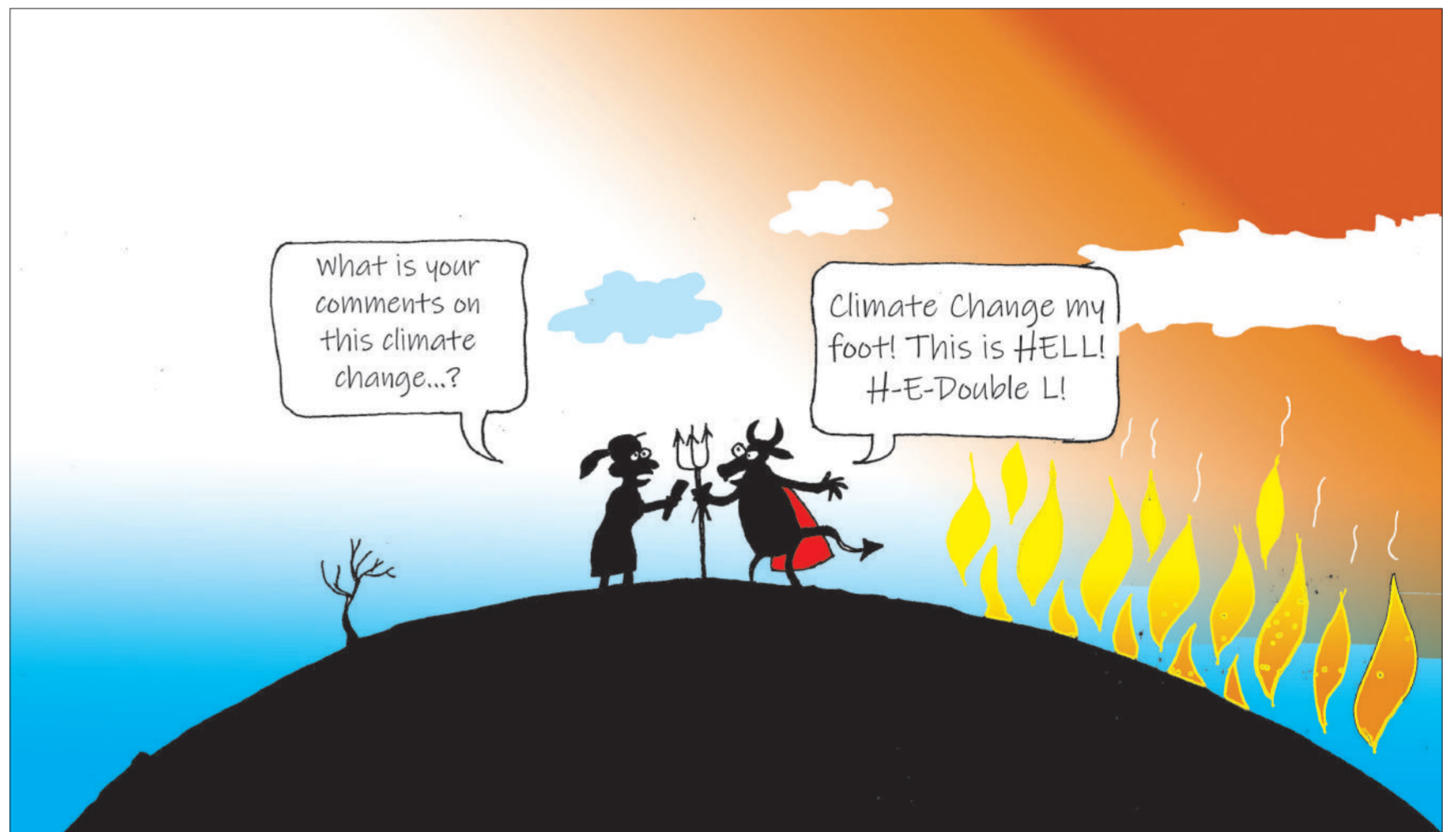
But while our upcountry roads continue to haunt those using them, passengers and pedestrians alike through loss of life and limb, those in the city of Dar es Salaam, apart from motorists' bad behaviour, inculcate their own version of anguish in traffic congestion.

The only difference between the two is the speed. In the former it's the vehicles' jet-speed that claim human lives while in the latter it's their snail pace that infuriates and inconveniences many motorists.

Also consider this truth among motorists: - why is it always that the driver behind you appears to be racing while the one in front is only sightseeing?

Surely, the human race is addicted to racing, but with callous consequences.

The spate of carnage on our roads in recent days must instill this question to any clear mind - what's wrong with our transport sector?



100 Days - Ecowas: Niger as talisman

By Charles Kumolu

WHATEVER it is, within a short time, President Bola Tinubu has enthroned himself in sub-regional politics.

Not just that, he seems to have taken his place beyond continental geopolitics. Give it to him!

His adventure in the Niger coup crisis may not be popular at home, but it offers him visibility on the global stage.

In immediate political terms, the limelight comes with value rather than liability as some critics back home suggest.

However, what seems like the impasse's significance only relates to the President's stature and ego, and not critical domestic issues.

And for someone whose emergence as the leader of Africa's biggest democracy is dogged by disturbing questions, Niger is his talisman.

You may not fully appreciate the public relations import of the conundrum to the Tinubu presidency until you recall that the crisis emerged at a time when the European Union in its report, discredited the 2023 elections.

At least, the visibility and the soundbites of his stance on Niger, apart from attracting a deluge of criticism, fetched him allies, especially from the West.

In him, the West has found a rallying point in advancing their stance on Niger and democracy.

Foreign governments, notably France, the US, and Britain are literally lining up at Tinubu's door with praise.

In less than two months, the



President Bola Tinubu of Nigeria (file photo).

President has witnessed a rise in his popularity among those who share his tough stance against the Niger coup plotters.

But the story differs back home as the majority contends that the President got off to a bad start with the choice of response to the matter.

When the desperate socio-economic concerns in Nigeria are considered, analysts are left with no option but to question the overdrive on Niger.

Only a few see altruism in the Tinubu-led Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, proposed war mission to the former French colony.

Whatever good the African leaders meant is already consumed by the legacy of mistrust they have built over the years.

For instance, Nigerians feel that by "prioritising" the likely kinetic action against the coupists in Niamey, President Tinubu deliberately chose distraction at a time of severe domestic challenges.

Although, by spearheading the regional opposition to military intervention, he has succeeded in following through on his inaugural pledge upon emergence as ECOWAS Chairman.

On July 9, 2023, Tinubu emerged as the 16th chairman of ECOWAS, threatening that coups were unacceptable to the regional body.

The statement rests on the fact that no fewer than six West African and African countries (Mali, Guinea, Chad, Sudan and Burkina Faso) have witnessed coup d'etats recently. Now,

add Gabon to the list.

"We will not accept coup after coup in West Africa again. Democracy is very difficult to manage, but it is the best form of government," Tinubu said while rallying his colleagues against coups.

"There is no one here among us who did not campaign to be a leader. We didn't give our soldiers resources, we didn't invest in them, in their boots, in their training to violate the freedom of the people. To turn their guns against civil authorities is a violation of the principles upon which they were hired, which is to defend the sovereignty of their nations. We must not sit in ECOWAS as toothless bulldogs," he added.

Less than three weeks after the remarks, the Niger military ousted their democratically elected President, putting to test Tinubu's resolve that "ECOWAS will no longer sit as toothless bulldogs."

Apart from being a major foreign policy direction, strongly opposing military intervention conforms to the ECOWAS Treaty of July 8, 1993, which seeks to promote and protect democracy among member states.

But the threat of sending troops to Niger isn't widely regarded as strategic given that war won't make Nigeria or any ECOWAS country safer.

Another argument that leaves the military option unpopular is that if it worked in the past, especially in some African countries, failure may be the outcome this time.

Reason: Unlike in the past, what obtains now are altered dynamics, rewired geopolitical alliances and actors with different ideological leanings.

Nairobi declaration must leverage South-South trade, investment, know-how to address climate emergency

By Deodat Maharaj

AFRICA and the Caribbean share deep historical and people-to-people ties. Indeed, the African Union has identified the Caribbean as Africa's sixth region. The shared experience of the climate emergency has created another commonality, and one that presents an existential threat to both regions, particularly for small states.

African governments, similar to their Caribbean counterparts, have limited capacity to respond to the climate crisis due to debt distress and economic shocks, necessitating urgent action including debt relief and increased liquidity.

Building on Bridgetown 2.0 and the Paris Pact, the Africa Climate Summit

(ACS) in September can help advance a transformational agenda to reset and reshape trade and investment relationships to build climate resilience.

However, we need to move swiftly from high-level policy discourse to tangible actions, where it matters on the ground. The private sector must be a central driver of this transformation, supported by appropriate policy frameworks. Whilst commitments at the highest levels must be secured, direct business-to-business engagement is imperative, particularly in deepening South-South trade and investment relationships.

There have been a number of recent high-level initiatives aimed at strengthening trade and investment ties between Africa and the Caribbean,

such as the AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum. The ACS will primarily focus on driving green growth and climate finance solutions for Africa and the world. The expected outcomes, including those outlined in the Nairobi Declaration, will enable African countries to develop detailed plans and secure investments to support green growth, not only on the continent but also globally, as Africa plays its part in supporting decarbonisation efforts elsewhere.

The ACS also includes a focus on sustainable agriculture - this is an area where the Caribbean has demonstrated strong commitment, at the highest levels, to deploy technology, alongside digitalisation and innovation. Incentives are being provided across the board to support investments in

this sector. Addressing the climate emergency through greening trade must go hand in hand with tackling food insecurity and encouraging agricultural production, which is also a priority in the Caribbean. Caribbean leaders have a clear goal of reducing food imports by 25% by 2025. However, to be successful in this venture and to build true climate resilience, stronger partnerships and deeper collaboration are required.

South-South linkages offer a viable option for fostering direct business engagement and the transfer of know-how, thus bringing the call to action and the Nairobi Declaration to life.

Deodat Maharaj is the Executive Director Caribbean Export Development Agency

Hoarding US dollars not firstly for value gain but sale, imports

TOP officials the Treasury and the central bank are seeking ways to remove fears on availability of the world's top hard currency, the US dollar. Efforts at mitigating or solving the situation have different aspects, first a psychological operation against all sorts of initiatives related to the dollar especially by private individuals or traders. It has not appeared to the Bank of Tanzania that banks may in one way or another be abetting the shortage; they haven't said as much.

For one or other reason, BoT laid accent on a tendency by businessmen to hoard dollar amounts they don't need for explicit purposes at a particular moment. It is true that dollar scarcity is unpredictable as to what it beckons say in two months, so it isn't surprising to see speculative overreaction to even limited scarcity in obtaining foreign exchange in commercial banks. That is part of life, as in that expression 'awake not one who sleeps, lest you sleep in turn,' as valid.

Making dollars available for others to use after a company has earned is not just a civic act but a regulatory requirement, but compliance isn't always perfect. A while ago President Samia Suluhu Hassan alerted hoteliers that they don't remit the foreign exchange they earn to commercial banks, where it would find its way to the central bank. Instead they keep it, which comes back to what BoT is saying, namely hoarding the US currency in anticipation of value appreciation, or more likely, to sell to a trader outside regular channels. That adds up better.

While dollar sales by commercial banks are likely to follow guidelines

or cap prices set by BoT, obtaining currency on bureaus or more so by private access in wider circulation is likely to fetch higher prices, as it is already a parallel market.

Depending on the trend in dollar availability, it can put the local currency into difficulties when the margins needed to exchange for the dollar start to go out of bounds. That means by 50/- or 100/- margins on BoT rates, and if not checked, it could be well beyond that already anticipated margins.

As the BoT insists, the crucial need is that the traders return the currency back to circulation, which they presumably intend to do, but on their own terms.

BoT wants them to follow the usual channels and expect that when they next need foreign exchange they will get it as usual. That means every trader follow that same procedure for the routine forex access to work as required, and obviously the traders aren't convinced they will obtain the forex on time. So they hoard.

Even with enlarged sales of dollars to commercial banks by BoT, it is evident that it is just stop-gap as the problem surfaced with higher fuel prices in global markets and dollar inflows relatively stable. There was a sharp increase in tourism earnings but we also need plenty of hard currency for debt servicing, and procurement, for instance in purchasing new planes.

Earning more hard currency by exports is a long term projection while the short term measure is less procurement, temporarily. To lower procurement needs, further opening up for investments can work, plus public-private partnerships. This will bring in vast deposits, stabilising the local currency.



EXIM CARES: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (WEP)



A SPECIAL PROGRAM TO FOSTER ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN TANZANIA AND BEYOND

Through our Corporate Social Responsibility arm known as "Exim Cares," Exim Bank has launched the Women Empowerment Program (WEP) with the primary purpose being to promote and enhance initiatives aimed at empowering women economically in Tanzania, as well as in African countries where Exim Bank operates, including Comoros, Djibouti, and Uganda.

In this Program, selected women-based startup companies and/or individual entrepreneurs are assisted to develop their businesses/ideas through receiving a range of services from training, startup capital and financial facilities to kickstart or scale up their businesses. Each cohort consists of a total of 20 participants, with four cohorts in a year.

The launch and first graduation ceremony was held in Dar es Salaam, with Dr. Dorothy Gwajima, Minister of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups, as the guest of honor. The ceremony was also attended by various stakeholders and leaders from various institutions.



Some of the beneficiaries of the first cohort of the Exim Bank's Women Empowerment Program (WEP) joyfully entering at the Program's launch event.



Marketing and Communication Manager of Exim Bank, Kauthar D'souza welcoming the guests and giving a brief introduction about the Women Empowerment Program (WEP).



Chief Executive Officer of Exim Bank Tanzania Mr. Jaffari Matundu addressing the invited guests before welcoming the guest of honour Minister of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Dr. Dorothy Gwajima at the launch event.



Minister of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Dr. Dorothy Gwajima addressing guests before launching the Exim Bank's Women Empowerment Program (WEP).



Minister of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Dr. Dorothy Gwajima cheering after launching Exim Bank's sustainable Women Empowerment Program (WEP).



The Minister of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Dr. Dorothy Gwajima handing over a dummy cheque worth Tzs 8,000,000 to Rahma Abdillah (fourth right), after emerging as the winner in the first cohort of the Exim Bank's Women Empowerment Program (WEP).



Minister of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Dr. Dorothy Gwajima handing over a dummy cheque worth Tzs 5,000,000 to Aisha Ulimwengu (second right) after emerging as the runner-up of the first cohort of the Exim Bank's Women Empowerment Program (WEP).



Minister of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Dr. Dorothy Gwajima presenting Mariam Mdoe (second right) with a dummy cheque worth Tzs 3,000,000 after emerging as the third winner in the first cohort of Exim Bank's Women Empowerment Program (WEP).



Rahel Steven, one of the beneficiaries of Exim Bank's Women Empowerment Program (WEP) cohort 1, giving a word of thanks during the launch event of the (WEP) Program.



Minister of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Dr. Dorothy Gwajima in a group photo with some of the graduates of the first cohort of Exim Bank's Women Empowerment Program (WEP).



Minister of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Dr. Dorothy Gwajima in a group photo with some of the Exim Bank employees at the launch event of the Women Empowerment Program (WEP).



The Minister of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Dr. Dorothy Gwajima inspecting the products made by a graduate of the first cohort of the Women's Empowerment Program (WEP) Mrs. Nyamisi Sanya (right) at a special exhibition held to showcase the products made by the first cohort participants.



When the UN came under attack – from a mis-guided rocket launcher

UNITED NATIONS

When 150+ world leaders, including Presidents and Prime Ministers, arrive in New York to address the high-level segment of the General Assembly beginning September 19, the UN neighborhood will be turned into a veritable war zone.

The streets will be littered with scores of police officers, US secret service personnel, UN security officers, bomb-sniffing dogs, road closures – and a stand-by ambulance in the UN campus ready to cope with any medical emergencies.

The US Secret Service also has an official chaplain ready to perform last rites in case of any political assassinations in the UN premises.

The only things missing are overhead surveillance drones since a sign in the UN premises, perhaps half-jokingly, reads: NO DRONE ZONE

Meanwhile, hundreds of UN staffers and journalists are double and triple-checked for their photo IDs, at least every 200 or 300 yards outside the UN building, reminiscent of security at the Pentagon and the CIA headquarters (where your visitor ID is geared to automatically change colour if you overstay your visit).

Responding to questions on security, Paulina Kubiak, Spokesperson for the outgoing President of the General Assembly, said: ... there are always restrictions during UNGA.

"As of right now, there are no COVID-related restrictions. So, no masks and no vaccinations are required," she added.

Still, in 1964, with relatively less security, the UN building came under attack – perhaps for the first time in the history of the world body – from a mis-guided rocket launcher.

When the politically-charismatic Ernesto Che Guevara, once second-in-command to Cuban leader Fidel Castro, was at the United Nations to address the General Assembly sessions back in 1964, the U.N. headquarters came under fire – literally.

The speech by the Argentine-born Marxist revolutionary was momentarily drowned by the sound of an explosion.

The anti-Castro forces in the United States, backed by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), had mounted an insidious campaign to stop Che Guevara from speaking.

A 3.5-inch bazooka was fired at the 39-storeyed Secretariat building by the East River while a boisterous anti-Castro, anti-Che Guevara demonstration was taking place outside the UN building.

According to Wikipedia, the bazooka is the common name for a man-portable recoilless anti-tank rocket launcher, widely deployed by the US army, especially during World War II.

The hidden hand was visible – only the finger prints were missing – in the first terrorist attack on the UN building.

But the rocket launcher – which was apparently not as sophisticated as today's shoulder-fired missiles and rocket-propelled grenades – missed its target, rattled windows, and fell into the river about 200 yards from the building.

The African-American civil rights activist, the late Martin Luther King Jr. once said the US is home to "guided mis-



Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Minister of Industries of Cuba, addresses the General Assembly on Dec. 11, 1964. Credit: UN Photo/TC

siles and misguided men".

One newspaper report described the attack as "one of the wildest episodes since the United Nations moved into its East River headquarters in 1952."

As longtime U.N. staffers would recall, the failed 1964 bombing of the U.N. building took place when Che Guevara launched a blistering attack on U.S. foreign policy and denounced a proposed de-nuclearization pact for the Western hemisphere.

After his Assembly speech, Che Guevara was asked about the attack aimed at him. "The explosion has given the whole thing more

flavor," he joked, as he chomped on his Cuban cigar, during a press conference.

When he was told by a reporter that the New York City police had nabbed a woman, described as an anti-Castro Cuban exile, who had pulled out a hunting knife and jumped over the UN wall, intending to kill him, Che Guevara said: "It is better to be killed by a woman with a knife than by a man with a gun."

Asked if there were any other attacks on the UN, Samir Sanbar, a former assistant secretary-general and head of the Department of Public Information, told IPS the

only other attack he could remember was the bombing in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad in 2003.

He said two of his closest colleagues Sergio Vieira de Mello and Nadia Younes died in that attack.

"Both did not wish to go but were pushed by someone who wanted them away," said Sanbar, who served under five different secretaries-general.

On 19 August 2003, a suicide bomber drove a truck full of explosives to the United Nations headquarters in the Iraqi capital, and blew it up, killing 22 people – among them Vieira de Mello, the UN High Commissioner for Hu-

man Rights and the head of the UN mission in Iraq.

The attack on the Canal Hotel building also wounded more than 150; most of them aid workers who had come to Iraq to help reconstruct the country following the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein.

The bombing was one of the most lethal in UN history, and marked a turning point in how the UN and aid groups operate in the field.

On August 18, the UN commemorated its annual World Humanitarian Day which was inaugurated to mark the Baghdad bombing 20

years ago.

Meanwhile, the attacks on UN peacekeeping forces have continued with 32 United Nations peacekeeping personnel – 28 military and four police, including one woman police officer – killed in deliberate attacks in 2022.

By nationality, the peacekeepers who died in 2022 were from Bangladesh (3), Chad (4), Egypt (7), Guinea (1), India (2), Ireland (1), Jordan (1), Morocco (1), Nepal (1), Nigeria (2), Pakistan (7), Russian Federation (1) and Serbia (1).

This brings the death toll to at least 494 United Nations and associated personnel who were killed in deliberate attacks in the past 12 years from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), rocket-propelled grenades, artillery fire, mortar rounds, landmines, armed and successive ambushes, convoy attacks, suicide attacks and targeted assassinations.

Over the last 78 years, the United Nations and its specialised agencies, were awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize 12 times. One agency, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) received the prize in 1954 and 1981.

In 2001, the United Nations and then Secretary-General Kofi Annan of Ghana were awarded the prize "for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world".

But the UN did pay a heavy price in human lives for those highly-de-serving awards.

This article includes excerpts from a book on the United Nations titled "No Comment - and Don't Quote Me on That" available on Amazon. The link to Amazon via the author's website follows: <https://www.rodericgrigson.com/no-comment-by-thalif-deen/>

IPS UN Bureau Report



A partial view of the exterior of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad that was destroyed by a truck bomb on 19 August 2003. Credit: UN Photo/Timothy Sopp

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

Chinese-constructed light rail helps ease traffic flow in Nigeria's Lagos

ABUJA

COMMUTERS who had long endured the challenges of overcrowded roads and prolonged commute time in Nigeria's Lagos were visibly thrilled by the convenience, comfort, and speed of the city's light rail, which began commercial operation on Monday.

As the train glided along its tracks from the iconic Marina Station on Lagos Island down to Mile 2, a busy district in the city, many Lagos residents on board the China-built electric-powered light rail could not contain their delight. The air-conditioned coaches offered a stark contrast to the daily commuting struggles many had grown accustomed to.

"With this train, there is no stress; we are able to move around. You can work with your time, and your mental health is intact now; gone are the days we complained about traffic and all of that," said Farida Ahmed, a businesswoman who made the inaugural commercial ride on the Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Blue Line corridor on Monday morning.

"This is a great project, and will ease movement across Lagos," she said.

Undertaken by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation in July 2010 and completed in December 2022, the first phase of the LRMT Blue Line corridor spans 13 km and covers five stations. The LRMT Blue Line is the first rail infrastructure traversing Okokomaiko, a densely populated area in the western part of Lagos, and Marina.

The new light rail will reduce travel time, improve the quality of life of citizens, and make Lagos one of the most resilient megacities in Africa, said Babajide Sanwo-Olu, governor of Lagos, at the commissioning of the project earlier this year.

Taking a ride on the light rail Monday morning, Sanwo-Olu expressed his excitement by experiencing the inaugural commercial operation. "The users of this intricacy rail would enjoy maximum security while on board the system."

The Chinese-constructed light rail project promises not only to ease the daily commuting woes of Lagos residents, but also to provide an environmentally friendly alternative to congested roads.



The trains of the Lagos Rail Mass Transit Blue Line in Lagos, Nigeria.

Olusola Mustapha, a 22-year-old student at Lagos State University, described the commercial operation of the light rail as "the game-changer" while sharing her thoughts on the inaugural ride.

"I cannot believe that we finally have a light rail in Lagos. The comfort and convenience are unparalleled, and I am looking forward to a stress-free commute from now on," she said.

The train system, which is expected to convey 175,000 passengers on a daily basis, will run 12 trips per day for a period of two weeks, and the service will gradually increase, according to Abimbola Akinajo, managing director of the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority.

UN chief says unified global financial system needed to deal with climate crisis

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for new measures, including financial packages, debt relief, and a review of the global financial system to enable African countries to deal effectively with climate disasters.

Guterres also reminded rich countries to deliver on their pledge to make funds required to combat climate change available to poor countries to respond effectively to climate chaos.

"Rich countries must keep their promises to avail climate funds," he told African leaders gathered in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi at the Africa Climate Summit to discuss continental response

mechanisms to climate change.

The African leaders meeting in Nairobi for the inaugural climate summit have proposed several measures, including debt negotiations with the rich countries to free funds for dealing with climate change.

Addressing a news conference shortly afterward, the UN chief called for a 500-billion-U.S. dollar financial stimulus package every year to help developing countries invest in their populations and develop systems required to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

"I renewed my call for the world to step up climate action to avoid the worst

effects of climate change, keep global promises to provide essential support, and help Africa make a just and equitable transition to renewable energy," Guterres said.

He said there is an urgent need for an early warning system for climate change, which must also be implemented alongside comprehensive financial measures to respond to the climate change chaos.

According to Guterres, Africa could become a renewable energy superpower. "Now is the time to bring together African countries with developed countries, financial institutions, and technology companies to create a true African Renewable Energy Alliance. And all of that

requires addressing another injustice: an outdated, unfair, and dysfunctional global financial system," Guterres said.

The UN chief said on average, African countries pay four times more for borrowing than the United States and eight times more than the wealthiest European countries.

He said turbocharging a just and equitable green transition – while supporting development more broadly across Africa – requires a dramatic course correction. This means ensuring an effective debt-relief mechanism that supports payment suspensions, longer lending terms, and lower rates.

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Organisation unlocks tourism market for food processors

SUBSTANTIAL number of local food processors have secured a reliable market, thanks to TechnoServe Tanzania, for linking them with the multi-billion-dollar tourism industry, to supply fresh and nutritious food.

Tourism industry in Tanzania earns the economy \$2.6 billion annually, but the booming business has locked out the local food processors, over what it has been termed as lack of direct communication channels and inefficiencies in the supply chain.

Seeking to unlock the potential, TechnoServe Tanzania through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) bankrolled Alliance for Inclusive and Nutritious Food Processing Project (AINFP) organized a Business-to-Business forum in Arusha, last week that brought together food processors, tourism and hospitality captains, as well as financial institutions.

Indeed, a one-day Arusha B2B forum ended on a high note, as it witnessed a total of 16 deals sealed between the food processors and suppliers like hotels, a move that is expected to bring higher returns to small and medium scale food processors.

"Linking food processors, suppliers, bankers and tourism industry captains, under one roof, was an apt idea to unlock tourism market potential and finance access for local food processors who intend to scale-up production," said a peanut butter processor from Arusha, Grace Macha.

Macha poured a lot of praises to AINFP model, saying it has a significant potential to help reduce poverty in Tanzania, as it brings



Some of the food processors under the Alliance for Inclusive and Nutritious Food Processing Project (AINFP)

key hospitality industry captains to forge pro-poor partnerships with food processors to purchase their products.

Tourism is a notable source of income for Tanzania. On average, international tourists stay about 10 days in the country, spending a total

of \$1,691 per visitor, UNCTAD report shows.

Sirili Akko, chief executive officer for Tanzania Association of

Tour Operators (TATO) said that the lodging, food and beverage sub-sectors together account for about 20 per cent of annual \$2.6 billion tourism-related income in the country.

"Foreign tourists surging in the country offer a massive opportunity for agricultural products as are in high demand by tourists and often provide price-premiums" Mr. Akko told the forum held in Arusha.

However, TATO CEO said that there had been a domestic challenge of quality and consistency of supplies, prompting large companies to import high-quality poultry, cheese, beef among others, to feed their clients.

Gertrude Kawau, Tanzania AINFP program manager was overwhelmed to see the 16 marketing agreements signed between the food processors and the suppliers for supply of different nutritious products such as dairy products, sauces, jams, refined sunflower oil, refined groundnuts oils, wheat flour, fortified maize flour and pollard.

Besides the deals, the AINFP's B2B forum also unlocked finance access as USAID's Farmer-to-Farmer Program director, Amos Mkezwa pledged to facilitate food processors to access funding opportunities for both investment and working capital through collaborating with different financial institutions.

The food processors from northern zone such as Asili Dairy, Moshono Millers, Sivat Agribusiness, Just Bakery and GFPL have expressed interest to access the agribusiness funding opportunity through F2F/AINFP collaborations.

The Alliance for Inclusive and Nutritious Food Processing (AINFP) is a partnership between USAID, TechnoServe, and Partners in Food Solutions (PFS) that aims to create a more competitive food-processing sector.

TechnoServe, the implementing partner, works with enterprising people in the developing world to build competitive farms, businesses, and industries.

It is a non-profit organization that develops business solutions to poverty by linking people to information, capital, and markets.

TechnoServe's work is rooted in the idea that given the opportunity, hardworking men and women in even the poorest places can generate income, jobs, and wealth for their families and communities.

With more than four decades of proven results, TecnoServe believes in the power of private enterprise to transform lives.

Hunger in East Africa is a true testament to climate injustice

NAIROBI

From 2017, Shamso Isac has helplessly witnessed the demise of all her sources of income. Failed rain seasons and dried-up water sources meant a lack of pasture, which led to the death of her livestock. Widespread hunger exacerbated by rising food costs forced her to relocate to Burchi internally displaced persons camp in Baidoa in the Southwest state of Somalia. She recalls walking for weeks seeking a place she could get food for her family. When her child asks for something to eat or drink, she has nothing to offer; all she can do is cry, overwhelmed by the utter hopelessness she feels.

Shamso's story mirrors that of millions across East Africa and many other parts of the world. Despite contributing a mere 0.1% of global emission, millions are bearing the harshest impact of climate change with over 31.5 million people across Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan experiencing the worst episode of climate-induced extreme weather, which is fuelling an alarming hunger crisis.

The devastating droughts and floods in these four East African countries have also costed the region an estimated \$30 billion losses from 2021 to the end of 2023 with Oxfam calculating that approximately \$7.4 billion worth of livestock have perished, pushing farmers and pastoralists deeper into poverty.

Climate change has resulted in the rise of the global temperature by up to 1.2° Celsius making the severity of East Africa's drought 100 times more likely. The poorest people in some of the least responsible regions for climate change or emissions - like East Africa - are losing their lives and livelihoods to human-induced climate change. Rich industrial countries are responsible for 92% of excess emissions.

Yet, it is the people like those in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan that are facing a multitude of detrimental social, economic and health impacts that are exacerbated by climate change. Small island nations are losing their land to rising oceans and if this trajectory persists, entire countries could disappear under rising sea levels. The climate crisis is a human tragedy and is making existing inequalities and injustices a whole lot worse.

Climate justice demands that those responsible for causing the crisis must be held accountable, and those most affected must get adequate support to adapt to the problems and mitigate them. Why does this matter? It matters because it compels the global community and those primarily responsible for the climate crisis to work with and support those who bear the heaviest burden.

It matters because it addresses a more systemic problem that is the fundamental cause of this crisis and many others. The problem is an economic model that is fossil-dependent and designed to benefit a select few, the super-rich, and that's causing a planetary crisis and aggravating social injustices around the world.

A fundamental shift is needed to effectively tackle this injustice, without which, extreme weather conditions will recur more frequently and with increasing intensity leading to more hunger and human suffering in the future in countries where people have done the least to contribute to climate change.

As a crucial starting point, the governments of industrialized countries must pay their fair share of climate finance and honour their commitment to provide 0.7% of their Gross National Income to the Global South countries including the \$8.74 billion



The poorest people in some of the least responsible regions for climate change or emissions - like East Africa - are losing their lives and livelihoods to human-induced climate change. Credit: Charles Karis/IPS

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needed to support for the humanitarian response in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan in order to save lives and livelihoods.

To fill this gap, governments in the affluent and in the industrialised nations must ensure companies and the rich are paying their fair share of taxes, not least those profiting from harming the planet. This will enable these countries and communities at the frontline to start building back and build resilience for the next climate shock.

Secondly, the top polluting countries must pay their fair share of the climate finance to East Africa to help its governments scale up their

climate mitigation and adaptation so they can help the most impacted communities to recover from climatic shocks. These funds should no longer be in the form of loans but as grants.

Finally, industrialized polluting countries should commit to paying their fair share of the losses and damage suffered by East Africa countries. Estimates show that these polluters owe \$8.7 trillion to developing countries, including in Africa. This finance will be crucial to support communities and countries to adapt to climate change, recover from damage and loss and to transition to clean development.

We need to embrace a fundamental, systemic change. Even as we're saving lives through the humanitarian response, we must also focus on the root causes of the climate change crisis and food insecurity.

Hunger is unacceptable in the 21st century. To witness millions suffering from lack of food in a world of plenty and in a world where billionaire wealth has exploded, is an abomination. The hope side of this doom-and-gloom scenario is that we have the resources in the world to address these challenges. The right leadership and political choices can end hunger. The time to act is now.

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Thursday 7 September 2023

Govt urged to encourage banks to fund agroecology, energy projects

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has been tasked to push financial institutions to cut funding from climate harming industrial agriculture and instead fund agro-ecology and renewable energy.

Bavon Christopher, the ActionAid Country Director made the call in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the launch of the new ActionAid report and three-year awareness campaign to the public dubbed: "Funding our Future."

He said that the initiatives target to tame the effects of climate changes, revealing that despite the global bank's public declaration that they are addressing climate change, the scale of their continued fossil fuel and industrial agriculture financing is simply staggering.

Christopher said currently, agriculture is the second largest contributor to global greenhouse gases emissions, most notably industrial agriculture which involves the intensive farming of



crops and livestock using chemicals. As a result, it causes harm to the climate and communities with its ties to deforestation, land grabbing,

gender-based violence and threats to livelihoods.

The country director said finance flows expose the absurdity that

banks are channelling more money to climate-harming activities, than climate-vulnerable countries are receiving to implement adaptation

or mitigation solutions.

For instance, the bank financing provided to the fossil fuel industry globally reached an estimated \$ 3.2 trillion in the seven years since the Paris agreement on climate change was adopted.

Also, bank financing provided to the largest industrial agriculture companies operating in the world amounted to \$ 370 billion in the same period of time.

According to him, the report calls for divestment and better government regulation while setting out the alternative to the harmful practices.

"These are solutions that have real leadership from communities in the Global South, but solutions that must be supported by progressive public financing renewable and agroecology.

These solutions are woefully underfunded yet offer the world a bright future," he added.

Elias Mtinda, ActionAid programme manager said that the report was conducted between January 2016

and September 2022, saying public financing has the capacity to contribute greatly to solutions to the climate change crisis, but it remains a big part of the problem.

Mtinda said that renewable energy has the potential to far exceed projected global energy demand by 2050, and renewables are already more affordable than fossil fuels in most cases.

"Agro ecology is increasingly recognised as a viable alternative to the dominant industrialised agriculture model. But it requires that governments and funders prioritise food sovereignty, moving from an extractive focus on producing commodities for export, and the overuse of chemicals, to an approach that centres and builds up upon the contributions of smallholder's farmers," he said.

According to him, scaling up agroecology requires more financial support, so that it can move towards funding the future, rather than destruction.

CoK urges investors to offer smart city solutions as population grows

KIGALI

The City of Kigali has invited investors to inject money into scaling up smart city solutions. The call was made during the opening of the Smart City Investment Summit in Kigali on Wednesday, September 6. The summit, themed "Leadership for Smart Cities", brought together more than 1,000 participants.

"There is a need for investment in easing the transport of goods and people, waste management, and service delivery in different sectors, among others. There are different solutions that need to be scaled up and, therefore, we brought together investors, financial institutions, and others to the summit to meet those who developed smart solutions," said Pudence Rubingisa, the City of Kigali Mayor.

The smart solutions need to scale up given that Kigali's population is projected to be more than three million by 2030, an increase from 1.7 million currently, according to the fifth Rwanda Population and Housing Census (RPHC5).

Different solutions were exhibited at the summit and 30 best-performing African cities with the most promising smart city solutions will be recognised in a smart city index to be released.

The conversions are looking at solutions such as sustainable energy supply, affordable housing, construction technology and building materials, transportation and access to urban services, beating traffic and pollution, and green building.

The solutions also include sustainable water resources management, waste reduction, reuse and recycling, e-government, citizen participation, services, innovation and jobs of the future, disaster preparedness and resilience, smart urban agriculture and food systems, and nature-based solu-

tions among others.

During the summit, the Smart City Hub Rwanda was launched with the aim of shaping the cities of tomorrow.

"The hub will help coordinate our efforts to deliver smart solutions for the cities. The investors can access opportunities through the hub. Researchers and solutions developers can also meet through the hub," Rubingisa noted. Ozonnia Ojile, the UN Resident Coordinator and Representative of the UN Secretary-General to Rwanda, commended the country for demonstrating visionary leadership and innovation with respect to e-government and shifting to digital and smart city development.

"The Smart City Hub we are launching today aligns with our country's vision to test, scale, and promote cutting-edge solutions. We hope that through this hub, collaborations will emerge to support these solutions in transforming Rwanda into a smart city. Furthermore, the lessons learned

Last month it was revealed that at least 30 African cities will be recognized as for rolling out smart solutions during the Africa Smart and Sustainable Cities Investment Summit set to take place in Kigali from yesterday.

The summit that brings together 1,000 participants aims at fostering public-private partnerships, showcase smart city solutions, and identify investment opportunities that can create thriving and sustainable African cities.

Jean-Philbert Nsengimana, Chief Curator at the summit told the media, on Tuesday August 8, that the conversions will look at solutions such as sustainable energy supply, affordable housing, construction technology and building materials, transportation and access to urban services, beating traffic and pollution and green building.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango unveils the 2023 AASR report during the AGRF summit in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is Agnes Kalibata, President AGRA. Photo: Courtesy of AGRA.

African agriculture status report 2023 launched in Dar

By Banker Reporter

About 650 million people in Africa an equivalent of 50 percent of the continent's population lack economic or physical access to sufficient food, the 2022 Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR23) states.

The report launched yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the ongoing Agriculture Food System Forum (AGRF) comes with the message that the repercussions of inaction are not just confined to hunger and malnutrition but extend to economic, social, and environmental domains, with the potential to undermine the progress made over the years.

The new study underscores the need to address the challenges affecting African food systems considering the imminent threat posed by climate change, and the potential consequences of inaction.

Titled "Empowering Africa's Food Systems", AASR23 offers an in-depth exploration of the vulnerabilities, challenges, and transformative potential of the continent's food systems.

This timely report delves into a holistic understanding of the intricacies of African food systems from socio-economic vulnerabilities to the pivotal role of knowledge and technology, while highlighting the urgent need for innovative financing.

"This report strives to show that Innovative Finance is not just a buzzword

it is an essential tool for Africa's journey towards sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems. As the continent faces the dual challenges of rapid population growth and climate change, finding new financing mechanisms will be paramount in shaping a prosperous and food secure future for all its citizens," said AGRA President, Dr. Agnes Kalibata.

She asserted that out of the 50 indicators outlined in the Food Systems Countdown Initiative (FSCI) framework, sub-Saharan African countries are performing worse than the global average in a total of 32 indicators, mostly related to diets, nutrition, and health.

On the other hand, she said, sub-Saharan African countries are performing better than the global average in the remaining 18 indicators, including those on food systems' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and biosphere integrity.

"Up to 650 million Africans half of the continent's population lack economic or physical access to sufficient food to meet their minimum needs every day (BCG, 2021)," she said.

According to her, while African governments are committed to tripling intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services by 2025 as part of the 2014 Malabo Declaration, the aspiration is far-fetched as this kind of trade continues to dwindle from its peak in 2013 to less than 15 percent in

2022.

She argued that if fully implemented, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) could raise household income by nine percent by 2035 while lifting 50 million people out of extreme poverty. Africa could see Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) increase by between 111 and 159 percent under the AfCFTA.

Dr. John Ulimwengu, the report's lead author said the report offers a deep dive into the underlying challenges that have historically held back the potential of the continent's vast natural resources.

Overall, despite progress in food production, processing and distribution, significant challenges and failures persist, leading to an alarmingly poor state of food and nutrition security across the continent.

The report unveils a multifaceted web of challenges that stretch from production to consumption. While daunting, the report provides a clear call for a concerted response to these challenges from governments, the private sector, communities, and individuals alike.

"The findings in this year's AASR are not just a reflection of the current challenges but also a roadmap for future actions, guiding the continent towards food systems where every African will have access to sustainable, healthy diets," said Dr. Ulimwengu.

Taxpayers registration hits over 4million

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA has a total of 4,696,999 registered taxpayers as of June 30, which is just 16-percent of the 33 million active population available in the country, the National Assembly was told here yesterday.

Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office, Khamis Hamza Khamis revealed in parliament when responding to a question by a legislator from the House of Representatives Amey Abdalla Amey who wanted to know the number of registered taxpayers.

"How many taxpayers have not been recorded into the taxpayer's book and what is the government doing to ensure they are registered," the MP questioned.

In response, the deputy minister said the government was taking various steps to expand the taxbase adding that the number of registered taxpayers was small because most of the business activities in the country were run by the informal sector which is projected to have employed 27.7 million people.

He said the government was also working on formalizing the formal sector through the door to door campaign which aims at identifying informal and unregistered taxpayers.

The campaign also aims at setting aside sites for Small and Medium Enterprises but also awareness campaigns on the importance of paying tax to facilitate voluntary business formalization and tax payment.

Tanzania's informal sector remains the largest and most attractive in East Africa, bigger than only Burundi yet Tanzania is the second largest economy within the six-member East African Community (EAC).

The average revenue collection for sub-Saharan African countries stands at 15.1 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) while developed countries collect 40-percent of their GDP which allows them to cater for their needs.

Tanzania's revenue collection was below that of the Sub Sahara but the trend shows the country has the opportunity to expand its tax base to meet the standard set by sub-Saharan countries.



Aerial view of the Vision City estate in Kigali, Rwanda

HOW TO SAVE FOR YOUR RETIREMENT

By Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA

Data shows that, as a society, (Tanzanians) have a spending culture - according to World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts, Tanzania's consumption rate is 65.7% of GDP in 2021. This means, the majority of us (Tanzanians) have poor savings habits which affects our quality of life during our retirement. According to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources, our annual national gross savings rate is 34.31% in 2020. This is because most of us have conflicting priorities when it comes to affording our current lifestyle hence affecting our ability to save for our future/retirement. We are not wired to save enough for our retirement other than the mandatory savings (social security deductions) and this has to change.

But how much is enough to save for a comfortable retirement? A rule of thumb is that a retirement income equal to 75% of your final salary just before you retire will allow you to live comfortably in retirement. The best financial advice is to always start saving as early as possible. But that is easier said than done as life tends to pass by as we try to build our careers, start and support our families, and strive to overcome life's challenges as they come. So how can you do that? This week I will share a few tips that will help you start your retirement savings:

- Set Clear Goals & Seek Advice - Before you can



Kelvin Mkwawa

even think about starting to save for retirement, it is important to get a clear picture of what you want your life to be like after you retire. Thinking about where

you want to live, what you will do with your time, and when you will retire will help you have clear goals. Once you have a clear picture of your goals, seek advice from professional financial advisors. Research conducted by one of the largest mutual funds in the United States found that people who hire financial advisors can improve their retirement savings by up to 31% compared to those who are not using financial advisors. This is because a financial advisor will work with you to determine how much you will need at retirement to live the way you want and will help you monitor your progress all the way through.

- Choose Your Investments Carefully - There are a variety of different retirement saving options based on your current financial situation and goals. For example, if you are starting your retirement savings late, you may need to consider investing more aggressively and vice versa. Different savings options have different terms, structures, interest rates, and requirements so you must take your time to study the options before making any decision. The wrong saving option can have a significant impact on your retirement lifestyle hence the importance of carefully considering the options available cannot be underestimated.

- Increase Your Income - A very important key to saving

is to earn more than you spend. Cutting down your expenses is a great way to find a little extra money to put toward your retirement. Once you've made some reasonable cuts, it's time to focus on finding ways to increase your income. There are different ways to increase your income: you can ask for a raise at work, or you can apply for a job that offers better benefits, you can take a second job (if your current job allows it), or you can look into starting a side business. All the options I have mentioned here are to help you earn extra income so you can save more for your retirement. Hence whenever you earn extra income, prioritize it towards your retirement savings.

To summarize, I believe the failure to get into the habit of saving regularly is one of the biggest reasons why most people don't become financially secure. If you don't have a saving habit, then you need to develop it to give yourself a chance to save for your retirement. I shared a few tips that will help you to start saving for your retirement: set clear financial goals, choose your investment options wisely, and seek additional income. Persistence and discipline is the key to saving, and hopefully, the tips I shared in this article give you a better understanding of how to save for your retirement.

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Central Bank deputy governor on role of fintech in driving financial inclusion

KIGALI

The Central Bank's deputy governor, Soraya Hakuziyaremye said creating an enabling environment for financial technology (fintech) has played a vital role in driving financial inclusion in the country.

She was speaking during a fireside chat themed 'Innovation for Inclusion' at the Global Fintech Fest, on September 5, in Mumbai, India.

Rwanda is positioning itself to be a fintech hub in the broader context of the Kigali International Financial Centre's mission to transform Kigali into a regional financial hub capable of attracting foreign investments as well as encouraging the creation of highly skilled jobs in the sector.

ICT and the digital economy are the backbone of Rwanda's economic development, Hakuziyaremye said while narrating how the Central Bank has had to put in place a regulatory framework that allows the growth of fintechs in Rwanda.

"We also worked on modernising our own infrastructure as a central bank to make it more digital such as having an integrated interbank payment system which started in 2011. We also created an enabling regulatory environment that allows non-banks to come into

the space, which has allowed fintechs to flourish in the country," she said.

Hakuziyaremye noted that the digitalisation of other services, including the land registry and credit reference bureau, has enabled Rwanda to adopt mobile money.

"Mobile money penetration has allowed us to increase financial inclusion, before mobile money was introduced, only 48 per cent of Rwandans had a bank account, and today we are at 77 per cent."

"It also spurred the adoption of electronic payment, the volume of electronic payment transactions represented 0.3 per cent of GDP 12 years ago, this has grown to 112 per cent of our GDP," she added.

"The same way mobile money transformed payments processes and digital lending, is the same opportunities we see in fintech...the three areas of competitiveness with which we launched the Kigali International Financial Centre; being a pan-African fintech hub, green finance, and impact investment, we are trying to attract many fintechs as possible not only to serve Rwanda but use the country as a gateway to Africa."

However, she said there is still a challenge to ensuring that people go beyond digital payments and access funding and

insurance products using digital solutions.

Rwanda adopted a five-year fintech strategy (2022-2027) of systematically and holistically supporting the fintech ecosystem in the country by being a testing ground and launchpad of fintech to test and expand their ideas in Rwanda.

There are 75 fintechs currently operating in Rwanda, with a majority operating in payments, clearing and settlement providers, deposit lending, insurance, savings, capital raising, and crypto assets sub-sectors.

The strategy aims to move Rwanda from its current position of 61st globally and 5th on the continent to the top 30 globally and 1st in Africa, by 2027.

The National Bank of Rwanda (BNR) announced last month that it sought to attract innovators in financial technologies to explore and introduce digital solutions that can tackle some of the persistent issues in the insurance sector in Rwanda.

Rwanda is positioning itself to be a FinTech hub in the broader context of the Kigali International Financial Centre's mission to transform Kigali into a regional hub capable of attracting foreign investments as well as encouraging the creation of highly skilled jobs in the sector.

In 2022, BNR created a regu-

latory sandbox -an enabling regulatory environment that allows innovative financial services and products to be tested and deployed in a live environment with real customers within a period of 12 months.

Chris Songa Musonera, a fintech analyst at the national bank said: "We are looking for innovations that serve the insurance market. We need fintechs to venture into that, identify problems in the sector and leverage available data."

According to him, there are many ways that fintechs can solve different issues in insurance sector including claims reporting and assessment, the accuracy of data entry, attracting more insurance subscriptions among Rwandans, and customizing premium offerings in line with available data, among others.

For instance, BNR is hoping to find solutions that can tackle the issue of customizing premium offers whereby a careful motorcyclist is paying the same amount as one who is reckless on the road with many accident claims.

"There is no mechanism or a product that can assess the behavior of a driver over the years and provide customized premium subscription of that person," Musonera noted.

Vertiv appoints new distributor for Sub Saharan Africa

CAPE TOWN

Tarsus Distribution has been appointed by Vertiv as a distribution partner for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Vertiv, a digital infrastructure and continuity solutions firm, aims to collaborate with the local IT channel to significantly enhance its presence throughout the region.

According to Vertiv, Tarsus has a history of over 35 years in operation within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

George Moss, Enterprise Sales director for Southern Africa at Vertiv, commented: "This new partnership with Tarsus will help both businesses reach new audiences, providing Vertiv with a well-experienced, broad-based local distributor, in addition to our existing partners. These strengths create an excellent opportunity for Vertiv locally."

Tarsus will primarily focus on Vertiv's products, such as uninterruptible power supplies, power distribution units, and integrated racks, accord-

ing to Moss. However, Tarsus will also have access to Vertiv's complete product portfolio, including three-phase UPS systems and smart solutions.

Jamie Scott, CTO, said: "Tarsus Distribution is focusing on the enterprise segment within the next 12 to 24 months. The market is ripe for prefabricated modular data centre offerings, while demand within the data centre and hosted data centre space is increasing. We anticipate that growth opportunities will certainly unfold in the short to medium term."

"Our partnership with Vertiv will allow us to tap into the growing infrastructure needs of the SADC region, in particular. We will educate our sales teams and channel partners to offer technology solutions in partnership with Vertiv, based on the digital training and digital partner assistance provided by the organisation. This will also include advanced services to support Vertiv solutions, including specification, configuration, and installation, as well as offering Vertiv solutions via our e-commerce partners."

Cameroon's eVisa portal plagued by new glitches

YAOUNDE

Cameroon's eVisa system, which went live on April 30, has proven technically flawed and inaccessible from a number of countries, frustrating users who want to travel.

Felix Mbayu, Minister Delegate for External Relations, recently confirmed the outage but did not elaborate. He simply mentioned "some disturbances in accessing the eVisa platform in some countries."

Mbayu stated that competent service providers had been notified and were doing extensive investigations to determine potential difficulties.

The government claims that facilitating access to Cameroon is a primary priority, which is why the online visa portal was established.

According to foreign affairs officials, the portal processed 12,719 regular visa applications in its first month of operation. However, a few weeks after its launch, numerous applicants experienced system difficulties.

The complaints ranged from error messages, inability to make online payments, receipts generated without bar codes, to credit cards being debited many times without the matching service being given.

Impact Palmarès R&D SAS, an Ivorian security and biometric solutions firm that is Cameroon's technical partner on the eVisa project, did not immediately reply to comments on the

glitches.

In April this year it was announced that all applications for entry visas to Cameroon will be made exclusively online, from 30 April, as the country deepens digital transformation of government services.

The Minister of External Relations Lejeune Mbella Mbella, who unveiled the new electronic visa system (eVisa), accessible through its website.

This followed a presidential decree of 2 March, which complements a 1997 law on the conditions of entry, stay and exit of foreigners in Cameroon.

According to Minister Mbella Mbella, applicants for the Cameroon visa will have to go through four steps, beginning with online pre-enrolment through the dedicated website.

The applicant will then be prompted to proceed with the online payment of requisite fees, choosing from among a range of payment options including Mastercard, Visa, PayPal, MTN Mobile Money, Orange Money, Moov, Wave, Safaricom, Airtel, Vodacom and Africell.

In addition, the minister said applicants in places not covered by Cameroon's diplomatic missions, or far from one, will be issued an online visa issuance authorisation and a QR code, which they can use to get a visa sticker affixed to their passport at the entry border post in the country.

Meanwhile applicants residing in cities with a diplomatic mission will be

invited for biometric enrolment, after which they will obtain the visa sticker.

"Either procedure shall be within 72 hours from the date of pre-enrolment. This deadline shall be reduced to 24 hours in case of express visa application," Mbella Mbella said.

The eVisa system, the minister believes, will help turn Cameroon into a more attractive destination and align the central African nation's consular system with international standards.

"The eVisa system shall, gradually but steadily, be installed at various land and maritime border posts," Mbella Mbella noted.

Cameroon's foreign affairs department is rolling out the eVisa system in partnership with Ivorian security and biometric solutions provider Impact Palmarès R&D SAS.

Under a 2022 agreement with the government of Cameroon, Impact Palmarès R&D SAS is charged with developing the online portal for application, processing and issuing of electronic visas.

The company is also tasked with installing biometric equipment in Cameroon's diplomatic missions and consular posts for the printing of biometric visas on secured stickers, as well as the installation of visa authentication systems at entry points into Cameroon.

Impact Palmarès R&D SAS has, since 2020, tested the eVisa system it will be deploying, in the Embassy of Cameroon in Côte d'Ivoire.

BANKING&FINANCE



Ruto, Raila Odinga talks spur first business growth in seven months

NAIROBI

Kenya's private sector has posted growth in business deals for the first time in seven months on easing political tension and moderating food prices, the findings of a closely watched survey show.

The Stanbic Kenya Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) survey found companies raised output in August, albeit marginally, prompting them to increase hiring at the fastest rate in two years.

The renewed growth in output was the first since January, according to the survey based on feedback from about 400 managers drawn from key economic sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, construction, wholesale, retail, services and mining.

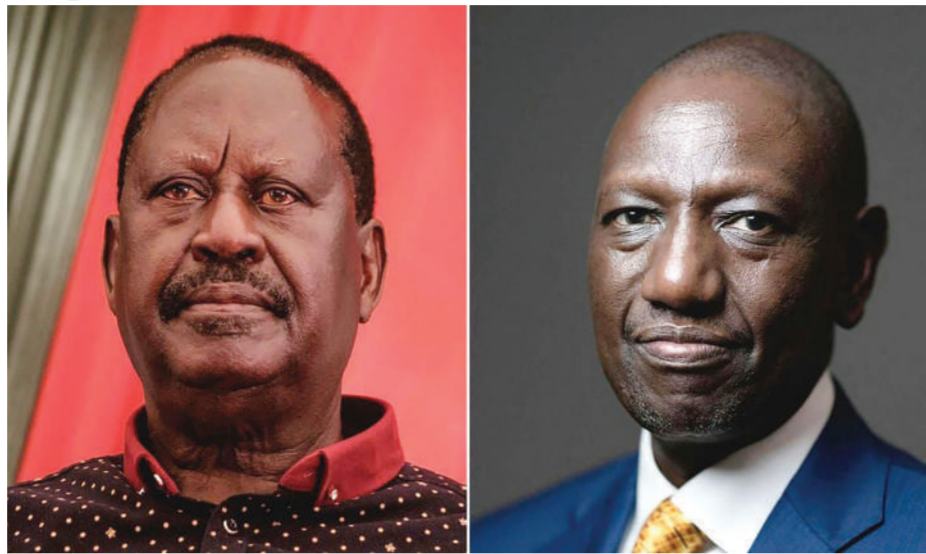
This came in a month the country experienced a thawing of tension between the governing party and the opposition, ending violent anti-government protests in July over rising cost of living, amongst other grievances against the William Ruto administration.

"Survey panellists frequently cited that greater political stability led to a recovery in output, particularly in services and manufacturing," analysts at Stanbic Bank and American analytics firm, S&P Global, wrote in the PMI report for August on Tuesday.

"Job creation accelerated and purchasing activity picked up, whilst firms grew more confident about their output prospects."

Investment decisions The hard stance taken by ruling the William Ruto-led Kenya Kwanza Alliance and the opposition Azimio One Kenya Alliance coalition, headed by veteran politician Raila Odinga, had unnerved investors, prompting a delay in investment decisions.

Businesses in major towns and cities, including the capital Nairobi, for example, shut down on July 7



Raila Odinga (left) the leader of the Kenyan opposition coalition Azimio la Umoja and Kenya's President William Ruto.

after the opposition leaders called for demonstrations over rising cost of food.

Demonstrations happened in three days from July 12, but the cases of business closures were fewer due to enhanced police deployment.

The ruling coalition and the opposition in August reached a deal on 10-member bi-partisan national dialogue team, shared equally, to negotiate issues emerging from the disputed outcome of the 2022 presidential election.

The team will report to Dr Ruto and Mr Odinga, before the resolutions, including input from the public, are presented to Parliament for approval.

The PMI reading – a measure for month-on-month private sector activity such as output, new orders and employment – for the month stood at 50.6.

This marked the first time since January the com-

posite index ticked above the 50 level that separates growth from contraction in monthly private sector activity.

Firms sustained hiring for six months running in August largely to "boost in existing teams and support sales activities", the report suggests, citing feedback from respondents.

This marked the longest run of expansion in workforce since the beginning of 2022.

"The latest increase in staffing was solid and among the quickest recorded for two years," the report states, adding that increased hiring came at a time firms slowed pay raises to counter elevated inflation.

"The rate of wage inflation eased for the first time in this sequence [since March], after reaching a 13-month high in July. Wages were generally raised due to the higher cost of living."

Kenya's inflation slowed to 6.73 percent in August, the first time it touched below the seven percent mark in 16 months, on moderating growth in food prices.

A 21.16 percent depreciation of the shilling against the US dollar in the year through August, amidst a rise in fuel prices in July on doubling of value added tax to 16 percent, has kept the pressure on prices elevated in a net import economy.

Corporate production The uptick in corporate production and sales was, however, mild.

Surveyed managers cited sticky growth in input prices and cash flow pressures for constraining growth in output, while the resultant high cost of final products hurt greater expenditure by customers whose earnings have been stagnant or negative in real terms.

"The August Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) implies economic growth

recovering compared to July, as well as a likely positive economic performance in third quarter [July-September period] of 2023," Christopher Legilisho, an economist with South African-based Standard Bank, the parent firm of Stanbic Bank, wrote in the PMI report.

"However, tough business conditions and inflation pressures remain a pressing concern for Kenyan businesses, as input prices and staffing costs were seen rising due to a weaker exchange rate as well as higher taxes related to the recently enacted tax measures in the Finance Act."

A fifth of the surveyed corporate managers expect business activity to grow in the coming months, with some planning to open new outlets and others seeing their range of products and services widening.

In July this year businesses took a hit following Wednesday's protests called by the opposition party against punitive taxes and high cost of living.

Several businesses in most parts of the country, including Nairobi's central business district (CBD) remained closed for the better part of the day as Azimio La Umoja One Kenya protesters engaged police in running battles.

The situation was worsened after long-distance truck drivers and some matatus operators also downed their tools to protest a plan by the State to subject them to fresh tests at a cost.

Nairobi's CBD remained a ghost city with several businesses remaining shut as traders feared for their safety. A few shops along River Road in Nairobi were, however, operational.

A spot check done by the local outlet showed that businesspeople operating exhibition stalls within the CBD trading in clothes, jewellery, mobile phones and shoes did not report to work.

Bolt to inject Sh100 million in Kenya electric mobility race

NAIROBI

Taxi-hailing company, Bolt, plans to deploy at least Sh100 million in the Kenyan market as it looks to embed electric mobility (e-mobility) solutions in its offering.

Currently, the company has 40 electricity-powered bicycles (e-bikes) being used for deliveries in Nairobi.

Bolt co-founder, Martin Villig, says that the plan by the Estonia headquartered taxi-hailing firm is to ensure that within the next 12 months, Kenyans will have the option of hailing electric-powered vehicles through the app as the firm looks to cut its carbon footprint and align with ongoing plans for an e-mobility framework in the country.

Villig was speaking on the sidelines of the ongoing Tallinn Digital Summit while hosting a delegation from Kenya led by the Principal Secretary in charge of Performance Management and Delivery Services, Anne Wang'ombe.

"We start the EV transition from smaller vehicles such as the two and three-wheelers which are more affordable. We will work with electric car manufacturers to see what are the more affordable and reliable models for the drivers. We will also work with banks to enable financing. In the next two or three years, we think that electric two or three-wheelers will be more visible," Villig says.

The Kenyan delegation visiting Bolt Headquarters sampled e-mobility solutions including e-scooters, even as questions emerged about Kenya's infrastructure readiness to tap the same at scale.

Bolt says it has partnered with the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) to clean up its registry of drivers and weed out rogue elements following concerns over safety while using the platform.

"This means the infrastructure of charging stations and battery swapping opportunities will be necessary. On the food delivery side, we already have e-mobility solutions on the ride-hailing side. It might take a year or so and we have different projects on the pipeline and we hope to announce something before the end of this year," Villig says.

On August 11, Transport Cabinet Secretary, Kipchumba Murkomen, gazetted a fifteen-member task force tasked with the generation of a report which will guide Kenya's roadmap on e-mobility including proposals on economic interventions such as tax incentives which would catalyse uptake of e-mobility solutions.

The global transition to clean transport is part of efforts to deal with emissions that contribute to pollution as well as climate change.

Last year ride-hailing firm Bolt launched its African hub in Nairobi, joining a growing list of tech companies that have set their eyes on Kenya to expand in the region.

The Estonian-based company has opened its Africa head office in Riverside Drive, which will host top managers overseeing operations in the region.

Bolt currently operates in seven African countries including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa and Tunisia.

The firm did not have a centralised African office but operated offices in respective subsidiaries.

"Its strategic location in the region and the available infrastructure has enabled us to grow tremendously in the East African Market and we believe we can leverage this to still achieve more across the entire continent," Bolt regional director Paddy Partridge said.

The company says it will use Nairobi's strategic location on the continent to expand to other Comesa markets as it raises to grow its market share in the ride-hailing sector.

"This is just the beginning, and we hope it enables us to develop a cohesive model for sustainable cities engagement that will help improve city services, and urban transportation for the millions of people in the region," Mr Partridge said.

Bolt joins other tech firms that have set up hubs and labs in Nairobi as they race to tap into the African market.

American tech giant Microsoft early this year opened a Sh3 billion (\$27 million) office and labs for its premier engineering hub, the African Development Centre (ADC).

Google also is investing in its first-ever Africa product development hub in Nairobi as part of the tech firm's Sh115.5 billion investment on the continent over the next five years.

Other companies that are setting base in Kenya include Amazon Web Services, a subsidiary of Amazon, which is opening a data centre and card payment firm Visa.



Net forex inflow rises 24pc to \$7.2bn

LAGOS

THE net foreign exchange inflow through the economy rose quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) by 24.7 percent to \$7.2 billion in the first quarter of 2023 (Q1'23), from \$5.78 billion in the preceding quarter, Q4'22.

The Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, disclosed this in its Q1'23 Economic Report, adding that the net outflow through the apex bank also increased QoQ by 30 percent to \$1.69 billion in Q1'23, from \$1.30 billion in Q4'22, reflecting the banks increased intervention efforts in the foreign exchange market segments.

CBN stated: "The economy recorded a higher net foreign exchange inflow of \$7.20 billion.

"Foreign exchange inflow into the economy increased by 17.5 per cent to \$17.18 billion from \$14.62 billion in Q4 '22.

"Foreign exchange inflow through the Bank increased to \$7.17 billion, from \$6.21 billion in the preceding quarter.

"Foreign exchange inflow through autonomous sources increased to \$10.08 billion from \$8.41 billion in the preceding period.

"Foreign exchange outflow through the economy increased by 12.8 per cent to \$9.98 billion, relative to \$8.85 billion in Q4 '22.

"Outflow through the Bank increased by 17.9 per cent to \$8.86 billion from US\$7.51 billion in the preceding quarter. However, autonomous outflow fell by 16.2 per cent to \$1.12 billion from \$1.34 billion in the preceding quarter.

"Consequently, net foreign exchange inflow through the economy increased by 24.7 per cent to \$7.2 billion from \$5.78 billion in the preceding quarter.

"Similarly, net inflow through autonomous sources rose to \$8.89 billion from \$7.08 billion in the preceding quarter.

"However, a net outflow of \$1.69 billion was recorded through the Bank, compared to a net outflow of \$1.30 billion in the preceding quarter."

Meanwhile, analysis of data from the CBN quarterly statistical tables showed that the apex bank sold \$4.16 billion foreign exchange through the Investors and Exporters (I&E) window, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Invisibles in Q1'23.

This represents a 6.4 percent QoQ rise when compared with \$3.91 billion foreign exchange sales in Q4'22.



Terminal operators hail efforts to harnessing the blue economy

LAGOS

The Seaport Terminal Operators Association of Nigeria, STOAN, has promised to fully support the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola, to harness the potential of the maritime sector.

Chairman of the group,

Princess Vicky Hastrup, in a statement, said Oyetola's pedigree in the private sector and in public service stand him in good stead to lead the efforts of harnessing Nigeria's blue economy.

"We are particularly happy with the appointment of Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola as the Minister of Marine and Blue

Economy. Given his rich pedigree in governance and public service, hard work and unflinching commitment to excellence, we are confident that he will reposition the Nigerian maritime industry for optimum performance," she said.

The STOAN Chairman said the maritime industry has the

potential of earning more than a trillion dollars annually for the country, as well as support the Federal Government's economic diversification agenda and create thousands of jobs for Nigerians.

"Marine activities include navigation, nautical, naval and maritime services while Blue Economy refers to all the

BANKING & FINANCE

WORLD

Israeli ban on Gaza exports deals blow to long-suffering economy

GAZA

PALESTINIANS demanded on Tuesday that Israel lift a ban on exports from the Gaza Strip imposed over what Israel called an attempt to smuggle explosives, saying it would hit thousands of families and ruin precarious livelihoods in the blockaded enclave.

Israel said on Monday it was temporarily stopping commercial goods from leaving Gaza after inspectors found several kilograms of "high-quality explosives" in a shipment, hidden in the lining of clothes.

At the beachfront Al-Bahar (The Sailor) restaurant and fish farm, owner Mohammad Al-Hajj said he used to export 20 tons of fish per week to Israel and the West Bank.

"The fish in fridges will decay if we can't export it, and we will be forced to sell the fish of the farm at the lowest prices," said Hajj, saying the jobs of 200 workers at his business were at risk unless the ban is lifted.

Around 2 million Palestinians live in the narrow Gaza Strip, the vast majority of them descendants of refugees who fled or were driven from what is now Israel at its founding in 1948.

Since the Hamas Islamist group took power in the territory in 2007, it has suffered from one of the world's highest unemployment rates under a blockade of many goods imposed by Israel with Egyptian backing. It has also been severely damaged in four major wars and numerous other clashes between Hamas and Israel.

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said the Israeli decision "would increase the already existing tension because of continued Israeli blockade and aggression against our people".

In Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinian economy minister Khaled Assaili demanded Israel cancel the ban which stops Gaza exports to Israel and the West Bank.

The unjust decision added to a policy of collective punishment adopted by Is-



Palestinian workers unload boxes of produce that were originally headed to Israel via the Kerem Shalom commercial border crossing, at a warehouse in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday. Israel's army chief on September 4 ordered the suspension of all imports from Gaza after an alleged attempt to smuggle explosives, the army and defence ministry said in a statement. (PHOTO / AFP)

rael since 2007 that had caused a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, said Assaili, who is part of the Palestinian Authority that claims to represent all Palestinians although it lost control of Gaza to Hamas.

Gaza exports are estimated at \$134 million per year, mostly to Israel and the West Bank, according to the enclave's ministry of economy.

The Hamas-run agriculture ministry in Gaza said the Israeli move would impact 60,000 families of farmers and fishermen. It estimated daily losses at one million shekels (\$263,000).

"We demand the unjust decision be retracted. It isn't based on any real justification and it violates the international law using fragile pretexts," the ministry said in a statement.

Despite its blockade, Israel allows

thousands of workers to leave Gaza to work in Israel and the West Bank, and maintains customs posts to allow exports in a bid to foster a certain level of economic stability.

As well as fish and agricultural produce, Gaza exports significant quantities of textiles and other products.

Osama Nofal, an official in Gaza's economy ministry, said the border closure would have wider effects beyond the immediate freeze on exports.

"The decision will impact industrial installations, close them, and may lay off many workers and increase unemployment. Such a decision is purely catastrophic," he said.

Wadhah Bseiso, spokesman of the Palestinian Industries Union, said as many as 30,000 jobs could be lost if the shutdown continued.

Ramaphosa: South Africa gains 'significant benefits' from BRICS

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa has got "significant benefits" from the BRICS, President Cyril Ramaphosa said Tuesday. He made the remarks during a question and answer session in the South African parliament on Tuesday afternoon in Cape Town, the legislative capital of the country.

"South Africa has experienced significant benefits through its membership as well as its association with the BRICS grouping of countries," Ramaphosa told members of the parliament.

The BRICS membership, he said, has helped his country improve investment, trade, tourism, skills acquisition and technological capabilities.

"Strengthening economic as well as financial ties between BRICS member countries is one of the key pillars of this cooperation," said the president.

He said in 2020, BRICS adopted the Strategy for BRICS



Chinese President Xi Jinping (second left), South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (center), Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (first left), Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (second right) and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (first right) pose for a group photo during the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, Aug 23, 2023. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

Economic Partnership to promote mutual trade and investment, and create a business-friendly environment for investors in all BRICS countries.

As a result, "South Africa's overall trade with its BRICS partners has increased by an average of 10 percent every

year over the period 2017 to 2021," Ramaphosa said. To date, the New Development Bank has provided funding to 12 projects in South

Africa worth over 100 billion rand (5.2 billion U.S. dollars), he added.

During the parliament session, the president also stressed that the inclusion of Argentina, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as new members of the group will strengthen their beneficial cooperation with South Africa in political, economic and financial fields.

"These countries will enhance economic partnership in key sectors such as oil and energy, telecommunication and information technology, agriculture, textile, logistics, air transportation, tourism and medicine," Ramaphosa said.

South Africa hosted the 15th BRICS Summit from Aug. 22 to 24 in Johannesburg. The summit wrapped up with several outcomes, including the membership of the six aforementioned countries.

Xinhua

Taliban rejects claims of interference in aid distribution

KABUL

REFUTING the claims, the Taliban has denied any intervention in the distribution of humanitarian supplies in Afghanistan and has argued that relief organisations have curtailed their contributions owing to a shortage of funding, reported TOLONews.

In a reaction to the Security Council report, Zabiullah Mujahid has said, "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan does not interfere in the affairs of any institution

to disrupt their work. We and our military are obliged to ensure their security."

Notably, the Security Council report has stated the "Taliban's" policies and practises have further hindered attempts to react to Afghanistan's humanitarian catastrophe, TOLONews reported.

Meanwhile, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan stated that the reason for the cut in aid to Afghanistan was a shortage of cash, emphasising that they only

got 25 per cent of the money sought this year.

However, in a separate statement, the Taliban's deputy of the Ministry of Economy, Abdul Latif Nazari said, "Our demand of aid agencies within the international community, especially to the United Nations, is to not consider political issues in humanitarian and development aid."

Lamenting his plight, Jawed, a Kabul resident, amid the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan has said, "It

is true that the aid of the international community comes to Afghanistan, but it does not reach needy people."

Notably, Afghanistan, under the Taliban, is facing its worst humanitarian crisis and the women of the country are denied fundamental rights. According to a World Food Programme assessment, Afghanistan is one of the nations with extreme food insecurity, with nine million people affected by severe economic difficulties and hunger.

ANI

CHINA will host the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing this October.

The forum is not only the highlight in commemorative events to mark the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), but also an important platform for all partners to plan high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

China will take the holding of the forum as an opportunity to take stock of what it has achieved, chart the course for the future, and guide the continuous advancement of high-quality BRI cooperation. It will open up a chapter in the new era for the Silk Road featuring mutual benefit and win-win results between countries, friendship and cultural affinity between peoples and mutual learning between civilizations.

BRI a 'path of happiness' benefiting world

In September and October of 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the building of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road in Kazakhstan and Indonesia respectively, ushering in a new era of international cooperation.

Over the past 10 years, the BRI has evolved from broad strokes to refined details, becoming the most popular international public good and largest-scale international cooperation platform.

Over the past 10 years, adhering to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the initiative has made fruitful achievements. It has

been joined by more than three-quarters of countries in the world, established over 3,000 cooperation projects, mobilized nearly \$1 trillion of investment worldwide and created 420,000 jobs for participating countries.

These achievements fully prove that the BRI is a "path of happiness" that benefits the whole world.

Based on win-win cooperation, the "path of happiness" is becoming wider. In the past decade, a series of landmark projects have been built under the BRI, including the China-Europe freight train, the new western land-sea corridor, the China-Laos Railway, and the Piraeus port.

A solid foundation has been laid for developing economic, trade and production capability cooperation and expanding energy and resource cooperation.

Looking around the world, the Norochcholai Coal Power Plant in Puttalam is supplying electricity for thousands of Sri Lankan families, the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway in Kenya has boosted local economic growth by over 2 percentage points, and the Chinese vocational workshop program Luban Workshop has offered vocational training for young people in over 20 countries.

These have created an array of national landmarks, livelihood

projects, and milestones of cooperation, injecting new impetus into participating countries.

A report issued by Brussels-based economic think tank Bruegel, which analyzed the global public opinion's concern and sentiment towards the BRI based on data from mainstream media reports of nearly 150 countries, noted that the initiative is viewed positively in most parts of the world.

Following green and innovative development, the "path of happiness" is making the world more beautiful.

From the BRI International Green Development Coalition and the Green Silk Road Envoys Program, to

the Initiative for Belt And Road Partnership on Green Development, green development has become a defining feature of high-quality BRI cooperation.

Former Under-Secretary-General of the UN Erik Solheim said that the BRI has become the biggest driving force for global green development.

As a new round of sci-tech revolution and industrial transformation continues to evolve, BRI partners have worked actively to carry out international cooperation in emerging areas such as the digital economy.

The Digital Silk Road is becoming a digital bridge facilitating a new type of globalization, and the connotation of the BRI is being continuously enriched.

People's Daily

Ukraine war: Deadly new Russian attack reported on IZMAIL port area

A new Russian drone strike has hit Ukrainian port facilities in the IZMAIL area on the River Danube, killing one person, the local governor says.

Port and agricultural infrastructure was damaged in the overnight attack, according to Oleh Kiper, governor of the surrounding Odesa region.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow on the reported new attack.

IZMAIL, across the river from Nato member state Romania, came under Russian drone attack earlier this week.

Ukraine alleged that Russian drones had landed on Romanian territory during that attack but Romania denied this.

Russia has been hitting Ukraine's port facilities along the River Danube for more than a month, trying to prevent Ukraine from using the river to export its grain.

Ukraine is one of the world's major exporters of wheat and corn.

The dispute between Romania and Ukraine came as Russian and Turkish leaders held talks over reviving a deal that allowed Ukraine to export grain safely through the Black Sea.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had travelled to the Russian city of Sochi in an attempt to persuade President Vladimir Putin to restart it.

Putin said the deal, which Moscow abandoned in July, would not be reinstated until the West met his demands for sanctions to be lifted on Russian agricultural produce.

But he did say that Russia was moving ahead with plans to supply free grain to six African countries "and even carry out logistics free of charge".

Also on Tuesday night, the Ukrainian capital Kyiv came under missile attack, the authorities said, but there were no casualties or damage.

All the Russian missiles were destroyed by air defences, a Ukrainian defence official said.



The port of IZMAIL

Chandrayaan-3: ISRO releases 3D 'anaglyph' images of moon's surface

NEW DELHI

THE Indian Space Research organisation on Tuesday put out a 3-dimensional 'anaglyph' image of the Chandrayaan-3 Vikram lander from the south pole of the Moon.

This image features the left image within the red channel, and the right image within the blue and green channels, resulting in a striking cyan hue.

"The Anaglyph presented here is created using NavCam Stereo Images, which consist of both a left and right image captured onboard the Pragyan Rover," the space agency said on X (formerly Twitter)

Anaglyph is a simple visualization of the object or terrain in three dimensions from stereo or multi-view images.

"In this 3-channel image, the left image is positioned in the red channel, while the right image is placed in the blue and green channels (creating cyan). The difference in perspective between these two images results in the stereo effect, which gives the visual impression of three dimensions. Red and cyan glasses are recommended for viewing in 3D," ISRO stated.

Red and cyan glasses are recommended for viewing in 3D. NavCam was developed by LEOS/ISRO. Data Processing is carried out by SAC/ISRO, the space agency added. Notably, these images were released just a day after ISRO announced that the "Vikram Lander" has been set into sleep mode at around 8 am (Indian Standard Time) on Monday morning.

ISRO said that the data collected by the payloads is received at the Earth and the Payloads are now switched off. It is expected by ISRO that Vikram Lander and Pragyan will awake again on around September 22.

On August 23, India took a giant leap as the Chandrayaan-3 lander module successfully landed on the moon's South Pole, making it the first country to have achieved the historic feat and bringing to an end the disappointment over the crash landing of the Chandrayaan-2, four years ago. Overall, India became the fourth country - after the US, China, and Russia - to have successfully landed on the moon's surface.

ANI

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu arrives in New Delhi

NEW DELHI

ARRIVALS have begun for the G20 Summit in New Delhi. Nigerian President Bola Tinubu is the first head of state to arrive in the national capital for the summit scheduled to be held on September 9, 10.

The visit comes as Tinubu's first visit to India since the assumption of office in May 2023.

"Arrivals begin for the G20 Summit! @NGRPresident @officialABAT is the first Head of Delegation to arrive in New Delhi for the Summit. Received by MOS @MoHFW_INDIA @spsinghbaghelpr at the airport. This is President Tinubu's first visit to India since the assumption of office," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Official Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted on Tuesday.

According to an official statement released by the Special Adviser to the President Chief Ajuri Ngelale, Tinbu will participate in and deliver keynote addresses at both the Nigeria-India Presidential Roundtable and the Nigeria-India Business Conference on the sidelines of the G20 Summit.

The President aims to leverage this platform to attract global capital and promote increased foreign direct investments in key labour-intensive sectors of Nigeria's economy for job creation and revenue expansion.

Moreover, he will use this opportunity to highlight Nigeria's attractiveness as an investment destination, specifically outlining his cross-sectoral reform plan as encapsulated by the Renewed Hope Agenda, according to the statement.

The President will also hold bilateral meetings with a cross-section of world leaders from four different continents, representing both G20 and non G20 countries. These engagements are geared towards strengthening bilateral economic, trade, and investment partnerships for mutual benefit, as per the statement.

At the G20 Summit, the Nigerian leader is expected to share Nigeria's perspective on the theme, "One Earth-One Family-One Future," which speaks to the global unity required to address the challenges facing humanity and the planet.

With its collective contribution of up to 80 per cent of global GDP, 75 per cent of international trade, and housing 60 per cent of the world's population, the G-20 constitutes a significant economic power bloc of socio-economic opportunity and geo-political stability.

While Nigeria's membership of the G20 is desirable, the government has embarked on wide-ranging consultations with a view to ascertaining the benefits and risks of membership.

The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom and United States) and the European Union.

India assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1 last year with the theme -- 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

India is all set to host the G20 Summit in New Delhi from September 9-10. World leaders will arrive in New Delhi to attend the G20 Summit. Notably, India assumed the G20 presidency on December 1 last year and about 200 meetings related to G20 were organized in 60 cities across the country.

The summit will be hosted at the state-of-the-art Bharat Mandapam Convention Centre at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

ANI



Human-Centric Globalisation: Taking G20 to the last mile, leaving none behind

'VASUDHAIVA Kutumbakam' - these two words capture a deep philosophy. It means 'the world is one family'. This is an all-embracing outlook that encourages us to progress as one universal family, transcending borders, languages, and ideologies.

During India's G20 Presidency, this has translated into a call for human-centric progress. As One Earth, we are coming together to nurture our planet.

As One Family, we support each other in the pursuit of growth. And we move together towards a shared future - One Future - which is an undeniable truth in these interconnected times.

The post-pandemic world order is very different from the world before it. There are three important changes, among others.

First, there is a growing realisation that a shift away from a GDP-centric view of the world to a human-centric view is needed.

Second, the world is recognizing the importance of resilience and reliability in global supply chains.

Third, there is a collective call for boosting multilateralism through the reform of global institutions. Our G20 Presidency has played the role of a catalyst in these shifts.

In December 2022, when we took over the Presidency from Indonesia, I had written that a mindset shift must be catalysed by the G20. This was especially needed in the context of mainstreaming the marginalized aspirations of developing countries, the Global South and Africa.

The Voice of Global South Summit, which witnessed participation from 125 countries, was one of the foremost initiatives under our Presidency. It was an important exercise to gather inputs and ideas from the Global South.

Further, our Presidency has not only seen the largest-ever



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

participation from African countries but has also pushed for the inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20.

An interconnected world means our challenges across domains are interlinked. This is the midway year of the 2030 Agenda and many are noting with great concern that the progress on SDGs is off-track. The G20 2023 Action Plan on Accelerating Progress on SDGs will spearhead the future direction of the G20 towards implementing SDGs.

In India, living in harmony with nature has been a norm since ancient times and we have been contributing our share towards climate action even in modern times.

Many countries of the Global South are at various stages of development and climate action must be a complementary pursuit. Ambitions for climate action must be matched with actions on climate finance and transfer of technology.

We believe there is a need to move away from a purely restrictive attitude of what should not be done, to a more constructive attitude focusing on what can be done to fight climate change.

The Chennai HLPs for a Sustainable and Resilient Blue Economy focus on keeping our oceans healthy.

A global ecosystem for clean and green hydrogen will emerge from our presidency, along with a Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre.

In 2015, we launched the International Solar Alliance. Now, through the Global Biofuels Alliance, we will support the world to enable energy transitions in tune with the benefits of a circular economy.

Democratising climate action is the best way to impart momentum to the movement. Just as individuals make daily decisions based on their long-term health, they can make lifestyle decisions based on the impact on the planet's long-term

health. Just like Yoga became a global mass movement for wellness, we have also nudged the world with Life-styles for Sustainable Environment (LIFE).

Due to the impact of climate change, ensuring food and nutritional security will be crucial. Millets, or Shree Anna, can help with this while also boosting climate-smart agriculture. In the International Year of Millets, we have taken millets to global palates. The Deccan High Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition is also helpful in this direction.

Technology is transformative but it also needs to be made inclusive. In the past, the benefits of technological advancements have not benefited all sections of society equally. India, over the last few years, has shown how technology can be leveraged to narrow inequalities, rather than widen them.

For instance, the billions across the world that remain unbanked, or lack digital identities, can be financially included through digital public infrastructure (DPI). The solutions we have built using our DPI have now been recognised globally. Now, through the G20, we will help developing countries adapt, build, and scale DPI to unlock the power of inclusive growth.

That India is the fastest-growing large economy is no accident. Our simple, scalable and sustainable solutions have empowered the vulnerable and the marginalised to lead our development story. From space to sports, economy to entrepreneurship, Indian women have taken the lead in various sectors. They have shifted the narrative from the development of women to women-led development. Our G20 Presidency is working on bridging the gender digital divide, reducing labour force participation gaps and enabling a larger role for women in leadership and decision-making.

For India, the G20 Presidency is not merely a high-level diplomatic endeavour. As the Mother of Democracy and a model of diversity, we opened the doors of this experience to the world.

Today, accomplishing things at scale is a quality that is associated with India. The G20 Presidency is no exception. It has become a people-driven movement. Over 200 meetings will have been organised in 60 Indian cities across the length and breadth of our nation, hosting nearly 100,000 delegates from 125 countries by the end of our term. No Presidency has ever encompassed such a vast and diverse geographical expanse.

It is one thing to hear about India's demography, democracy, diversity and development from someone else. It is totally different to experience them first-hand. I am sure our G20 delegates would vouch for this.

Our G20 Presidency strives to bridge divides, dismantle barriers, and sow seeds of collaboration that nourish a world where unity prevails over discord, where shared destiny eclipses isolation. As the G20 President, we had pledged to make the global table larger, ensuring that every voice is heard and every country contributes. I am positive that we have matched our pledge with actions and outcomes.

Biden nominates Jacob Lew for US ambassador to Israel

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden nominated former Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew to be US ambassador to Israel, the White House announced Tuesday.

Lew, whose nomination needs Senate approval, will succeed Tom Nides, who stepped down from the post in July after having served the role since December 2021. If confirmed, Lew will travel to Jerusalem, where the US embassy was relocated from Tel Aviv during former President Donald Trump's administration.

An orthodox Jew with deep experience in public service, Lew is expected to be confirmed by the Senate in a relatively smooth process, according to analysis by US media, despite the ambassadorship being his first overseas duty.

Lew served as Secretary of the Treasury during the second presidential term of Barack Obama, earlier in whose administration Lew held the posts of White House chief of staff, director of the Office of Management and Budget, as well as the inaugural deputy Secretary of State for management and resources.

Between 1993 and 1994, Lew was special assistant to the president under then-President Bill Clinton. Before that, he served as a Congressional aide to Democratic lawmakers in the House.

Currently, Lew is the managing partner of Lindsay Goldberg LLC and a visiting professor of international and public affairs at Columbia University. He earned a J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law Center after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard College.

The US ambassador to Israel is one of the most important ambassadorships for Washington. Biden tapped Lew for the job at a critical point in time when the administration is walking a tightrope between properly responding to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's push for a controversial judicial overhaul in the country and avoiding the US-Israeli alliance from deteriorating too much due to friction over the issue.

The Biden administration is also at odds with Netanyahu's government over an intention from Washington to re-negotiate a nuclear agreement with Iran, which Israel perceives as an existential threat. The Trump administration pulled the United States out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, of which Lew was involved in the drafting.

In the meantime, the Biden administration is trying to broker a normalization of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia. As part of the Arab-Israel conflict, ties between Tel Aviv and Riyadh have been fraught historically, and the two countries have never established diplomatic relations.

Agencies



China expands opening up in service trade

THE China International Fair for Trade in Services 2023 (2023 CIFTIS) kicked off in Beijing on Sept. 2.

The five-day event, themed "Opening-up leads development, cooperation delivers the future," has been joined by over 2,400 offline exhibitors, including more than 500 Global Fortune 500 firms and industry leaders.

These companies come from 28 of the top 30 countries and regions in terms of trade in services, and over 20 per cent of them are from outside China.

The 2023 CIFTIS includes a comprehensive exhibition and thematic exhibitions, with a total exhibition area of about 155,000 square meters.

Focusing on industrial hotspots and development trends, thematic exhibitions cover nine areas including engineering consulting and construction services, telecommunications, computer and information services, financial services, supply chain and business services, and environmental services. They showcase high-quality services, cutting-edge achievements and application scenarios in various fields.

The CIFTIS sends a positive signal of opening up, cooperation and win-win results, and the Chinese market is becoming increasingly appealing to foreign enterprises, said Peter Qiu, president of Deutsche Bank (China) Co., Ltd.

Deutsche Bank has a strong business presence in China, and it is very optimistic about the prospects of the Chinese market, Qiu said.

From launching comprehensive pilot programs, to deepening the pilot program of innovative development, and to hosting the CIFTIS, China continues to deepen opening up its service sector, with service trade maintaining rapid growth.

In 2022, China's services trade value increased by 12.9 percent year-on-year to a record high of 5.98 trillion yuan (about \$819 billion), ranking second globally for the ninth consecutive year. In the first seven months of this year, China's service trade has continued its growth momentum, with services imports and exports reaching nearly 3.67 trillion yuan, up 8.1 percent year-on-year.

Digitalization and green development are driving innovative growth of service trade. The 2023 CIFTIS highlights cutting-edge achievements in chip technology, quantum metrology, satellite remote sensing, AI, and digital healthcare. Over 60 enterprises and institutions released a number of new products and technologies, spearheading scientific, technological and business model innovations in service trade.

In the exhibition area for telecommunications, computer and information services, a series of frontier technologies are displayed, including over 10 6G standard technologies with international influence, China's first homemade satellite mobile communication system and an ultrasonic sensing smart bracelet for the visually impaired.

It is learned that both online and offline events will be held during this year's CIFTIS. Over 70 enterprises and



Students from Beijing Jiaotong University visit the China International Fair for Trade in Services 2023. File photo

organizations including Schneider, Intel, Sanofi, Philips and the People's Insurance Company of China will unveil their latest achievements and products, such as an intelligent file service center, digital RMB prepaid cards, industrial digital maps and brand-new digital twin platforms.

As an important platform for China's opening up, the CIFTIS leads service consumption upgrades and provides opportunities for enterprises worldwide to integrate into China's service market.

At the 2023 CIFTIS, participating countries showcased featured services and achievements in the digital economy, culture, tourism, education, and healthcare. It offered participants an opportunity to seek cooperation and get updated on global service trade development.

Livestreaming studios were set up this year to help overseas companies and international organizations promote their products and services and provide online transaction channels.

Tesla is a participant and beneficiary of China's opening up, said Tesla China President Wang Hao.

"Over the past decade, Tesla has witnessed and taken part in the rapid growth of China's new energy vehicle industry. We are fully confident in the Chinese market, and will better leverage the opportunities of China's high-level opening up and increase our investments here," he told People's Daily.

"Qualcomm has participated in the fair for four consecutive years, where we continue bringing our innovations to the Chinese market and expanding collaborations with Chinese companies," said Qian Kun, senior vice president of Qualcomm.

"China's commitment to high-level opening up gives us great confidence in the prospects of the Chinese market and our cooperation with China. Moving forward, Qualcomm will expand into more areas like Internet of Things and intelligent connected vehicles, proactively developing domestic and international markets with local partners," Qian noted.

People's Daily



As an important platform for China's opening up, the CIFTIS leads service consumption upgrades and provides opportunities for enterprises worldwide to integrate into China's service market



Ally Choki

Choki contemplates bringing Extra Bongo Band back

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

POPULAR Tanzanian dance music singer, Ally Choki, has said that he can revive the now-defunct Extra Bongo Band if he feels the reasons that contributed to its demise have ended.

Choki, who recently left Twanga Pepeta Band, stated so on Tuesday, explaining that he is currently a solo artist and can be invited to perform for any band.

The vocalist explained that he resorted to dissolving Extra Bongo Band to avoid the disruption brought about by the troupe's musicians.

Choki disclosed the artists' behaviours had him feeling owning the band was a burden and the vocalist, for that matter, opted to disband it.

"I am thinking, if I satisfy myself the reasons that contributed to the disband have ended, one of which

is the musicians being disruptive. I might come up with the idea to revive it," Choki said.

Choki said, otherwise, he will continue operating as a solo artist, composing his songs and helping his son, Choki Junior, so that the latter can become a prominent artist in dance music.

"At the moment, I am a solo musician, if you see me on the stage of any band, you should know that I am going to greet music lovers, as is the case with other musicians," he said.

He explained that some people had been thinking when he parted ways with Twanga Pepeta Band, he joined Tukuyu Stars Band once he turned up on the band's stage last weekend.

Apart from working for Twanga Pepeta Band and Extra Bongo Band, the musician served other troupes, namely Double Extra, TOT-Plus, and Super Kamanyola based in Mwanza.

Azam FC to take on Arta Solar 7 in friendly

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

AZAM FC's head coach Youssouph Dabo is convinced playing an international friendly match against Djibouti's Arta Solar 7 is good preparation for the 2023/24 CAF Premier League and other local tournaments.

The two sides are expected to face each other in the friendly set to take place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Dabo said it is an opportunity for his squad's players, who have not joined their respective countries' national teams for 2023 AFCON Qualifiers' fixtures, to be fit and ready for the coming matches.

The Senegalese tactician disclosed: "This is a great opportunity for my players and I, it will help the players be fit and ready for the coming Premier League matches and other domestic tournaments."

"It will also be the opportunity for players that have not enjoyed more playing time to show their competence to my technical side, it is also good as we will have time to try new formations and techniques," he said.

The friendly against Arta Solar 7 will give Azam FC a good test as the visitors, now one of the top teams in Djibouti Premier League, have experienced players playing with up-and-coming footballers.

Azam FC has played two NBC Premier League fixtures, defeating newly promoted Tabora United 4-0 in the opening fixture and later clobbering Prisons FC 3-1.

The Dar es Salaam side was, however, knocked out of the 2023/24 CAF

Confederation Cup First Preliminary Round by Ethiopian side Bahir Dar Kenema via a 4-3 aggregate loss.

After the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup exit, pressure started mounting on Dabo, his technical staff, and other top club leaders.

Reports from Azam FC suggest that the club's top brass summoned the Senegalese gaffer whereby several issues were discussed including the current performance of the team and its future.

It is alleged that the club's management, headed by Chief Executive Officer Abdulkarim Nurdin, was against the firing of the Senegalese coach and agreed to beef up the team by adding other top-quality players.

During the meeting, the club's hierarchy expressed concern about the team's poor results and asked the technical panel to orchestrate a turnaround before matters got out of hand.

"We have one of the best squads in domestic football but we are surprised with the performance of the team," a source from the club, who opted for anonymity, revealed.

"Again, we have the best coaching panel, so, we expect results to improve in the next matches. The coach was asked to improve the team's performance," the source pointed out.

The source, however, could not say whether Dabo has been given an ultimatum by the club's leadership.

Azam FC currently sits second in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League's table, the club's next league match will be away to Dodoma Jiji FC.

Yanga supporters back vulnerable people

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

SPORTS serve as a special and vital connecting thread that unites individuals across and within societies in a world that is frequently divided. Over time, world leaders have persisted in using sports as a tool for re-establishing diplomatic communication and making amicable gestures.

In a colourful festival hosted by Simba SC, known as 'Simba Day' which took place at the fully packed Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam and graced by President Samia Suluhu Hassan- she reiterated the government's commitment to embracing sports as a vital factor for fostering national unity.

The President further emphasized the significance of sports in uniting Tanzanians and promoting a nation of peace, love, and solidarity.

President Samia also praised the football club for their various charitable activities during a week, dubbed 'Simba Week', which included the provision of support to orphans and contributing medical facilities.

The President further highlighted that sports have always played a pivotal role in uniting the diverse Tanzanian society, breaking down barriers of prejudice and ethnicity.

She commended the historical use of such football clubs as Simba SC and Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, during the struggle for independence.

The President underlined the two outfits' contribution to cementing the fraternity and friendship between the people of Mainland Tanzania and Zan-



Female members of 'Yanga Group Admins Tanzania' hand over sanitary pads to the then Kisarawe District Commissioner, Jokate Mwegelo (in white T-shirt), when they visited the district recently as part of social activities held during a week, dubbed 'Mwananchi Week'. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA GROUP ADMINS TANZANIA

zibar.

She further praised Simba SC for the club's efforts to promote tourism by unveiling the outfit's 2023/24 season jerseys at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

The President pointed out that such a gesture significantly boosted the country's tourism and added value to the nation.

Yanga fans' branch known as 'Yanga Group Admins Tanzania', headquartered at Machinga Complex adjacent to the Dar es Salaam Region Football Association (DRFA) office, has since started making the most of the importance of sports in advocating for the society's well-being.

It has been working with Yanga's members and fans' branches in various parts of the country to, among other activities, share provisions with vulnerable people and other people in need of social services across the country.

Akida Sungura, 'Yanga Group Admins Tanzania' Chairman, in an interview with The Guardian, opened up on many activities the group has done for societies.

He disclosed that the group has several times donated various items to hospitals and schools in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Coast Region, and Tanga.

He further pointed

out that, in Dodoma, the group's members visited Dodoma Secondary School and provided students with two dozen jerseys and four footballs. They, thereafter, visited Dodoma Hospital and donated units of blood.

In the Coast Region, 'Yanga Group Admins Tanzania' members visited Kisarawe and Bagamoyo districts to donate food items and drinks to drug addiction victims currently housed at the Hope Sober House.

The fans also presented sanitary pads to the then Kisarawe District Commissioner, Jokate Mwegelo, to distribute the items to female students in the dis-

trict.

He further explained that in Tanga, the members visited Muheza Hospital and donated units of blood to pregnant women, accident victims, and young children.

"All we provided came from the money we collected so we can share with the community, sports are fostering brotherhood," Sungura said.

He disclosed: "We are also asking well-wishers, regardless of their aficionado, to back our efforts by supporting people in need to fulfill our President's drive to make sports a tool for uniting people."



Lions B outfit's cricketers and officials pose for a photo with a trophy shortly after the outfit had triumphed in the 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) 30 Overs League, having commanded a four-wicket win over GP in the final which took place recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

Lions B cricketers clinch 2023 DC 30 Overs Cup tournament silverware

By Guardian Reporter

LIONS Cricket Club B has lifted the 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Division B League silverware after defeating GP by four wickets at the Annadil Burhani ground recently.

The team, a second-string side of Lions Cricket Club, has consequently won promotion to next season's DC Division A showdowns. The runner-up, GP, has joined Lions B in promotion to the Division A competitions.

The 2023 DC 30 Overs League final witnessed Lions B winning the toss and choosing to bowl, bowling GP cricketers out for 102 runs in 21.3 overs of the 30-over formatted tie.

Skipper Muzamil Hussain was the batsman with the most runs when GP went in to bat having posted 28 runs which included three fours and two sixes.

Meaningful contributions with the bat in GP's innings also came from opener, Humayun Taj, scoring 10 runs, and Sarfaraz Tare with 11 runs.

Much as top-order bats-

man Dharminder Singh and middle-order cricketer Sultan Qureshi made their way back without two-digit figures, they managed to chip in with some runs.

Qureshi ended two runs of a two-digit figure, whereas Singh was one run short of the two digits.

The GP quintet's efforts were let down by fellow cricketers who could hardly chip in with two digits following their failure to withstand Lions B's bowling unit's pressure.

The GP's batsmen were slightly buoyed by 22 extra runs given away by Lions B's bowling unit, out of which the bowlers conceded one bye, two leg byes, and 19 wides.

Umar Shaikh led Lions B's bowling onslaught having ended with four wickets, giving away 20 runs in five overs, and was ably assisted by veteran all-rounder, Abdulsamad Ahmed, who garnered three wickets in 4.3 overs.

Needing 103 runs from 30 overs to come out with victory, Lions B cricketers hardly wasted time given they went

on to amass 103/6 in 22.2 overs to lay their hands on the trophy.

The in-form Shaikh led the batting onslaught as the cricketer posted 46 runs including six boundaries and a sixer. The youthful all-rounder was in sparkling form and successfully saw to it the batting side hardly suffered a collapse, much as it had got off to a wobbly start.

The early wobble had three top-order batsmen experiencing short stints, as opener Abdullah Intiyaz was four runs short of two digits, and fellow opener, Taher Chakera, made his way back without a run to his name after three knocks.

Ahmed, deployed at number three, was soon back to the pavilion having ended one run short of two digits.

Shaikh took the crease after Ahmed's exit and pushed Lions B's total to 90 runs after 17.2 overs.

The GP's Sajjad Ali brought the promising Lions B all-rounder's stint to an end, having stumped the cricketer off Talha Sayed's delivery.

Karim Kisetu, as well, chipped in with two digits

for Lions B, given the player ended with 17 runs which included two fours.

At the end of it all, Shaikh's batting exploits were enough to win Lions B the showdown's top honour and he was deservedly voted as the final's Best Player.

Even though Qureshi and Sayed posted two wickets apiece for GP, they could hardly help the team bounce back.

Shaikh of Lions B, further, won the Player of the Tournament prize, and Union Sports Club's Abdullah Jabiri was voted as the Best Batsman.

The Best Bowler prize was won by GP Pak Stars' Humayun Taj, whereas Aces Cricket Club's Hamza Ally was voted as Best Upcoming Player.

Lions Cricket Club Chairman, Atif Salim, spoke to the club members shortly after winning the 2023 DC 30 Overs League trophy, reiterating that such an achievement has been attained by the blessings of the Almighty and close-knit within the team.

The official revealed: "The club reached nine years of

existence on August 24 but the celebration was postponed as the club was on the verge of adding silverware to its trophy cabinet after a long time of waiting."

"It still feels like yesterday when the club was formed over a WhatsApp group so that few people who had the interest of playing indoor cricket could meet and just play and enjoy," the official noted.

Salim said: "With those humble beginnings, we are now going to have two teams playing in the top division next year, what an achievement that is!"

The official stated: "Thanks to all who have supported us during this journey, players and former players, sponsors, cricket community, DC, Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) and especially the fans!"

"Your unconditional support to the club has made us reach where we have reached," Salim added.

The showpiece, also termed DC 30 Overs Cup, is organized by the DC, seeking to boost the promotion of the sport in the country.

Man U share price tumbles with club sale in question

LONDON

MANCHESTER United's valuation on the New York Stock Exchange plummeted by more than \$700 million Tuesday after a British media report that the team's owners had halted plans to sell the club.

United's owners, the Glazer family, have reportedly taken the club off the market after failing to attract an offer that meets their asking price, the Daily Mail reported Sunday.

On Tuesday, the group's market capitalization fell by 18.22 percent in one day -- the listing's biggest single-session drop since its 2012 IPO.

According to the British press, the club's two leading suitors -- British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe who founded chemicals giant INEOS and Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Al Thani -- both submitted deals that value United at approximately five billion pounds, or around \$6.3 billion.

The Glazers hold about two-thirds of the club's

capital but almost all voting rights.

Manchester United's market capitalization is now at \$3.15 billion, less than half the \$7.5 billion asking price the Glazers put on the club.

Football website 90min indicated that discussions are still continuing with an aim of selling the club, citing anonymous sources close to the Glazers and potential buyers.

The club was gradually bought between 2003 and 2005 by US entrepreneur Malcolm Glazer, who passed his shares to his six children upon his death in 2014.

They announced in November 2022 that they were considering selling the three-time Champions League winner.

The Glazers are deeply unpopular with United's supporters, who accuse the family of saddling the club with debt in their takeover and of having not invested enough to allow the club to remain competitive.

AFP

Spain's RFEF sorry for Rubiales scandal, fires women's coach

MADRID

SPAIN's football federation on Tuesday apologised for the "totally unacceptable behaviour" of Luis Rubiales over his World Cup kiss and fired the team's controversial coach, appointing a woman in his stead as part of an overhaul.

The apology came more than two weeks after the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) boss sparked worldwide outrage when he forcibly kissed Spain midfielder Jenni Hermoso during the medal ceremony after Spain defeated England in the final on August 20.

In a letter signed by its interim president Pedro Rocha, the RFEF offered its "most sincere apologies... for the totally unacceptable behaviour of its highest institutional representative during the final of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 and in the moments that followed".

Although the kiss drew condemnation from across the footballing world and beyond, prompting FIFA to suspend him, it was another eight days before the RFEF called for Rubiales to stand down as its president.

But he has refused to resign, defending the kiss as "just a peck" which he claimed was consensual -- which Hermoso completely denies.

"The damage caused to Spanish football, Spanish sport, Spanish society and to the values of football and sport as a whole has been enormous," the RFEF said, extending the apology to FIFA, UEFA "and especially the players of the Spanish national women's team".

Shortly afterwards, the federation announced it was firing Jorge Vilda, 42, who had served as coach to the national team since 2015, and naming its first-ever woman to coach the World Cup-winning squad.

- Writing on the wall -
"The RFEF... has decided to dispense with

the services of Jorge Vilda as sports director and women's national team coach," the RFEF said in a statement, later naming Montse Tome as his replacement.

"She will be the first woman to hold the position in Spain," it said of Tome, a former player who has served as the team's assistant coach since 2018.

Vilda's dismissal had been widely expected after he was seen applauding Rubiales after a belligerent speech in which he refused to resign and railed against "false feminism".

The pair were known to be close.

The RFEF said his dismissal was "the first of a string of restructuring measures" aimed at improving the governance in the wake of the scandal, which has exposed what critics say is a deep-rooted misogyny within Spanish football.

Vilda came under fire a year ago after 15 national players said they would not wear the La Roja shirt while he remained as coach, pointing to incidents under his leadership that were affecting their performance on the pitch.

The RFEF offered no criticism of Vilda, saying only he had been "key to the remarkable growth of women's football that had left Spain as world champions and second in the FIFA rankings".

- 'Not the RFEF's position'

On the day of the final, the RFEF had initially put out a statement quoting Hermoso as saying the kiss was "a natural gesture of affection and gratitude".

Rubiales offered a cursory apology but later toughened his stance in his defiant speech to the RFEF on August 25, prompting Hermoso to issue her own statement saying the kiss was not consensual and had left her feeling "vulnerable" and like "the victim of an assault".

AFP

Arsene Wenger reveals his blueprint for the future of football - 1

By Miguel Delaney

THESE are still moments when Arsene Wenger sits at his desk in Zurich - of course overlooking every type of pitch, from 11-a-side to beach football - and wonders about the scale of the task he has taken on. Perhaps facing Sir Alex Ferguson or Pep Guardiola was easier.

"When you sit here and think, 'I have to improve football in the world', you realise that it's not easy, you know," Wenger laughs, before gesturing to the pitches below. "I would rather say 'give me a team and down there I can show you what I can do'. But once you sit here and say, 'how much, 211 countries? OK, thank you very much!'"

And yet, as great as Wenger's managerial legacy is, there are so many moments in speaking to him about his role as Fifa chief of global football development when it's impossible not to wonder how much the wider game could have benefited from his rare insight.

"I can understand that as long as I was at Arsenal I didn't care too much about that because I had to win the next game," he says.

"Once you have a global vision of world football, you realise something is not right."

Wenger has probably attracted most focus in the role for fronting the move for a biennial World Cup, but his real work - and a truly great responsibility - is raising the level of the sport across the planet so every country and every child has a chance.

"I believe really football can change the world," he said at the Fifa Women's Football Convention in Sydney last month. "Not just on the football side, the human side. That's the next step."

Wenger is sitting here on transfer deadline day explaining in a wide-ranging interview with the Independent exactly how it is a particular challenge when he goes to countries like Cote d'Ivoire and the president tells him they haven't had an official youth game in five years.

"And here you have Yaya Toure, Didier Drogba, Kolo Toure, you know we have the players, it's a football country," Wenger says.

"I always think there's a little girl or a little boy who has a dream, has the talent and no opportunity."

It's all the more frustrating for Wenger since there is now a strong argument that football is the most popular cultural pursuit the planet has ever seen, particularly with the way it spreads into the United States and India, all while developing huge money. Most of that, however, stays in one corner of the globe.

"In Europe, it's all done and we are a little bit not conscious of the needs elsewhere, because in some countries there's no [football] education... it's incredible.

"Football is conquering the world at an unstoppable speed and at the moment there is a dysfunction between the audience and the practice in some countries."

In other words, there aren't the resources to match the interest: the dream.

Wenger talks about how



Arsene Wenger

the first steps to solving this are creating free centres of excellence for the best young talent and spreading out from there to create grassroots structures. Fifa is currently funding 25 academies, and the former Arsenal manager recently had the coaches involved at his office for the final preparations. Such is the nature of the discussion and the nature of his thinking, though, that an hour-long interview spreads into all manner of areas. They include:

- How football may have to "create striker schools" to solve a lack of goalscorers
- How modern academies offer high technical quality but have meant "we lose a bit of that freedom, that creativity"
- How pressing has affected that
- "The trend in some academies is to recreate park football"
- How football isn't producing anywhere near as many good players as it could
- "Does the world produce enough good players? I think no"
- How this has led to an inflated transfer market, where "everybody thinks the same"
- Why countries like Croatia and Uruguay are so repeatedly successful
- How football is addressing these issues

There's then the vintage manner he offers profound insights about football, and seemingly simple lines that capture so much, just in sitting there talking about it. Employing Wenger to directly study the game only amplifies that, which is what he has spent the last few years doing since taking the job in 2019.

"We analysed football in 205 countries and we found in half of the world there's a deficit in education... which I mean as identification of talent, coaching programme, quality of coaching, quality of the competitions and integration in the first team.

"What we basically found out by analysing the whole world is there's a huge correlation between the quality of the educational system and the results in the first team. That was mathematics.

"We proposed to each member association to help them to develop the education. Basically, if you have no education in life, you have no chance so my purpose was of course to change that."

Some of the challenges themselves come from what has been one of the most transformational factors in the modern game. That is the way a sequence of wealthy western European countries like France, Spain, Germany and now England have essentially industrialised talent production. Wenger himself points to how Clairefontaine-fashioned underage teams were thrashing England's when he arrived at Arsenal in 1996, but that no longer happens. England has caught up. It's put to him that the old line from journalist and former footballer Eamon Dunphy - that "dictatorships and poverty" produce good footballers - no longer applies.

It is typical Wenger, though, that immediately leads to another fascinating path of discussion.

"No, no, I would say it's quality of education. What has dropped in recent generations is that of course park football has disappeared and now the trend

in some academies is to recreate again what happened before. The game itself is a good coach.

"Why? Because, if I play in the park, I have to make decisions. If I'm shrewd enough to think why did that not come off, and have a right assessment, the next time I am in the same situation I am correct. We have lost that a little bit. And maybe today we are overcoaching a little bit sometimes, and we lose a bit that freedom, that creativity, that individual personalised training that happened before."

A classic example of what Wenger is talking about comes from one of the most famous goals of all time. In bearing down on Peter Shilton in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final, Diego Maradona remembered a previous occasion when the England goalkeeper went one way. So, at this moment of heightened tension and consequence, the Argentina great went the other way.

The rest is history, but the evolution since has removed something from the game's present. Wenger believes the greatest cost of the more homogenised academy system is with that fundamental of the game - putting the ball in the back of the net. Or, more specifically, he believes it has resulted in a decline in strikers that has inevitably brought a decline in classic centre-halves, too.

The hermetically sealed

nature of modern academies has meant young players are not "educated for the fight" in the same way.

"I think football has improved dramatically all over the world but some positions today are more difficult to find because maybe the evolution and the quality of the coaching has suppressed natural fighting qualities in positional play.

"The emphasis has become more on quality of passing, quality of coaching. What you lost from the wild football is, if you go out now to a training session here, it will be built to start with passing, after that the quality of possession.

"Before, the training pitches were not good, so you had to lift the ball to the striker. A striker had to fight to get the ball so, naturally, you develop qualities that, with the passing, you develop a little bit less.

"If we go out there and play in the park, you think you have to score goals to win the game. Then you have to fight.

"As well, the man-to-man marking has disappeared so it's easier to get the ball. You are less confronted with fight. You see that in Germany. Since they play zonal they don't produce strikers anymore.

"If you look at the global evolution, we have moved away from defenders who only defend, from strikers who only attack, from midfielders where some defend and some attack,

to be more demanding completely. Technically, today, the players in every position need to be better because of higher demands than 30 years ago. The pace is higher, the athletic side is higher. So, today, the right-back is technically better, the centre-back is technically better. Of course, you had exceptions in history but maybe it has also kicked out specificity; the creativity of some players because of the pace.

"Overall, every player in each position has become a more complete player. I would say because we have gone in a more specific passing game today, the demands on the striker to score is smaller than it was before. Jurgen Klinsmann made an interesting point on that at the World Cup. He said to me, 'I played with only one thing: I have to score. I feel the strikers today judge their own game by how they combine with other players. I only judged my game on did I score or not.'"

So, how does football solve this? Wenger believes this is being deeply considered, and that Erling Haaland represents a throwback who could point to a new spin on an old way.

"At the end of the day, no matter what you do, football is always the quality of the one who gives you the ball and the one who puts it in the net. It's true you find more good passers now than finishers.

"And you can develop these qualities. I think it's something that will be addressed. Now, after 15 years of age, we have to start specialisation and positional play.

"Finishing under pressure. Finishing by being challenged and the quality of the movement... to get that responsibility on their shoulders, that their focus every day is to score, to fix them targets. So maybe we have to create striker schools, internally inside the club, or more specific work. I think it's on the way to happening now.

"If I look at Haaland, Haaland is for me the real typical striker. He looks like he is ready for the fight, ready to be focused on only scoring goals. Like [Olivier] Giroud is a real striker in mentality, that explains why he's still playing at 36, 36. And [Zlatan] Ibrahimovic, [Karim] Benzema, they have been educated for the fight, they have been educated to finish as well.

"In France now, you have some good strikers again. Germany, where they had big strikers, they have less. They are thinking now how they can change that again."

TO BE CONTINUED

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Arsene Wenger reveals his blueprint for the future of football – 1



Tanzanian assistant referee Glory Tesha. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Eight Tanzania officials assigned CAF events duties

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA will have significant representation in continental football when the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup and Women's African Nations Cup engagements resume next week.

The continental governing body, CAF has assigned eight Tanzanian officials to take charge of games in the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup and Women's African Nations Cup qualifiers.

Four Tanzanian referees have been appointed by CAF to oversee the CAF Confederation Cup Second Preliminary Round's first leg match pitting South Africa's Sekhukhune United against DR Congo's FC Saint-Éloi Lupopo to be played on September 16, 2023.

FIFA referee Ahmed Arajiga will serve as the center referee for the match and shall be assisted by compatriots Frank John Komba (first assistant referee), Kassim Mpanga (second assistant referee), and Nasir Salum (fourth official).

Tanzanian female officials, Tatu Malogo, and Glory Tesha have been appointed by CAF to be among the officials who will oversee the 2024 African Women's Championship (AWC) qualifiers tie between hosts Uganda and Algeria to be played on September 20, 2023.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Executive Committee member, Khalid Abdallah, has been appointed by CAF as the match commissioner for the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup's Second Preliminary Round game between Djibouti's Arta Solar 7 and Egyptian giant Zamalek SC to be played at Azam Complex Stadium on September 16, 2023.

In addition, Tanzania Women's Football Association acting chairperson, Somoe Ng'itu, has been selected by CAF as the match commissioner for the 2024 African Women's Championship (AWC) qualifiers tie involving Ethiopia and Burundi which will be played in Ethiopia on September 26, 2023.

Six Tanzanian center referees and nine assistant referees have been accredited by FIFA this year.

The FIFA referees' list include Jonesia Rukyaa Kabakama, Ramadhan Omary Kayoko, and Hery Ally Sasi.

Janeth Balama, Yusuf Hashim, Soud Lila, and Rajabu Ramadhan are the other assistant referees in the FIFA list for this year.

However, for a long time Tanzanian officials have been snubbed in major CAF and FIFA tournaments, a troubling scenario and a thumbs down in terms of that crucial component of sport.

Taifa Stars battle Algeria for 2023 AFCON finals spot

PAGE 19



Footballers making Tanzania's senior national football team are pictured participating in drills in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for qualifiers for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, which is slated for January 13–February 11, 2024, in Ivory Coast. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior national football team, Taifa Stars, will be aiming to avoid defeat against Algeria when the two squads meet in a 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Qualifiers at the 19 May 1956 Stadium in Annaba tonight, with kick off slated for 10pm.

Taifa Stars head into the clash in Algiers in second spot in Group F three points behind Uganda

who close off their 2023 AFCON qualifying campaign away to bottom-placed Niger.

Group leaders Algeria have already qualified after winning all their five games in the

qualifiers so far.

To secure the remaining Group F ticket, Taifa Stars under head coach Adel Amrouche only need to avoid defeat in the final game against Algeria.

They can still qualify even if they lose to Algeria provided Uganda fails to beat Niger.

Uganda must beat Niger and hope Tanzania slips up in Algeria. Even then, Uganda will need to have a superior goal difference than Tanzania to

qualify.

Niger, who are sitting fourth in the group, are out of contention for a place in the finals set to take place in Ivory Coast next year.

In head-to-head meetings, Tanzania and Algeria have met 12 times in all competitions, with the North Africans winning seven, losing one and drawing the remaining four games.

Tanzania has lost each of the last four meetings be-

tween the two sides including the infamous 7-0 thrashing in 2015. Amrouche called up 26 players for the crucial game including the experienced quartet of Mbwana Samatta, Himid Mao, John Bocco and Simon Msuva, who were part of the squad that took part in Taifa Stars last AFCON appearance in 2019.

The backline could see Metacha Mnata handed the responsibilities between the posts ahead of Benno Kako-

lanya.

Bakari Mwanmyeto and Ibrahim Abdullah are likely to retain their place in the central defensive partnership.

The versatile Novatus Miroshi and Dickson Job appear most likely to be handed chances in the fullback roles as they did in the duel against Niger.

In the midfield, Amrouche could revert back to the tried and tested Mao and Mzamiru Yassin double pivot.

At the attacking end of the pitch, Samatta and Msuva started in Taifa Stars' 1-0 victory over Niger last time and should retain their roles in the final third.

Msuva has netted in three of his five outings for Tanzania and the forward, currently playing for Algeria's JS Kabylie in club football, will be looking to deliver the goods once again.

Samatta is aiming to move one step closer to becoming Tanzania's all-time leading goalscorer as he is currently three goals behind Mrisho Ngassa at the top of the scoring chart.

Bocco should be on the bench, ready to put in a shift when needed, whereas Clement Mzize could be handed his debut.

National Athletics Championships postponed

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE 2023 National Athletics Championships that were slated for this weekend in Morogoro have been pushed back to the end of this month.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) Acting Secretary-General Jackson Ndaweka said the National Championships were planned for September 8-9 at Jamhuri Stadium in the region.

However, he said Morogoro Regional Athletics Association wrote a letter to AT informing the latter that the venue is undergoing some renovations and will not be ready this weekend.

He said the Morogoro Regional Athletics Association advised AT that renovations at the venue will be completed mid this month.

"AT and the Morogoro Regional Athletics Association have been having discussions about the ongoing renovations at the Jamhuri Stadium and, last Monday, the association informed us that the renovations at the venue are expected to end mid of this month."

"So, for that reason AT's leadership agreed that the championships ought to be held on September 29-30 at the same venue, we have communicated to all regions on the change of the dates," he said.

Ndaweka disclosed the postponement is blessing in disguise to AT, given many regions will complete trials for selecting athletes for the National Championships and the association will further source money to successfully host the event.

"As of last Tuesday, so far seven regions submitted names of the athletes selected during the regional trials, they are Singida, Tabora, Arusha,



Some Dar es Salaam regional team's athletes are pictured engaging in drills at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city to shape up for the previous National Athletics Championships that took place at the venue. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Kili-manjaro, and Dodoma," the official noted.

Teh official pointed out: "This postponement will be an opportunity for the regions that did not conduct their trials to do so."

"We are looking for 4m/- so that we can successfully host the championships, we expect to get this money from sponsors and other stakeholders which will be known soon," the official stated.

"There is further money paid by race organizers as registration fee for their races, so, the postponement will give us the opportunity to have enough time for sourcing that money," he said.

Last year, AT planned to

host the National Championships in Tanga but it failed and, instead, used the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC)-sponsored championships to select athletes for various international events and national rankings.

AT officials said the association could not host the National Championships due to various reasons, one of which is the dates of TOC championships colliding with dates planned for AT's event.

The national athletics governing body, instead, advised all regions to present athletes for the TOC championships.

Michael Mwasha- AT Technical Director- is reported to have said that the AT plans to hold the National Champion-

ships between October and December in Tanga.

However, he said hosting the championships is unlikely to take place as there are three major athletics events taking place between such months.

Mwasha mentioned them as Tanzanite Women's Sports Festival which includes athletics, TOC athletics event, and Army Sports Council (BAM-MATA) Games.

The official, then, said all three tournaments will involve athletes from across the country- adding they will be under AT's supervision.

The last year's National Athletics Championships were initially scheduled for June at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The showpiece was nevertheless postponed to the eleventh hour as AT authorities said the postponement was meant to pave way for the venue to host East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships (EAAR).

Since 2015 AT has been failing to host the National Championships, it took the intervention of TOC which- through funding from Olympic Solidarity (OS) and Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA)- sponsored the 2020 championships that took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The National Athletics Championship were, in 2021, held at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

