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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8937 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA THURSDAY 24 AUGUST, 2023

National Pg 3
Govt lauded for banning donkey slaughter



National Pg 4
PCCB nets shoddy construction bars



National Pg 6
Workshop for ED graduates and employers



Swiss, US envoys praise democratic reforms



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (3rd-R) and current Tanzania Centre for Democracy chairman Prof Ibrahim Lipumba (3rd-L), national Chairman of the opposition Civic United Front (CUF), unveil a plaque in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It was at the launch of a project whose implementation is meant to strengthen multiparty dialogue in Tanzania, including enhancing the participation of women and the youth in politics generally and the electoral process in particular. The event was part of the climax of a national conference called to discuss the state of democracy in the country towards the forthcoming civic, parliamentary and presidential elections. Witnessing the event are US Ambassador Michael Battle (L), Swiss Ambassador Didier Chassot (R), Tanzanian government officials and representatives of political parties. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

THE Swiss and US ambassadors in Tanzania yesterday said that democracy includes taking note of a country's environment, while applauding the growth of democracy in the country.

They aired the view in Dar es Salaam at a two-day stakeholders' meeting called to deliberate on the state of democracy in the country, partly in view of next year's local government polls and the 2025 parliamentary and presidential elections.

The meeting has attracted 150 stakeholders, including leaders of all registered political parties, officials of civil society organisations, academia, development partners, clerics, diplomats, responsible public organisations - at the behest of the Tanzania Centre of Democracy (TCD) and other partners.

Didier Chassot, the Swiss ambassador, said that the 30 years journey towards a multiparty democracy has not always been easy or straight, as certain periods witnessed alarming backsliding.

Certain events threatened to undo the important work that was already done, he said, noting that similar situations "are seen in most countries implementing their own version of democracy projects."

New Mkuranga glass industry to export 75pc of total output

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Mkuranga-based float glass factory starts production next month, listing up 1,655 direct employments and 6,000 indirect openings.

Jack Feng, the Sapphire Glass managing director, made this observation on Monday at the grand ignition ceremony for the factory at Mkiu village in Mkuranga District of Coast Region.

The factory is the first of its kind in the sub-region, taking up an estimated \$311m in capital, he said, citing the significance of this investment in bolstering Tanzania's foreign currency reserves.

Opening the factory is a milestone for float glass manufacturing in the east and central African zone, he asserted.

The enterprise similarly elevates local economic potential and amplifies Tanzania's role in the global market, buttressing foreign currency flows and building foundations of an industrial economy, he stated.

The factory injects new vitality into the local economy and the glass industry, with 80 percent of raw materials for the firm being sourced locally.

Jan-June draws 759,327 tourists, earns 202bn/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Serengeti

TANZANIA earned 202bn/- from the 759,327 tourists it attracted in the first half of this year, the respective figures for the corresponding period last year being 130bn/- and 575,397.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, unveiled the data on Tuesday while on a tour during which he witnessed the dramatic river crossing by wildebeests between Serengeti National Park in Tanzania and Maasai Mara Reserve in Kenya.

Hundreds of Tanzanian and foreign tourists had a first-hand account of the two-hour annual great migration which traditionally sees an estimated 10,000 wildebeests crossing the Maasai Mara River to Kogatende in Serengeti District.



Sapphire Float Glass Tanzania Co. Ltd officials and other staff come together earlier this week in celebrating the factory's grand ignition ceremony at Mkiu village in Mkuranga District, where the firm is based. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania's democracy may not have free different branches with checks and balances. Tanzania's democracy must look like Tanzania, must be purely Tanzanian

"However, and that's what's really important today, is that more than three decades later we find ourselves here on a path towards further strengthening democratic efforts," he declared.

He expressed the Swiss government's appreciation of the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan for actively encouraging the 4Rs principle, for reconciliation, reform, rebuilding and resilience.

All this attests to the will of the current leadership to see Tanzania pursue this journey towards a more inclusive and democratic society, he said, underlining that the ongoing review of laws that impact on civic space is particularly encouraging.

He equally took note of the work of the Information, Communication and Information Technology ministry in amending online content regulations and lately the Media Services Act.

US Ambassador Michael Battle said that President Joe Biden had hosted two targeted summits on democracy, expanding US efforts to grow democratic resilience and partners through democracy, in the pursuit of development.

He referred to an intervention in the last Summit on Democracy during May this year, where President Samia remarked that her comments were not only valid for the current leadership but set the tone for the future of Tanzanian democracy.

"It's important to note that democracies don't look alike," he said, affirming that democracies are always contextual. "Tanzania's democracy will not be a constitutional monarchy," he said, implicitly throwing a barb on demands for limiting the powers of the

TURN TO Page2



TIC registers 40 projects in July

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) registered 40 investment projects billed at \$427.47m last month, projected to create 7,689 jobs.

Gilead Teri, the TIC executive director, said that its monthly investment factsheet for July shows that regional distribution of investment places Dar es Salaam in a leading position as investment destination, with 15 projects pegged at \$79.32m, estimated to create 1,233 jobs. Mwanza came second with six projects put at \$43.53m in value, he said. Similarly, Coast Region recorded four projects pegged at \$10.45m, Kilimanjaro had two projects valued at \$16.96m, Singida one project costing \$10.06m in capital, and Rukwa fielded one project slated at \$225m in capital outlays.

In like manner, Tanga registered two projects at \$1.77m value in total, Iringa one project put at \$4.08m, Manyara one project at \$3.3m, Mara one project valued at \$1.8m, Geita two projects at \$2.5m, Lindi one project at \$4.5m capital layouts and Mtwara one project at \$21.17m estimated value, he stated.

The registered projects were fewer than the 52 registered in June, and almost double the number of projects registered during the same month last year, he stated.

Manufacturing led the pack with 21 projects, with commercial construction next with eight projects, while agriculture, tourism and transportation had three

TURN TO Page2

Jan-June gets 759,327 tourists, earns 202bn/-

FROM PAGE 1

Mara Region.

During the annual spectacle, the wildebeests are normally accompanied by herds of a range of other animals, including zebras, elephants and buffaloes.

The minister said the government is seeking to attract larger numbers of visitors to view the spectacular river crossings as that event doesn't take place anywhere else in the world.

"The tourism sector is a pillar of the country's economy," he said, noting its rising contribution to national income, highlighting that that 37.6 percent of foreign tourists in the past financial year came from ten countries in Europe, America and Asia.

The number was an improvement from 31 percent of tourists into the country who came from those countries during fiscal 2021/2022, he said.

Tanzania received 118,108 tourists from the United States during fiscal 2022/2023 while earlier France led with the largest number of tourists at 76,084 arrivals, he stated.

Government efforts to promote tourism explain the surge, with the Royal Tour documentary featuring President Samia Suluhu Hassan prominently playing a substantial part, he said.

Tanzania is seeking to be elected by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to the vice presidency of the UNWTO international council, he said.

It also seeks nomination to membership of the UNWTO international executive committee and a member of the experts' taskforce for Brand Africa, he said.

The wildebeest migration within the Serengeti ecosystem is all year round, involving more than 1.5m animals of that species.

Other migrating wildlife include zebra, numbered at 400,000 annually, 200,000 antelopes and a range of others, migrating in search of pastures, water and usable weather, experts say.

Timotheo Mnzava (Korogwe Rural), chairman of the standing committee on Land, Natural Resources and Tourism of the National Assembly, said at the occasion that the migration spectacle is a miracle to watch.

He praised the government and conservation authorities for efforts to protect the zone, citing the good work done by the ministry.

The committee expects to work with the ministry in improving the country's tourism sector, he added.



John Mnali (C), Tanzania Investment Centre's Director of Investment Promotion, presents a certificate of incentives in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday to Kanishk Laroya, Vice President of Indonesia-based firm Surya Esa Perkasa Tbk (ESSA). It is shortly after the latter had made a presentation on plans to implement a fertiliser plant project in Tanzania worth over US\$1.0 billion within six months. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TIC registers 40 projects last month

FROM PAGE 1

projects each. Human resources and services had one project each, he elaborated. Capital layouts were dominated by agriculture at \$228.83m, manufacturing coming next with \$82.21m, commercial construction \$69.37m and transportation \$39.46m capital layouts, he said.

Leading sources of foreign direct investment (FDI) for July were China, including Hong Kong at \$169m, India at \$13.21m and Panama flows stood at \$11.37m, he said.

China was also the leading FDI source in June, with \$20.47m flows, while Kenya came next with \$9.85m and Singapore put up \$2.13m in capital flow to Tanzania, he said.

By comparison, in July last year China led with \$109.75m flows, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) coming next with \$4.15m and Jordan put in \$2.96m capital to this destination, he said.

Agriculture was the key recipient for FDI projects, with \$136m inflows, manufacturing was next at \$32.82m and commercial construction at \$31.41m, he said. At sectoral level, agriculture led

in FDI destination with \$90m, manufacturing coming next at \$49.19m and commercial construction at \$37.47m inflows. Employment projections for July FDI inflows were led by manufacturing at 5,793 openings, agriculture with 616 expected jobs while commercial construction was third with 398 job chances, he added.



Shinyanga Regional Police Commander Janeth Magomi shows journalists yesterday a bucket with gold ore weighing 6,753.4 grammes worth 9.2bn/- which she said police impounded after it was stolen from Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Mkuranga glass factory to export 75pc of output

FROM PAGE 1

making it apt for the "Made in Tanzania" label for the products, he emphasised.

The factory's production capacity fully covers local demand, while up to 75 percent of total production is slated for export to neighboring countries, he said.

This will contribute to reducing import costs for Tanzanian glass products while increasing foreign exchange earnings via exports, he stated.

The operational launch of the float glass factory signifies a solid stride forward for the glass industry in the sub-region, a new industry benchmark in technological innovation and environmental development, he affirmed, intimating that when the factory is up and running it will make a positive contribution to local economic prosperity and societal progress.

Prof Kitila Mkumbo, the Planning and Investment minister, recently visited the factory site, applauding the remarkable progress made, which upon completion, will stand as the largest float glass factory in the region.

This ushers in a transformative era in glass production and fueling the nation's economic prosperity, he added.

Uganda's Yoweri Museveni orders pay rise for science head teachers

KAMPALA

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has ordered the Ministry of Public Service to increase the salaries of head and deputy head teachers in secondary schools specialising in science.

In a letter dated July 1 and addressed to Public Service Minister Wilson Muruli Mukasa, Museveni said he had received a letter from the Minister of Education and Sports stating that the salaries of head and

deputy head teachers had not been increased.

"I have received a letter from the First Lady and the Minister of Education informing me that science teachers who are head teachers and deputy head teachers are being punished for holding these positions," Museveni said.

The president's choice of words could mean many things, but in the context of his government's stance on science, the head of state seems to be inferring that since all science

teachers have had their salaries improved, head and deputy head teachers qualified to teach science should have had the same.

"This is totally irrational," Museveni said of the anomaly.

"Once a science teacher, always a science teacher. They should be paid as such until the government has enough money to pay all teachers well, and then we can review the rank of head teacher."

AGENCIES

Swiss, US envoys praise democratic reforms

FROM PAGE 1

president.

"Tanzania's democracy may not have free different branches with checks and balances. Tanzania's democracy must look like Tanzania, must be purely Tanzanian," he reiterated, repeating that it must be owned by Tanzanians, created by Tanzanians.

"Tanzanian democracy must be her own and no nation on Planet

Earth has the right to dictate to Tanzania what your democracy should look like," the envoy intoned.

Prof Ibrahim Lipumba, the TCD chairman read the meeting's declaration in the presence of Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi. The declaration suggested the need for the forthcoming civic polls and the general election to be conducted after reviewing laws governing elections and permitting questioning of presidential

election results in court.

The meeting resolved for an independent electoral body, independent candidates, plus election returning officers drawn from the regional administration or local governments, so that the 2025 polls are free and fair.

The meeting appealed to the development partners to initiate a civic education programme to the public on the best ways for people to make use of their democratic rights, he added.



Minister for Education Science and Technology Prof Adolif Mkenda (2nd L) looks at a map of the University of Dar es Salaam Campus at Gongo area Jamhuri ward in Lindi Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PAC queries on 20bn/- unpaid AGITF loans

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee has instructed the Agricultural Inputs Trust Fund (AGITF) and the Cooperative Audit and Supervision Corporation (COASCO) to submit a list of those who took loans and are yet to repay causing outrageous debts totaling 20bn/-.

Addressing reporters here on Tuesday after quizzing audit queries for 2021/22 FY in regard of Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB), PAC chairman Naghenjwa Kaboyoka said the committee laments on the outrageous debts that threaten AGITF existence and called for the debtors list to be submitted before 1:00 PM to the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly.

“For example, out of the 26bn/- which the Fund had earmarked to provide as loans, 20bn/- are debts that are unpayable, equivalent to 83 per cent of the money issued,” he said.

He added: “This inputs Fund that does not provide farm inputs but only loans, the money belongs to taxpayers that cannot be collected, does the Fund have any benefits?”

“Both AGITF and TADB perform simi-

lar tasks, why should there be a bank and the Fund at the same time? he queried.

In regard to TADB, Kaboyoka said PAC members have expressed fears after going through the report of the Controller and Auditor General (CAF) and enquired how TADB reaches out to small farmers.

“Panel members fear that small farmers who were the target for the establishment of the Bank are not reached, the loans are only being provided to large farmers who could have sought loans from ordinary commercial banks, hence there is a big problem in the violation of the aims to establish TADB. “This Bank has been passing its other funds in other commercial banks in order for the latter to issue loans to farmers, now you ask yourself who pays for the transaction costs including interests that accrue in doing so”, he queried.

Meanwhile, PAC Chairman said PAC has seen COASCO doing audit work and submit its query reports to cooperative societies but no steps have ever been taken after that.

He said it is important for COASCO reports to be worked upon just similar to those for the CAG.

Villagers applaud govt ban on donkey slaughter

By Polycarp Machira, Iringa

A CROSS - section of villagers in Iringa Region have applauded the government for the ban on donkey slaughter in the country, saying the move is in support of villagers' economic developments.

The residents of Migoli, Makatapola, Mtera, Kinyali and Mbweleli villages in the district said there was rampant theft of donkeys in their areas before the ban was effected last year.

The government last year declared a ban on donkey slaughter for the skin trade, following initiatives of different stakeholders like non-government organizations (NGOs), local livestock keepers and those who use donkeys for both domestic and income-generating purposes.

In a budget speech to Parliament in 2022, the then minister for Livestock and Fisheries announced the ban noting that

Tanzania's current donkey population was estimated at 650,000, but recognised the risk of donkeys becoming extinct.

Speaking at Migoli ward yesterday during a meeting to discuss the welfare of donkeys, the residents applauded the move, saying while they struggled to improve donkey welfare, widespread theft was a real setback.

According to the Migoli ward livestock office, Charles Zacharia, said the donkey population in the neighbouring villages decreased from over 500 before the donkey business boomed to about 250 by the time of the ban.

He said while the villagers had been trained on the importance of animal welfare, an initiative that helped changed their mindset on donkeys as a productive animal.

“Cases of donkey theft were the order of the day, derailing efforts to improve

the livelihood of most of the residents by improving welfare of the donkey, which is the great source of income to many here” he said.

The role of the donkey depends on the communities in which it lives and works. Usually his traditional role includes riding, ploughing, and cart-riding, with fewer roles in entertainment and food production.

For the residents donkeys contribute directly and indirectly to the livelihoods of people as they are used as draft animals in agriculture and freight transport.

He attributed the improved donkey welfare to a project implemented by Inades Formation Tanzania, a non-governmental organization (NGO) affiliated to the international association of Inades Formation and operates in the country.

Through the “Donkeys' Welfare Project”, the organization aims to help improve ru-

ral livelihoods in the target areas through the integration of donkey promotion activities alongside interventions with farming communities taking into account donkeys that contribute significantly to the economic and social well-being of owners and surrounding communities through employment.

The project helps to strengthen the livelihoods of local communities in 15 villages in Singida and Iringa through the promotion of donkey welfare.

During the meeting, some of the residents thanked the NGO for the training and welfare of donkeys, saying that they now value donkeys just like other animals.

Anna Asheri, a resident of Makatapola village, said the organization's efforts have helped her and fellow villagers realize the importance of the well-being of donkeys.

She noted that in the past, almost all villagers did not see the need to feed the ani-

mal appropriately, provide drinking water or take them for treatment whenever they are sick. “We have learnt to care for donkeys more than before and through the project, we have also started a women goat keeping group to increase our income”, said the mother of four children and owner of six donkeys.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Jonas Bakari, a 74 years old resident of Kinyali who have lived with donkeys throughout his life but never knew that the animals have great senses until he got the education on their welfare.

“He said, “Donkeys have great brains as they cannot eat without drinking water, something I had not learnt all this time when I lived with them”.

He said he also learnt not to overwork the animals, considering giving females lighter duties as overworking them interfere with their productivity.



Former Controller and Auditor General (CAG) CPA Ludovic Utouh (R) being attended to by PSSSF staff to verify his retirement status using his smartphone introduced by PSSSF Kiganjani App during the just ended meeting of board chairs and CEOs of the government institutions in Arusha earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt conducts research on alternative mercury for small - scale gold miners

By Guardian Reporter

KHAMIS Hamza Khamis, Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) has said the government has already conducted research on alternative technology regarding mercury use by small - scale gold miners.

He disclosed this on Tuesday to the Parliamentary Water and Environment Standing Committee on steps by the government regarding the implementation of the 2020-2025 National Task Plan for the Reduction of the use of mercury.

According to the deputy minister the research showed that the smelting technology using borax including the cyanidation technology are the ones extensively used in the country as well as many other developing countries.

He said the project for the control of mercury effects on human beings and the environment in gold mining areas for small miners stresses the application of the technologies widely used in the country. “The aim is to implement the Min amata Protocol, especially Section Seven on the reduction of the use of mercury in gold production by small miners, and where possible to completely eradicate its use,” he explained.

The deputy minister also mentioned the project's activities as boosting skills for both institutions and small miners on how to control adverse effects from the use of mercury during gold production.

In addition, he said in implementing the National

Task Plan for the Reduction of the use of mercury, the Vice President's Office, in collaboration with various stakeholders including the Chief Government Chemist Laboratory Authority has prepared guidelines for the importation, use and safe disposal of the mercury.

JOB VACANCIES

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Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB) Dodoma Region head, John Joseph, briefs journalists in Dodoma yesterday on the bureau operations. It managed to seize substandard steel bars which were for the construction of the ring road project at Nala-Veyula-Ihumwa dry port area in the region. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

JKCI conducts heart screening to 7,000 people countrywide

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Jakaya Kikwete Cardiovascular Institute (JKCI) has conducted heart screening to 7,000 people in various regions through a medical outreach programme named Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan.

JKCI executive director Dr Peter Kisenge revealed this when opening a special camp for heart screening in Kilimanjaro region at the Mawenzi Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH).

Dr Kisenge said JKCI has been providing medical treatment services in various regions of Tanzania where currently 11 regions of mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar have been reached and about 700 people have been referred to JKCI for further treatment.

Dr Kisenge, said the heart screening camp is a continuation of the outreach programme by the head of state aimed at bringing services close to the people of Kilimanjaro region.

"JKCI's intention to hold a camp at Mawenzi regional referral hospital is to ensure that we build capacity of health professionals here at Mawenzi as well as help the people of Kilimanjaro Region who have heart complications," he said.

Dr Kisenge said JKCI will continue to hold the camps in the remaining regions with the aim of developing the concept of delivering expert services to the people.

"In this camp we also provide counselling services for heart diseases for children where for the two days, most of the children who were examined have been found to have holes in the heart," said Dr Kisenge.

Medical Officer of Mawenzi regional referral hospital, Dr. Edna - Joy Munisi hailed the government under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the initiative.

Dr Edna - Joy said the response to the special heart treatment camp has been bigger than expected but the team of health professionals of Mawenzi in collaboration with their colleagues from JKCI have planned to ensure that every citizen who arrives at Mawenzi hospital is served timely and gets efficient care.

"We ask services like these be sometimes sent to rural areas so that we can all benefit from this specialist treatment because in reality what we see here the need is great and there are many patients," said Helen.

PCCB stops 120 tonnes of low-quality round bars to be used for the road construction project

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Dodoma Region has managed to prevent 120 tonnes of round bars of low quality standard for the construction of 52.3kms Dodoma city outer ring road project.

The Bureau has also been able to prevent 3.9m/- theft by Chemba District Council officials, the mon-

ey earmarked for TASAF beneficiaries of Mlongia village for buying Community Health Insurance (CHF). It was revealed here yesterday by PCCB head of Dodoma Region, John Joseph to reporters on the Bureau's performance for the third quarter of 2022/23 FY.

Joseph said the low quality round bars earmarked to be used for the road project were seized with cooperation between PCCB

and the consulting road contractor which had been removed from the project and quality bars were used instead.

In regard to TASAF funds earmarked for 130 beneficiaries, Joseph said an officer from Chemba District Council took the money claiming to take it to them, but stayed with it for one year.

He explained that after the Bureau was tipped off on the issue, it launched investigations and the offi-

cial remitted the money into A/C No. 50510042226 to be used as health insurance for the intended beneficiaries.

He further said they have made investigations to 64 development projects valued at 12.7bn/- in education, health, construction, water and livestock sectors and were able to rescue 41.2m/- that were about to be embezzled.

Joseph further said out of 54 com-

plaints received on corruption, two resulted in court cases including one concerning 4.5bn/- embezzlement in the Natural Resources Department.

However, he added, the departments on which the Bureau received many complaints include PO-RALG leading with 15 complaints against it, education (eight), health (seven), works (4), minerals (two), and one each on energy, water, irrigation and

livestock.

Owing to these complaints, the Dodoma Region PCCB head called on officials in the institutions to reassess themselves in their daily duty performance for public good and pledged to continue making investigations on CAG report regarding audit queries raised and will take legal steps against anyone who will be found to have embezzled government funds.

TSPS hands over classroom worth 13m/- to Morogoro-based school

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) through Morogoro-based Tree Seed Production Station (TSPS) has handed over one classroom worth 13m/- to Muungano primary school, while encouraging people in the area to plant more trees to protect the environment.

Fortunate Senya, TSPS conservator handed over the classroom to the Morogoro District Commissioner, Rebeca Nsemwa, encouraging people in the area to care for the school infrastructure for today and in the future.

She noted that TFS has been collaborating with the surrounding community for a long time and through their tree production station allocated 13.3m/- in 2022/2023 financial year for the classroom construction to address shortage of classrooms facing the school.

"We saw the challenge and we decided to act by building the facility. We came to realise that at that time one classroom had more than 120 students, which is against the procedure and rules governing education in the country," she said.

Alex Modest, school headteacher thanked TSPS for the support, urging other organisations to emulate the endeavor as the school still needs 24 classrooms.

He also stated that the school needs more desks to accommodate the 1,800 students, along with teachers' houses, and office furniture.

Modest said that despite the challenges, more than 90 percent of Standard VII pupils joined form one for the past three years.

DC Nsemwa also raised the efforts made by various stakeholders including TFS to contribute to the improvement of public infrastructure especially schools for building the classroom.

She insisted that more stakeholders continue to come forward to do so in order to create a friendly environment for learning and teaching.



Modest said that despite the challenges, more than 90 percent of Standard VII pupils joined form one for the past three years



Korogwe District Commissioner in Tanga Region Jokate Mwegelo (L) receives one of 50 computers from the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) acting director of fundraising and project management Masozi Nyirenda. The computers were donated by TEA for Semkiwa secondary school in Korogwe Town Council and Kwaluguru secondary school also in Handeni District Council yesterday. Each school had received 25 computers. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Google launches accelerator to help African startups leverage

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

GLOBAL tech giant Google has launched an AI-first accelerator to help African startups to help them properly leverage the technology for solving local problems. The equity-free program is slated to last 10 weeks. It is open to African-based early-stage startups up to the Series A

phase and those pioneering African-centered solutions using AI and machine learning (ML) innovations.

It is worth noting that this program underscores the growing relevance of emerging technologies like AI on the continent and beyond. Although it is deemed to be futuristic, many companies are already building tools through AI today. Unsurpris-

ingly, Statista forecasts the AI industry to be worth over \$1.8 billion by 2030.

In a press statement, Google says it recognises the impact of AI in the world. It particularly acknowledged how it is "innovating industries and reimagining the realms of possibilities." The company also stated that the new AI accelerator spotlights the mighty efforts Af-

rican startups have made in tackling some of the world's biggest problems through AI.

Google explained that the accelerator was designed to help AI-focused startups in Africa continue their respective missions. Interestingly, the program is heavily influenced by previous minority-centered initiatives like the Google for Startups

Accelerator: Africa, The Google for Startups Black Founders Fund, and The Google for Startups Accelerator: Women Founder. It is believed that these influences will help it achieve its mission which is to "support and highlight African-driven solutions."

The Google for Startups Accelerator: Africa has been a hit since its establishment

in 2018. So far, it has backed 106 startups from 17 countries on the continent. Another interesting fact is that the above startups have secured \$263+ million in funding, generating over 2,800 direct job openings.

Folarin Aiyegbusi, Head of Startup Ecosystem, commented on the initiative. He said "Africa's tech landscape is vibrant and ever-evolving.

It's inspiring to see African startups not only harnessing AI to address our unique challenges but also setting benchmarks for the world. 'AI First' is more than a program; it's a testament to our belief in the vision of these startups, ensuring they have the support and guidance they need to realize their full potential."



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Introduction to Pact and ACHIEVE Project

Pact is an international nonprofit that works in nearly 40 countries building solutions for human development that are evidence-based, data-driven, and owned by the communities we serve. Founded in 1971, Pact works with partners to build resilience, improve accountability, and strengthen knowledge and skills for sustainable social impact. Visit us at www.pactworld.org

The Adolescents and Children HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment, and Virus Elimination project, or ACHIEVE, is a five-year global effort to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children. The project is funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by a Pact-led consortium of top global HIV/AIDS partners, including Palladium, No Means No Worldwide, and WI-HER.

Objective of the Assignment

Pact Tanzania is seeking eligible service providers for:-

- Provision of general insurance services in the categories of fire and perils, burglary, motor vehicle insurance, all risks (office accessories), and Computer all risk cover to Pact Tanzania.
- Security Services Company to provide unarmed but well-trained Security Guards and Intruder Alarm Systems (wired or wireless) for its new office premises at Masaki Peninsula, Plot No.1486, Off Mwaya Street, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam and a field office in Dodoma, located at Dodoma Municipality, Plot No. 220, Block D, Swaswa Street.

Their proposals could form the basis for entering into contracts with Pact Tanzania. The contracts, if awarded, would be from October 01, 2023, for one year each, with a possibility of extension.

Scope of Work/Requirement

A. General Insurance Services

The provider is expected to provide fire & perils, burglary, motor vehicle insurance, all risks (office accessories), and computer all risk cover for Pact Tanzania.

The provider is expected to.

- Keep the details provided confidentially and update them as advised from time to time by Pact through its authorized representatives. (Any changes shall only be provided by a duly authorized officer of the client)
- Provide fire & perils, burglary, fidelity guarantee insurance, and all risks (office accessories including computer all risk cover).
- Provide additional benefits on the cover.
- Such services as may be related or ancillary to the due performance of the above work.
- Furnish Pact with quarterly claim updates in respect of claims arising out of the specific insurance covers.
- Be responsible to the Country Director or her assignee.
- Be responsible for the following deliverables:
 - Conducting a debriefing exercise and submitting a report.
 - Furnish Pact with a policy document within Seven (7) days of signing the contract.
 - Undertake a scope of cover and claims procedure presentation.
 - Submit quarterly claims updates on pending claims.
- Start providing the cover on the date of execution of the contract.
- The contract period shall be Twelve (12) months from the date of the execution of the contract.

The following conditions shall be adhered to:-

- The cover provided by the broker should be as in the tender document and should not be restricted by way of warranties, endorsements, or special conditions subject to award. If the entire policy document is found to be satisfactory, such document must be deposited with Pact Tanzania not later than fifteen (15) days from the inception of the cover.
- Ensure that the sum insured under the policy will be adjustable accordingly by suitable means at the discretion of Pact Tanzania from time to time.

B. Security Guards & Intrusion System Services

Pact Tanzania maintains office premises at Masaki Peninsula, Plot No.1486, Off Mwaya Street, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam, and Dodoma, located at Dodoma Municipality, Plot No. 220, Block D, Swaswa Street. The current number of guards required at this location per 24-hour period is detailed below:-

| Location | Facility | Guards per Shift | | Total |
|--|----------|------------------|-------------|-------|
| | | 0600 - 1800 | 1800 - 0600 | |
| Masaki Peninsula, Plot No.1486, Off Mwaya Street, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam | Office | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Dodoma Municipality, Plot No. 220, Block D, Swaswa Street. | Office | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Please note that the number of guards specified above is for a single 24-hour period. To allow for rest, holidays, sickness, etc., you must maintain a roster of more guards. Each guard will be required to work in accordance with prevailing industry practice and Government of Tanzania Labour Laws. In addition to the number of guards, Guard Supervisors and other support staff will also be required. In your response, you are requested to clearly identify the number of staff you will employ to satisfy the requirement indicated in the Table above.

Interested vendors should download full Terms of References (ToRs) through this link:

<https://www.pactworld.org/country/tanzania/procurement>

Eligibility

To be considered for the award, vendors must currently be legally operating in Tanzania, and the quotation must include all of the following information:

- Ability to meet or exceed the requirements/technical specifications.
- Ability to deliver the items/services specified in the Terms of Reference no later than the date(s) required.
- Quotes must be in Tanzania shillings and include taxes separately.

Interested bidders should submit their bids electronically to Pact Tanzania via email at tendertz@pactworld.org before **September 3, 2023, at 11:00 am** with the Subject line: "Tender for Provision of General Insurance Services" or "Tender for Provision of Security Guards & Intrusion System Services" depending on which tender the Bidder is interested in.

The bids should be addressed to:-

The Tender Committee,
Pact Tanzania
P. O. Box 6348,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Pact will open all bids on **September 3, 2023, at 11.30 am** in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) PROJECTS, GEITA GOLD MINE LIMITED.

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of prequalifying Contractors for CSR projects and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible applicants to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of this service as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of Service:

| REFERENCE NUMBER | SERVICE DESCRIPTION |
|------------------|--|
| GGME01762 | PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) PROJECTS |

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

| PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (MANDATORY) | 20% |
|--|-------------|
| COMMERCIAL | |
| Company Profile | 2% |
| Company Code of Conduct and Ethics | 2% |
| Copy of Current Business Permit and Trade license | 2% |
| Copy of Incorporation Certificate, the most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA application of annual return. | 2% |
| Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VRN certificate | 3% |
| Copy of company memorandum and article of association | 2% |
| Current NSSF Compliance clearance certificate | 2% |
| Compliance with Mining Act-Approved Local Content Plan. | 3% |
| FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE | 5% |
| Applicants audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years, this will confirm Supplier's experience in the business, and assist in comparability and business trend analysis. | 2% |
| At least 1 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position. If any. | 1% |
| All bank statements of the applicant's active bank accounts for the past 6 months to date | 1% |
| A guarantee from a reputable financial institution to support any declared alternative source of funds. | 1% |
| SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS | 5% |
| OSHA Compliance Certificate | 1.5% |
| Environmental compliance certificate | 1.5% |
| Workers' compensation fund certificate | 1% |
| Safety and Environmental policy | 1% |
| OTHER POLICIES | 5% |
| Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure | 1% |
| Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour | 1% |
| Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment | 1% |
| Grievance Procedure | 1% |
| Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme | 1% |
| PAST EXPERIENCE | 5% |
| At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed) | 1.7% |
| Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above) | 1.7% |
| Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients | 1.7% |
| TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01762) | 60% |
| CRB Class Certificates (Class I-VII)-Buildings & Civil Works | 10% |
| CRB Class Certificates (Class I-VII)-Buildings & Civil Works | 10% |
| CV of Key Technical personnel's; Registered ERB Site Engineer (01), Registered Civil Technicians (03), Registered Electrical Technicians (02), Geo-Technician (01), Skilled Labour (Mason, Carpenters, Steel Fixers, Plumbers) | 10% |
| Proof of Ownership of Tools and Equipment's or the ability to hire or lease equipment's;(Tipper Truck (02), Concrete Mixer (02), Mobile Concrete mixer truck (01), Plate Compactor (02), Foot Compactor (01), Concrete (Poker) Vibrator (02), Scaffold set (03), Generator /Welding machines (02), Dump Level machine (02), Water pump (01), Electrical portable tools sets, Jackhammer (01), Light vehicle (01) | 15% |
| Six projects executed in recent 2-3 years and value of the projects (Proof of Contracts and Completion Certificates from the Clients). Provide also summary sheet for current contracts commitments/work in progress and annual turnover for the company | 20% |
| Clearance certificate/Letter from National Construction Council and Contractor Registration Board | 5% |
| Total | 100% |

III. Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION 'PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) PROJECTS' AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01762)** on the SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to **GGML**, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the Contractor, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years.

IV. All LOIs and support documentation (in PDF format) must be received by the **GGML** Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com without copying any individual from GGML. Submission should not be later than **8.30AM 06th September 2023**. (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



A researcher from the Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE), Prof Stephen Maluka (L), makes a presentation on the changes in the health sector during a training on the improvement of health services for local executives and primary health workers at the community level in Handeni District, Tanga Region yesterday. Photo: Christina Mwakangale

VETA organises workshop for E4D graduates and employers

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Vocation Education Training Authority (VETA) has organised an employment forum that aims to bring together graduates of the Employment and Skills for Development in Africa (E4D) and employers in order to involve each other in the job market opportunities.

This was disclosed to reporters here yesterday by the acting director of education and Vocational Training, Abdallah Ngodu at the workshop that will be organised in collaboration with German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) to be held in Dodoma.

Ngodu said Tanzania is among six African countries implementing the project sponsored by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) that focus on providing short courses training to 4,000 youth and so far 3,258 have already benefited.

He said the youth have benefitted by training in Dodoma, Manyara, Lindi, Singida, Mikumi, Gorowa and

Dakawa VETA colleges in domestic and industrial plumbing and industrial welding.

"It is anticipated that the skilled labour force from the E4D project will be applied to enhance employment opportunities in strategic investment projects such as JNHPP and SGR projects, and is expected to be completed at the end of this year," he said.

He said the workshop will also have an exhibition that aims to enhance the understanding of technical education opportunities in existing projects as well as enhance the ability in self-employment for those who benefitted by training at VETA colleges under the E4D project.

"The implementation of the E4D project touches factories and so far more than 20 factories and firms have confirmed their participation in the workshop and will also exhibit their products and services," he said.

He added the workshop will also involve financial institutions that will provide enabling opportunities especially in regard to access to loans that can benefit the youth as capital for their various economic activities.

Tigo launches campaign to allow customers buy airtime packages

By Guardian Correspondent

TIGO Tanzania has launched a campaign which allows customers buying airtime packages using mobile money services to stand a chance to win 1m/- to 5m/- through the 'Cha Wote' campaign.

The company has taken a vanguard role in the growth and development of digital payments in Tanzania through various platforms which also ensures convenience.

Angelica Pesha, Tigo's chief of-

licer, mobile financial services said customers stand to win awards amounting to 5,000,000/- and instant bonuses of 100 minutes and 100 SMS for 90 days.

Having impacted millions of satisfied customers who are now freely using Tigo Pesa to transact their businesses, Tigo recently came up with Cha Wote Campaign, another pioneering campaign that seeks to further develop and cement a lasting digital culture among Tanzanians.

The campaign involves mouth-

watering offers open to Tigo customers who stand to win big in terms of packages in voice calls, free SMS as well as enticing cash prizes.

"All a customer needs to do to win and grow their income is to dial Tigo Pesa Menu: *150*01* or use Tigo Pesa App to pay for goods or services through Lipa Kwa Simu everywhere across the country", Pesha said.

The campaign, she adds, is expected to benefit over 28,896 customers who will scoop a total of a

whopping 390m/-.

Tigo customers are served by over 260,000 merchants, who are strategically located across the country and therefore, the Cha Wote campaign enthusiasts need not worry about where to make digital payments as they seek to win their award prizes.

Merchants across the country are whistling while on their way to the banks, after seeing an increase in Lipa Kwa Simu transactions, which cumulatively translates to larger profit margins in their re-

spective tills.

This was echoed by Juma Kassim of Kassim and Sons hardware in Bunju, Dar es Salaam who believes that the increase in the profit margins stems from the Cha Wote Campaign,

"I noticed that since Cha Wote was launched by Tigo, customers have been paying via Lipa Kwa Simu, we laughed roaring the other day, when one customer insisted that he has to pay for a kilogram of 3 inch nails through Lipa Kwa Simu, since he did not want

to miss out on the millions being dished out by Tigo."

Alex Massawe, the owner of Utakuja Tena pub, is all smiles as he explains his excitement over how he is reaping handsomely from Lipa Kwa Simu payments.

In fact, according to the Global System for Mobile Communication Association (GSMA)-the London-based industry group that represents mobile operators worldwide, Tanzania is currently among the top 7 bellwethers of cashless payments in Africa.

Executives cite factors affecting access to primary health care services in Handeni

By Guardian Correspondent, Handeni

STREET executives and community primary health supervisors in Handeni Town Council, Tanga Region have cited challenges in the health sector in their areas, including lack of financial statements, poor work performance and transparency in getting community representation in the sector.

They said street executives come to know of the existence of Health Centres Supervisory Committee members without knowing the processes that they got, and added that some of them brought to perform the tasks fail to do so.

At different times the officials presented their views at the training seminars for the boosting of health services when Researcher from the Dar es Salaam College of Education (DUCE) of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Prof Stephen Maluka submitted a different topic including submission of health sector reports.

Joseph Komba, Kwediseni Street Executive said that reports on how the representatives are obtained are not clear and whether they are fit for the job.

"You just wonder to see them in place, but you do not know about the procedures they were obtained, and many people in our area do not know as well how such important people in the supervision of health services were obtained," he added.

Blandina Kandam, health worker from Msasa primary health centre said in their community, reports on health services as well as poor health services on which people would like to air their complaints makes some people reduce their urge to join the Community Health Insurance Fund (CHIF).

Earlier, Handeni district medical officer, Feisal said the government saw the importance in having community health workers in order to boost services in the sector and that as for now there is a curriculum given to schools for the subject.



Motorcycle riders block a commuter bus accusing the driver of knocking down their colleague at Keko area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

20 pc of children's heart problems is breathing system, says report

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

IT has been discovered that the cause for heart complications in 20 percent of children who underwent medical tests at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) from the country's 11 regions was the breathing system.

The report on the tests conducted during 2022/23 FY was released yesterday at Kilimanjaro Region's Mawenzi referral hospital by the head of the Department

of Research, Training and Medical Examination, Dr Padro Pallangyo.

Dr Pallangyo, a specialist doctor at the JKCI said their tests showed that 20 percent of the heart problems is the breathing system, in many cases a child gets colds but does not receive treatment in time.

"Hence you find the problem starts to allow bacteria growth that invades the breathing system and affects heart valves," he added.

In regard to treatment, Dr Pallangyo said: "For both groups, the treatment is surgery. When they are discovered they are referred to get specialist treatment to rectify the valves.

"Apart from the children, other diseases that are increasing in every area we visited is high blood pressure - in every 10 people, six suffer from high blood pressure, others include expansion of the heart and blocking of main blood vessels. All these were referred for treat-

ment at our Institute."

He said the age group that leads to these diseases is 45-65 years for adults and for children it is between one month to 15 years even though there has been a huge increase in high blood pressure in the youth aged 18 to 35 years of age.

For his part, JKCI Managing Director, Dr Peter Kisenge said in Kilimanjaro Region a panel of specialist doctors is expected to reach and conduct tests to more than 1,500 people.

"In just two days we have seen and examined 600 people including children aged one month to 15 years," he said.

Earlier, Mawenzi referral Hospital Doctor in Charge, Dr EdnaJoy Munisi said Kilimanjaro Region has enhanced hopes from the tests following huge turnout.

"The tests will be conducted in Kilimanjaro Region for five days and will involve a panel of JKCI specialist doctors," Dr Munisi said.



Minister of State Prime the Minister's Office, Labour, Employment and the Disabled, Prof. Joyce Ndalichako (R) gets a brief from a person with disabilities Moses Nkubi (L) about various technologies being developed by students of the Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) during her official visit yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Horn of Africa to experience El Nino rains linked to weather phenomenon

NAIROBI

THE Greater Horn of Africa region could experience above-average rainfall from October to December linked to the El Nino weather phenomenon, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African bloc, said in its latest weather forecast released in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, Tuesday.

There is more than 80 percent likelihood of wetter than usual October-December rains across the Horn of Africa region, especially southern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, and southern Somalia, noted IGAD.

Intense precipitation in the last quarter of the year will resort to torrential rains and possible flooding in a huge swathe of the East and Horn of Africa region, climate modeling from IGAD's affiliated Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC) that is based in Nairobi, indicates.

"We have now entered El Nino conditions which for eastern Africa are synonymous with wetter conditions during the October-November-December season," said Guleid Artan, the director of ICPAC.

Artan observed that enhanced October-December rains will be a respite for subsistence farmers and pastoral-

ists in the Horn of Africa region who have endured three years of devastating drought.

He warned that torrential rains could fuel the spread of invasive pests like desert locusts, landslides, and flash floods, worsening the fragility of communities already on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Artan called upon governments and relief agencies to strengthen disaster preparedness and response, given the likelihood of flooding in the looming El Nino rain season.

Hussen Seid Endris, a climate modeling expert at ICPAC, said that longer-than-usual wetter conditions anticipated across the Horn of Africa region will boost the regeneration of pasture and agricultural productivity, leading to improved food and nutritional security outcomes.

There is a 90 percent probability of most parts of the Horn of Africa region registering more than 200 millimeters of rainfall, Seid said, urging governments to prioritize the safety of civilians in flood-prone lowlands.

He called upon central and local governments to invest in resilient drainage systems, water harvesting, and storage technologies to avert the risk of flooding.

Indonesia supports clove leaf oil farmers in Tanga

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

CLOVE farmers in Tanga Region have all the reasons to smile, thanks to new initiatives taken by the private sector and governments of Tanzania and Indonesia.

Speaking at the Indonesia - Tanzania business forum yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Desdery Celestine, the Director General of Ed Amani Company said they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support clove oil farmers in Tanga Region.

He said the financing MoU was signed between Exim Bank, Indeso and Ed Amani Essence to devel-

op a clove oil field distillation unit for small and medium enterprises in Amani, Tanga and Deka Medica's first export of anaesthetic L-Ascaain to Tanzania, distributed by Bahari Pharmacy.

Explaining further he said the MoU would benefit more than 5,000 clove oil farmers who earlier did not have a place to sell the clove leaves.

"Our company would purchase a kilogram of clove leaf at between 150/- and 200/- from farmers and then it would be processed locally to get clove oil," he said.

He said the exercise would start after six months from now and

they have already purchased a processing plant through a financing from the Indonesian government.

Speaking at the event Dr Irwandy Arif, who is the special advisor to the Minister of Energy and Minerals Resources of the Republic of Indonesia said business plays a crucial role for Tanzania and Indonesia.

He said the recent visit to Tanzania by the Indonesian President Joko Widodo will boost economic and social relations between the two countries.

According to him, President Widodo's visit signifies Indonesia's commitment to fortifying its ties with key African nations, with Tan-

zania being a cornerstone of this diplomatic outreach.

Indonesia is set to host the Indonesia-Africa Business Forum in 2024 to further bolster this relationship, emphasizing economic cooperation through concrete projects and business ventures.

The Indonesian President concluded his landmark State Visit to Tanzania on Tuesday. The two-day visit marked the first by the Indonesian President to Tanzania in over three decades.

President Widodo's visit was a continuation of his series of state visits in Africa and held paramount importance in deepening

diplomatic relations and exploring collaborative opportunities.

President Widodo was received by Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the State House in Dar es Salaam, where they both emphasized the historical ties binding Indonesia with African nations.

Both leaders celebrated the profound relationships rooted in the Asia-Africa Conference of 1955 and the Non-Aligned Movement of 1961, underlining the enduring relevance of the Bandung Spirit.

President Jokowi highlighted that countries of the Global South comprise 85 percent of the world's

population.

He emphasized the collective need for their voices to be recognized and their developmental interests to be championed.

The visit, which followed closely after the inauguration of the Tanzanian High Commission in Jakarta in June, was concluded by signing of bilateral and business agreements covering areas such as bilateral commission establishment, visa exemptions as well as health, energy, mining and oil and gas sectors. These agreements showcased the mutual determination of both nations to nurture diverse partnerships.

Tecos in new drive to advance digital economy in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania has introduced a new campaign dubbed: 'Maisha ni Kujiongeza na M-Pesa' targeting individual customers, mobile money agents, vehicle owners and drivers.

Through its M-Pesa service the campaign also involves merchants who will benefit from different both new and improved products such as M-Pawa, Songesha, Wakala Songesha, Wezesha Wakala that will allow them to keep up with the advancement in digital economy in Tanzania and beyond.

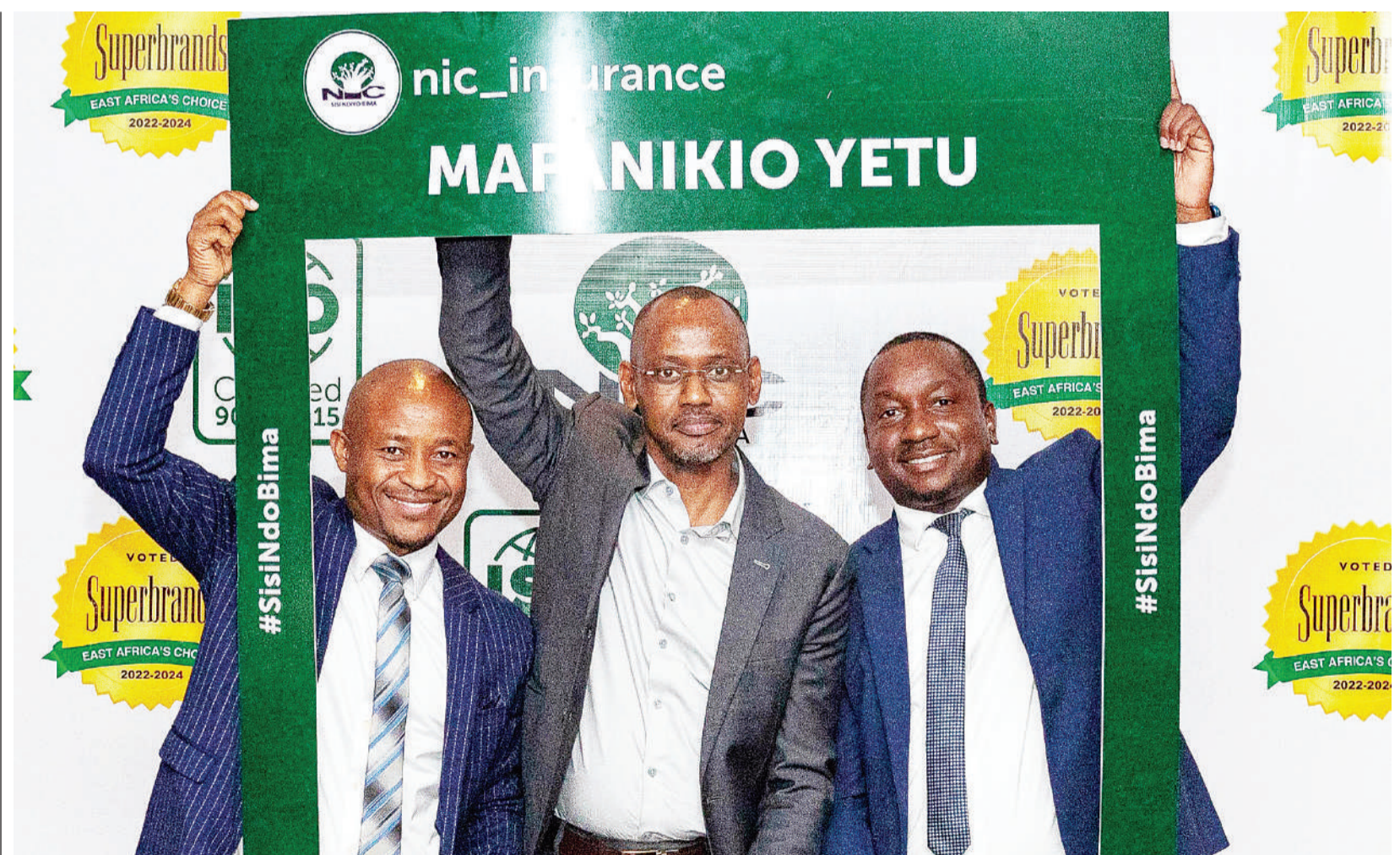
Speaking during the launch in Dar es Salaam, M-Pesa director, Epimack Mbeteni pointed out that for 15 years M-Pesa has been part of Tanzania's mobile money revolution playing a crucial role in bridging the financial gap inclusion for more than 17 million Tanzanians across the country.

"I am delighted to inform our esteemed customers and Tanzanians in general that we have broadened our M-Pesa portfolio with both savings and lending products. This includes the introduction of Mgodu, a financial service that allows M-Pesa customers to save and access mid-sized loans of up to 30 days.

We are also introducing a special category of loans for vehicle owners and drivers which are Chomoka and Insurance Premium Financing (IPF). Through Chomoka, drivers will now be able to fuel up on credit at all filling stations across the country that have the LIPA kwa SIMU service while IPF will enable them complete payments for their insurance cover whether they don't have enough money or need the full premium amount. The objective is to ensure they remain operational with ease and convenience" said Mbeteni.

He also noted Vodacom Tanzania introduced device financing to enable Tanzanians to access entry level and advanced smartphones at affordable prices starting from shilling 20,000/- and with flexible payment plans as low as shilling 900/- daily.

He added that there have been major improvements in other lending portfolios saying: "Our widely used Songesha product that for some time now has been doing wonders in facilitating our customers to complete transactions when they have insufficient balance in their mobile wallets has been greatly improved. Now, customers can take multiple loans, perform partial repayments, and take another loan until they reach their maximum limit."



NIC Insurance managing director, Dr Elirehema Doriye (C), in a group photo with the firm's marketing and communications director Karim Meshack (L) and the director of finance and investment Lihami Masoli celebrate the company's recognition from ISO - International Organisation for Standardisation in Dar es Salaam yesterday. NIC has won seven different trophies the most recent one was the Outstanding Finance and Operational Performance in June and Superbrands East Africa. Photo: Correspondent

DMO happy with the implementation of national multisectoral childhood project

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

KAGERA Regional Medical Officer (DMO) Dr Issessanda Kaniki, has expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the national multisectoral early childhood project which aims at seeing every child in Tanzania realises full potential.

Dr Kaniki made the remarks in his opening speech

during a review of the implementation of the programme for April-June 2023.

"Your presence shows your determination to serve the children with their needs and requirements, so let us discuss and find new strategies to reach our goal," said Dr Kaniki.

During the meeting each district council and organization presented what they did in that quarter of the

year in Nutrition, Health, Education, Responsive caregiving and Safety and security categories of children under eight years old.

Zainabu Shakiru from Tumaini Women Development Association (TUWODEA), pointed out that the whole programme may prove failure unless much efforts are put on cementing family togetherness as it has shown conflicts in marri-

ages have resulted in children mishaps.

Christopher Peter from a Dodoma based Tanzania Early Childhood Network (TECDEN), one of the three organizations which run Mtoto Kwanza Project in implementing the programme, advised all children stakeholders to use accurate data to show the reality for example when we say food is available at school by 95-per-

cent.

Meanwhile it has been learnt that Bukoba District Council has come up with a new programme of taking care of vulnerable children by forming a group of 20 heads of families who are ready to live with children, after the district community development office has acknowledged them and confirmed they need help.

There are children in the streets who have been aban-

doned by their families because of parent's conflicts, economic distress, and inadequate family support or have lost parents.

The programme known as 'Fit Persons' is considered to be more helpful and suitable to raise children, among of them are children under eight, to live under guidance families, going to school and do family chores rather than being raised at Day Care

Centres, Orphanages where sometimes are brought up in a manner that can't be self-reliant persons and good citizens to their nation.

According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, there are 61.7 people, while children are 26 million. The Children are facing various challenges, one of them is slow physical development to 14.5 million (53-percent) of all children.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

THURSDAY 24 AUGUST 2023

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

South-South integration even nearer after 40 years

NOT many people in Tanzania would for all intents and purposes have heard about Indonesian President Joko Widodo before it was announced that he would fly in for a two day visit enroute to the BRICS strategic conference in South Africa. Still from what transpired as his team met with President Samia Suluhu Hassan and assorted cabinet members, it all looked like an old friend had come for a visit. Suddenly students at university were being reminded who started the non-aligned movement mid-1950s, initially taken up as an Afro-Asian alliance.

Not only did Tanzania and Indonesia agree to further bilateral relations by enhancing trade and investments but noticeably agreed to regularly exchange views on important regional and global issues. While that isn't actually an alliance, it is a statement of intention that there are common values on key strategic issues that bring together the two countries. It was equally salutary that the last time an Indonesia leader was here was late 1991, a reform period.

The visit by President Widodo was on the background of the BRICS conference in Johannesburg, but it underlined precisely the same realities that took BRICS leaders there, and indeed, why that putative alliance is now being expanded. It is organised on the basis of felt need to chart out solutions outside a strict United Nations framework, though definitely conforming to such prerogatives. The key is the wider range of interpretation and seeking new business engagements, etc.

In terms of income per capita, Indonesia is half as rich as Thailand, twice as rich as India and thrice as rich as Tanzania by current World Bank data, at \$4,332 per person. Its overall market is a fifth that of India

while the population is on average twice richer, which presents different sets of opportunities, for types of goods and breadth of absorption in that market. It is quite advanced in agro-sector improvement, with an online write up saying the country is fairly advanced in organic farming that uses natural resources more creatively.

This involves taking biodiversity, biological cycles of the environment and their effects into account, with this procedure refraining from using chemical components that are harmful to the environment. The write up says the mutual symbiosis of agriculture and waste management is in integrated agriculture, making it a low-waste, environmentally friendly way to produce crop varieties. As we have heard Indonesia is supporting an agro-sector extension facility, such issues may come in hand, on the sidelines of the fertiliser subsidy programme.

The Jakarta authorities are reviving ties with Africa in a comprehensive way. While this was the president's first-ever visit to Africa, a year or so before handing over office, he first visited Kenya and was being awaited in Maputo, before arriving for the BRICS meeting. It is like nurturing Afro-Asian ties anew after nearly 70 years since the Bandung conference in April 1955, in the context of globalisation.

Reposts said that the Indonesian authorities were seeking for a preferential trade agreement (PTA) with Tanzania to increase trade volumes between them. Our exports to that country are a third of what we import, in value (\$28.22m of exports and \$74.73m of imports) which is likely to be more balanced than some other destinations. Greater investments would improve the balance further.

We need to boost tea production

THE government needs to set up strategies that would encourage more production of tea in the country. It is obvious we are far behind in production of tea compared to other tea-producing countries. We need to put more efforts in the production of the crop since it is very beneficial in terms of trade.

The government has been urged to create favourable conditions for investors and for better co-operation between small and large farmers in the tea sector.

We are aware that the government has expressed its determination to establish a stable market for local tea to bolster production of the cash crop.

The government is optimistic that having in place the needed infrastructure would increase productivity. The government should do everything possible in its power to engage and seek support from various development partners and other stakeholders to ensure that tea farming is improved.

Ensuring continued efforts to develop the tea crop will no doubt increase productivity, including doing researches that may lead to developing proper seedling for high yields.

We should be up for quality tea seeds. We need funds for research to ensure that our farmers get reliable markets for the crop.

The government's plan also aims to boost tea production to 40,000 tonnes from the current 34,000 tonnes, while equipping farmers with prerequisite skills and knowledge on better farming methods to increase production and income.

For many years our farmers have been complaining over getting low profit from the crop due to low

prices and unreliable market. In 2021/22 financial year, the government planned to spend 400m/- for the production of quality seedling, provide training for small scale farmers and develop four big plantations managed by Korogwe and Lushoto Smallholder Tea Farmers Agency

In the 2021/22 financial year, 290.7m/- was set aside for the production of 750,000 quality tea seedlings. We should provide training to farmers on the principles of good farming practices and quality tea products; strengthening our cooperative societies as well as strengthening extension services.

The Agri Connect in collaboration with the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) under coordination of the ministry established the tea auction to ensure farmers' tea gets good prices and a reliable market.

To make this happen, we need all structures in place. We can register tea brokers from Kenya and Sri Lanka to make our tea auction of international status.

The government's strategy aims to increase production from 33,000 tonnes of dry tea to 90,000 tonnes by 2029/2030 by increasing the use of modern technology in the whole chain and strengthening the marketing system.

Tea production provides direct employment to more than 50,000 people in the tea processing industries.

In order to ensure growth and revolution in tea production, the government has already built 102 irrigation offices in all councils in the country and it expects to build houses for extension officers in all areas so as to move the services to the people.



Time to rebuild the Communications Ministry

By Special Correspondent

I do not know Bosun Tijani, the new Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, who, along with his colleagues, was sworn - in recently. But I can see the picture of a young man standing before some dodos and dinosaurs in the National Assembly, who dredged up his past to invalidate his opportunity of being a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. They were never moved by the credentials of this young fellow standing before them. Instead they nursed latent outrage that he would aspire to be a Minister under a party and in a nation he had impugned with some kind of misguided social media rant. How dare you!

Yes. Quite a number of people in that hall had a past to hide. Some had lived dubious existence. Some had the misbegotten opportunity to rule their respective states and ended up as final undertakers of those states as they plunged their people into depths of poverty. They loathe criticism with a passion. It is such an unfortunate twist of irony that the Nigerian state has a way of rewarding the crafty and the scoundrels that have brought her to this bedraggled, ignominious impasse; and quite a number of the guys who were frothing in their mouths, bellying out questions to the nominee, are beneficiaries of a system that reserves the honoured sanctum of the National Assembly for some people with questionable past and claims to inexplicable wealth. For them wealth conquers all; but not the memories of a people sentenced to periods of sustained pain and lack.

There are two victories here. One for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu who picked Tijani because of his knowledge and achievements over a past that the elders of the party would not like, and the other for Tijani himself who apologised, perhaps realising that not doing so may deny him the opportunity to contribute to the reconstruction of this nation that is in desperate need of help.

Those in the age of Tijani have reasons to be angry at this nation and the elders who have failed in positions of leadership should be humble enough to admit their roles in the fate that has befallen the nation. I am not making a case for Tijani but I am happy that his case has been sorted and that he has become a Minister of an important ministry that equally needs help at this time. Although, really, the entire nation needs help.

Only the people ensclosed in the comfort and security of the National Assembly do not know the challenging times facing the country as they joke with grave matters of letting the poor breathe!

Some people are celebrating Tijani



whose flash of genius and creativity at Co-Creation Hub, Cc-Hub, brought global attention to Yaba in Lagos State as a tech development epicentre which has equally attracted tech personalities like Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, among others. He is doing so much for the youths and with the youths. That may have led to the frustrations expressed by Tijani who had daily contact with young people at the Hub and could share in their bouts of frustrations traceable to elders who refused to affect their world positively. They have lived their own life and are eating up, ignominiously, the portions of their children.

Some say he is globally connected and that the nation needs people like him now. There is no doubt about that except that it will be good to point out that transiting from business to holding a political office won't provide the attraction of a Yoghurt drink, sweetened or unsweetened. No, this can never be Yoghurt although a Yoghurt drink is very nourishing. The meeting with the senators may only be a precursor to the condition and reception awaiting him in a ministry that is fractured through the middle, actions that will be veiled in niceties and pretenses. The system is used to welcoming top government functionaries, no matter their stance and knowledge, with orchestrated respect and then swallowing them up tantalisingly for total ruin.

But while I will want to sound a note of caution to Tijani, unsolicited, to be very conscious of smiling faces that never tell the truth, apologies to the music group, The Undisputed Truth, there will be the urgent need for him to reunite the ministry where the parastatals were working against each other because of the acrimonious personality of the former minister. There are six agencies in the ministry which include: Nigerian Communications Commission, NCC; National Technology Development Agency, NITDA; Galaxy Backbone;

Nigerian Communications Satellite Limited, NigComSat; Nigerian Postal Services, NIPOST; National Identity Management Commission, NIMC; but for very personal reasons perhaps, former Minister, Dr. Isa Pantami, deracinated a unit of the NCC, the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF- see Sections 112 and 114 of the Nigerian Communications Act) from the Commission and made it a parastatal of its own although it still depends on funds from the NCC.

Everything about the former minister was about conquest, about power, about hubris, about self-aggrandisement and a narcissism without limit.

The minister was the colossus bestriding the entire ministry with every parastatal and even their chief executives and directors, squirming under him. He had his unholy supporters who edged him on.

The Nigerian Communications Act of 2003 is one of the best laws in the country but the former minister stood on the law and on everybody that was supposed to implement the law.

The law restricts the minister and his ministry to policy decisions and representation of the nation at international fora (see Section 23, 24, 25 of the Act). Not Pantami. He left his office at the ministry which has been a pantheon of his predecessors and got embedded in the NCC property at Mbor, a district of Abuja. Tijani should reverse this decision.

Such action is something the International Telecommunications Union, ITU, and the Mobile World Congress, the collective of mobile service providers across the world, frown against. He got too close to the regulator and expectedly seized its regulatory functions. He went on employment binge, without even the benefit of job interviews and, within four years, doubled the nominal role of the Commission. He got involved in internal matters of the regulator,

including travels, promotions and staff transfers. The regulator was captured nearly irretrievably and the industry suffered in fear. One day I made a call to one of the operators about the decision the minister just took. I could feel the man trembling on the phone swearing that I should take it that this conversation never held. Things were going awry in the industry and the operators, investing billions of Naira, were too afraid to attempt a remonstrance because they knew the kind of government Buhari operated for eight years could take any decision without thinking of the consequences on business.

Funds earmarked for some special projects were diverted to other concerns without reasonable results to show for them. The regulator had been boxed into silence and helplessness.

It was a classic case of regulatory capture. In the final days of the Buhari administration, the minister created a wrench between the NCC and NITDA as a new bill sponsored by the latter at the National Assembly was designed to swallow up the telecoms regulator with most of its function appropriated. The bill got frustrated but not laid to rest yet.

Being a tech aficionado himself, Tijani will already have the story of the industry beyond my rehash. I will want to suggest that his coming can initiate a fresh start by rebuilding confidence and trust within the ministry and its parastatals. The minister can also call a stakeholders meeting of the industry to reassure them of the safety of their investment through the promotion of a good business environment.

The minister will need to put his house in order, I mean the operating environment in order, before inviting his international connections to play a part in the rebuilding and development process. Our prayers are for him to do well.

Successful teachers strive to understand ability of each learner

ALL successful teachers apply certain unique techniques which inspire learners. One of those techniques is classifying learners. Sometimes human beings do not do certain things unless there is something to trigger the action.

Learners are capable of learning from the environment. They see how others accomplish their tasks and get rewarded and hence they do the same hoping for the best. When this happens is when tasks are accomplished on time and the desired results attained.

Learners tend to conserve their energy if they are not urged to use it. Unless a teacher demands them to work harder, they tend to relax and hence failure to reach their full potential. The spared energy is the one which can be used to make noise in the classroom and hence hinder effective teaching and learning. Thus is why it is important to classify learners so as to monitor them and make them work.

It is sometimes hard to tell someone to keep quiet if they have nothing to do but if you equip them with some tasks, it becomes easier to control them. Most of learners especially in primary and lower secondary are not capable of goal setting and hence if there is no any task to do, they consider the situation as an opportunity to relax or play. We cannot forget that playing is among child rights.

As learners grow and become aware of themselves and their purpose in life, they need to be monitored by being given some relevant tasks to keep them busy so that they don't waste time. It is when they realize their purposes in life when they go the extra mile.

The desire of a teacher should always be enabling each group of learners achieve their best performance. This becomes possible through classifying learners. The main criterion for classifying learners is looking at who finishes first. Finishing first is an indicator that the work was so easy hence a need for more work.

Those learners who perform well should be enabled to excel and those who struggle should be enabled to perform well. We should grow abilities and talents to the maximum so that we can reap much from our education. There must be a kind of classification of learners so that we can improve our performance in education.

Classification of individuals is an action which influences the mindset of individuals and it is beneficial in the teaching and learning process. In controlling or guiding individual, it is advisable to use techniques rather than force.

One needs to influence others without much confrontation, quarrels or disputes. Learners should be made to do things willingly. One of the ways to trigger willingness is by classifying learners. Classification of learners is beneficial in the following ways:




in classroom management. Among the most important skills a teacher needs to possess is classroom management. Without classroom management there is no teaching and learning as communication and feedback are hindered.

Giving additional work to learners who finish first so as to prevent them from disturbing the class is very important. Instead of talking too much, making idle learners busy is a very good approach in classroom management. Those who finish first should only be allowed to leave the classroom during tests and examinations.

Also, classifying learners enhances efficiency. Instead of providing a small piece of task and wait for all learners to complete, a lot of work can be done in a single period. When a teacher manages to use each second of the lesson successfully, they create a possibility of completing a syllabus on time and hence having enough time for revision as it is well established that revision is the mother of success.

Nature has already classified people; so, we should not be hesitant to classify them for better results. What matters is the intention of a teacher which must always be achieving more. Let us classify learners so as to motivate, manage and eventually enable them become productive citizens.



CLASSROOM MATTERS

By
Thomas Lyimo
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One of the benefits of classifying learners is enhancing motivation. When learners see that others have finished the first task and they are given another, they speed up so that they can also be given another task. Human beings normally desire to emulate success.

Classifying learners creates competition which is necessary for improvement. Always talking and urging learners to use their time wisely may cause unnecessary exhaustion to the teacher. Since action speaks louder than words, learners who see their fellows given extra work get motivated.

Another benefit of classifying learners is that it aids

When supporting your community from abroad becomes a passion

By Mutayoba Arbogast

MANY Tanzanians living abroad wish to improve things back home but in vain. In fact, there are verifiable stories of some who struggle to make ends meet abroad. There are tales of folks who endure depression occasioned by failure to realise their dreams in the very same lands of endless opportunities.

But it is not all gloom as there are somehow change things for the better not only at family but community and national level. One example is Jessica Kamala-Mushala who is based in Lanham, Maryland, United States.

Apart from her successful career in accounting there, she has initiated a number of charitable and community support programmes that benefit communities in her native Missenyi District, Kagera Region. It started as one thing which led to another and now a passion.

In 2022, she founded SHINA Inc. in Washington DC's Metro area as non-profit organisation to mobilize resources to support health, education and general community development. Shina is Kiswahili for trunk of a tree.

"SHINA's goal is to work predominantly at community level and collaborate with grassroots organisations in rural areas that tend to be overlooked due to the high concentration of donors in urban areas and reach the most vulnerable through the exchange of ideas, support and aid in the areas of need in health, education, economic, social and cultural development," she said a virtual interview recently.

"Being raised in a male-dominated culture, I saw how my mother struggled to educate us girls. My mother, the Late Yulliana Kokwitika, is the inspiration behind my giving back to the community passion."

Her biggest advantage is that she and her husband Amos Mushala who is also native of Kagera Region are two birds of a feather who fly together, making her charity work easy and successful.

"It happened that his father, the late Yoas B.B. Mushala who was popularly known as YBB, told him when he was going abroad not to forget home," she said.

Under the community outreach, the organisation has implemented various empowerment projects that contribute toward community development such as classroom construction at Buyango and Bugorora primary schools in Missenyi District with the same now being extended to Ilemela District in Mwanza Region as well and Pemba North District.

"Sometimes, when everything else fails, what remains is someone somewhere to care for," she said.

For someone who has been in a marriage for 34 years with eight children, apart from her family, the next thing that gives her satisfaction is helping vulnerable children back home who she considers as her



ITIKA Pre and Primary school built by US-based Tanzanian Jessica Kamala-Mushala in Missenyi District, Kagera Region. Photo/Mutayoba Arbogast

other children.

She believes her initiatives complement the National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NM-ECDP) from 2021/22 to 2025/26 which seeks to accelerate early childhood development gains of nurturing care for children of 0 to eight years.

The programme focuses on investing

in human development starting with strong foundation for every a child to become a healthy, responsible and productive adult.

Young children's health development depends on nurturing care which ensures health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, safety and security as well as and early learning.

The NM-ECDP appeals for all children stakeholders in and out of the country to contribute, financially and in human capital to see that all children in Tanzania are developmentally on track to develop to their full potential.

Vulnerable children in the NM-ECDP context are those children who are at risk of NOT reaching their developmen-

tal potential due to various factors surrounding them including those with malnutrition and stunting or any form of disability.

As if directly implementing NM-ECDP objectives, she had had started ITIKA Bugorora Pre and Primary school at Kabingo village, Bugorora Ward in Missenyi District. ITIKA means respond to a call in Kiswahili. Children at Kabingo village and other nearby villages attend the school where they also benefit other services.

The school started in October 2020 with 92 pupils aged four to five for inclusive learning environment. The project constructed two classrooms, head teacher's and teachers' offices, latrines, water tank with 24,000 litres capacity, a solar panel, a TV set in each class, internet and wifi, playground and planted trees around the school at the cost of 650mn/-.

SHINA Inc. also runs ITIKA After Care Programme, a programme in Kagera Region in collaboration with Bugorora Ward at Bugorora Primary school whereby 300 pupils are taught sports and games, arts and positive culture which are not taught at school. Pupils meet twice a week and the organisation pays for meals and educators' allowances.

This initiative is of paramount importance since globally, there are about 250 million children under five years in low and middle income countries who are at risk of not reaching their development potential.

The Nurturing care Framework Progress Report (2018-2023 issued collaboratively by World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN) and The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Childhood Health (PMNCH), published by The Nurturing Care Handbook ranks Tanzania among 14 countries in the world performing well in translating national programmes into practice.

Women study more in Brazil but make little progress in exact sciences

By Mario Osava

“I THOUGHT of studying journalism, because of the example of Gloria Maria,” a famous black TV journalist who died of cancer in February 2023, said mathematician Luciana Elias, while discussing the scarce female participation in exact sciences research in Brazil.

“There are no visible examples, female role models in scientific research, where there are white men, not women, let alone black women,” she said. This lack of representation blocks girls’ access from childhood to academic careers that are still perceived as “masculine,” the 52-year-old professor pointed out.

Because she loved mathematics, Elias followed her vocation. She graduated in 1995, and earned a master’s degree and doctorate in exact mathematics at several Brazilian universities, later becoming a professor of this pure science at the Federal University of Jataí.

“At the graduation ceremony, there were only three women and I was the only black woman,” she told IPS by telephone from Jataí, a city of 105,000 people in the mid-west Brazilian state of Goiás.

Women have excelled in educational advancement in Brazil, a country of just over 203 million people. In 1970 they made up only 25.6 percent of Brazilians graduating from university. By the year 2000 they represented 52.8 percent. This trend has continued, although at a slower pace.

Lagging behind in mathematics

But in mathematics, applied and computational mathematics and statistics, there was a small reduction in female participation between 2009 and 2019, according to a special bulletin released in May by the Gender and Diversity Commission of the Brazilian Societies of Mathematics (SBM) and Applied and Computational Mathematics (SBMAC).

From 53 percent of female graduates in 2009, the proportion dropped to 47 percent in 2019.

The percentage of women is even lower in the so-called baccalaureate, which in Brazil refers to a bachelor’s degree required to practice a profession, while a different kind of bachelor’s degree trains future professors.

Female baccalaureate degree holders in mathematics and related fields dropped from 43 percent to 37 percent between 2009 and 2019, according to the study, while those graduating specifically to teach dropped from 55 percent to 48 percent in the same period.

In computer science the situation is worse: “I know a student who was the only woman in her group of 40 students at graduation,” said Marilaine Colnago, PhD in computational mathematics and professor of that discipline at the Paulista State University (UNESP) in Araraquara, a city of 242,000 inhabitants in the state of São Paulo.

“Many female students drop out because they feel isolated,” she lamented, saying that the lack of women in careers such as engineering and computer science is the first barrier to women’s entry into universities to take courses in the exact sciences.

“There were many women in the beginning, when there were only the big computers, for calculations and secretarial services. Then, with personal computers and advances in computing, it became a purely male area,” said Colnago, the head of SBMAC’s “Women in Applied and Computational Mathematics” committee.

Women have been a majority in Brazilian universities since the end of the last century. But in addition to being a minority in higher income professions, such as engineering and computer science, they suffer from the so-called “scissors effect”, which prevents them from moving up the career ladder, especially in scientific research.

“At graduation, we make up about half of the students; at the doctoral level, women are down to 20 percent,” said Colnago, 34.

Maternity as a stumbling block

Maternity is one of the notable factors in the low presence of women in research. The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, electrical engineer Luciana Santos, the first woman to hold this position in the country, announced that she would promote “affirmative action” to ensure postgraduate scholarships for women scientists.

In addition to specific resources for women researchers equivalent to 20 million dollars over the next four years, she promised to modify the criteria for scholarships, respecting, for example, the question of maternity.

Until now, pregnant women lose points for productivity-based scholarships, because their evaluation considers the



Luciana Elias is a professor of exact mathematics, a discipline in which she holds a PhD, at the Federal University of Jataí in midwest Brazil. She represents a small minority in pure science, especially in mathematics, where women have a scarce presence. CREDIT: UFJ

period of pregnancy and maternity leave as an interruption of their work.

Women researchers are faced with the dilemma between motherhood and a career, since the still dominant culture assigns women to care work and teaching, which is less well paid. They are also in the majority in nursing, but in the minority among physicians.

Added to that are “invisible barriers,” such as sexual harassment, a male environment with its prejudices, jokes and the silencing of female voices.

There have been advances in combating these issues, which pre-

viously “could not be spoken up about,” but they continue to hinder the promotion of women in the academic world, said Colnago, who is married and has no children.

She personally felt the difference in treatment between the master’s degree, where she had an understanding and friendly adviser, and the PhD that she earned in a more masculine world, as it was in computer science, “where there is different treatment for men and women.”

Losses

“Scientific research, like all innovation projects, loses the diversity of views, the different visions of gender and race, which are funda-

mental,” by excluding a more effective participation of women and different ethnicities, said the professor of computational mathematics in the chemistry course at UNESP.

“We are losing female researchers with good projects because they see motherhood as a negative and because of a lack of incentives and public policies,” Colnago complained.

It is necessary to give visibility to female advances in the scientific area, to highlight women who made good contributions to science “that will inspire other women to follow their vocations,” she said.

This is what the SBM/SBMAC Gender and Diversity Commission, created in 2019, seeks in order to reduce gender differences and promote the diversity of actors in mathematics in Brazil.

A positive measure taken by SBMAC at its annual congresses was to set up a space to care for the children of the participants, so that their fathers and mothers could have equal conditions to discuss the topics of their work.

In Elias’s view, the first step, already partially accomplished with the bulletin on “gender and race” in mathematics, is to recognize existing gender disparities in the exact sciences.

The next would be to propose “institutional, public” actions to overcome inequalities, dismantle the myth that “men are more capable,” disseminate positive examples of women, and increase forums for debate on the subject.

It is also necessary to reduce regional imbalances, the professor said, pointing out that her city, Jataí, is more than 300 kilometers from an airport and has few resources to promote science. “Society is losing brilliant minds that fail to fulfill their vocations and Brazil is giving up potential intellectuals” by failing to address gender and racial inequalities in scientific development as it should, she argued.



Women professors protested on Aug. 9 in Brasilia in front of the Ministry of Education, demanding better salaries in a sector where women are the vast majority, but face many barriers to promotion to better paid jobs, such as university teaching and scientific research. CREDIT: Joédson Alves/Agência Brasil-FotosPúblicas

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Xi says China-South Africa ties surpass bilateral scope

PRETORIA

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has said that China-South Africa ties have gone beyond the bilateral scope and carried global sway.

Xi made the remarks when jointly meeting the press on Tuesday noon with his South African counterpart, Cyril Ramaphosa, after their talks.

Xi said he was delighted to accept the invitation of President Ramaphosa to pay a state visit again to South Africa, the beautiful "rainbow nation," adding that this is his fourth state visit to South Africa as the Chinese president.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of China-South Africa diplomatic ties, Xi said, noting that during the past 25 years, China-South Africa ties have achieved leapfrog development, with strategic mutual trust reaching a new height, cooperation in various fields moving forward in a comprehensive manner, and multilateral coordination becoming even closer.

Currently, the Communist Party of China is uniting and leading the Chinese people to push forward the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts with Chinese modernization, and South Africa is actively and independently exploring a development path suited to its national conditions as well, Xi said, adding China-South Africa relationship faces new development opportunities.

Recalling the fruitful meeting he just held with Ramaphosa, Xi said they exchanged views on the development of bilateral ties in the new era as well as the international and regional issues of common concern, reaching important consensus.

They also witnessed the signing of a series of important bilateral cooperation documents, he said, expressing full confidence on the future prospects of friendly cooperative

relations between the two countries.

Xi said he and Ramaphosa agreed that China and South Africa should be strategic partners with high mutual trust, urging the two sides to keep the good momentum of high-level exchanges, strengthen communication and cooperation in various fields, continue to deepen political mutual trust, enhance communication in the experience of state governance, and continue to support each other on issues of core interests and major concern.

They agreed that the mutually beneficial and pragmatic cooperation between China and South Africa has achieved fruitful results, and both sides should be development partners for common progress, he noted.

Xi said the two sides need to strengthen the alignment of development strategies, implement the nine programs put forward at the China-Africa Cooperation Forum and the 10 Years Strategic Programme on Cooperation between China and South Africa (2020-2029), solidify the cooperation in areas of strength, and foster new growth points for cooperation.

China is ready to import more quality products from South Africa and will continue to encourage Chinese enterprises to invest and do business in South Africa, he noted, adding that the two sides will deepen bilateral cooperation in such areas as electric power, new energy as well as scientific and technological innovation.

Both sides highly value the empathy between the two peoples, and pledge to be friendly partners with mutual understanding and affection, Xi said, adding that the two countries must insist on putting people at the center of their cooperation, and let the cooperative results better benefit their people.

The Chinese side supports the



Chinese President Xi Jinping and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa jointly meet the press after their talks in Pretoria, South Africa.

South African government's efforts in strengthening vocational education and promoting youth employment, Xi noted, adding that both sides agreed to enhance exchanges and cooperation in areas such as education, science and technology, culture and tourism.

Xi said the two leaders agreed that as major developing countries and emerging economies with important influence, China and South Africa need to be global partners in safeguarding justice.

He urged the two sides to strengthen strategic coordination, practice true multilateralism and work to increase the representation and voice of the Global South countries in global governance.

China firmly supports African integration, backs the African Union to make substantial progress this year in joining the Group of 20, and encourages South Africa to play a bigger role in international and regional affairs.

Noting that the BRICS summit is about to open, Xi pointed out that under the current circumstance, this summit bears great significance for BRICS countries to solidify unity and cooperation, and promote the BRICS cooperative mechanism to develop and grow further.

As the rotating chair of BRICS, South Africa has made great preparation for the summit, which is highly appreciated by the Chinese side, Xi said, stressing that with the joint efforts of relevant parties, this year's BRICS summit is bound to be successful.

Xi said that he will co-chair with Ramaphosa the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue on Thursday, which is the first face-to-face group meeting between Chinese and African leaders since the COVID-19 pandemic, expressing his expectation to draw a new blueprint for China-Africa unity and cooperation with other African leaders, and inject fresh and strong vitality into the development of the

China-Africa comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

Ramaphosa said he is delighted to receive Xi to pay his fourth state visit to South Africa at the time of the 25th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic ties.

The South African people are sincerely grateful to the Chinese government and the people for their valuable support to South Africa's anti-apartheid movement and national development, as well as the large amount of medical supplies assistance to South Africa in its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, he added.

Ramaphosa said he reiterated with Xi that the two countries will continue to firmly support each other on issues of core interests and major concern.

The two leaders agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, further expand the mutually beneficial cooperation in such areas as infrastructure, tourism,

education and digital economy, and enhance international coordination on major international and regional affairs.

Ramaphosa thanked the Chinese side for its committed support to South Africa in successfully holding the 15th BRICS Summit, saying that he looks forward to working with Xi and other BRICS leaders to increase the voice of BRICS and the Global South countries in global governance, and promote the construction of a more just and rational international order.

He also expressed his expectation to co-chair the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue with Xi, and to discuss the deepening of Africa-China cooperation, which, the South African president believes, will definitely boost Africa's industrialization and integration processes, and help the Global South countries to achieve common development and prosperity

Hundreds of young Maasai in Kenya undergo rite of passage to adulthood

NAIROBI

WITH beaming smiles, their hair dyed a red ochre and adorned with a ceremonial headdress of ostrich feathers, the young Maasai men are busy taking selfies.

They have just completed the first day of Eunoto, a traditional ritual marking the transition from young warrior to adulthood.

"Today we are becoming men," 22-year-old medical student Hillary Odupoy says proudly, wearing sunglasses and a string of pearls across his bare chest.

Aged between 18 and 26, the young men came in their hundreds to the village of Nailare in southwestern Kenya, all from the same generation of "morans" ("warriors" in the Maasai language), a status they have held for a decade.

Many left their homes in the region to work or study in the cities of Kisumu or Nairobi, or like Odupoy, further afield in the town of Machakos that lies more than seven hours away by road.

"It is one of the biggest ceremonies we have in our life. We can never meet in such multitude. It unites the Maasai community," explains Odupoy.

All wear red, the sacred colour of the Maasai – from their hair which is coated in a mixture of ochre and oil to their traditional plaid cloth shukas.

This rite of passage brings together the families of the morans as well as local inhabitants and officials, in all several thousand people.

For five days, the Eunoto ceremony features traditional guttural chants, single-file dances on one leg, and the adumu – the famous Maasai jump.

Cows are sacrificed and their blood drunk by the young men, whose hair is shaved from their heads by their mothers.

They then abandon the warrior's sword for the fimbo, the walking stick of the "elders".

- Abandoned rituals -

For centuries, Maasai men have gone through three rites of passage which have been inscribed since 2018 on the UNESCO list of intangible heritage in need of urgent safeguarding.

Enkipaata is the transition from boyhood to moran status, Eunoto, the passage to "young elder", and finally Olingesherr marks the start of eldership status.

But such traditions of the Maasai, originally semi-nomadic herders living in southwestern Kenya and northern Tanzania, have had to adapt to the changes and demands of modern life.

The morans no longer spend two years in an isolated village, called "emanyatta", but meet there during school holidays to learn Maasai history and traditions, as well as the rules of life in society.



A group of Maasai march while dancing traditional songs during a Maasai cultural festival in Sekenani.

"Apart from having the Western education, traditional education also matters," says agriculture student Peter Ledama Ntuntai, 24.

"Our culture teaches us good behaviour."

Olerina Karia is one of the elders teaching these life lessons to the young Maasai.

"We teach them to be responsible citizens and members of society," says 52-year-old Karia.

"But all the traditions that were not the best for the survival of

our community, such as killing a lion or the circumcision of girls, we teach them to get rid of them, especially if they collide with the law."

The killing of lions was to prove the bravery of the Maasai men, but has been illegal in Kenya for decades to protect the threatened animal.

The decline of the lion population was also threatening tourism, a precious source of income in the southwestern region of Kenya which is notably home

to the emblematic Maasai Mara wildlife park.

- Dynamics of society have changed -

In theory, young Maasai men can only marry after Eunoto, and their bride must have been circumcised.

But female circumcision, or female genital mutilation (FGM) has been banned in Kenya since 2011 and is officially no longer practised or recommended.

"You can be a Maasai without

killing a lion and without going through FGM," says Hillary Odupoy.

Nowadays, some morans do not wait for Eunoto to marry.

"The dynamics of society have changed. When they go to school, sometimes they meet their fiancées there, they marry," says Olerina Karia.

"We adapt, we adjust."

For many, it is a matter of survival to preserve the traditions and culture of the most famous

of Kenya's 45 tribes.

The Maasai are the 10th largest tribal grouping in Kenya with a population of less than 1.2 million, according to the last census in 2019.

"It is our greatest fear that in the near future we may not be able to practise this culture," says Olerina Karia.

"Other communities and other people are commercialising it, while the real owners who know how to practise it are not in the limelight."

Unlocking Africa's potential: Strengthening partnerships for sustainable progress

By Ahunna Eziaikonwa

At this year's G7 summit in Japan, global leaders emphasized the importance of unity as the world navigates grave threats to multilateralism. The message was clear - trusted global platforms for dialogue and solutions are extremely crucial in current times.

They are right. More than ever before, effective multilateralism is needed to tackle the polycrisis and to create the world we want: one in which there is prosperity for all.

Thirty years ago, The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), was launched as a multi-stakeholder forum for Japan and Africa to deepen collaboration, with the facilitation of partners like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

UNDP is proud to be associated with TICAD - not least for its unique in its ability to tackle a wide range of key issues of critical interest to Africa - like investment, skills training and technology transfer.

Since inception, TICAD's investments in both aid and investment to Africa extend over the \$100 billion mark. In the last three years alone, Japan has implemented 69 projects across Africa.

COVID -19 delivered a heavy setback to hard-won development gains, pushing millions back into poverty. Before the pandemic, Africa had seen important progress in human development, with living standards improving for a good part of the population. Six of the ten fastest - growing countries in the world were in Africa.

Today, we see regression - with COVID, growing conflict in some parts of Africa, and a cost-of-living crisis triggered by the impact of the war in Ukraine.

The challenges Africa faces today affect global prospects for attaining the SDGs, and put into sharp focus the criticality of effective partnerships. If we are to rescue the SDGs in Africa, we need to invest in opportuni-



A community member receiving treatment at Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Daura, Yobe State, constructed and equipped by UNDP with Japanese fund, 5 October 2022. Credit: UNDP

ties that are foundational to accelerating Africa's development.



Literacy Training at Koudoukou Elementary School in the 3rd arrondissement of Bangui. Credit: UNDP Central African Republic, Arsène Christ NGOUMBANGO NZABE

So what is smart investment in Africa today?

It is all about investing in people. In less than ten years, 42 per cent of the world's youth will live in Africa - and if the continent invests smartly, its young teeming innovators can create technology - led solutions to drive socioeconomic progress.

To secure a bright and prosperous future in Africa, Japan and UNDP are working together to invest in Africa's people. This breadth stretches from support for inclusive governance, to ensuring women and youth are empowered, to social sectors like health and education.

In Nigeria, over 1000 young people in the conflict affected regions of the North-East and Middle Belt received an 8-week training on community - driven trade, and cash grants to help them set up new businesses. In Kenya and South Africa, young men and women participated in job skills training for car manufacturing in collaboration with Toyota Motor Corporation.

And in The Central African Republic, income generating activity groups were established, offering training in financial independence across sectors such as retail and animal husbandry. This initiative utilized the 5S-Kaizen methodology through a partnership with JICA. Japan's support to UNDP's Liptako Gourma Stabilization Facility has resulted in over 3000 women and youth benefitting from cross-border trade infrastructure and increased incomes for highly vulnerable borderland communities.

Investing in green growth and trade

As the continent continues to chart its development pathway, with a strong vote for industrialization and diversification, the importance of advanced technological expertise is elevated. The new generation of development partnerships with Africa must frontload technology transfer including on a commercial basis - in areas of agriculture, health, education, energy transitions and smart cities.

A prime illustration is Japan's Green Growth Initiative with Africa, which promotes green economics and support to just energy transitions with African

ownership at the core.

Development of local industries and regional value chains will promote Africa's industrialization - which both COVID 19 and the war in Ukraine have demonstrated - are key tenets of not just effective but also responsible partnerships.

A recent investment report by UNDP identified 157 SDG investment opportunities across 31 industries in Africa with significant financial and impact potential. The industries range from food and beverage to infrastructure, health care, renewable resources and alternative energy.

These investments now have an even larger network of markets - thanks to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) - the world's largest trade zone by number of participating countries and geographical coverage.

The Japan - UNDP partnership has proven its worth in stepping into areas of development acceleration. As Africa stands at a critical inflection point, a vital window of opportunity exists to unlock the continent's full potential - making Africa's resources work for its people's development. Now is the time for to step up the partnership. Now is the time to unlock Africa's promise.

Ahunna Eziaikonwa is Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP

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Zimbabwe reserve bank governor optimistic about economic stability

By Mnaku Mbani, recently in Harare

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) governor John Panonesta Mungudya is optimistic that ongoing fiscal and monetary policies reforms will lead into the country's macroeconomic stability, after being hurt by economic sanctions over the last two decades over land reforms policy.

Speaking with visiting journalists from Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) recently, Mungudya said RBZ is staying the course to price stability by maintaining current tight monetary policy during the six months to December this year.

It will also apply open market operations to ensure attainment of full benefits of monetary and fiscal consolidation stability, anchor inflation and exchange rate expectation.

Real GDP growth moderated to 3 percent in 2022, down from 8.5 percent in 2021, due largely to exogenous and endogenous shocks. Floods and drought adversely affected agricultural output, which contracted 14 percent in 2022.

But this year, according to Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa, agriculture production recorded a surplus, which ensures food security and income for farmers.

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy as Zimbabweans remain largely a rural people who derive their livelihood from farming and other related rural economic activities.

He said the discovery of new minerals including lithium, coupled with tourism and increasing agriculture productions are expected to stimulate the economic growth.

"Last year, the economy was going down; we found lithium. What we want to do now is to buy crushers, and start producing lithium," he said during a press briefing at the RBZ headquarters.

It is expected that the GDP annual



Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor John Panonesta Mungudya (L) speaks during his meeting with journalists from SADC countries. Right is Monica Mutsvangwa, the Zimbabwe's Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services.

growth rate in Zimbabwe will be above 5 percent by the end of this year, the highest than projected average SADC regional growth rate.

The Monetary Policy Committee also noted that economic fundamentals are strong to sustain the current stability, as reflected by the robust economic growth of 5.3 percent expected in 2023, a favourable balance of payments position and fiscal sustainability.

He explained that the country foreign currency exchange earnings amounted to US\$12.7 billion last year, the second highest in 18 years.

He said the domestic sector is also doing well.

"Tourism has been going up. Our agriculture has been going up; thanks to our foreign currency auction system, that has promoted the

distribution of foreign currency to the rest of the economy," he said.

The production of tobacco, one of the largest foreign exchange earners reached the highest in 18 years.

Increased local production has reduced the dependence on imports, as the large numbers of items on the shelves are locally produced.

"We use to import about 60 percent during dollarization era, but right now 80 percent of our products are locally produced," he asserted.

He said employment is also going up, while networks of infrastructure are being improved to promote rural sectors.

"Elephant in the room in the country is exchange rate. The reason is that there is no relationship between fundamentals and prices,

because we are in dual currencies," he said.

"We are using foreign currency and local currency... Naturally, throughout the world, if you put hard currency and US dollar together in a basket, the US dollar will be a currency of choice."

The RBZ governor said there is a preference of the public to choose foreign currency, as they are of flooding the local currency substitute with the US dollar.

"We have been doing currency reforms, but our currency is depreciating because of behavior and perception," he explained.

Since 2019 the central bank did a currency reform, but people are opting for the US dollar because they want to protect the value of their wealth.

"Our currency is depreciation

due to behavior because our economy has a "perception" driven exchange rate, as inflation traumatized the society," he said.

This behavioural exchange rate passes into domestic prices, which creates the increased volatility of the Zimbabwe dollar.

"Given such situation, we asked ourselves, we need to come out with good policy measures that address behavioural attitude. We put up measures that restraint money supply and liquidity in the economy," he said.

During January and June this year, the central bank liberalized the exchange rate regime to maintain the equilibrium of the local currency in the market.

He said the local currency depreciated by 7 percent but recently it appreciated. Right now the Zimbabwe dollar is exchanged at 4500-5,000 per US dollar.

"Once the exchange rate is stable, the confidence goes up, inflation will go down. We want to anchor currency stability in order to bring confidence, because confidence will bring stable prices and this will lead into an increased value of money," he noted.

As inflation consumes wealth, the governor said the central bank, through the monetary policy targets, want to maintain stable inflation at the end of this year, through putting various measures.

"During the second quarter, we experienced the prices volatility. We are doing this because we want the economy to

be stable," he said.

On the side of financial market, specifically the banking sector, the governor confidently assured that the sector is safe and stable and they want to maintain the stability and deposits.

Currently, the banking sector have mobilized dollar deposits amounting to US\$2.5 billion, of which US\$1 billion have been issued as credits to promote domestic economic activities.

"We have highest ever foreign currency in the banking sector, and we want to ensure that the liquidity remains at least 60 percent of total deposits," he said.

The central bank has developed gold coins to ensure people restore the value of their wealth, of which can be used for purchases.

The government and the bank are also consolidating the fiscal policy reducing or ending borrowing from the central bank, by relying on taxation.

He went on saying that they want to ensure that these fundamentals remain strong and durable.

Zimbabwe currently does not have easy access to foreign funding as it depends on domestic resource mobilization of financial resources, specifically taxes and domestic borrowing.

The central bank leader added that 50 percent of the taxes go to salaries for public employees and the remaining are allocated to development projects.

Azania launches financial products for women

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

AZANIA Bank's Mazdo Branch, located in Dar es Salaam, has launched the 'Mwanamke Hodari' account, as the institution's officials headed to Mbagala Kuu Ward to promote women entrepreneurship.

The launch took place at Kichemchem area yesterday, after entrepreneurship training for 15 women's groups coordinated by the Non-Governmental organization, Himiza Development Organization (HDO).

Speaking at the launch, the bank's Relationship Manager, Kissa Mwakilasa, said the bank uses 'Mwanamke Hodari' account to promote and empower women economically.

"Many women face many obstacles including accessing loans that demoralize them from starting businesses. Azania Bank has decided to come up with an account that will enable a woman to get a loan starting from 200,000/- to 5mn/-, with only one percent interest per month," Kissa said.

He explained the account is opened for free and withdrawal is equal



Azania bank's relationship manager Kissa Mwakilasa (2nd L), Insurance Officer Lydia Urio (3rd), and Relationship Officer, Brian Ramadhan (4th L) register female entrepreneurs to join the newly launched women account. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

ly free, adding that the bank has made it easier for the woman to access the account so that she can qualify for credit.

"A strong woman is the one who achieves goals with special efforts and strategies, a woman who does not give up, do anything good and profitable to achieve business goals to earn a living," he said.

Kissa said Azania Bank is joining a strong woman who cares about development and has a vision to manage what benefits her life and the community around her.

"The targets are female entrepreneurs, women's entrepreneurial groups, women-owned companies, companies with many female employees," he said.

He said that a woman can borrow four times the savings.

Women can form a group of 30 people, but they can each borrow the amount they want while in the group.

"A group of 30 people can borrow up to 100mn/- but not a group that borrows and each member of the group can

borrow independently according to her business," he said.

He added that those who own large businesses and companies can have loans up to 500mn/-, pointing out this is the only opportunity for women to improve economically through Azania Bank.

Himiza Development Organization's Director, Prisca Ngweshemi, said she organized the training and coordinated with Azania Bank to ask women to get rid of loans that impoverish them.

"Women are hurt by street loans, at the end of which if they are late in sending refunds, they are dispossessed of their properties, they should get rid of bad loans," Prisca noted.

Prisca said her organization, based in Mkuranga, Coast Region is engaged in boosting women economically by providing them with entrepreneurship education as well as fighting gender-based violent acts in society.

"Through this financial education, it is clear that many women are hurt by high-interest street loans, so we are looking for official financial institutions to get low-interest loans," Prisca said.

Rukia Kamal, the Chairperson of an entrepreneurship group, Confidence Women Group, said the arrival of the bank could be a saviour to them if the bank's conditions are implemented.

"It hurts a woman to be late in returning a loan and be dispossessed of household items...this has caused some marriages to either break up or have conflicts, Azania Bank should save us," Rukia said.



Global banks' currency desks take 15 percent hit on volatility slump

LONDON

A slump in market volatility has hit currency trading desks, squeezing banks' margins, denting revenue and undermining the recovery from a plunge during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Foreign-exchange trading revenue fell 15 percent in the first half compared with a year earlier, according to figures from the top 100 banks collated by London-based BCG Expand Research. Without a second-half pickup, revenue could be heading for its second full-year decline in three years, after a drop in 2021.

Weakness in trading was a theme in recent earnings from banks, with institutions including Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and BNP Paribas SA reporting lower activity in fixed income, currency and commodities.

Part of that reflects tough year-earlier comparisons. Currency volatility has been on a downward trend since late 2022, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine combined with the most aggressive central bank tightening cycle since the 1980s ripped through currency markets last year.

Now, central banks have shifted into data-watching mode and economic data is mixed, leaving traders muddled as to which bets to play. This has dampened swings between currency pairs, and the tighter trading ranges are reducing the margins banks are able to charge.

The macro-uncertainty has also seen some clients retreat from the market, and spot FX volumes fell 7 percent in the first half of 2023, according to Expand. In terms of clients, hedge fund activity dropped 3 percent, real money activity was flat and corporate client volumes rose 6 percent.

"Margins on FX spot and outright transactions were compressed due to lower volatility," said Rishi Baveja, principal at Expand. He also cited the impact on the market of rising electronic trading and participants.

Latin American currencies stood out for the strong growth in traded volumes, fueled by demand for carry trades. Banks saw volumes in the Brazilian real, Chilean peso and Colombian peso grow 10-20 percent in the first half of the year, according to Expand.

The future of digital banking, transacting in Africa

Banking in Africa is on the brink of its next transformative era. Gone are the days of discussing the Fourth Industrial Revolution as a concept; we are already immersed in a world augmented and powered by artificial intelligence (AI), Big Data, and cloud computing. Now, the next frontier beckons, with generative AI, secure online watermarked fingerprints and cryptocurrencies taking centre stage.

Africa has demonstrated its propensity for embracing technology, particularly in the financial services sector. With around 8 out of 10 people on the continent owning mobile phones and over 570 million people online in 2022, up 470% from 2010 (a significant contrast to the global increase of 159%), access to information and services has become easier. Now more than ever before, digital access to financial services in Africa is at a ripe stage. However, to further and continue this digital transformation journey, we must solve the existing infrastructure challenges, collaborate more and strengthen institutional connections.

Embrace

To remain relevant, banks and central banks must evolve to embrace and adopt the opportunities presented by new technologies such as blockchain, mobile money and cloud technology. However, new opportunities also come with risks, which require updated regulations that are effective but do not stunt innovation especially those that are being driven by fintechs. Fintechs should not be seen as threats, but as partners that could help established players in meeting the needs of customers.

On a continent where physical cash still accounts for more than 70% of transactions, there is a tremendous opportunity to apply lessons learned from Mobile Money adoption and get more people into



Mpumelelo Makhubu-Mukogo

the banking economy in a safe and accessible way.

Mobile Money solutions are among the fastest-growing payment methods on the continent, and we can make the next exponential step by leveraging these Mobile Money solutions beyond just payments or peer-to-peer transactions. Africa has a young, digital-native and rapidly urbanising population, the continent is a hotbed of start-ups and fintechs helping solve financial challenges and many countries and territories are easing regulations to speed up technological adoption in banking.

We need to embrace technology as we always have, while learning from the other early adopters to produce the best new-age solutions for our customers. Mobile Money solutions have vast potential to evolve into more complete banking products, including lending, saving and investing - and banks must lead in that charge.

Challenge

There is arguably no market in which the growth of -

and demand for - more inclusive and accessible financial services is more prevalent than in Africa. Our rapid commercial growth and globalisation over the past decade have made more inclusive financial services even more critical. The growth of Small to Medium Enterprises and entrepreneurship in several African countries and accompanying innovation in fintech - particularly blockchain technology - has the potential to drive the improvement of financial infrastructure across the board.

As Standard Bank, we are no strangers to peer-to-peer (P2P) payments, which have been widely used to enable informal and small business ventures at the heart of many African economies by easing the logistics and cost of payments. It no wonder that Africa's cryptocurrency adoption rate was 1 200% between June 2020 and July 2021, with more than \$100bn worth of cryptocurrency payments made to Africans during that period - the bulk of which were remittances.

Another key area that needs development is efficient and lower-cost cross-border payments to facilitate Intra-Africa trade as well as trade outside of the continent. One solution which seeks to address the Intra-Africa need is the Pan African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), which enables cross border instant payments across African countries, without the complexity, time and money it takes to make these payments using traditional correspondent banking methods.

With PAPSS, participants do not need to first convert local currency to a hard currency like USD as an expensive, time-consuming intermediary step when making a payment to a participant in another African country. Wide adoption of PAPSS across the

continent will revolutionize payments on the continent and contribute towards economic growth. It is for this reason that we as Standard Bank South Africa, have signed a memorandum of understanding to be one of the banks providing settlement of these transactions. We also aim to be a participant bank in most of the markets we operate in.

Several African countries have seen a rapid uptake of cryptocurrencies as a means to access more efficient payment rails provided by blockchain networks and yield returns on income with assets like Bitcoin or Stablecoins, which are designed to maintain stable value through being pegged to an asset such as the US Dollar.

Because of the volatility of cryptocurrencies, the real potential for increased financial inclusion in Africa lies in the blockchain infrastructure that underpins them, rather than in the currencies themselves - Stablecoins aside. The distributed ledger system can instantly eliminate fraud and human error in transactions and foster transparency in financial records, which can enable the creation of corruption-resistant and robust welfare systems. It can also provide mechanisms for fair and transparent microfinance and increased purchasing power, to support the creation and growth of small enterprises that serve communities. Blockchain technology can kickstart new trade opportunities between nation-states and give Africans the opportunity to take part in a technological revolution and form part of the decentralised economy.

At Standard Bank, we are starting to make significant progress in leveraging blockchain and smart contracts via our Aroko payment platform. This end-to-end digital payment solution

uses distributed ledger technology, with its smart contract capabilities, to enable businesses to have automatic foreign exchange (FX) payments and settlement. We also provide FX and money markets products to innovators via our world-class application programming interfaces (APIs), where we are able to provide both indicative or executable FX and money market rates through direct integration with customers' systems.

Transform

Where, then, does that leave traditional banking? It's clear that the answer is not to compete with fintechs nor ignore these 4IR technologies, but rather to complement and use these technologies through participating in our own right, and via partnerships.

Digital Banking solutions which will matter now and, in the future, are those built by not only leveraging emerging technology but through collaboration between traditional incumbent banks, central bank regulators, and fintechs in solving the challenges which inhibit access to financial services in and outside of Africa at true scale.

Ultimately, the aim is to contribute towards sustained economic growth and development in Africa, and we are likely to move towards this faster through partnerships with these start-ups, MNOs and fintechs, which are often more innovative and agile in solution delivery. By layering a culture that supports agility and measured risk-taking on top of a base of sound technologically innovative solutions, we can set alight the true potential of Africa.

Mpumelelo Makhubu-Mukogo (pictured) is the head of digital at Standard Bank global markets digital solutions



Bank of America trading desks gain ground with more capital

NEW YORK

Month after month, Bank of America Corp.'s trading floors appeared to be faltering in their push to grab market share early last year, when the head of the business took the mic at a town hall meeting.

Jim DeMare cut to the chase: Anyone lacking the ambition to do better should consider working elsewhere. A year later, his division posted a 10 percent jump in quarterly revenue - the only increase among Wall Street's five largest trading houses.

Bank of America, long regarded

as the sleeping giant of trading, has been quietly making headway in a bid to narrow the gap with its main competitors. Since DeMare took over the bank's global markets division in a flurry of leadership changes three years ago, he and his colleagues have persuaded the company's bosses to give them more capital, recruited rainmakers, boosted headcount and launched a variety of other initiatives.

In that time, the unit has gained almost six percentage points of market share on its biggest rival - fellow balance-sheet titan JPMorgan Chase & Co. - which generates more revenue

from trading than any other US bank. Much of the improvement is coming from the fixed-income unit, where Bank of America has hired dozens of people to bolster foreign-exchange and emerging-markets macro desks. Executives at a number of rivals say the firm suddenly seems more in the game.

"You have to keep reinforcing the message to clients: We want to be top tier with you," DeMare, 54, said in an interview. He acknowledged that his patience was wearing thin a year ago at the town hall, leading to his uncharacteristic outburst. "I wasn't happy."

In Wall Street's endless jockeying to trade everything from stocks and bonds to lithium and lira, Bank of America is now the drama to watch. The performance of its markets division has emerged as a bright spot for the company, whose stock has lagged behind top competitors this year. Bank of America's is down 14%. JPMorgan's is up 9.2 percent.

Ever since Bank of America stumbled through the 2008 crisis into an era of multibillion-dollar liabilities and losses, it has been full of tension: The inheritor of Merrill Lynch's famous thundering herd is especially

wary of danger.

In an industry that sees a willingness to embrace risks as the prerequisite for more deals and profits, Chief Executive Officer Brian Moynihan has adopted the mantra of "responsible growth," promising shareholders and regulators that the company can take a safety-first approach to getting bigger. For years, the self-restraint chafed ambitious traders, prompting some to leave.

As the firm's hard-charging head of global banking and markets, Tom Montag, prepared to move on a few years ago, the company installed a softer regime. That included DeMare, a longtime trader described by colleagues as subtle and reserved.

To figure out why customers weren't sending it more business, the firm's sales and trading teams asked investors to rank Bank of America's importance as a partner. The company's executives aim to be in the top three in every business line. In many cases, customers listed it fifth or sixth. The blunt responses fueled a conversation inside the bank.

"All businesses that could have been doing better - many of the macro-trading products, and the prime-brokerage unit - were constrained by not having enough capital," DeMare said. His team went up the chain, successfully making a case to Moynihan for more.

Meanwhile, the division was hiring. In 2020, it lured Goldman Sachs Group Inc. partner Carlos Fernandez-Aller to run foreign-exchange and make other key hires in regions where it wasn't previously as active, including Latin America. By mid-2022, the firm's foreign-exchange and emerging markets macro desks had added more than 30 people.

That included Goldman rates trader Pedro Ossa, who helped beef up the emerging markets business to cover the Andean region, which includes Chile, Colombia and Peru. In Europe, managers tapped Funda Celik from JPMorgan to oversee trading in Central Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Investments in rates and

currencies trading also helped the firm's investment bankers, led by Matthew Koder, meet the needs of corporate clients looking for more ways to hedge coupons and currency risk.

And opportunities emerged in equities as some European trading houses stumbled, culminating with this year's emergency sale of Credit Suisse Group AG to larger Swiss rival UBS Group AG. Bank of America's equities division, led by Soofian Zuberi, has sought to capitalize, hiring senior talent including Morgan Stanley's former head of European equity trading, Nick Laux. It also brought in Goldman's Neil Kearns as head of US corporate buybacks and repurchases.

At the same time, Bank of America has been making a new push to hone some of its markets technology. Previously, it focused on developing electronic-trading platforms. But increasingly, it's augmenting systems for more traditional "high-touch" trading by humans, trying to improve customers' experience.

"We've had a more balanced business across the board," DeMare said.

One question is what might happen to Bank of America's risk appetite. Even after years, some insiders still complain that the company's conservatism costs it opportunities and leaves money on the table.

"They are not looking to go for the big swings, or outside pitches," said Ken Usdin, an analyst at Jefferies Financial Group Inc.

When war broke out in Ukraine last year, Moynihan and Chief Risk Officer Geoffrey Greener urged the bank to hang back as some competitors pitched ways for opportunistic investors to place bets linked to Russia. That contributed to Bank of America's temporary loss of market share in last year's second quarter.

Part of the company's calculus is that if it can dodge the biggest blowups, it will generate steady returns and eventually pull ahead of firms that do themselves serious damage.

NBCA's M-Shwari taking 34pc share in digital credit

NAIROBI

NCBA-owned mobile lending platform M-Shwari tops the list of digital lenders controlling 34 percent market share, according to disclosures from the Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK).

The regulator's data shows M-Shwari is followed by Fuliza at 25 percent, KCB M-Pesa at 15 per cent, Tala at 13 per cent, Branch at nine percent and others at four percent.

The regulator made the disclosure in connection with its approval of Nigerian fintech Moniepoint Inc's full buyout of Kopo Kopo, a mobile payments platform operating in Kenya.

The CAK said in a statement the merger would not negatively affect the competitiveness of other players in the digital credit market.

The transaction value was not cited but the agency says the combined turnover is above Sh1 billion.

"The Competition Authority of Kenya has approved the proposed



acquisition of 100 percent shares in Kopo Kopo Inc by Moniepoint Inc unconditionally," said CAK in a statement on Tuesday.

Before the CAK approval, Moniepoint incorporated in the United States did not have any undertaking in Kenya but the company is expanding to the country

soon.

"The Competition Authority of Kenya has approved the proposed acquisition of 100 percent shares in Kopo Kopo Inc. by Moniepoint Inc. unconditionally," said the State agency.

The CAK said the merger would not affect other digital lenders, including M-

Shwari as it falls among the other four percent of the market share.

"With regard to the proposed merger, the target entity is ranked among firms with a combined market share of four percent... Premised on this, the proposed transaction is unlikely to lead to a substantial

lessening or prevention of competition in the market for the provision of digital credit."

Safaricom offers M-Shwari in partnership with NCBA Bank Kenya as a savings and loan service that enables M-Pesa customers to save, access credit and earn interest. The overdraft facility offered in partnership with NCBA and KCB Bank Kenya and the telco allows M-Pesa customers to complete their transactions when they have insufficient funds in their mobile wallet.

Borrowers use the facility to meet their short-term needs, including buying food and paying bills. Small businesses also use the overdraft to access working capital and restock their goods.

The CAK says the survey it conducted revealed that the market is diverse in terms of the number of providers, but most consumers primarily use one of the three M-Pesa-affiliated loan products – M-Shwari, KCB-M-Pesa and Fuliza.

The Central Bank of Kenya has so far licensed 32 digital lenders.

Bank Indonesia to keep rates steady through year-end

BENGALURU

Bank Indonesia will keep its key interest rate steady at 5.75 percent for the seventh consecutive meeting on Thursday and for the rest of the year as inflation moves closer to the mid-point of the central bank's target range, a Reuters poll found.

With Indonesia's inflation rate easing to a 16-month low of 3.08 percent in July, well within the 2 percent-4 percent target range, the central bank's focus is now on keeping the rupiah currency stable, say analysts.

All but one of 34 economists in the Aug. 14-21 Reuters poll expected Indonesia's central bank to keep its seven-day reverse repurchase rate at 5.75 percent on Thursday. One expected a 25 basis-point hike.

"Inflation has evolved along our projected path, but the central bank's focus has shifted to rupiah stability to contain imported inflation and mitigate contagion risks from global uncertainties," said Radhika Rao, senior economist at DBS Bank.

Rao noted that slowing exports, a decline in FX reserves and a stronger dollar have hit the currency in recent months after making gains in the first half of the year.

"The authorities have maintained that they prefer to address FX volatility through intervention efforts rather than further tightening moves," she said.

Last week, Bank Indonesia (BI) intervened to lower volatility in the rupiah after it fell to its weakest level since March, driven by fears that higher US Treasury yields might trigger capital outflows like in 2013 when the rupiah lost more than a quarter of its value.

Among the economists who had forecasts for the coming period nearly 60 percent, 16 of 28, predicted BI would keep rates at 5.75 percent through to the end of 2023. Eleven predicted at least one quarter-percentage point cut by then, and one expected rates to be at 6.00 percent.

Like many of its Asian peers, BI was forecast to start cutting rates from the first quarter of 2024. However, economists were divided over the amount rates would fall.

Nearly 40 percent of respondents, nine of 23, forecast a 25 basis-point rate cut to 5.50 percent in the first quarter. Six expected rates to come down to 5.25 percent, one predicted rates to reach 5.00 percent, and three to 4.75 percent.

Lavanya Venkateswaran, senior ASEAN economist at OCBC Bank said "as the weakness in China continues, it will be a drag on Indonesia's growth" adding that BI would "try and support growth as we go towards the end of this year."

Median forecasts from a smaller sample showed BI cutting its benchmark rate to 5.25 percent and 5.00 percent in Q2 and Q3 of next year and then lower it to 4.75 percent in the final quarter.

Pressure to revive economy muddies earnings outlook for China's top banks

BEIJING

A scramble by Chinese policymakers to tackle a debt crisis in the property sector and shore up the economy is set to deal a blow to the earnings prospects for its big banks as they are pressed into the task of boosting credit demand.

China's top five state-owned banks are expected to post a sharp decline in revenue and narrower net interest margins (NIM) as they turn in half-yearly results, with China Construction Bank (601939.SS) kicking-off the reporting season on Wednesday.

The results will come against the backdrop of record-low credit growth in July, default risks at some housing developers and missed payments by a private wealth manager linked to shadow banking that has raised contagion risk to the broader economy.

The banks are also battling headwinds such as lower lending rates and pressure from the government to prop up the economy - which has been buffeted by weak demand both at home and abroad - as well as bad debt related to property developers and local government financing vehicles (LGFV).

"The biggest challenge for Chinese banks is navigating the increasingly low net interest margin as the credit demand remains subdued in the real economy," said Gary Ng, senior economist at Natixis Corporate & Investment Banking.

"While there is support from greater exposure to government-related assets, it is more uncertain than ever on whether this can fully buffer the weak demand in households and corporates."

China cut its one-year benchmark lending rate on Monday, which is set to further weigh on banks' NIM.

Chinese commercial banks' NIM shrank sharply to 1.74 percent last quarter from 1.91 percent at the end of



2022, official data showed.

The situation has worried authorities, with the central bank warning that banks needed to maintain a proper level of profit and NIM to ensure sustainability in supporting the real economy.

DOWNSIDE RISKS

The half-yearly results of the top five banks and management commentary should help provide a glimpse into the near-term earnings outlook for the sector, as well as prospects for the world's second-largest economy.

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd's (601398.SS) revenue is estimated to fall 8.7 percent

year-on-year in the second quarter of this year, according to a median Refinitiv estimate.

Bank of Communications Co Ltd (601328.SS) is estimated to report a 9.2 percent drop in revenue, while Agricultural Bank of China Ltd's (601288.SS) revenue is estimated to drop down 4.2 percent.

Shares of China's biggest five banks have been sliding since early May amid concerns over the weakening economy.

In the near term, banks face downside risks including from their exposure to LGFV's debt restructuring and developers' default, an-

alysts at JPMorgan said in a research report.

Debt-laden municipalities represent a major risk to China's economy and financial stability, after years of over-investment in infrastructure and plummeting returns from land sales.

JPMorgan analysts estimate the government will take up the responsibility for about 10% of the debt facing interest payment problems, and then banks will roll over or restructure the remaining loans.

That would likely lead to a rise in credit cost of about 4 basis points and reduce NIM by about 6 basis points by 2025 for banks, they esti-

mated.

In the property sector, banks will not just have to deal with defaults but also have to restructure loans, meaning less interest income in the coming years, said Christopher Beddor, deputy director of China research at Gavekal Dragonomics.

"The biggest challenge by far is net interest margins."

"They could certainly do another deposit-rate cut, or even several. Still, there's really no getting around the fact that banks will need to sacrifice profitability to support the economy this year," Beddor added.

Weak European data hits euro, lifts bonds

LONDON

Weak European economic data sent the euro lower and sparked a bounce in bond and share markets on Wednesday, as investors also awaited results from tech darling Nvidia later to see if the sector's lofty valuations still look justified.

The euro fell to a more than two-month low of just above \$1.08 against the dollar and a 12-month low against the pound after survey data showed German and euro area business activity slumped in August.

It was the fastest contraction in

German business activity in over three years and had traders scurrying to firm up bets that the European Central Bank could now pause what has been a record-breaking run of interest rate hikes.

"The PMI suggests that it's back to the pre-summer narrative of lower rates," said Piet Christiansen, chief analyst at Danske Bank.

Christiansen added that euro zone inflation data due next week would still be key to the ECB's decision.

"There's many indicators that suggest that we could have had the last hike but if you just look at

inflation, which is the (ECB's) key mandate... that is not a done deal," he added.

Traders scaled back their bets on a ECB September hike and now price in a roughly 40 percent chance of a 25 basis point move compared with more than 50 percent on Tuesday.

Overnight, Asian markets had seen more focus on the weakness in China's economy and yuan, as well as some gloomy factory readings from Japan, which also left sentiment fragile.

Equity markets were in wait-and-see mode ahead of earnings

later from chip giant Nvidia following its frenzied stock price rise this year on the back of the boom in artificial intelligence (AI).

Its shares hit an all-time high of \$481.87 on Wall Street on Tuesday, with options data showing traders are expecting a larger-than-usual swing in shares after the quarterly results which will be published later.

Analysts expect the firm to forecast 110 percent growth in third-quarter revenue to \$12.50 billion. Stuart Humphrey, an analyst at JPMorgan, said some are forecasting \$14-15 billion.



WORLD

PM Modi, Ramaphosa vow to strengthen voice of Global South

JOHANNESBURG

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa have, during their bilateral meeting, pledged to keep working together to "strengthen the voice of Global South."

The two leaders held their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the ongoing BRICS Summit.

"Had an excellent meeting with President @CyrilRamaphosa. We discussed a wide range of issues aimed at deepening India-South Africa relations. Trade, defence and investment linkages featured prominently in our discussions. We will keep working together to

strengthen the voice of the Global South as well," posted PM Modi on X post his meeting with Ramaphosa.

PM Modi is in South Africa to attend the 15th BRICS Summit and is scheduled to attend open and closed plenary sessions in Johannesburg.

Along with PM Modi, other BRICS leaders including, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and Brazilian President Lula da Silva have arrived at Sandton Convention Centre to attend the same.

The plenaries will be followed by a cultural performance and a banquet dinner hosted by President Ramaphosa. PM Modi arrived in South Africa on



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa as he arrives at the Summer Place to participate in the BRICS Leaders Retreat, in Johannesburg on Tuesday. ANI

Tuesday and received a ceremonial welcome. Upon his arrival, PM Modi also received a rousing welcome from the

Indian diaspora chanting 'Vande Mataram' and the members of the Indian community were waiting for PM Modi's arrival to welcome him with 'dhols' outside the Sandton Sun Hotel in Johannesburg.

The opening day of the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg was witness to the BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue.

In his address at the BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue, PM Modi said India will soon be a 5 trillion dollar economy and in the coming years will be the growth engine of the world.

PM Modi's special message to the dialogue was that mutual trust and transparency can help create a big impact, especially in the Global South.

BRICS is a grouping of the world economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

This is the first in-person BRICS Summit after three consecutive years of virtual meetings owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. ANI

Putin: BRICS members to deepen ties amid economic challenges

MOSCOW

BRICS countries are continuing to deepen cooperation amid ongoing external economic challenges, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday while addressing the BRICS Business Forum 2023 via video link.

Putin noted that the introduction of illegitimate sanctions and the unlawful freezing of sovereign assets have had an overall negative impact on the global economy. He stressed that such practices have led to resource shortages, increased inequality, unemployment, and rising prices, which have affected the most vulnerable countries.

"It is important that BRICS member states continue to strengthen cooperation under such circumstances, and our joint work, which aims to ensure economic growth and sustainable development, has produced concrete, tangible results," said the president, as cited by the Kremlin in a report.

Cooperation within the BRICS is based on principles of equality and mutual respect, Putin said, adding that this is the "essence" of the group's future strategic course, which meets the interests of the global majority.

According to Putin, mutual investments between BRICS countries have increased sixfold over the past decade, and Russia's trade turnover with its BRICS partners has currently reached a record of over 230 billion U.S. dollars.

The Russian president further pointed out that the irreversible process of de-dollarization has gained momentum, and BRICS countries are actively working to establish effective mechanisms for mutual settlements and monetary and financial control.

Putin also discussed the importance of boosting cooperation in a wide range of fields, including transport and logistics, business and climate change.

"Russia is in favour of establishing closer cooperation within the BRICS framework on the issues of reliable and uninterrupted supply of energy and food resources to world markets," Putin noted.

The multifaceted BRICS partnership has not only ensured the sustainable growth of BRICS member states, but has also contributed to improving the global economic situation, and the successful implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, according to the president. Xinhua

BRICS leaders arrive for plenary sessions, PM Modi, Xi stand apart in family photo

JOHANNESBURG

THE BRICS leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, arrived at the Sandton Convention Centre to attend the plenary sessions.

Prior to attending the sessions, the leaders posed for a BRICS family photograph.

Significantly, PM Modi and Chinese Premier Xi Jinping were seen standing apart from each other as South African President Cyril Ramaphosa held their hands together.

Other than PM Modi, Jinping and Ramaphosa, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and Brazilian President Lula da Silva were also in the BRICS group photo.

The plenaries are scheduled to be followed by a cultural performance and a banquet dinner hosted by President Ramaphosa.

PM Modi arrived in South Africa on Tuesday and received a ceremonial wel-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds hands with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Brazilian President Lula da Silva as they pose for a picture prior to attending the second day of the 15th BRICS Summit, in Johannesburg yesterday. ANI

come at Waterkloof Air Force Base. Upon his arrival, PM Modi received a

rousing welcome from the Indian diaspora chanting 'Vande Mataram'.

The members of the Indian community were waiting for PM Modi's arrival

and welcomed him amid lustrous drumbeats outside the Sandton Sun Hotel in Johannesburg.

The opening day of the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg was witness to the BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue.

In his address at the BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue, PM Modi said India will soon be a 5 trillion dollar economy and in the coming years will be the growth engine of the world. PM Modi's special message to the dialogue was that mutual trust and transparency can help create a big impact, especially in the Global South.

BRICS is a grouping of the world economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

This is the first in-person BRICS Summit after three consecutive years of virtual meetings owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. ANI



Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers his remarks virtually during the 2023 BRICS Summit at the Sandton Convention Center in Johannesburg on Tuesday. AFP

Lula calls for replacement of US dollar hegemony

JOHANNESBURG

BRAZILIAN President on Tuesday called for creating a common trading currency for BRICS countries to counter US dollar hegemony.

Advocating the creation of a common currency for cross-border trade between BRICS nations without affecting national currencies, Lula da Silva said at the BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue that an alternative to the US dollar needs to be found in the international market.

The common currency would be used to facilitate trade between the emerging nations, he said.

"We want BRICS to be a multilateral institution, not an exclusive club," Lula da Silva said. "We just want to organize ourselves."

In April, he proposed possibly creating a common regional currency or similar mechanism to reduce reliance on the US dollar in trade.

Also on Tuesday, the Brazilian president announced that his government is considering the possibility of using the Chinese yuan in trade with Argentina.

"We cannot depend on a single country that has the dollar, that puts more money into circulation in dollars, and we are forced to live off the fluctuation of that currency. It's not right," he said. Xinhua



President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva attends the plenary session during the 2023 BRICS Summit at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg yesterday. AFP

India takes lead in forging consensus on expansion of bloc

JOHANNESBURG

INDIA took the lead in forging consensus on membership criteria and in the selection of new members for the BRICS grouping during the Leaders' Retreat, according to the sources.

As per the sources a significant development took place in BRICS expansion during the Leaders' Retreat on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday attended the BRICS Leaders Retreat, where the leaders of the grouping deliberated on global developments and explored how to utilize the BRICS platform effectively to address and resolve global challenges.

PM Modi arrived in South Africa on Tuesday. Upon his arrival, PM Modi received a

rousing welcome from the Indian diaspora who were chanting 'Vande Mataram' and the members of the Indian community who were waiting for PM Modi's arrival to welcome him with 'dhols' outside the Sandton Sun Hotel in Johannesburg.

This is PM Modi's third visit to South Africa and the trip marks the 30th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between India and South Africa.

The opening day of the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg was witness to the BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue.

In his address at the BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue, PM Modi said India will soon be a 5 trillion dollar economy and in the coming years will be the growth engine of the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi participates in the BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue, in Johannesburg on Tuesday. ANI

world.

PM Modi's special message to the dialogue was that mutual trust and transparency that can help create a big impact, especially

in the Global South.

Meanwhile, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said as Africa has an urbanised population it can provide a stable workforce in

future, and BRICS countries have an opportunity to contribute to and participate in Africa's growth story.

"Africa has a young digitally connecting and urban-

izing population. A population that provides a stable workforce for companies in future. The investment in skills... continues to grow," President Ramaphosa said.

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov attended the event.

Initially formed as BRIC, a visionary concept coined by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neil in 2001, BRICS comprises Brazil, Russia, India, and China - a collective representation of burgeoning emerging markets brimming with current and future economic prowess. In a momentous development in 2010, South Africa joined the bloc, prompting a change in the acronym BRICS. ANI

Let world hear more BRICS voices, witness greater BRICS contributions

The 15th BRICS Summit was scheduled to run from August 22 to 24 in South Africa.

During the summit, BRICS leaders conducted discussions on such topics as strengthening BRICS cooperation and expanding the BRICS mechanism. South Africa has invited tens of leaders from Africa and emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs) to attend relevant dialogues.

More and more countries are applying to join the BRICS mechanism. During the summit, leaders from EMDCs discussed a wide range of topics.

This fully demonstrates that the BRICS mechanism, with growing in-

fluence and attractiveness, has gained widespread recognition and support.

As the world is undergoing changes unseen in a century, EMDCs are playing an increasingly important role in global governance.

South Africa's BRICS Sherpa Anil Sooklal described BRICS as an "inclusive" organization that has always been open to dialogue with the larger global community. According to Sooklal, over 40 countries have expressed interest in joining the BRICS mechanism, and 20 more of them have submitted official applications.

The BRICS mechanism emerged amidst the historical trend of the collective rise of EMDCs. It represents the direction of evolution and adjustment of the global landscape and international order.

Over the past 17 years, by upholding the spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, the BRICS countries have strengthened solidarity and collaboration, advocated fairness and justice, and pursued common development, continuously expanding their global influence.

Amidst a turbulent international situation, anti-globalization sentiments

are escalating while unilateralism and protectionism are distinctly on the rise. The global economic recovery remains weak amid frequent regional conflicts and unrest.

Global governance challenges in spheres like energy, food, and climate are interlinked with regional security risks, while deficits in peace, development, security and governance are increasing globally. "BRICS countries are attracting people who seek peace and cooperation," said Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. His remarks underscored an important reason why many countries hope

to join the BRICS mechanism.

The BRICS cooperation has always been oriented towards openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, and opened its door to all EMDCs aspiring to seek development while maintaining independence.

The 2013 Summit in Durban of South Africa invited African leaders to participate in the dialogue. The 2014 Summit in Fortaleza of Brazil invited leaders of South American countries to join the dialogue.

During the 2015 Summit in Russia's Ufa, a meeting was held between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

(SCO) members and observers, the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) leaders, leaders of invited countries and the BRICS countries.

A dialogue between BRICS leaders and the leaders of the member countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was held during the 2016 Summit in Goa of India.

And during the Xiamen Summit in 2017, China put forward the innovative "BRICS Plus" cooperation model, building a new platform for solidarity, cooperation and common development of the vast developing countries. People's Daily

Xi calls for speedy BRICS expansion

JOHANNESBURG

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday called for the speedy expansion of the BRICS and efforts to promote more just and reasonable global governance.

Xi made the remarks when addressing the 15th BRICS Summit.

Xi said that development is an inalienable right of all countries, not a privilege of a few.

BRICS countries should be peers on the road of development and revitalization, oppose acts of "decoupling" and disrupting industrial and supply chains, as well as economic coercion, and focus on practical cooperation in such areas as digital economy, green development, supply chain, among others, he said.

Xi said that it is not acceptable to dress up one's domestic rules and regulations as international norms, adding that international norms should be written and upheld by all countries based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, rather than dictated by those with the strongest muscles and loudest voice.

Ganging up to form exclusive groups is even more unacceptable, he said.

Xi also said that BRICS countries have agreed to launch the artificial intelligence study group and expand AI cooperation.

The BRICS countries have also come to the agreement of developing AI governance frameworks, so as to make the AI technologies more secure, reliable, controllable and equitable, he added.

Xi said that China will set up a China-BRICS science and innovation incubation park for the new era.

Solidarity

On Tuesday, Xi expressed China's willingness to deepen solidarity and cooperation with other emerging markets and developing countries to push for a more just and equitable world order.

As a developing country and a member of the Global South, China breathes the same breath as other developing countries and pursues a shared future with them, and has resolutely upheld the common interests of developing countries and worked to increase the representation and voice of emerging markets and developing countries in global affairs, said Xi in a speech read out by Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao at the BRICS Business Forum 2023.

"Right now, changes in the world, in our times and in history are unfolding in ways like never before, bringing human society to a critical juncture," Xi warned in the speech titled "Enhance Solidarity and Cooperation to Overcome Risks and Challenges and Jointly Build a Better World."

"Should we pursue cooperation and integration, or just succumb to division and confrontation? Should we work together to maintain peace and stability, or just sleepwalk into the abyss of a new Cold War? Should we embrace prosperity, openness and inclusiveness, or allow hegemonic and bullying acts to throw us into depression? Should we deepen mutual trust through exchanges and mutual learning, or allow hubris and prejudice to blind conscience?" Xi asked. "The course of history will be shaped by the choices we make."

Our world today has become a community with a shared future in which we all share a huge stake of survival, Xi said, noting that what people in various countries long for is "definitely not a new Cold War or a small exclusive bloc; what they want is an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys enduring peace, universal security and common prosperity."

Such is the logic of historical advance and the trend of our times, Xi stressed, urging all countries to uphold the correct views of the world, of history and of our overall interests.

Noting that the global context is extremely complex nowadays, particularly in the economic and political fields, Eduardo Regalado, a researcher at the International Policy Research Center of Cuba, said the BRICS summit takes place at a time when more cooperation among countries is needed to bring prosperity and well-being to people worldwide.

The 15 BRICS summit is slated for Aug. 22-24 in Johannesburg, and leaders attending the event are to discuss issues including deepening BRICS cooperation, giving more voice to the Global South, and the BRICS group's expansion.

"Emerging countries are becoming more and more relevant in the international arena. This summit will very much contribute to the shaping of a new global economic and political order. It will help change the current situation when it comes to international relations," he said.

Way forward

In the speech, Xi underscores the importance of inclusive development, universal security, cultural exchange, and the collective rise of emerging economies and developing countries for a better world, expressing China's willingness to deepen solidarity and cooperation with other emerging markets and developing countries to make the international order more just and equitable.

"We need to promote development and prosperity for all," Xi said, adding that with perseverance, hard work and huge sacrifices, many emerging markets and developing countries succeeded in gaining independence, and "everything we do is to deliver better lives to our people."

"Every country has the right to development, and the people in every country have the freedom to pursue a happy life," Xi said, noting that China will work with all other countries to speed up cooperation under the Global Development Initiative, meet common challenges together and make life better for people across the world.

"We need to achieve universal security," Xi said, adding that only a commitment to a new vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security can lead to universal security.

Xinhua

Chandrayaan-3: India lands on moon, creates history

NEW DELHI

IT was a giant leap for India yesterday evening 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.

Officials at India's space agency ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru broke into applause after the Vikram began its powered vertical descent towards its landing site.

"India is on the moon!" Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is currently attending the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg said. He watched the live telecast and as soon as the touchdown happened he sported a big smile and waved the tricolour.

The countdown of the Vikram hovered at 150 metres, then 130 metres, 50 metres and decelerated as approached the moon's surface before finally touching down on the lunar surface.

As the Vikram lander carrying the Pragyaan rover in its belly touched down on the lunar surface, it marked a giant leap in India's spacefaring journey providing a well-deserved finale to ISRO's long years of toil.

This makes India becomes the fourth country - after US, China, and Russia - to have successfully landed on the moon's surface, it has earned a place in record books as the first to touchdown on the south side of Earth's only natural satellite.

Billions of people across India and globally closely monitoring the much-awaited event. More so after Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft crashed on Sunday after spinning out of control.

In the run-up to the scheduled soft landing of Chandrayaan-3, people across the country prayed to God in all denominations of places of worship for a successful mission.

Special screenings of the soft landing were organized across the country, including schools and science centers, and public institutions. ISRO made the live actions available on the ISRO website, its YouTube channel, Facebook, and public broadcaster DD National TV.

The scheduled timing for the soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the moon's south pole on August 23, 2023 (Wednesday), was 18:04 IST, with the powered descent of Vikram lander at 1745 IST.



Chandrayaan-3: Animated representation of Vikram Lander's successful soft landing on the Moon's surface.

ISRO had been releasing a series of up-close images of the moon, assisting the lander module in determining its position (latitude and longitude) by matching them against an onboard moon reference map.

Historically, spacecraft missions to the Moon have primarily targeted the equatorial region due to its favourable terrain and operating conditions. However, the lunar south pole presents a vastly different and more challenging terrain compared to the equatorial region.

The spacecraft was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota on July 14.

A GSLV Mark 3 (LVM 3) heavy-lift launch vehicle was used for the launch of the spacecraft that was placed in the lunar orbit on August 5 and since then

it was through a series of orbital manoeuvres been lowered closer to the moon's surface.

Ever since the July 14 launch, ISRO had been maintaining that the health of the spacecraft remained "normal".

On August 5, Chandrayaan-3 was successfully inserted into the lunar orbit with multiple key manoeuvres thereafter. Then on August 17, the mission marked another giant leap in its lunar quest as the 'Vikram' lander module of the spacecraft successfully separated from the propulsion module on Thursday. The Chandrayaan-3 mission's lander is named after Vikram Sarabhai (1919-1971), who is widely regarded as the father of the Indian space programme.

Then the deboosting of the Lander module was undertaken in two phases. Deboosting is the process of slow-

ing down to position itself in an orbit where the orbit's closest point to the Moon is.

The stated objectives of Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar mission, were safe and soft landing on the lunar surface, the rover moving on the moon's surface, and in-situ scientific experiments.

Upon landing, the lander and the rover were to operate for one lunar day. One day on the Moon is equal to 14 days on Earth.

Chandrayaan-3's development phase commenced in January 2020, with the launch planned sometime in 2021.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic brought an unforeseen delay to the mission's progress. The approved cost of Chandrayaan-3 is Rs 250 crores (excluding launch vehicle cost).

Chandrayaan-2 mission was only "partially successful" since the lander lost contact after a hard landing, but the ISRO earlier this week successfully established two-way communication between the Chandrayaan-3 lander module and the still orbiting Chandrayaan-2 orbiter.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) founder Vikram Sarabhai, who is considered the father of the Indian space program, once said India must be second to none in the application of advanced technologies to the real problems facing society.

The establishment of the ISRO was one of Vikram Sarabhai's greatest achievements. He successfully convinced the government of the day of the importance of a space programme for a developing country like India.

ANI

To move China-South Africa ties toward deeper level with higher quality, broader scope

THIS year marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and South Africa. Over the past 25 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, bilateral relationship has achieved leapfrog development from a partnership to a strategic partnership, and then to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

Political mutual trust between the two countries has been enhanced continuously, practical cooperation has been advanced steadily, people-to-people exchanges have remained vibrant, and strategic coordination has been deepened constantly. These have brought tangible benefits to the two peoples and the African people at large.

South Africa was the first African country to sign the Belt and Road cooperation document with China. A series of bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms have smoothed trade between the two sides and elevated the quality of China-South Africa economic and trade cooperation, including the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETC), the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo, the China Import and Export Fair and the China International Import Expo.

China has been South Africa's largest trading partner for 14 consecutive years, while South Africa has maintained China's biggest trading partner in Africa for 13 years in a row. In the first half of this year, bilateral trade between the two countries reached \$28.25 billion, up 11.7 percent year-on-year.

In May this year, the first shipment of 53,000 tons of feed corn from South Africa arrived at a Chinese port. After strict inspection and quarantine, the feed corn was supplied to Chinese feed companies.

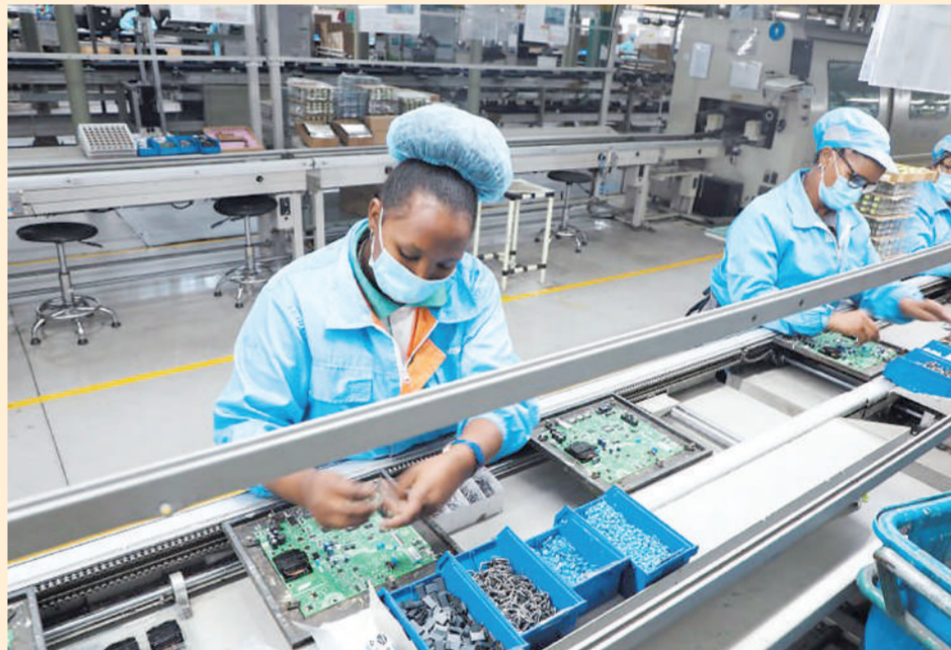
Following South African wines and citrus fruits, the shipment marked another successful attempt in China-South Africa agricultural trade. It provided diversified feed options for Chinese clients and boosted South African agriculture and increase local farmers' income.

South Africa is one of the largest investment destinations for Chinese enterprises in Africa. In recent years, bilateral investment and cooperation has expanded steadily.

Statistics show that by the end of June 2023, China's investment stock in South Africa stood at around \$10 billion. In April this year, China actively responded to South Africa's "new investment initiative" and organized over 60 companies to participate in the 5th South Africa Investment Conference, announcing new investment intentions of nearly 15 billion rand (about \$800 million).

At a business meeting held this August in Johannesburg, enterprises from both countries signed trade agreements totaling nearly \$2.2 billion.

Stavros Nicolaou, of the South African chapter of the BRICS Business Council, said this business meeting brought new opportunities for enterprises in both South Africa and China. South Africa will increase exports of minerals and agricultural



Local employees work in a workshop of an industrial park of Chinese appliance manufacturer Hisense in South Africa. (People's Daily/Zou Song)

products to China while deepening extensive cooperation in areas such as the automotive industry and agricultural product processing, he added.

South African Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel said Chinese companies have played a positive role in South Africa's economic and social development, and South Africa sees China as the most important economic and trade partner.

According to Patel, South Africa will continue optimizing its business environment, and encourage more Chinese firms to leverage opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area for more trade and investment cooperation in South Africa.

South Africa hopes to expand cooperation with China

in the industrial chain of the new energy vehicle sector, the minister added.

At the end of 2022, construction began on the South African site of the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) radio telescope in the small town of Carnarvon in the Northern Cape. The SKA, the world's largest radio telescope, is a key technology cooperation project between China and South Africa involving scientists from China and other nations.

South African Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande said China's participation is very important for the SKA project, and South Africa wants to further strengthen cooperation with China in science, technology and innovation.

In July this year, Chinese tech giant Huawei officially

launched an innovation center in South Africa, which will continue supporting its South African partners, app developers and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises for innovation in areas like 5G, cloud computing and AI.

At the launching ceremony, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said the establishment of the innovation center aligns very well with the South African government's governance priority of using digital technologies to propel economic development.

China has collaborated with South Africa and other African countries to build science and technology innovation cooperation platforms, expanding new areas of mutually beneficial cooperation and promoting sustainable economic and social development.

China has supported the building of Africa's first 5G commercial network and 5G lab in South Africa, promoted South Africa's internet industry by laying fiber optic cables in the country and investing in multiple submarine cables, and partnered with major South African telecom carriers to provide fast and stable communication services to over 30 million South African people.

China has also established a science park in South Africa and the China-South Africa Joint Research Center for Mineral Resources, hosted an innovation and entrepreneurship forum for youth in the two countries, and implemented a joint China-Africa Partnership Plan on Digital Innovation in Africa.

South Africa has more Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms than any other country in Africa. It has incorporated the Chinese language into its national education system.

The Confucius Institute at Durban University of Technology and the Confucius Classroom at the Chinese Culture and International Education Exchange Center in South Africa have rolled out a slew of Chinese language-related programs in Juncao technology, e-commerce, innovation, entrepreneurship and tourism in collaboration with Chinese enterprises and industrial associations.

Thanks to these programmes, many South African youths have entered Chinese enterprises and have new choices of employment.

People's Daily

Suez Canal ship traffic unaffected after tanker collision

CAIRO

SHIPPING traffic was flowing normally on Egypt's Suez Canal on Wednesday, two shipping sources based in the country said, after two tankers that collided earlier were separated.

The two tankers, the Singapore-flagged liquefied natural gas carrier BW Lesmes and the Cayman Islands-flagged oil products tanker Burri, briefly collided in the canal,

ship tracking company MarineTraffic said early on Wednesday citing eyewitnesses.

The sources did not provide any further details on the incident.

However, in a post on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, Egypt's Al-Qahera News cited Suez Canal Authority Chairman Osama Rabie as saying that a ship that broke down in the navigation course was starting to be towed, without giving

more details.

As of 5 am, the BW Lesmes was facing north but being towed to the south by two tugboats, according to ship tracking data on Refinitiv Eikon. Meanwhile, the Burri was moored and pointing south about 12 km from the southern end of the canal, the data showed.

A time lapse of the tracking map shared by MarineTraffic showed the Burri turning sideways and colliding with an already sideways

BW Lesmes at 2040 GMT before backing up and pointing straight.

BW Group and TMS Tankers, which manages the Burri, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

A person who answered the phone at the Suez Canal Authority's operations room when contacted by Reuters said he could not provide any information on the tankers. He did not give his name when asked. The Authority has not

yet issued an official statement.

The Suez Canal is one of the world's busiest waterways and the shortest shipping route between Europe and Asia.

About 12 percent of the world's trade moves through the canal. During strong winds in 2021, a huge container ship, the Ever Given, became jammed across it, halting traffic in both directions for six days and disrupting global trade.

Agencies



Yanga's Ugandan central defender, Gift Fred. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Gift Fred confident of making it to Yanga's starting eleven

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's center-back Gift Fred has expressed his confidence in his chances to have enough playing minutes despite sitting on the bench in recent competitive games.

Having joined Yanga from Uganda's SC Villa, the central defender signed a three-year contract with the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup finalists set to run till 2026.

The performer, though, has failed to break into the starting XI as head coach Miguel Gamondi favours pairing local defenders Bakari Mwamnyeto and Ibrahim Abdallah 'Bacca'.

Fred said that since he joined Yanga, he has not been under pressure to sit on the bench because he believes there are many fixtures to play that will hand him a chance and if he gets a chance, he will strive to fight to do well.

"I don't have any pressure concerning lack of game time because the season has just started, so what I have to do now is to make sure that I keep putting intense work into training, and when I get a chance to play, I can show the coach that I'm ready," the Ugandan footballer noted.

The player pointed out: "So I can't

say that I feel bad sitting on the bench, no, there are many games ahead and I believe that the day the coach gives me a chance I will use it to show my quality and ability so that one day he will give me more chances."

"Regarding the competition to play at Yanga, it is great because there are good defenders here and they play well so it is clear that until I get the chance to play, I have to be better," the defender added.

Fred captained SC Villa last season as they mounted a title challenge, before surrendering it to Vipers SC, as the former eventually settled for third place.

The Ugandan defender's career came close to leading SC Villa to a first StarTimes Uganda Premier League title following a 19-year drought, falling short on the final matchday as the club lost 1-0 to URA FC on home turf.

His career was first tracked at Booma FC in Masindi, Uganda before joining SC Villa in 2020 on a three-year contract.

To put pen to paper for Yanga, the former Booma FC player pocketed a huge \$30,000, and he earns a monthly salary of \$3000, according to trusted sources close to the player.

FAR Rabat FC opt out of signing Morrison

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MOROCCO's FAR Rabat FC has decided against signing Ghanaian winger, Bernard Morrison, following dissatisfaction over his performance during several weeks of trials at the club.

FAR Rabat FC resorted to conducting a trial for the former winger for Tanzania's Yanga as the Moroccan Premier League winners believed Mainland Tanzania's Premier League lacks competitiveness.

Morrison has, therefore, missed the chance to reunite with his former coach Nasreddine Nabi- who had coached the winger at Yanga- at AS FAR Rabat FC.

Nabi, who recently joined FAR Rabat after leaving Tanzanian giants Yanga, expressed his interest in signing Morrison ahead of the new season but the winger's failure to prove his worth in the trials has left the club with no choice than opting out of signing him.

The 30-year-old Ghanaian was re-

leased by Yanga after the 2022-23 season came to a close, making him a free agent.

Reports from Rabat said experienced fans of the club also protested the signing of the former winger for South Africa's Orlando Pirates, following his recent indiscipline behaviour.

Morrison made six appearances and scored once for Yanga in the outfit's CAF Confederation Cup campaign, making it to the final and losing to Algerian side, USM Alger.

The Ghanaian winger also played a significant role in helping Yanga defend the Mainland Tanzania Premier League title.

The former Heart of Lions and AshantiGold SC player came close to signing for another Tanzanian side, Singida Fountain Gate FC, but the deal fell through along the line.

Morrison has previously played for South African giants Orlando Pirates, Congolese side AS Vita Club, and Simba SC, Yanga's bitter rival.



Kibaha Adventist Primary School (KAPS)'s pupils showcase their skills in playing musical instruments while performing at the Mbezi Luis Adventist Church in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Inadequate preparations cost Tanzania in 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games- coach

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S junior athletics team's coach, Christina Panga, has disclosed the squad's poor showing in the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games played in Trinidad and Tobago was brought about by inadequate preparations.

Christina revealed shortly after submitting the junior athletes' performance report to Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) in Dar es Salaam.

According to Christina, she had only two weeks of preparation, adding this was retrogressive given she did not have enough time to train the two athletes- John Nahay and Glory Mgoyo- who represented the country in the Games.

She said although the two trained with their respective clubs, she needed more time to prepare them given she was the duo's trainer in the national squad.

"I know that John and Glory train in Gabriel Geay Club and

Tanzania Youth Athletics (TAYAC) respectively- these two clubs are well respected but I needed more time to be with them, being with them for mere 14 days was a setback," she said.

She also said the other setback was the small number of Tanzania's junior athletes battling it out in the Trinidad and Tobago Commonwealth Youth Games.

Christina stated: "We had a very small number of athletes, we only had four athletes- two in swimming and as many in athletics."

"Some countries won medals because they had many athletes competing in various sporting disciplines and, for the first time, Paralympic Youth Games were included," the coach noted.

The tactician, however, said she is delighted that despite all the challenges, Nahay ended sixth in the men's 1500m category, having clocked 3.51.59. Christina predicted the young athlete has a bright future in the sport.

The swimmers who repre-

sented Tanzania in the Commonwealth Youth Games are Natalia Karim and Romeo Asubiye.

Speaking during the national flag handover function, Tanzania Olympic Committee's vice president Henry Tandau challenged the youngsters to work hard for the country's pride.

The first medal Tanzania secured in the Commonwealth Youth Games was won by Francis Damian that won a bronze medal in the 2017 Bahamas Games.

The Trinidad and Tobago Youth Commonwealth Games are the seventh edition and involved more than 1000 athletes and Para athletes between 14-18 years from Commonwealth nations and territories playing in seven sports managed by more than 500 officials.

The Commonwealth Youth Games are an invaluable springboard for the stars and leaders of tomorrow, contributing to the further development of youths sport throughout the Commonwealth.

The Games have traditionally

taken place every four years, with the first event being hosted in Edinburgh, Scotland in 2000.

Trinidad and Tobago were initially awarded the 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games in June 2019, but the Games were postponed due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the international sports calendar.

Australia emerged as the winner with 64 medals, England finished second with 49 medals, Scotland (28 medals), South Africa (20 medals), and Nigeria (eight medals) took third to fifth places respectively.

ies that finished sixth to 10th and the number of medals won in brackets are Kenya (nine), the host Trinidad and Tobago (15), Northern Ireland (eight), Wales (15), and the Cayman Islands (six).

Commonwealth Youth Games were established to deliver support for young people aged below 30 to reach their full potential and galvanize youth-led action for sustainable and inclusive development.



St. Anne Marie Academy Secondary School's students showcase sports outwears to guests during the school's 19th graduation ceremony which was held at the school's premises at Mbezi Kimara kwa Msuguri in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MWENDAPOLE

Kopunovic elated after Tabora United registers players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TABORA United has confirmed the registration of new players together with work permits for the 2023/24 season after failure to accomplish the procedures in the side's first match of the NBC Premier League.

The Tabora-based club fielded eight players in the squad's first top-tier match against Azam FC, which ended after 16 minutes following injuries the former's two players- including the shot-stopper- sustained.

World football governing body (FIFA) rules hinder the match from going through, if a club has seven players on the pitch, and the duel between Azam FC and Tabora United, which took place at Azam Com-

plex Stadium in Dar es Salaam, eventually culminated in 4-0 win for the former.

In Tabora United's first match of the league, the team failed to use foreign players including Papy Tshishimbi, Andy Bikoko, and Lumiere Banza from DR Congo, as well as Jean Toauya from Burundi.

The team's manager, Rashid Hassan, disclosed that there was a controversy following the failure to use their foreign players in the game against Azam FC due to their names' absence in the Transfer Matching System (TMS) but, at the moment, they have already worked on the problem.

All players have been registered in the TMS and will be available for the outfit's next match against Singida Fountain

Gate FC.

Hassan stated: "Everything has been solved ahead of the coming fixture, our new players are already registered and signed."

"We have registered them in the TMS as we are preparing for the next league match to make sure we do well and get a good result after losing the first match against Azam FC," the manager noted.

Tabora United's head coach, Kopunovic, said before going to camp in Morogoro, he held a meeting with his club's leaders and they assured him that there would not be any challenges of missing players in the next match.

He also talked about his contractual issue and noted he was promised to work as per what

they agreed to in the contract.

"I have spoken to my leaders about our agreement, but mostly the future of the team for the players we have registered to make sure everything goes well so that I can use them in our next match against Singida Fountain Gate FC," the Serbian tactician disclosed.

"It has been worked on and now we are in Morogoro for preparations of our upcoming game," Kopunovic noted.

The Serbian gaffer insisted: "I am extremely happy because we have the quality and unfortunately we could not showcase it in our past match, which is slightly a disappointment, but we will always find a way on the rest of the 29 Premier League games to make our performance count."

Spain PM says football boss apology over kiss 'insufficient'

MADRID

SPANISH Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Tuesday blasted as "insufficient" the apology given by Spain's football federation chief for kissing star player Jennifer Hermoso on the lips after Spain won the Women's World Cup.

Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) chief Luis Rubiales, 45, kissed Hermoso as he handed the Spanish team their gold medals after they beat England 1-0 in the final on Sunday in Sydney, provoking outrage in Spain. He kissed other players on the cheek or embraced them.

"What we saw was an unacceptable gesture," Sanchez told a news conference when asked about the outcry over the unsolicited kiss.

"I also think the apologies given by Mr Rubiales are insufficient. And I even think that they are inappropriate, and that he must go further," added Sanchez, a Socialist politician whose government has pushed through tougher laws on sexual consent and harassment.

The RFEF announced later Tuesday that it would call an extraordinary general assembly on Friday "as a matter of urgency" to address the incident. As the controversy over the kiss grew, Rubiales apologised on Monday in a video posted on social media.

"It was done without any ill intention in a moment of the highest exuberance. Here we saw it as natural and normal but outside it has caused a commotion.

"I have no choice but to apologise and to learn from this... and when representing the federation take more care," he said, adding that he thought the furor was "idiotic". Rubiales also said he had a "magnificent relationship" with Hermoso.

- 'Didn't like it' -

On Sunday, the 33-year-old player posted a video on Instagram showing the celebrations in the changing room in which she responded to teasing from teammates by saying: "I didn't like it, eh!" while laughing.

She later played down the incident in a statement released by the federation, saying it was "a totally spontaneous mutual gesture because of the immense joy that winning a World Cup brings".

"The president and I have a great relationship. His behaviour with all of us has been outstanding and it was a natural gesture of affection and gratitude," she added, according to the federation statement.

Video footage circulated online after the match also showed Rubiales, who was sitting in the VIP area of the stadium, near Spain's Queen Letizia and FIFA president Gianni Infantino, grab his groin as he celebrated the final whistle.

Deputy Prime Minister Yolanda Diaz had on Monday called for Rubiales to resign, saying "his excuses do not work at all", while Equality Minister Irene Montero said a non-consensual kiss is "a kind of sex violence all women suffer daily".

"It is very simple. Two people kiss if they both want to, if there is consent. Only yes is yes," Montero added on social media.

AFP

80 North Korean athletes in Taekwondo world tournament

ASTANA

ABOUT 80 North Korean athletes have arrived for the Taekwondo World Tournament that is taking place in Kazakhstan, the first large-scale dispatch since the COVID-19 crisis.

The athletes and staff participating in the Taekwondo World Championships left the country by bus on August 16th and arrived in Dandong, Liaoning Province, China, which borders the country.

It was believed that they moved to Beijing by train and then headed to Kazakhstan by air on the 18th of this month. That was confirmed by several North Korean officials.

Since North Korea closed its borders in January 2020 as a measure against the novel coronavirus, it has postponed dispatching teams to major international sports competitions.

According to 'Tokyo Shimbon' it was then said that North Korea was planning to send 100 athletes to the world championships hosted by the International Taekwondo Federation (ITF).

According to officials, the real number confirmed is 80 people who arrived in Dandong and are taking part in the tournament. After staying at the North Korean Embassy in Beijing, they departed for Almaty in the southeastern part of Kazakhstan on the morning of the 18th, and arrived in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, before the opening ceremony on the 20th.

The tournament started on August 18th and will go on up to 26th.

With the dispatch of the athletes, North Korea seemed to plan to relax its strict immigration controls. The sponsoring ITF is an organization led by North Korea, and the administration was expected to display.

According to multiple North Korean officials, it was highly likely that the North Korean flag would be hoisted during the opening and closing ceremonies and medal awarding at the ITF World Championships in which North Korean athletes are participating.

(Agencies)

2023 World Cup was a 'turning point' for women's soccer. Now comes the real work

By Henry Bushnell

GIANNI Infantino frequently speaks like an old man who listens only to old men. He is not quite as brazen as his FIFA predecessor, the dinosaurian Sepp Blatter. But his rhetoric sometimes strays from puzzling to cringey to absurd.

On Friday, he went a step further, infuriating many with a quote that spread like wildfire, context be damned. Speaking at FIFA's second Women's Football Convention in Sydney, he told women to "pick the right battles, pick the right fights."

He urged them to "push" for equality in soccer, to "push" on FIFA's "doors."

"You have the power to do it," he said.

He never acknowledged that men, and he more so than anyone, have far more power and far more responsibility to right the historical wrongs that have suppressed women's soccer for decades.

And the most baffling part of his baffling sermon was that he and FIFA, despite this rhetorical lapse, have actually been doing plenty of pushing themselves.

He was speaking on Day 30 of a wildly successful Women's World Cup, a World Cup in which FIFA invested and from which FIFA reaped rewards. It smashed records and surpassed expectations. It changed players' lives and laymen's perceptions. It was the "paradigm shift" that Megan Rapinoe had predicted, a point of no return for the women's soccer rocketship, a \$570 million bonanza that foretold future profits and limitless growth.

"The numbers speak for themselves," Sarai Bareman, FIFA's chief women's football official, said in an emotional speech Saturday. "We've moved past potential. This tournament was a turning point. We've been talking about women's football as this cultural movement. And this year, we have felt a seismic shift in the way that people see the women's game."

Their biggest challenge, now, is to sustain that shift in the three-year, 10-month interim between World Cups, and to use this quadrennial showcase to ease the broader sport's growing pains rather than mask them.

"Yes, the World Cup is unbelievably special, but it is a bit of a bubble for some of these players; it's not their everyday experience," Sarah Gregorious, a director at FIFPRO, the global soccer players' union, said Friday.

Many of those everyday experiences are still unstable, riddled with hardships and sexism – both acute and systemic. And although FIFA can't remedy everything alone, it can help.

***The business case, investment**
Infantino's now-infa-



FIFA president Gianni Infantino and Queen Letizia of Spain hold the trophy as Spain's players celebrate on the podium after winning the 2023 Women's World Cup final. Agencies

mous speech was also full of back-patting. It was self-congratulatory, as if to solicit praise for FIFA's long-overdue women's soccer awakening.

FIFA, essentially, wants credit for cleaning up messes that its own neglect helped create. This branch of Infantino rhetoric irks some trailblazers who pushed for investment long before he did, before it became common sense.

And once again, the rhetoric actually undermines a new reality: FIFA seems to genuinely be doing good work.

Infantino isn't some visionary feminist. But he is a ruthless businessman hellbent on growing FIFA revenues, and he seemingly awoke to the business case for women's soccer last decade. He committed \$1 billion to development worldwide.

FIFA committed well over \$400 million to the 2023 World Cup, to everything from improved accommodations for players to increased marketing and promotion. It took a tournament previously bundled with the men's World Cup, essentially as a free add-on for broadcasters and sponsors, and began selling rights separately.

It charged down this new path with the express goal of monetizing women's soccer. And already, it is winning.

FIFA knew – because the women's game had long been oppressively underpromoted – that the returns on investment might not be immediate. Some people, Infantino said, warned him that a properly funded Women's World Cup might be a money-loser, to which he responded: "Well, if we have to subsidize, we'll subsidize."

"But actually," he said Friday at the close of the very first World Cup under FIFA's new women's soccer strategy, "this World Cup generated over \$570 million in revenues. And so we broke even. We didn't lose any money. And we generated the second highest income of any [single-sport world championship] – besides of course the men's World Cup – at a global stage."

The on-field product was also spectacular. The decision to expand to 32 teams was vindicated by the likes

of Jamaica, South Africa and Morocco. The games drew unprecedented interest everywhere from Europe to Vietnam to Colombia. And perhaps the most refreshing benefit of FIFA's investment was that the dominant storylines, at least for much of the month, weren't about inequities or grievances; they were about gripping soccer.

And in the process, the common sense became undeniable. FIFA clearly sees it. Wealthy American investors increasingly see it in the National Women's Soccer League.

The women's game can be lucrative. The problem is that, on all six continents, countless soccer officials (mostly men) still have their eyes closed.

Which is why South African players arrived at the World Cup in a fight with their soccer federation over bonus payments; and why Jamaican players had to launch a crowdfunding campaign to support their preparations; and why many others had to overcome abuse, the depths of which we'll likely never know.

"Players are performing in spite of the mistreatment by the national federations," Alex Culvin, FIFPRO's head of strategy and research, told Yahoo Sports. "That's the fact."

And while the hopeful view, which Bareman expressed Friday, is that full Australian stadiums and inescapable buzz will naturally spread the gospel, history suggests that arms will have to be twisted.

"I think this is where FIFA needs to do more," Rapinoe said back in June. "Yeah, you've done a lot [with the World

Cup], but your power goes beyond that – to mandate that these federations support their teams the way that they would support everybody for the men's World Cup."

"FIFA's role is the most important role," Culvin said. "Without their pressure, without their enforcement, without their kind of strategic vision for women's football ... [there are] member associations that maybe don't have the best intentions for their women's team." FIFA's imperative, she said, is "to really push them onto the next level."

***FIFA making strides, but accelerated growth of women's soccer is key**

Each of those member associations, the 211 national federations that comprise FIFA, gets funding from the global governing body via the FIFA Forward program. Its latest iteration promises \$5 million to each federation over the coming four years for operational costs, \$3 million "to execute well-planned, specific football projects" and up to \$1.2 million in other need-based assistance.

The difficult part, as exposed by the U.S. Department of Justice last decade, is tracking where all that money actually goes.

FIFA claims – and most evidence seems to support the assertion – that its much-improved auditing system has largely ensured that the money goes toward soccer, rather than into rich men's pockets.

Still, though, there are questions around what percentage of that money goes toward the women's game, and even concerns that World Cup

prize money won't reach players.

FIFA promised at least \$30,000 to every Women's World Cup player – and \$60,000 to each Round of 16 participant, with sums increasing round by round – but the idea that these would be direct payments was a bit deceiving.

Infantino admitted last month that they'd be made through the national associations, "and then the associations will of course make the relevant payments to their own players," he said.

But will they? Infantino has twice called it a "recommendation" rather than a mandate. "That kind of leaves a little bit of uncertainty for the players," Culvin, the FIFPRO head of strategy, said.

"But for us," Culvin continued, "there's been assurances that that money will go directly [to players]." If it doesn't, she said, "there should be consequences," and she's confident there would be.

"We're very very hopeful that the distribution will be to players in the way that it was guaranteed, 6-10 weeks after the tournament is finished."

Bareman, FIFA's women's soccer chief, told reporters in Sydney on Saturday that she "will personally be making sure that every dollar that gets paid that is for those players will end up in their bank accounts."

If it does, the \$30,000 alone will allow some players to subsidize meager club salaries and fully professionalize. (A recent FIFPRO survey of 362 international women's players found that 60% considered themselves semi-pros or

amateurs.)

The broader worry is that FIFA won't follow through on other commitments. It has talked about safeguarding but has often failed to protect players from abuse.

It has talked about bolstering women's club soccer with new competitions, but, as it prepares for a groundbreaking 32-team 2025 men's Club World Cup, the women's Club World Cup concept remains just that, a concept, as it has been for almost a decade.

When it goes beyond talking, when it executes strategies, this relatively progressive FIFA has done wonders for women's soccer – for the sport its FIFA ancestors neglected. The 2023 World Cup was shiny new evidence of that.

The 2027 World Cup – especially if co-hosted by the U.S. and Mexico – will surely be another extravaganza, and could be accompanied by equal pay.

But it's the interim, and the thousands of players who'll never reach a World Cup, that are equally important. It's important that FIFA fuels the growth of the club game, and works collaboratively at national and local levels to accelerate the sport's economic maturation.

"What's important for us at FIFPRO is that these conversations don't go away after [the World Cup final on] Sunday," Gregorious said.

"I want to make sure that everyone's still talking about the needs of these players and their rights come Monday, come September, come October, and into the years of the next Women's World Cup." (yahoosports)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

2023 World Cup was a 'turning point' for women's soccer. Now comes the real work

PAGE 19

Malawian midfielder wants out of Mbeya City FC

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MBEYA City FC's Malawian midfielder, Chimwemwe Idana, has asked the club to release him due to the team's failure to fulfill some of the contractual obligations.

Information from the club said the former Nyasa Big Bullets FC midfielder has, through his manager, asked to be released by the club he joined mid-last season.

The Malawian footballer joined Mbeya City FC on a one-and-a-half-year contract after leaving his former club but was loaned to another Malawi Premier League side- Silver Strikers.

A Mbeya City FC official who opted for anonymity said the player is unhappy with the club's failure to honour the contractual obligations.

However, the source said many players at the club are in a situation like that of Idana.

"I understand that our Malawian player has asked the club's management to release him, I'm told he is frustrated by the club's failure to honour the contractual obligations and I also think our relegation to the Championship League has compounded everything," the source noted.

The source, however, said Idana should have exercised patience as the club's management is looking for money to pay all outstanding debts it owes to players, technical panel, staff, and others.

The source further could not disclose contractual obligations that the club has failed to honour.

As per the world football governing body (FIFA)'s rules and regulations, a professional player can terminate a contract if his or her club fails to pay his/her salary for more than two months.

Mbeya City FC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Emmanuel Kimbe yesterday could not be reached for his comments on the situation.

Kimbe, however, was recently reported in local media saying that his club has outstanding debts to settle with many people including players.

Arusha wraps up preps for Open athletics trials

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Arusha Regional Athletics Association (ARAA) has said preparations for the Open Trials scheduled for Saturday at Sheikh Amri Abeid Memorial Stadium are in place, with more than 300 athletes ready to battle it out in the races.

Anthony Mwingereza, ARAA Technical Head, said they have extended an invitation to all districts in the region and neighbouring regions to send athletes to the event.

The official pointed out the races are, among others, set to be used to select athletes scheduled to represent Arusha in the National Championships slated for next month in Morogoro.

Mwingereza said the track and field event will involve 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 3000m, and 5000m events, as well as long jump, javelin, and throw.

The leader noted: "Arusha has a tradition where we organize open trials, this is the fourth time this year that we are organizing the Open Trials."

"We aim to keep our athletes ready for both local and international events, as well as spot new athletics talents, I'm happy that all preparations for the Saturday Open trials are ready," he said.

The body will, this Saturday, embark on a regional talent identification exercise to scout athletes set to represent it in various competitions.

The Saturday trials are the fourth to have taken place this year, with Mwingereza disclosing the region is geared to maintain its status as the center of athletics in the country by producing top athletes with what it takes to represent the country well at international events.

Arusha is regarded as the hub of athletics in the country as many top local athletes either hail from or reside in the region, the athletes include Felix Simbu, Gabriel Geay, Emanuel Giniki, and others.

Minziro praises Prisons' tactical discipline in draw with Singida Fountain Gate FC



Tanzania Prisons' midfielder, Salum Kimenya (C), challenges Singida Fountain Gate FC's midfielder, Marouf Tchakei, in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League clash that took place at Liti Stadium in Singida on Tuesday and culminated in a 0-0 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SINGIDA FOUNTAIN GATE FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA Prisons' head coach Fred Felix Kataraiya 'Minziro' says his biggest takeaway from the club's goalless draw with Singida Fountain Gate FC in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League encounter played on Tuesday was his side's tactical discipline.

Speaking after the game, Minziro was all praise for his side's commitment and tactical play against their expensively assembled opponents who had 10 foreigners in their lineup.

Minziro said: "I said earlier that Singida Fountain Gate FC has a good team. They have

made good signings and I have seen them play many matches, it is a squad that plays as a team, they are certainly very good in the midfield and flanks."

Though Singida Fountain Gate FC was the dominant side, Minziro insists the hosts were not able to hurt

them despite enjoying that much ball possession as their actual game plan was to allow them to play on their side.

The Prisons' tactician noted: "The crucial thing we did was to let them play the ball from the back, whenever they attempted to cross

the middle of the pitch we could see them."

"It is something that has helped us because I can say that my boys had tactical discipline, we have succeeded in that," he disclosed.

Minziro revealed: "The match was good and very competitive. I said ear-

lier, if our boys do what we have instructed them in the way we saw them, then we should expect to see a good match, that's what every one has seen today."

He added: "The tactical discipline of the game is a very important thing, especially for our players from this region. Many players lack tactical discipline and I used to explain that to my boys."

The tactician stated: "In these fixtures, we meet Singida, Simba SC, and Tabora United. They are all good teams and all four matches are crucial games, we must fight for either one or three points."

The gaffer, who had also worked for Mbao FC, Geita Gold FC, and JKT Ruvu, was not happy to settle for a point in his first game of the season hinting at the injustice of a disallowed goal that should have handed them victory.

Minziro revealed: "We have not succeeded in the first game, perhaps the goal scored by Jeremiah (Juma) from the cross, I think you will see for yourself in the replays if it is offside, so let's leave it to the referees to decide the game."



Bulls soccer team's player Talki Seif (C) seeks to outfox Toangoma Youth soccer team's players as they faced each other in a friendly tie at Mikocheni ground in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

Simbu arrives in Budapest for 2023 WA Championships

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN marathoner, Alphonse Simbu, has arrived in Budapest, Hungary ahead of the 2023 World Athletics Championships' marathon scheduled for August 27.

The showdown commenced on August 19 and will climax on Sunday, as the sole Tanzania envoy is set to tussle for the gold medal.

Simbu is among the seasonal runners, with his personal best record having been achieved in Osaka, Japan after clocking 2:06:19 in February- improving by a second from last April's record of 2:06:20 he clocked in the

Milan Marathon in Italy.

The marathoner, moreover, recorded 1:01:00 in a 21km showdown held in Yangzhou, China in April this year.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) has expressed confidence in Simbu that he will proudly represent the country in the World Athletics Championships in Hungary.

Simbu will compete in the marathon as compatriot Gabriel Geay, who also secured qualifying marks for the showpiece, has opted to skip it, focusing on other races including the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Jackson Ndaweka, AT secretary-general, said: "I can say that Simbu

is in good shape ahead of the events and I believe he will record the best results."

The official noted: "He will take part in the World Athletics Championships in the marathon category this Sunday. We have high hopes for Simbu to achieve success, and we believe he will return home with a medal."

According to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and World Athletics (WA), a male marathoner must record 2:08:10, while a female athlete ought to clock 2:26:50.

"The body initially planned for him to leave on August 14 so that he could participate in the opening ceremony,

but he asked to arrive there three days before and, if he ever does, it should be three weeks before the competition so that he can get used to the weather," he said.

Simbu had intensive training in Arusha where he camps for the majority of preparations ahead of international competitions.

The Budapest event is the 19th edition, according to the history of the World Athletics Championships.

The city of Budapest had previously shown interest in hosting the 2007 WA event but withdrew and it was eventually held in Osaka

Flexibles by David Chikoko

