



INDIA DAY 77

INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE 2024

HE. Mr Bishwadip Dey, High Commissioner of India to Tanzania

2024 Independence Day Message: India's journey towards a vibrant, self-reliant, and resilient nation is a source of inspiration for all. As we celebrate 77 years of independence, we reaffirm our commitment to peace, development, and progress. India's growth and progress are a testament to the resilience and spirit of its people. We look forward to strengthening our ties with Tanzania and contributing to the development and progress of the African continent.

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78th Day 2024

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Ministry, posts now get 12.3m house addresses

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

POSTAL authorities have collected residential address data for 12.3m households nationwide.

Nicholaus Mkapa, the Information, Communication, and Information Technology deputy permanent secretary, made this affirmation here yesterday at the opening of a residential address verification exercise for Arusha Region.

"So far, through the residential address operation, we have collected data for upwards of 12.3m households across the country," he said, noting that the exercise is based on the National Postal Policy of 2003.

It also related to regional and international agreements of the African and World Postal Union organisations to which Tanzania is a member, and stipulated in the 2020/2025 CCM election manifesto, he stated.

The government has prepared a strategy to verify data in all districts, with the intent to build capacity of executives, council chairmen, alongside ward and street officials to conduct the exercise.

So far 31 local authorities have been covered, 19 on the Mainland and 11 in Zanzibar,



Through this operation, Arusha Region has been able to collect information and provide a total of 442,912 residential addresses

where over 2.3m address records were updated, registering over 500,000 new addresses and training 6,621 exercise conductors, he specified.

Even with these achievements, the government plans to purchase 3,422 tablets for local officials this financial year, crucial for their being able to perform their primary duties. These include registering new addresses, updating information and issuing identification letters through the system, he said.

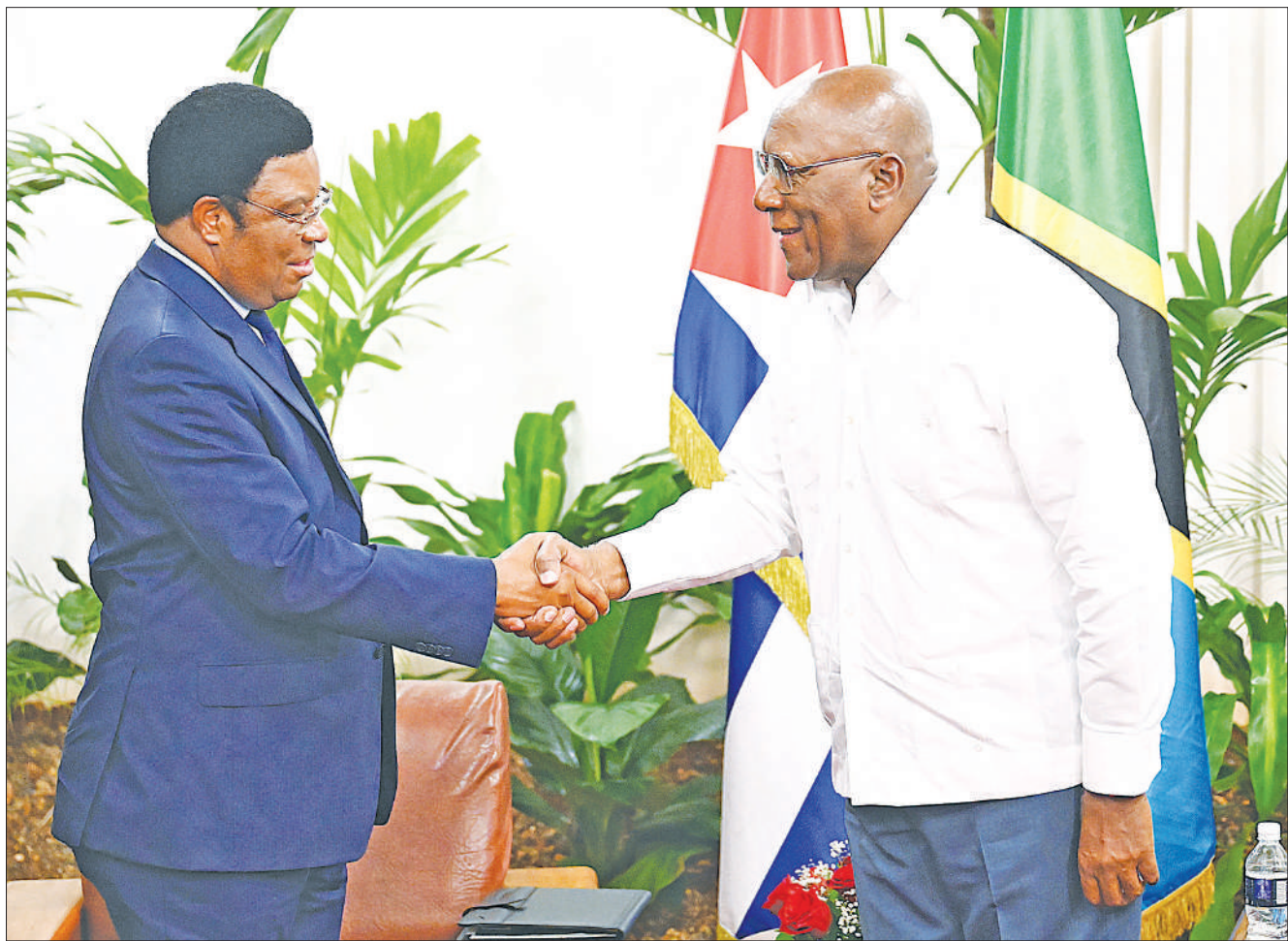
David Lyamongi, the acting regional administrative secretary, stated that participants in the meeting included street chairmen, ward executives, district officials and municipal council department heads.

Officials will undergo two days of training and ten days of fieldwork for the data verification exercise covering the city council, Longido, Monduli, Karatu and Ngorongoro districts.

The RAS praised ministerial work in effectively managing this process and visiting the region to conduct verification in six local authorities at once.

Mulembwa Munaku, the ministry's director of communications, said that the operation is intended to ensure that every citizen is identifiable where services are to be delivered, whether at their residence, office, or trading

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa greets Cuban Vice President Salvador Valdes Mesa as he arrived for talks at the VP's Revolutionary Square offices in the Cuban capital of Havana yesterday. Photo: PMO

Indonesia, EAC examining preferential trade accord

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

PREPARATIONS are being laid for negotiating a preferential trade agreement between the East African Community partner states and Indonesia.

Indonesian ambassador Tri Yogo Jatmiko, the resident plenipotentiary also accredited to the EAC partner states said here yesterday that EAC countries were exporting goods valued at \$117m to Indonesia while importing consignments nearing \$600m from the Far East country.

With the broadened EAC after admitting the DRC, South Sudan and Somalia, the EAC is capable of seeking an improved preferential trade agreement with Indo-



Indonesian investors have lately signed an agreement to build a fertilizer factory that will use available natural gas as a key raw material

nesia as it offers a tangible market, also redresses what experts see as an unfavourable balance of trade.

The envoy paid a courtesy visit to the East African Business Council here yesterday, conferring with Adrian Njau, the EABC acting executive director, where the envoy noted that 60 percent of Indonesia's trade is conducted within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), while Africa accounts for only 4 percent of its external transactions.

Indonesia is the 15th largest economy globally, the largest in ASEAN and a member of the G20, also having a large market of 280m people with above-average earn-

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Buyers can participate in stocks even with 10,000/-

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PARTICIPATION in Timiza Fund stock trading has been diminished from 1m/- to 10,000/- starting point by the Capital Markets and Securities Au-

thority (CMSA).

Charles Shirima, the CMSA public relations and education manager, made note of this change at an open media briefing here yesterday explaining that CMSA approved lowering the amount

as an important step for encouraging the participation of investors from different cadres including low-income earners.

The policy and guidelines for investment in Timiza Fund is that cash mobi-

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Bus crew must now train for customer care with NIT, CBE

By Getrude Mbago

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) will stop operations of any long-distance bus operators who will not have sent their bus crew for customer care training before the end of this year.

Salum Pazy (pictured), the LATRA head of public relations and communications, said operators of upcountry buses and plying routes to neighbouring countries have a grace period of up to December to take the staff for training, for them to be identified and registered by the regulator.

He told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that from January 1, 2025, LATRA will enforce strict regulations prohibiting the use of unregistered staff for long-distance transportation services.

The measure is taken pursuant to Regulation 17 of its 2020 guidelines on driver certification and the registration of commercial vehicle staff, anyone intending to work in a commercial transport vehicle must be registered.

"Before being registered, the staff need to undergo training to have a wider understanding of the rules and regulations, hence facilitating safe and comfortable journeys," he stated.

"We announced this regulation last year and instructed bus owners to ensure that they send their staff in the selected colleges



The goal is to ensure that all transport service providers nationwide receive the necessary training to improve service provision and facilitate comfortable journeys

for training," he said, noting that some have already done so but many others are yet to do so.

"This is very serious and after the grace period, we will ensure that no bus operates without having trained and certified staff including service givers of all sorts," he said.

Advantages of staff registration include formalising the profession and actual employment of transport staff, improving accountability in service delivery "and fostering a sense of unity among the staff," he said.

"These people are very important in the transportation sector, they are the ones who work to ensure that the vehicles are clean and well arranged for the passengers to enjoy smooth travel while supporting passengers in various important services," he elaborated, insisting that "it is important to equip them with the required skills to facilitate provision of quality services."

Long-distance bus operators need to direct their staff to receive training at the National Institute of Transport (NIT) and the College of Business Education (CBE), where

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spot.

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lised from investors will be invested in capital markets, including listed equities, Treasury bonds and corporate bonds, he said.

He affirmed that investment in capital markets has increased significantly in the past few weeks compared to how it stood earlier, with the growth boost tied to recent financial sector initiatives.

These include the implementation of Treasury plans and strategies resulting in positive uptake of financial sector offerings in capital markets, he said, pointing at having more institutions now willing to invest in capital markets.

New records show that investment values attained 43.4trn/- as of the end of April, from 35.2trn/- recorded end of April 2023.

Sales of shares and bonds went up by 64.5 percent to 4.2trn/- by April, from 2.5trn/- over the same period last year, meanwhile, the val-

ue of collective investment schemes rose by 44.7 percent, reaching 2.1trn/- during the year, from 1.4trn/- recorded in April 2023, he stated.

A new entrant, Timiza Fund, has boosted this category of investments, as it is aimed at enabling micro, small and medium-scale investors to collectively mobilise funds for investing.

They also benefit from opportunities in the financial sector tied with capital markets, he said, noting that the fund, run by Zan Securities Ltd as the fund manager has selected Mwangi Hakika Bank as its custodian

In its specific objectives the fund is geared to empower different cadres of the population including the youth, women and special groups to benefit from financial sector services, building the culture of saving and investing, to enabling individuals to take up economic opportunities, he asserted.

Bus crew must now train for customer care with NIT, CBE

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upon completion of the training, staff should apply to LATRA for a special registration card, he specified.

LATRA has also introduced special awards to recognise excellent and safe service providers in the long-distance and cross-border bus services. This initiative aims to motivate service providers to deliver high-quality and safe services, he suggested.

Dr Nasibu Mramba, the CBE acting deputy rector, said the short courses under the Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) programme covers laws, regulations and ethics related to

passenger transport, safety and emergency response.

They also address health and safety issues, particularly in cases where passengers fall ill or face other problems during travel, he said, with a note of relief that the training lasts seven days and includes practical sessions. Successful participants receiving certificates for LATRA registration, he said.

Honest Msaki, the NIT training coordinator, said that they have trained over 500 service providers across various regions. The goal is to ensure that all transport service providers nationwide receive the necessary training to improve service provision and facilitate comfortable journeys, she added.

China a reliable partner for Ethiopia's technology development - officials

ADDIS ABABA

CHINA is a reliable partner offering "invaluable support" in Ethiopia's scientific development, senior Ethiopian officials have said before the upcoming 2024 summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

State Minister of Innovation and Technology Bayissa Bedada said recently that China has been a reliable partner for Ethiopia in its move to create a knowledge-based economy through promoting science, technology and innovation.

"We have enjoyed a robust bilateral relationship with China for several years marked by joint research development projects, technology transfer, people-to-people exchanges, the establishment of laboratories, and other initiatives," said Bedada.

The minister said China has also been supporting Ethiopia in establishing research institutions, building industrial and technology parks as well as promoting incubation centers.

"We are interested in further promoting joint research and development, focusing on areas of agriculture, industry, emerging sciences, bio-technology, and space science," said Bedada.

Belete Molla, Ethiopia's minister of innovation and technology, said that Ethiopian students and researchers who received scholarships in China are "critically" supporting the country's development in science and technology.

"If we talk about science, technol-

ogy innovations, research and digitalization, there is no better country which we can learn from other than China. China is at the frontline in technological and scientific advancement," Molla said.

The minister said Ethiopia has drawn a great deal of lessons from China's scientific and technological aspirations as well as policies and strategies.

Molla voiced hope for increased support from China in such areas as technology transfer, talent development and space science development, adding that Ethiopia will continue promoting good relations with the Asian country.

Simenew Keskes, a technology advisor to Ethiopia's Ministry of Innovation and Technology, said that people-to-people exchanges with China will play a pivotal role in driving innovation, building technological capacity and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

"Through partnerships with esteemed institutions and organizations in China, we have laid strong foundations for collaborative initiatives that facilitate the exchange of expertise, best practices and cutting-edge technologies," Keskes said.

"We have enjoyed a robust bilateral relationship with China for several years marked by joint research development projects, technology transfer, people-to-people exchanges, the establishment of laboratories, and other initiatives"



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi speaks with the UK 'Banks Without Borders' delegation led by Matteo Scalabrino at the State House yesterday. Photo: State House

Indonesia, EAC examining preferential trade accord

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ings among middle-income countries.

Improving direct connectivity to East Africa will strengthen trade ties and engagements between businesses, he said, underlining that Indonesia is committed to diversifying its sources of imports and advancing its economy by enhancing manufacturing output and expanding global trade ties.

EAC's top exports to Indonesia in 2023 were cocoa beans (\$90.9m),

processed tobacco (\$15m) along with lamb meat and hides (\$3.4m), while the main imports from Indonesia include palm oil (\$285.54m), paper (\$59.6m), semi-finished iron products (\$43m), bulldozers and graders (\$25.7m) and machinery (\$10m), he explained.

"There is a growing interest in trade and investment between EAC and Indonesia. An economic agreement would provide preferential tariffs and open the Indone-

sian market to EAC products such as wheat, soybeans, rice, vegetables, cocoa beans, and food preparations," the director noted.

In 2023, Indonesia's total imports of wheat amounted to \$3.8bn, soybeans \$1.5bn, rice 1.7bn, vegetables at \$743m, cocoa beans at \$732m and prepared foods at \$701m.

Indonesian investors have lately signed an agreement to build a fertilizer factory that will use available natural gas as a key raw

material.

The EABC is committed to partnering with business associations in Indonesia to promote trade and investment ties through joint exhibitions, conferences and business missions, he said.

Other areas of discussion included agriculture and agro-processing, education and capacity building, tourism and cultural exchange, technology transfer as well as business and advocacy support, he added.



A team from the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), under the Indian Ministry of Defence led by Group Captain Jai Kishan (3rd L), showcasing the country's longest national flag stretching 7,800 square feet to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, which they took to the peak of the Mount Kilimanjaro as part of celebrating 78 years of India's independence. Photo: John Badi

Nigeria unveils action plan to combat elephant poaching

ABUJA

THE Nigerian government has unveiled a national action plan to combat the illegal trade and poaching of elephants, a move aimed at strengthening wildlife conservation measures in Africa's most populous country.

The National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP), designed as a tool for planning and monitoring elephant conservation measures, will also serve as a framework for the strategies and decision-making of all relevant government institutions, donor

agencies, and non-governmental organizations, Minister of State for Environment Izaq Salako said during the unveiling of the document in the national capital of Abuja.

"Elephants are special creatures whose demonstration of the finest human traits like self-awareness, intelligence, and empathy is unmatched among the animal kingdom. It is common knowledge that threats to our biodiversity and, indeed, our iconic wildlife species of global significance such as elephants are becoming endemic in Nigeria," Salako said while describ-

ing the NEAP as "another giant step" in the determination to protect Nigeria's natural resources and wildlife.

The official said this step will reverse the current negative trend of wildlife poaching while securing the preservation and conservation of the country's rich biodiversity, with a focus on elephants.

Salako noted that Nigeria is one of relatively few African countries where forest and savannah elephants are found, adding that both are now being depleted.

According to him, the elephant population has declined over the

years, often due to ivory demand, habitat loss, and human-wildlife conflicts.

In many cultures, elephants have proved to be a veritable source of livelihood sustenance, especially through ecotourism, the Nigerian official said.

"Elephants are part of our history and heritage in Nigeria and the world-famous culture. They are critical ecosystem engineers, forest gardeners, and seed dispersers supporting the growth of flora and fauna and fostering biodiversity," he added.

Call for joint efforts to address water woes at health facilities

By Correspondent Beatrice Shayo

WATER stakeholders have called for increased joint efforts to address the ongoing water access and supply challenges facing public health facilities.

Ana Mzinga, WaterAid Tanzania Director, made the observation in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of the organisation's strategic plan involving stakeholders in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) area.

She said that the challenges predominantly affect women who are the primary users of health facilities, especially in matters related to maternal and child health.

"We have witnessed that some health facilities haven't been reached with water and sanitation services. This is a problem that can be addressed collectively, which is why we have decided to initiate a strategic plan to identify areas where we can improve water services, particularly in health facilities and schools," she said.

The non-governmental organisation carries out its duties in collaboration with the government to reach people in various parts of the country with services for clean and safe water, improved toilets and safe environments for hygiene and personal cleanliness.

Mzinga said they support the government's efforts to relieve women of the burden of searching for water.

However, she noted that access to a reliable home water supply has not yet reached 100 percent.

"Our plan involves investing in research and monitoring priority areas to take water services, and a key aspect here is to connect stakeholders to collaboratively execute the strategy," she said.

In her presentation, Christina Mhando, head of policy and advocacy at WaterAid, said that by 2021, there will be approximately 8,549 health facilities, including 7,200 dispensaries, with 74 percent being government-owned.

She noted that nearly half of the facilities lack piped water, and even those connected to piped systems do not always have a reliable water supply.

"Up to 44 percent of doctors' rooms and 42 percent of maternity

rooms lack hand-washing facilities, which are essential for maintaining cleanliness among healthcare providers," she said.

"The situation affects frontline workers such as nurses, midwives and women in childbirth as well as patients," she said.

Dr Hamis Kigwangalla, Nzega Rural legislator, urged WASH stakeholders to work closely with the government to implement policies and plans that improve water and sanitation services in communities.

According to him, despite Tanzania having good policies and plans, implementation remains a challenge.

"We have well-educated professionals who develop excellent plans but we struggle with execution," he said.

Robert Mgema, a nurse and midwife at Msanga Health Centre in Kisarawe District, Coast Region, shared that they previously faced challenges in getting water at the facility which forced people, especially women to bring their own water from home.

He expressed gratitude for receiving a water project from WaterAid, which has significantly improved the quality of services for women in a better environment.

"The presence of enough water in health facilities is crucial for providing quality services. Without adequate water, patients face many challenges, including the risk of infections," he said.



Our plan involves investing in research and monitoring priority areas to take water services, and a key aspect here is to connect stakeholders to collaboratively execute the strategy

CCM wants thorough evaluation to bar incompetent contractors

By Henry Mwangonde, Sengerema

CCM has asked the Ministry of Works to enhance the vetting process for contractors handling road projects nationwide to ensure quality.

The call follows the government's termination of a contract with a contractor who failed to build the Nyeunge-Buchosa road to the required tarmac standard.

CCM Secretary-General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi made the call yesterday while addressing Buchosa residents on his way to Sengerema in Mwanza Region.

He stated that proper vetting could have prevented the construction issues.

"I ask the Ministry of Works to improve contractor evaluations to confirm their competence. They should not be treated as experiments; proper vetting would have ensured project completion," he said.

"Check their track records as some have left a trail of failures and are now seeking refuge here."

CCM Secretary for Ideology, Publicity and Training, Amos Makalla, noted that construction of the road was scheduled to begin in August last year. However, due to the contractor's delays, no progress was made by November.

"When I was the regional commissioner for Mwanza, I advised the Ministry of Works to remove the contractor due to incompetence," he said.

"We needed a capable replacement to expedite the work, a decision made in the best interest of Buchosa residents and Mwanza Region."

Earlier, Deputy Minister for

Works Godfrey Kasekenya said that the contractor, who was responsible for constructing the 54.3-kilometre road at 73bn/- was also tasked with building a road in Kyela District in Mbeya Region but proved incapable.

"Following these issues, the government decided to terminate their contract. We are in the process of concluding this termination and will seek a new contractor," he said.

Regarding the Kome ferry, Kasekenya said that the previous ferry had a capacity of 40 tonnes of cargo and six vehicles.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan ordered the construction of a new ferry with a capacity of 170 tonnes and 22 vehicles, with the project currently at 66 percent.

Buchosa legislator Erick Shigongo said that the government has allocated 63b/- for development projects in the area over the past three years.



I ask the Ministry of Works to improve contractor evaluations to confirm their competence. They should not be treated as experiments; proper vetting would have ensured project completion



A cross section of Handeni District councillors review reports via handsets on the fourth quarter of 2023/24 at a meeting yesterday. Photo Cheji Bakari

By Guardian Reporter

Dar, Beijing to enhance trade relations in livestock, fisheries

TANZANIA and China have agreed to enhance trade relations in the areas of livestock, fisheries and related products for mutual development.

Abdallah Ulega, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after a meeting with Yu Jianhua, the Chinese head of the General Administration of Customs.

He said the two discussed ways to further improve cooperation and expand more business opportunities between the two countries to stimulate change.

Ulega stated that their meeting builds on the discussions between President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Chinese President Xi Jinping, where several commercial issues between the two nations were addressed.

The minister noted that the potential for trade in livestock and fisheries products in China remains substantial, and they will continue to explore every opportunity to promote business to boost the

economy for both the country and its individuals.

He added that through ongoing meetings, he hopes both countries will continue to address commercial challenges and enhance cooperation with greater methods and strength, ensuring mutual benefits for both sides.

Minister Ulega further explained that to ensure Tanzanian livestock is trusted globally; a major vaccination

campaign is planned across the country to prevent diseases and improve the quality of livestock for both domestic and international markets.

Yu said that the demand for fish and meat products in the Asian country was high, emphasizing the importance of strengthening commercial cooperation between the two nations to capitalize on the opportunities.



Glory Uisso, a Treasury economist, speaks with Ruangwa District residents in Lindi Region yesterday, at the end of a financial literacy seminar organised by the Ministry of Finance, with topics like saving, loans and investments. Photo: Ministry of Finance

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

UN Women for continued dialogue to eradicate GBV

UN Women has highlighted the urgent need to create a nationwide system that fosters community discussions to prevent and finally eradicate harassment and violence.

Lucy Tesha, specialist for the UN Women Programme - Ending Violence against Women (EVAW), made the remarks yesterday while speaking to students at the Makunduchi Vocational Training Centre in Unguja South Region.

Tesha pointed out that many individuals, particularly girls and children, often hide their experiences of violence and harassment due to fear and intimidation.

She noted that threats and a lack of courage to report such incidents contribute to their silence.

"The aim of the training for

technical college students is to create a social order to prevent cruelty and abuse. This is because these students, once they leave school, may enter the workforce where they could encounter various forms of violence and harassment. So, it is crucial to be prepared to prevent and eliminate these issues," she said.

Yahya Rashid Abdul, programme officer at the Zanzibar Vocational Training Authority, said that they plan to extend education beyond vocational students to other community members, including motor vehicle drivers

and riders as well as conductors to combat harassment and violence effectively.

He said that there are still challenges within the community, such as reluctance to stand witness and provide evidence in gender-based violence (GBV) cases, which results in perpetrators not being punished.

"There is still a challenge within the society, which is why, at the end, perpetrators of these cases are often released and not held accountable because some victims refuse to provide evidence in court when required," he said.

Rajab Bahorea, a dormitory supervisor at the Makunduchi Vocational Training Centre, said that education on harassment is crucial for students to avoid situations that could lead to experiencing or committing such acts.

Despite the efforts of activists, civil society organizations, the government and international agencies, gender-based violence remains a significant issue in Zanzibar.

According to the government's statistician general, there were 174 GBV cases in June, with 78.7 percent of the victims being children.

Rights activists want intra-party level playing field ahead of polls

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) has challenged leaders of political parties to improve internal systems to promote increased participation of women in the upcoming elections.

Rogathie Loakazi, Programme Officer, Policy Advocacy and Movement Building at TGNP threw the challenge in Dar es Salaam yesterday in a meeting that brought together political party representatives at district and ward levels in Dar es Salaam.

She said that political parties as a gateway to becoming leaders have a big role in ensuring there is a conducive environment that enables women to participate in elections not only as voters but also as candidates.

The officer said that currently, there is a big gap between women and men contesting in election races, adding that more efforts are needed to bring transformation.

She said that in the Parliament seat, it was only 37 percent while in the local government seats the number does not exceed 3 percent.

"We need to see political parties take more initiatives ahead of polls by creating an environment that can be friendlier to women to contest," she said.

Loakazi said that Tanzania ratified international conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), therefore, political parties need to work hard to end discrimination in all stages of the election process.

She said that political parties should consider gender equality and economic empowerment for women to compete against men.

Furthermore, political parties must show their readiness to fight against fraud and corruption.

Academics meet to enhance China-Africa cultural exchange, mutual learning plans

KAMPALA

ACADEMICS from Uganda's Makerere University and several Chinese institutions, including Xiangtan University, have gathered in the Ugandan capital of Kampala for a two-day conference focused on enhancing cultural exchange and mutual understanding between China and Africa.

Buyinza Mukadasi, speaking on behalf of Makerere University's vice chancellor, noted that the conference held on Monday coincides with the 10th anniversary of the Confucius Institute at Makerere University.

Established jointly by Xiangtan University and Makerere University and inaugurated in December 2014, the institute has served as a key platform for cultural exchange, bridging the gap between China and Uganda and promoting global citizenship.

During the conference, scholars will discuss and share research on language, literature, and cultural exchanges between Chinese and African people.

Pan Biling, president of Xiangtan University, addressed the conference via video link, highlighting Xiangtan's significant role in trade, cultural exchanges, and technical cooperation between China and Africa, as well as China and Uganda.

Pan emphasized that deepening cooperation between China and Africa could lead to significant progress in addressing global issues such as poverty reduction, welfare improvement, environmental enhancement, and the protection of cultural diversity.

Chinese Ambassador to Uganda Zhang Lizhong remarked that people-to-people exchanges have been crucial in strengthening bilateral relations. Since the establishment of the Confucius Institute at Makerere University, about 68 Chinese teachers have come to Uganda, training over 20,000 Ugandans in Mandarin and 177 local Mandarin teachers.

"Bridges are built that bring our people and hearts closer," said Zhang, noting that cooperation in education, healthcare, and

calling for more women to contest in the coming local government elections.

ACT-Wazalendo Party Leader Dorothy Semu promised to bring transformation in the outfit to move away patriarchal system by ensuring it comes up with the best gender policy.

Semu said that women have what it takes to be leaders but must take action to compete against men to attain the 50-50 ratio, adding that in the coming local government election, there will be over 180 posts up for grabs.

According to her, women contesting in and outside their political parties must be given a chance to realize the 50-50 proportion.

TGNP Executive Director Lilian Liundi said that women's participation was a development issue, adding that without involving them, it will not be easy to realize development goals.

She cited the 2022 Population and Housing Census (PHC) statistics which show that the number of women is more than 61 percent, necessitating the importance of investing in women.

"Women's involvement in politics and other developmental issues is significant and there is no way to escape it," she said.



We need to see political parties take more initiatives ahead of polls by creating an environment that can be friendlier to women to contest



Dar es Salaam residents who turned up at the three-day free health screening camp at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam receive services of specialists from medical facilities run by the Khoja Shia Ithnasheri community yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Chunya District turns to collective farming in bid to surge production

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

AUTHORITIES in Chunya District, Mbeya Region, have allocated 52,000 acres of land to facilitate collective farming of various crops, including cash crops to boost production and the economy.

Paul Rugodisha, Chunya District Agriculture Officer, said this during a recent meeting to evaluate performance of just completed Farmers' Exhibition (Nanene).

He said that the farms have been allocated in Nkung'ungu, Lualaje

and Mapogoro villages within the district which has large areas suitable for agriculture.

He said the land was designated following the government's introduction of the Building a Better Tomorrow: Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) programme.

Rugodisha said that the council was collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture to prepare land for distribution to farmers who will grow a variety of crops.

"We have started with Mapogoro Village which covers 27,000 acres.

The land has been officially allocated with joint title deeds between our council and the ministry, and soil health tests are complete. We are now ready to begin distribution of the same to farmers," he said.

Chunya District Commissioner Mbaraka Batanga encouraged investors to explore opportunities in agriculture within the district, citing favourable investment conditions.

He highlighted the district's climate as ideal for growing a range of food and cash crops.

Batanga said that Chunya is one

of the major producers of tobacco, ranking third in production in the country.

"Our area supports the growth of many crops, including tobacco, maize, beans, peanuts and sesame. Investors should be confident in their decisions to come here as we will offer them full support," he said.

In addition to agriculture, Batanga also noted that the district holds substantial gold reserves and welcomed investors interested in mining to consider investment opportunities in this sector.



Peter Nalitolela (R), the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange chief executive officer pays a courtesy visit to Nicodemus Mkama, CEO for the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) where they discussed institutional collaboration in driving market growth and innovation. They also expressed commitment to enhance transparency, foster investor confidence and create new opportunities in local financial markets. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

COMESA experts convene to promote leather sector

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

EXPERTS from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) met in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi on Tuesday to discuss ways to promote the region's leather sector.

The two-day COMESA workshop on validation of regional leather value chain strategy brought together more than 100 participants, including United Nations officials, senior government officials, and industry practitioners from the 21-member economic bloc

in a bid to transform the sector by adding value to leather and leather products.

In his opening remarks, Juma Mukhwana, principal secretary in the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, said in a speech read on his behalf by Nobby Macharia, director of agro-industries, that Kenya was fully committed to ensuring that the leather value chain is developed to maximize benefits to the COMESA region.

"The leather sector is one of the anchors of the COMESA industrialization strategy," Macharia

said.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya exported an estimated 2.2 billion shillings (about \$17.06 million) worth of leather products in 2023.

Nicholas Mudungwe, executive director of COMESA's Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute, said the trading bloc cumulatively produces about \$3 billion worth of leather products annually, while importing another 2 billion dollars from the rest of the world.

Mudungwe noted that increased investment in adding value to raw

leather could generate more than \$30 billion annually for the trading bloc. Bereket Alemayehu, a trade policy expert at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, said COMESA countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia can leverage their large cattle population to become regional hubs for the export of leather products.

He added that capacity building of value chain players can help enhance the quality and productivity of the leather sector, leading to enhanced earnings from the industry.

Anti-sextortion coalition up in arms against law amendment

By Correspondent Mary Kadoko

THE Anti-Sextortion Coalition in Tanzania has called for an amendment of the proposed Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act section 10(b) saying it goes against section 25 of the law to prevent sex corruption.

The coalition that engages approximately 200 organisations from the community to the national level was involved in the feasibility analysis of the initial proposals for the amendment of the law and gave its recommendations to the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

Mary Ndato, a coalition member, said this at a press conference held at Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, noting that the addition of article 10(b) allows a person to offer sexual favour or any other favour to another person in a position of power to exercise their authority in giving employment, promotion or any preferential treatment.

Also, upon conviction, an offender shall be liable to a fine of not less than 2m/- but not exceeding 10m/- or to imprisonment for a term not less than five years but not exceeding ten years or both. The coalition is of the view that this penalty is lenient.

"We recommend that Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act section 25 remains as it is and continues to be used because it is self-sufficient without discriminating by considering a criminal as female or male. The parliament should not pass these changes because their role is to make laws, protect rights and not make laws to protect criminals," she said.

"Despite awareness of sextortion and its effects on vulnerable groups, we are shocked by the continued neglect of our recommendations: to delete additional article 25(b) which deprives the victim of their rights, and instead add article 10(b) that justifies continuing the abuse

of power by condemning the victim of sexual corruption as a method to silence them and trivialize the fight against sexual corruption is not acceptable."

She also highlighted that if the Parliament ignores their demands, they will appeal to President Samia Suluhu Hassan not to accept the changes based on their implications for the nation's growth and development.

According to her, sexual corruption has effects on the victim including; robbing their dignity, deprives opportunities to develop their talents, and giving privileged positions to those with meritorious qualities.

Sexual corruption affects the national economy to a great extent, where it causes misuse of human resources, thus weakening efforts to fight poverty; it undermines the nation's dignity by turning rights into privileges contrary to work ethics and international and regional laws prohibiting acts of sexual corruption.

Dr Ave Maria Semakafu, a coalition member, said sextortion awareness and its effects on university students have helped them attain their rights, arguing that passing the bill would automatically deprive them of their rights.

“We recommend that Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act section 25 remains as it is and continues to be used because it is self-sufficient without discriminating by considering a criminal as female or male

TRA designates Thursday for addressing traders' concerns

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

COMMISSIONER General of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Yusuph Mwenda has announced that Thursday will henceforth be designated as a special day for the taxman to address the concerns of businesspeople across the country.

Mwenda unveiled this here yesterday when speaking to businesspersons on the importance of paying taxes as a legal requirement for advancing national development.

In that regard, he appealed to the business community to utilize the opportunity effectively by giving their complaints and views on better ways the authority should serve them.

"We have been directed to work with you and therefore let us be together in solving problems so that businesses can grow and raise taxes," he said.

Mwenda who was appointed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in July this year to head the authority, noted that he will manage it in such a way that paying tax becomes simpler.

"We are going to put in place a new system as per directives of the government where challenges facing businesspersons will come to us directly," he said.

He said that his first task is to strengthen relationships with businesspersons and give them education on tax as they must understand which tax they are

required to pay, at what time and penalties for not paying it among other things.

He pointed out that there are still some businesspersons who evade tax, asking them to stop the malpractices as they ruin the development of the nation.

Those untrustworthy businesspersons should change as the authority is going to strengthen inspection and investigation units and how to get information with a view to taking appropriate measures, he said.

Also, he urged tax consultants to be ethical when discharging their duties and avoid cheating customers for personal gain.

"You cannot advise a customer by cheating to get money. If we get evidence about a tax consultant doing that, we will revoke their license so that they cannot conduct such activities again," he said.

“We have been directed to work with you and therefore let us be together in solving problems so that businesses can grow and raise taxes



Mary Ndato, (2nd L), a member of the Anti-Sextortion Coalition in Tanzania, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the NGO's demand for amending section 10(b) to harmonise it with section 25 of the law relating to fighting and preventing sex corruption. She was also accompanied by Rose Marandu (L) and Dr. Ave Maria Semakafu (2nd-R), also leading members of the coalition. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoko

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA'S central bank kept its benchmark lending rate unchanged yesterday, saying that although inflation remained high, its stance was appropriate given the economic impact of a severe drought.

The decision to hold the Monetary Policy Rate at 13.50 percent (ZMCBIR=ECI), follows six successive meetings at which it was raised. So far this year the Bank of Zambia has implemented a 100 basis point hike in May and a 150 basis point increase in February.

"While actual and projected inflation remain elevated relative to the 6 percent-8 percent target

Zambia retains key rate over drought impact on economy

band, the committee judged that the current monetary policy stance is appropriate," central bank Governor Denny Kalyalya told a news conference.

Inflation has been rising since the middle of last year, reaching 15.4 percent year on year in July (ZMCIPIY=ECI), fuelled by a slide in the kwacha currency and the worst drought in the southern African region in decades.

The central bank now anticipates inflation will average 15.3 percent in 2024, up from the 13.7 percent forecast it gave at its last policy meeting in May.

Kalyalya said the completion of Zambia's external debt restructuring and implementation of structural reforms remained critical to lower inflation.

Weighted down by delays in restructuring talks and limited

foreign-currency inflows, the kwacha hit repeated record lows against the dollar from November to February and has been highly volatile since. "In taking the decision to maintain the Policy Rate as opposed to raising it, the committee also took into account the impact on the stability of the financial system and growth, particularly in 2024, in the wake of the drought," Governor Kalyalya said.



Anthony Kabulwa, the Lusanga ward councillor in Muheza District, shows iron sheets, chairs and table destroyed by fire as two classrooms at Mkumbi primary school in Tanganyika village were burned down over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

MAPUTO

CHINA'S navy hospital ship, the "Peace Ark," has arrived in Mozambique as part of its "Harmony Mission-2024," embarking on a seven-day friendly visit to provide medical services to local residents.

This marks the fourth stop of the "Peace Ark" on its current mission and its first return to Mozambique in seven years. Upon docking, local residents formed orderly lines at the port, undergoing registration and temperature checks before boarding the ship for consultations and treatment.

Among the medical

China's 'Peace Ark' hospital ship takes medical aid to Mozambique

professionals on board were several special guests – former international students of China's Naval Medical University who have since become healthcare workers in Mozambique. These alumni reunited with their Chinese mentors to jointly serve the local community.

One such alumnus, Dr Zhou Shu, studied in Shanghai in 2018 and expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration. Similarly, Nurse

Miao Yunxi, a non-commissioned officer at a local hospital who studied at the Naval Medical University in 2019, volunteered in the ophthalmology clinic alongside her former Chinese teacher.

Huang Hai, an officer involved in the "Harmony Mission-2024," highlighted the significance of this cross-border medical collaboration. "Foreign military students trained by the Naval Medical University bring back

the medical technology they learned in China to serve the Mozambican people in their own country, which vividly illustrates the spirit of compassion, love, and joint protection of doctors across borders," he said.

Following its mission in Mozambique, the "Peace Ark" is scheduled to continue its journey to South Africa, Angola, and other locations, extending its medical services to more local residents.

RITA attracts praise for free birth certificate issuance to under-fives

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA)'s provision of free birth certificates to children under the age of five in Tanzania Mainland has been cited as one of the initiatives that directly benefit citizens.

According to statistics, over 10 million children, which equals 68 percent have been registered across all 26 regions in Tanzania Mainland and issued birth certificates, compared to 13 percent when the programme started in 2012.

Speaking during the event to mark Registration of Vital Events and Statistics Day in Africa held at the national level at Nanenane grounds on Saturday in Dodoma, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Dr Khatibu Kazungu, praised RITA for that drive.

He said that through RITA, the government has begun taking significant steps to accelerate registration through the National Strategy for the Registration of Vital Events and Statistics.

"Every 10th of August, Tanzania joins other African countries in commemorating this important day, which carries the theme 'Strengthening the Relationship Between Vital Event Registration and Statistics with Legal Systems for Digital Inclusive Identification,'" he said.

He added that the government in collaboration with development partners will continue implementing strategies to ensure sustainability of the programme for registering and issuing birth certificates to children under five.

This includes ensuring that every newborn is registered promptly and that their information is sent to the RITA database promptly.

"I urge parents to take advantage

of this government initiative to obtain birth certificates for their children since the certificates are essential identification documents," he said.

Frank Kanyusi, RITA chief executive officer, said that the agency decided to mark the African Events and Statistics Day during the recently concluded NaneNane celebrations to raise public awareness about the importance of recording vital events such as births, deaths, divorces, marriages and child adoptions.

"In observing this day, we conduct various activities, including public education, providing registration services and visiting registration centres to identify challenges and find solutions," he said.

Asnath Barnabas, Child Protection Officer at UNICEF, stated that the organisation will continue to collaborate with the government to achieve its set goals.

"We will continue to work with the government of Tanzania and various development partners to ensure all children are registered and issued with certificates as well as to record all important events, including births and deaths," she said.



I urge parents to take advantage of this government initiative to obtain birth certificates for their children since the certificates are essential identification documents



Anti-river blindness (Usubi) medical team member Zubeda Bakari (L), registering Hatibu Pauni, Shaurimoyo ward resident in Muheza district, yesterday. On the right is Agnes Lupatu, another team member. Photo: Correspondent William Mngazija

NFRA establishes new maize grain service facility for Northern Zone

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Babati

THE National Food Reserve Authority (NFRA) in the Northern Zone has launched a centre for maize grain services before the same is sold.

Installed in Babati District of Arusha Region, the state-of-the-art facility has been designed to facilitate maize shelling and drying services as well as packing.

Speaking to this writer during a tour of the project recently, NFRA Northern Zone Manager Andrew Kanyika said the authority decided to establish the facility with the view to improving the performance of the maize grain marketing subsector within the zone. He added that the centre caters to all traders and farmers in maize trade.

He urged maize traders within the zone to use the facility to comply with the set maize

quality standards as per local and international markets.

Speaking about NFRA's future plans within the zone, Kanyika said that the focus was to continue working closely with the district and ward agricultural officers to advise farmers on better harvesting practices.

"We're also advising the farmers not to sell their maize in plantations but at NFRA points where they can get prices," he said.

He said NFRA has introduced

a modern payment modality through which farmers get their statutory payment within 14 days after selling maize grains to the authority.

"In some cases, we even manage to pay farmers within two to three days and we discourage paying farmers on a cash basis," he said.

The mission of NFRA is to guarantee national food security by procuring, reserving and re-cycling strategic food stock efficiently and cost-effectively.

South Africa's unemployment rate up, over 8 million jobless

PRETORIA

SOUTH Africa's unemployment rate increased by 0.6 percent points from 32.9 percent in Q1 2024 to 33.5 percent in Q2 2024, the government's statistics office reported on Tuesday.

Africa's most industrialized economy has struggled to create jobs in recent years due to a long recession and most recently the Covid-19 pandemic.

About 8.4 million people were out of work, up from 5.2 million in 2014.

The number of employed persons fell by 92,000 to 16.7 million in Q2 2024. The sectors which saw the most job decreases

include trade, agriculture and construction.

Only manufacturing, social services and utilities added jobs.

The figures are the first to be released since the May elections which brought in a coalition government which put reviving the ailing economy top of its agenda.

Unemployment was a key political issue in the vote, likely contributing to the loss of an absolute majority by the African National Congress (ANC).

The statistics office said that the most significant decrease in employment was observed in the Western Cape, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal provinces.



The number of employed persons fell by 92,000 to 16.7 million in Q2 2024. The sectors which saw the most job decreases include trade, agriculture and construction



Moses Machali, the Mkalama district commissioner, speaks with members of the business community and farmers gathered during an auction of beans by the Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX) at the firm's warehouse in Nduguti village yesterday. Photo: Thobias Mwanakatwe



BARRICK
BULYANHULU

Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

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

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

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-07-04	Dirty Water Handling System (DWHS) Capable of Treating, Clarifying and Dewatering of Under Ground Dirty Water.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor specialised in dirty water handling system (DWHS) capable of treating, clarifying and dewatering of UG dirty water, must have proven experience with different Water Treatment projects. Experience working with similar works in last 3 years Proficiency in the areas of supply, fabrication, application, transportation, unloading, and receiving, installation, construction, assembly, testing, evaluation, and quality control to fulfil the work's detailed scope, as well as complete awareness of the risks and safety precautions associated with working in the mining industry. Team with multi discipline members (Mainly – Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&QC officer / Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. List of equipment's - Resource list – specifying quantities - List of all tools and tackles (with detailed specifications of important equipment).

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

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the **22nd August 2024**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

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

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

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED.

African, Chinese experts convene amid calls to change food systems

NAIROBI

POLICYMAKERS, scientists and industry leaders from China, Africa, and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) convened in Nairobi on Tuesday to launch a forum aimed at advancing agricultural transformation, achieving food security, and addressing rural poverty on the continent.

The Africa-China-CIMMYT Science Forum, organized by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and CIMMYT, kicked off on Tuesday and ends tomorrow. The event, which has drawn over 100 participants, focuses on "Transforming Agrifood Systems in Africa through Scientific Innovations and Partnerships."

Bram Govaerts, director general of CIMMYT, highlighted the importance of the forum, noting that it provides a crucial platform for African and Chinese scientists to explore new strategies for transforming food systems amid challenges such as climate change, crop pests, and diseases.

Govaerts emphasized that regular exchanges between Chinese and African scientists, based on South-South cooperation, are vital for transferring technologies, innovations, and best practices essential for revolutionizing smallholder farming in Africa. He also called for collaborative research to develop and deploy dryland crops like legumes and cereals, which are critical for addressing the continent's hunger crisis.

Ye Yujiang, vice president of CAAS, noted that mutual partnerships between Chinese and African scientists can drive agricultural modernization, enhance food and nutritional security, and improve rural incomes.

He highlighted Chinese research institutions' commitment to advancing cooperation with their African counterparts through training, technology transfer, and innovations aimed at increasing crop yields for smallholders.

Ye also pointed to successful outcomes from China-Africa agricultural collaboration, such as the development of hybrid rice

and training programs for young African scientists, which have bolstered food security and rural development.

Prasanna Boddupalli, director of CIMMYT's Global Maize Program, underscored the importance of win-win cooperation between Chinese and African scientists to ensure that smallholder farmers in Africa access high-yield, disease-resistant, pest-resistant, and drought-tolerant crop varieties.

Boddupalli suggested that African countries should benefit from China's experience in transitioning to modern, climate-smart, and economically viable farming systems.

Felister Makini, deputy director general of Research and Partnerships at the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, highlighted that collaboration with China will help African governments address gaps in research, capacity, policy, and financing that have hindered the continent's agricultural transformation.



...regular exchanges between Chinese and African scientists, based on South-South cooperation, are vital for transferring technologies, innovations, and best practices essential for revolutionizing smallholder farming in Africa...



Col. Evans Mtambi, the Mara regional commissioner, inspects Ngoro secondary school dormitory, issuing instruction to Serengeti District Council director Dr Maulid Madeni to complete the construction in six week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Special Correspondent

Floods in Central, West Africa affect over 700,000 people - UN

THE floods currently affecting Central and West Africa have already impacted more than 700,000 people, according to a report from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

This alarming situation is the result of torrential rains that have hit the region just two months into the rainy season.

"The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is concerned about the flooding in the

region, which has already affected hundreds of thousands of people. Just two months into the rainy season, heavy rains and severe flooding have impacted more than 700,000 people in the Central African Republic, Chad, Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, and Togo," said Farhan Haq, Deputy

Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, during a press conference.

In response to the scale of the disaster, the United Nations, in collaboration with its partners, has intensified support to the governments of the affected countries. The assistance provided includes food distribution, shelter, and water and sanitation services.

The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund has allocated \$10 million this year to the governments of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Niger. This aid is aimed at mitigating the effects of climate shocks, including floods, which continue to threaten millions of lives in sub-Saharan Africa.

Senegalese media outlets stage blackout day for press freedom

DAKAR

MEDIA organizations in Senegal staged a blackout day on Tuesday to protest a government crackdown they say targets them directly and is aimed at curtailing press freedoms in the West African country.

Television screens went blank on the main TV stations TFM, ITV and 7 TV, and radio outlets such as RFM and iradio were silent. Most of the daily newspapers did not publish Tuesday's edition, except for the government-owned Le Soleil and the private pro-government WalfQuotidien and Yoor Yoor Bi.

The move comes as tensions have been rising between media organizations and the government, triggering international concerns over press freedoms in one of Africa's most stable democracies. Separately, Senegal's main media companies have accumulated massive debt over the years, threatening the sector's economic survival.

Senegalese Council of Press Distributors and Publishers, an organization representing both private and public media companies, claimed that the government had frozen bank accounts belonging to the media outlets, allegedly for owing back taxes, "seized production equipment" and "unilaterally and illegally terminated advertising contracts."

The claims, published in an editorial in Le Quotidien on Monday, could not be independently verified. Government officials were not immediately available for comment.

"For nearly three months, the

Senegalese press has experienced one of the darkest phases of its history," the organization wrote in the editorial.

In June, Senegal's Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko, who took office earlier this year, denounced what he described as a "misappropriation of public funds" in the media industry.

Cases of police brutality against journalists and arrests of government critics have also increased in Senegal over the past few years, according to the international watchdog Reporters Without Borders, which has urged Senegalese authorities to safeguard press freedoms.

The group, known by its French acronym RSF, says Senegal fell from the 49th to 94th place on its World Press Freedom Index, an annual ranking of countries that assesses multiple factors, including a reporter's ability to work and security, in the last three years.

"Journalists are not sufficiently protected when doing their job and politicians are not playing their role in the matter," Sadibou Marong, the West Africa chief at RSF, told The Associated Press. "Even worse, the political forces have jeopardized the right to inform and be informed."



For nearly three months, the Senegalese press has experienced one of the darkest phases of its history



Investor Salum Awadhi makes a presentation on the trends, opportunities and challenges for halal industry financing at the second Tanzania halal business summit 2024 organized by MICO Halal International Bureau in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Special Correspondent

Ethiopia, Somalia 'make progress' in talks to settle dispute over Somaliland

ETHIOPIA and Somalia have made "notable progress" in efforts to settle a dispute sparked by Ethiopia's deal with the breakaway region of Somaliland, Turkish foreign minister said on Tuesday.

Hakan Fidan made the comments at the end of a second round of talks between the foreign ministers of Somalia and Ethiopia that are being mediated by Turkey.

"I am pleased to announce that the number and extent of issues we discussed, has increased significantly, compared to the first round. We were able to focus on the details and technicalities of concrete steps," Fidan said in a video message recorded at his ministry. "We believe that a collaborative and constructive solution is within reach."

Flanked by his counterparts from Ethiopia and Somalia, Fidan added

that a third round of talks would be held on September 17.

Tensions between the two countries have simmered since Ethiopia signed a memorandum of understanding with Somaliland in January, which Somalia denounced as infringing upon its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Under the disputed deal, Somaliland would lease a 20-kilometer (12-mile) stretch of land along its coastline to Ethiopia to establish a marine force base. With a population estimated at over 120 million, Ethiopia is the most populous landlocked country in the world.

In return, Ethiopia would recognize Somaliland's independence. Somalia has said

it's prepared to go to war over it as it considers Somaliland part of its territory.

Fidan, who has held meetings with his Ethiopian counterpart, Taye Atske Selassie, and Somalia's Foreign Minister Ahmed Moallim Fiqi since Monday, did not provide details on the discussions.

However, last week he told reporters that he had proposed an arrangement that would ensure Ethiopia's sea access via Somalia. In return, Ethiopia would acknowledge Somalia's territorial integrity and political sovereignty, he said.

In the video, Selassie thanked Turkey for its mediation and reaffirmed Ethiopia's wish to "secure dependable access to and

from the sea."

"We look forward to having continued engagement that will ultimately help us resolve current differences and restore normal relations," he said.

Fiqi said progress was made in the latest round of talks, and expressed hope that the momentum will result in a solution.

"Somalia remains committed to protecting its sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity," he said.

A first round of talks was also held in the Turkish capital in July.

Turkey has forged close ties with Somalia, and recently signed deals toward cooperation in defense and oil and gas exploration. It also has economic and trade ties with Ethiopia.

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Education mostly an auxiliary in handling the demographic bulge

EDUCATION managers and other policy makers are scanning for ideas on how to address challenges facing education systems in the East African Community (EAC) zone, as each sphere appears to be wanting. Questions are being raised in relation to access to education, its quality, teaching capacities, financing, learning and integrating recent technologies. Plenty is being done in spheres that relate to infrastructure, equipment or teachers' housing, while solutions are hard to find on education quality or employment.

One such forum was the opening session for the EAC education conference, themed: "Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century," where a long list of issues was placed for brainstorming, urging collective action for quality, inclusive and life-long learning in East Africa. None of this is new, but in the past lifelong learning was merely a cultural attribute while it is now a lifetime requirement as elders are too often unable to access genuine or satisfactory pensions. They have upbringing tasks even in formal retirement.

That is why the problem of what to do in education is complicated as one is at pains to focus on what is principally the target, whether it is 'liberal' education that focuses on erudition and thus potential employability or technical skills. Ordinarily, anyone with the zeal to work can pick up any sort of work that needs minimal skills but the tendency to do nothing compels public administrators to focus on imbuing those growing up in schools with skills that they eventually develop a taste for using them. It is one thing to have no job and no skills, and quite another to have skills even when one lacks a job.

Still the forum wasn't going to be tied down to preliminary issues and how curriculum reform is sorting out such matters, as their brainstorming took upwards of a decade for changes to start being instituted.

A number of changes now being applied relate to an education policy blueprint published in 2014 and failed to be legislated upon, and now much of its content is slated for implementation starting from... 2027. The point is that the traditional education format appears to be resilient among stakeholders, decidedly.

Pertinent issues and challenges facing the regional education practitioners include the digitalisation of education systems and coping with artificial intelligence, along with a rather new feature, greening education. The latter is described as a global initiative that takes a whole-of-system approach to support countries to tackle the climate crisis by harnessing the critical role of education. This aspect could best be handled if it was directed at community education, not adding examinable subjects on climate change.

Yet all this is merely the background on the manner in which East Africa, like the rest of Africa, has a very youthful population and shows some of the highest fertility rates in the world. The urban virtual uprising in the neighbourhood recently ought to inform those setting policy that the youth will not go with recommendations of officialdom that isn't meeting their aspirations halfway. A new deal is needed between the upper classes and the youth, where they let go of state firms to the market and individualise the purchasing of cars, so that tens of thousands of new jobs surface each passing year.

Youth policy focus on digital economy usable, when their skills are in demand

IN these days of extensive public meetings on the Vision 2050 development format, to hear that the government has launched the National Youth Development Policy in the thick of the discussion can be interesting. Is it aligned with the priorities being set out, or it is located within the 2025 Vision which is in its final year of meeting its stipulated goals? The point is that being clear about the overall vision helps in selecting the best format to be put into action, so that there is harmony in later policy action, not a restart.

The policy is meant to help streamline youth affairs, expressing commitment to support young people achieve their goals, which implies that the wide ranging scenarios of gainful occupations are in a sense conveyed in the levers of assistance.

It is an initiative falling under the Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities division in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The public authorities seek to come to terms with increasingly obvious danger of youth despair in a generalized manner, as a powder keg.

The portfolio minister was candid enough in his remarks at the launch, in that engaging and uplifting the youth is a strategic investment in the country's stability and prosperity - even if his remarks addressed the future, rather than the present.

The Chinese had a cultural axiom used by its revolutionary leaders in the 1930s that 'a single spark can start a prairie fire,' and in Nairobi it was the Finance Bill, 2024/2025 while any country can ignite any

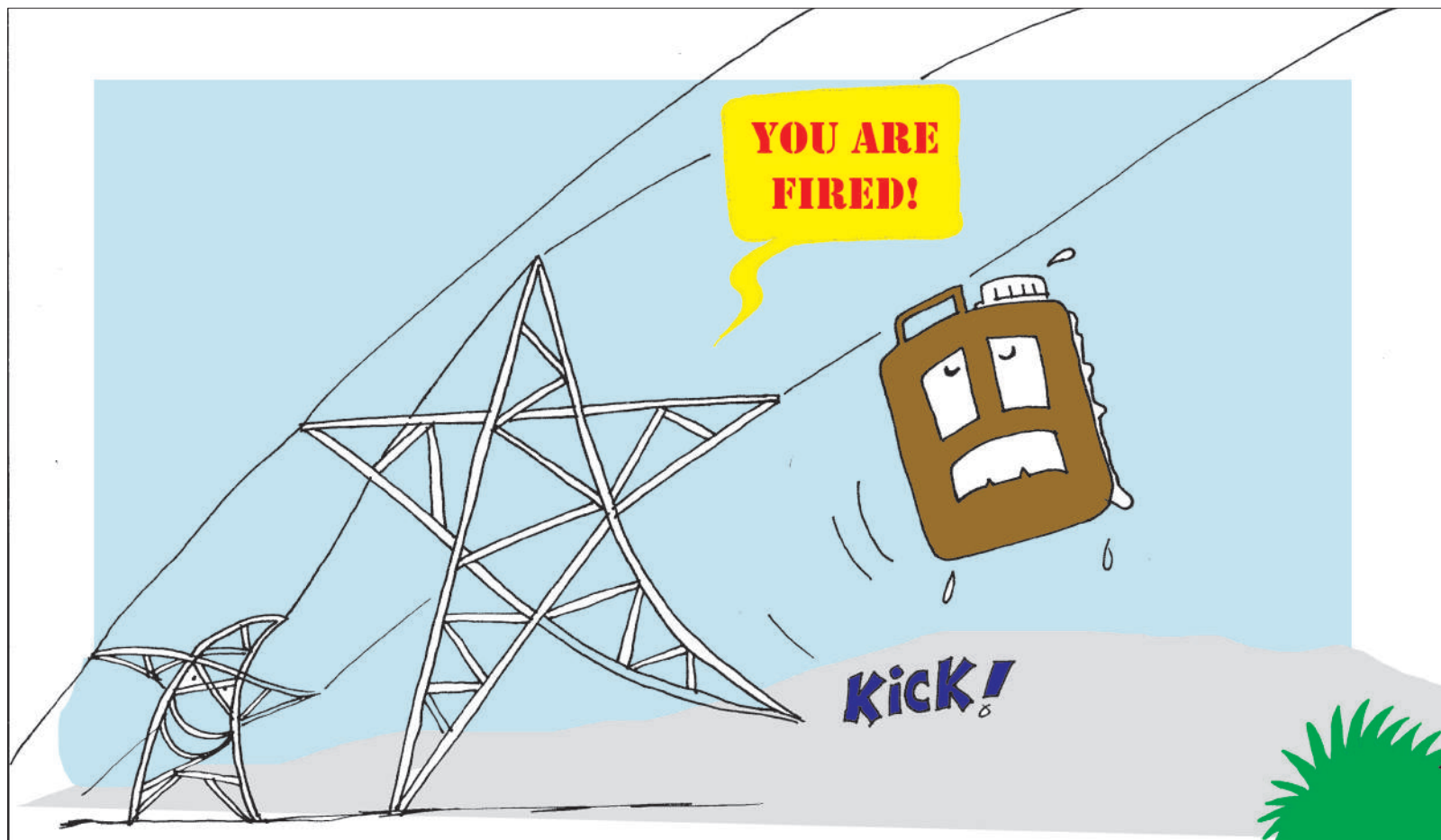
differently. We had low key business stoppages, and a public appeal for the youth to learn from the counterparts nearby, all of which is basically unsettling.

Affirming that the government recognises the vital role of young people in society and their contributions to development is largely inadequate, similar to promoting the use of technology as an effort to foster an inclusive digital economy.

Any technical skills are helpful in a situation of rising demand, where there are indirect jobs of all sorts of types or parameters, the premise of which is wide ranging structural opening up, liberalisation. So far we have managed import trade liberalization in the sense of consumer goods, and unable to take up ownership liberalisation either on the 350 odd public firms or in land.

Bringing up a National Youth Council is not new, but this one will be given a more active role whereas in the past the idea was bogged down on account of conflicting loyalties. Exploring the potential for this year's International Youth Day theme, 'From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development' as nice to hear, but not a formula.

There is no usable youth digital pathway outside real demand for their skills, in maintaining equipment or tools when they are in wide usage, or helping in marketing, etc. Neither skills nor personal initiatives substitute for policies that accelerate investment, open new paths for the need for youth skills in the market.



More poverty for the Poor

By Jomo Kwame Sundaram

MANY low-income countries (LICs) continue to slip further behind the rest of the world. Meanwhile, people in extreme poverty have been increasing again after decades of decline.

World output more than doubled from \$36 trillion in 1990 to \$87 trillion by 2021 (in constant US dollars), but this growth has not been evenly distributed, causing most LICs to fall further behind.

Many of the world's poorest economies have had meagre growth since the 1960s. As most developing countries have made progress, income gaps among nations have declined.

World economic stagnation adversely affects most countries and people, especially developing countries relying on commodity demand and prices. As much of the world grew, most LICs fell further behind.

Hundreds of millions are stuck in extreme poverty, with incomes per capita in many post-colonial countries barely changing. A World Bank paper argues the poor are especially worse off.

Many poor nations have not caught up, let alone diversified their colonial-type economies. Meanwhile, many poor nations remain mired in conflict, deepening their stagnation.

Poverty has risen due to poor progress as populations grew. Another World Bank report found lower growth correlated with conflict deaths and institutional fragility. Unsurprisingly, these countries often had the world's highest poverty rates.

Worse, global warming disproportionately harms poor tropical nations and their populations much more. Climate change is expected to push well over a hundred million into extreme poverty by 2030.

Left behind

Paper co-author Paul Collier identified 58 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with about 1.4 billion people in 2021, as the 'Bottom Billion'. Collier argues most still face problems and have failed to progress since.

These nations have long suffered from persistent poverty, low growth, and failure to develop. Their plight has been exacerbated by civil conflict, geographic constraints, and, often, the inability to use their natural resources to accelerate economic development.



Since the 1980s - not the 1960s and 1970s, as the Bank paper claims - the Bottom Billion countries have failed to grow, falling behind instead. By contrast, the few former LICs that sustained high growth now enjoy per capita outputs at least thrice that of other Bottom Billion countries.

Except for these few notable exceptions, most of the 58 Bottom Billion countries remain LICs or have become lower-middle-income countries. Only six have achieved upper-middle-income country status in the past decade, mainly due to rapid growth thanks to oil and gas.

Although the Bottom Billion countries exist in all regions, about two-thirds (38 of 58) are in SSA. They account for 77% of the Bottom Billion population. Over half have abundant natural resources, but most have not used their mineral wealth to sustain economic progress.

In 2012, the IMF classified 34 of the 58 Bottom Billion countries as 'resource-rich', with non-renewable resource exports and revenue often exceeding 20% of their total exports and government revenue, respectively. But most still experience lacklustre growth, if any.

Since 1990, Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) averaged barely 0.8% annual per capita income growth. Meanwhile, global growth rates doubled as regions like East Asia registered more than 6% yearly per capita growth rates.

Anaemic growth meant that the average incomes of Africans and other slow-growing LICs slipped further behind the rest of the world. Using the World Bank's global poverty line, the number of poor Africans grew by tens of millions.

If current growth and poverty trends persist, many slow-growing or stagnant LICs, mainly in Africa, will be unable to end extreme poverty, let alone catch up with the rest of the world.

Poorest worst off

Conventional growth models imply that countries lagging behind should grow faster than those already ahead. East Asian industrialisation - supposedly emulating earlier European growth - supports this notion.

Growth in many LICs has slowed since the turn of the century. The paper finds that "The Bottom Billion fared worst of all", as per capita output barely rose.

The poorest Bottom Billion

did not experience convergence by catching up with the others. While some studies suggest overall income convergence, the world's poorest are relatively worse off.

Now, the Bottom Billion are 'falling behind' while those in extreme poverty may be rising again. Incomes of the world's poorest countries and people are likely to fall behind, even if only relatively, despite some convergence among countries.

The situation has worsened since 2022. In addition to the commodity-price collapse since 2015, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine and Gaza wars, and geopolitically driven unilateral sanctions have ensured protracted stagnation.

Bottom Billion countries lack the policy and fiscal space to cope with, let alone address, the impending debt crises. The situation has been exacerbated by tighter credit with high interest rates set by the US Fed.

Despite decades of recognising LIC characteristics, the World Bank has yet to develop strategies, policies and means to overcome their poverty. It is unclear why the Bank has endorsed the Bottom Billion designation, although it has not enhanced our understanding of poverty.

The plight of women three years after Taliban takeover in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS

I've just come back from the north of Afghanistan. I asked the women I met what they want the world to know about their lives.

One woman, Nasima told me: "I was married at 16. I couldn't finish school. My hope was that my daughter's life would be better. Now I'm worried her life is going to be worse. To those who are still listening to our voices, please help us fight for our freedom."

This week marks three years since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

Three years' worth of countless decrees, directives, and statements targeting women and girls - stripping them of their fundamental rights. Eviscerating their autonomy.

Our latest publication, launched today, shows trends based on rounds of consultations we've done with thousands of Afghan women, from the provincial capitals to the most rural areas since August 2021.

One of the first, most striking, trends is the erasure of Afghan women from public life.

To date, no woman in Afghanistan is in a leadership position anywhere that has influence politically, at the national or provincial level. When Afghan women are engaged in the Taliban's structures, their roles are largely about monitoring compliance of other women with their discriminatory decrees.

This political erasure is mirrored at the social level. Our data shows that when you take away basic rights, it impacts every area of life. Of the women we surveyed, 98 per cent felt they had limited or zero influence on decision-making in their communities.

It is also reflected in the home. Our data shows that the percentage of women who feel they can influence decision-making at the household level has dropped by nearly 60 per cent over the last year. To give some context, three years ago an Afghan woman could technically decide to run for President. Now, she may not even be able to decide when to go and buy groceries.



A 31-year-old woman sits by the window. She used to be an entrepreneur before the Taliban takeover. Credit: UN Women/Sayed Habib Bidell

It wasn't perfect three years ago. But it wasn't this.

Linked to the loss of rights, our data points to an escalating mental health crisis. Sixty-eight per cent of the women we consulted report "bad" or "very bad" mental health. And 8 per cent indicated knowing at least one woman or girl who had attempted suicide.

What is also clear three years in, is that the Taliban's restrictions on the rights of women and girls will affect generations

to come.

Our analysis shows that by 2026, the impact of leaving 1.1 million girls out of school and over 100,000 women out of university is correlated with an increase in the rate of early childbearing by 45 per cent; and an increased risk of maternal mortality by at least 50 per cent.

In the face of this deepening women's rights crisis, I am often asked: what can we do to support Afghan women and

girls?

My answer is always this one key thing.

We must continue to invest in women. Nothing undermines the Taliban's vision for society more than empowering the very part of the population they seek to oppress.

Practically, based on UN Women's work over the past three years, investing in women translates into three main strategies:

1. Allocate flexible and long-

term funding to grassroots women's organizations. This is one of the most effective ways to reach women and girls, respond to their needs, and invest in one of the few sectors where women can still influence decision-making. It's hard, but it's possible.

2. Design programmes dedicated to countering the erasure of women and girls, investing directly in their resilience, empowerment, and leadership. Initiatives particularly for edu-

cation, livelihoods, and entrepreneurship are crucial ways to meaningfully address structural drivers of gender inequality.

3. Finally, it is essential to facilitate spaces where Afghan women can express their concerns and priorities directly. Our data shows that Afghan women want to represent themselves. But one meeting and one participation option will not do. Across any engagement, we need to ask: How can we consult and include Afghan women? What can we do differently to break the pattern of women's exclusion?

Three years ago, the whole world was watching a takeover that was livestreaming horror after horror.

Three years later, while the world's attention may have turned elsewhere, the horrors have not stopped for Afghan women and girls, nor has their conviction to stand against the oppression.

When it comes to the fight for women's rights, we are at an inflection point in Afghanistan, but also globally. The world is watching what happens to women and girls in Afghanistan. In some places, it watches to condemn; in others, it watches to emulate the Taliban's structural oppression.

We cannot leave Afghan women to fight alone. If we do, we have no moral ground to fight for women's rights anywhere.

Their fate determines the fate of women everywhere.

What we do - or fail to do - for Nasima, her daughter, and all Afghan women and girls, is the ultimate test of who we are as a global community and what we stand for.

KATHMANDU

Water Stories: The well seven families, 400 buffaloes rely on

In the rural village of Khardariya in the Dang district of Nepal, access to clean water is a major issue. Villagers depend on one poorly managed well for drinking water, cleaning, and feeding livestock.

Anjana Yadav stood near the well while a neighbor walked toward it to fetch a bucket of water.

"At least seven families and over 400 buffaloes rely on this well; this is the water that sustains the buffaloes, and we drink it too," she said. "In summer, the water level goes down, and we suffer more," Anjana told IPS.

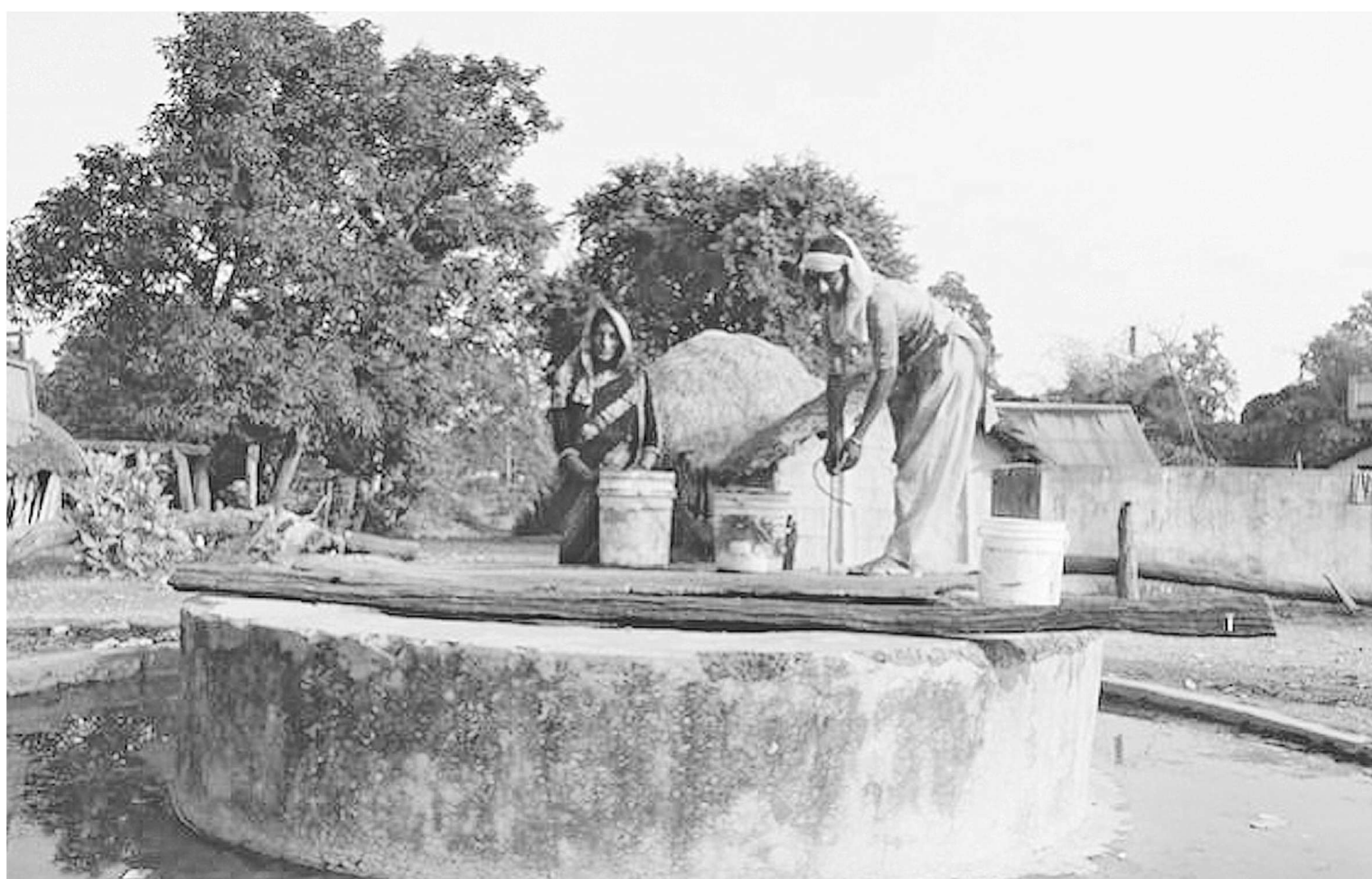
According to government data, only 27 percent of the country's population has access to pure drinking water. However, the government's aim is to increase the number of people using safe drinking water to at least 90 percent by 2030, in line with Sustainable Development Goals. But villages like Khardariya are still struggling to access enough water, let alone pure water.

"This water is not drinkable, but we don't have any other option," Niramala Yadava (Anjana's daughter) says while showing the logged water around the well. "We know this water is not safe, but we're forced to drink it, use it for cleaning, and even in the kitchen. We also have to manage for livestock too."

Khardariya is one example where access to water is a major problem, and there are other areas where people are facing the same situation. The Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management claims that 80 percent of people have access to drinking water, but it's not safe as per standards. Most of them still depend on surface water sources like rivers, ponds, and these sources are not necessarily safe to drink. And often time this water led to health consequences to the community where clean drinking water is not available.

Everyday Struggle

According to the World Health Organization's Global Health Estimates (WHO GHE), one of the largest declines in the number of deaths is from diar-



Women in Khardariya village in Dang fetching water from a community well. Credit: Tanka Dhakal/IPS

rheal diseases, with global deaths falling from 2.6 million in 2000 to 1.5 million in 2019. But in Nepal even though cases are in decreasing trend, water related diseases are still a major concern. GHE data shows from 2000 to 2019 above 140 thousands of diarrheal cases are recorded per year.

Diarrheal diseases are one of the top ten causes of death in Nepal. According to data from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), diarrheal diseases ranked seventh in 2009 and ninth in 2019 in the list of top ten causes of death.

As Anjana Yadav in Dang, Sarita Rana

Magar in Solukhumbu is struggling to get drinking water from the spring sourced tap, but it is not certain that the water is clean as per government standards. "We don't have enough access to drinking water; even to get a couple of buckets of water is hard these days," Magar says while waiting for her turn to fill water from the community tap in Lausasa village in the Khumbu region, where mountains stand right near her village. "It takes 25-30 minutes to fill one bucket (40-liter bucket) of water, and I need at least three buckets of water every day," Magar said while keeping her bucket under the running tap.

Problem is Not Prioritizing

Even though the Government of Nepal claims that safe drinking water is a priority issue, the facts do not align with this assertion. In recent years, the budget for safe drinking water has been decreasing while the need is growing.

Madhu Timalina, Senior Divisional Engineer at the Ministry of Water Supply, says that the government is not keen to expand basic drinking water safety.

"According to the data we have, 73 percent of the population lacks access to safe drinking water. The target is to

reach 90 percent of the population with access to safe drinking water by 2030," Timalina says. "We don't have the resources to sustain ongoing programs, and meeting the goal is far from achievable at this point. Water is not a priority for the government. We need resources."

According to the Ministry, at a time when the demand for safe drinking water is increasing, the budget is shrinking. In the current fiscal year, the Ministry received over 28 billion Nepali rupees (about USD 208 million) as their budget, which was 42 billion (USD 313 million) in the previous fiscal year.

"It seems like in the coming year, it will decrease to 22-23 billion," Timalina said. "We have not been able to initiate new programs in recent years due to the lack of budget. Everything is ready, but we lack the resources."

The Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FDWSUN), which advocates for access to safe and contamination-free water for all, believes that the government is not taking the water issue seriously. "We have been continuously trying to create pressure, but the government is not willing to listen," said Durga Chapagain, Senior Vice President of the FDWSUN. "The majority of users are still drinking water from open sources, and there is no budget allocated for drinking water projects."

If the government truly intends to increase access to safe drinking water for up to 90 percent of the population by 2030, the budget should be allocated accordingly, according to Timalina.

"To meet the target, we need to cover an additional 63 percent of the population within 6 years. The target is set, but we can't achieve anything without the budget," he explains. "We lack the resources to meet our needs, which is the primary limitation. Additionally, our springs are drying up, and water scarcity is becoming a major issue. Unfortunately, without resources, it's not possible to do anything."

IPS UN Bureau Report

Ensuring a Healthier Future By Sustaining the Fight Against NTDs

HOVE, United Kingdom

Over the last ten years, I have been privileged to witness incredible progress in the fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) – a journey marked by unwavering dedication, resilience, and hope.

This group of twenty-one diseases affects 1.65 billion people around the world and can disable, disfigure, and be fatal. But despite significant global obstacles, including the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions due to the conflict in Russia and the Ukraine, and severe weather events, our collective efforts fighting NTDs have transformed the lives of millions.

As I step down from my role as Executive Director of Uniting to Combat NTDs, I am filled with a profound sense of pride and reflection. From the inclusion of NTDs in the health-related Sustainable Development Goals to the endorsement by Heads of States of the Continental Framework on NTDs and the Common Africa Position, important global and regional frameworks now exist to guide collective action and efforts.

From global leaders endorsing the historic Kigali Declaration on NTDs alongside the 26th CHOGM Summit in 2022 to the Reaching the Last Mile Forum held at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Summit in 2023, we have witnessed countries standing shoulder to shoulder with donors, companies, organisations and civil society to pledge commitments to end NTDs.

These concrete actions have illuminated a path toward a future where NTDs no longer wreak havoc on the lives of vulnerable communities around the world.

The impact we have seen is real and substantial. Fifty-one countries have now eliminated at least one NTD.

Sleeping sickness, for instance, has been eliminated as a public health problem in seven countries, with Chad being the latest to achieve this milestone this year. Lymphatic filariasis has been eliminated in nineteen countries, with the Lao People's Democratic Republic becoming the most recent to eliminate the disease as a public health threat in 2023. And progress has had a ripple effect, with some countries eliminating multiple NTDs.

In 2022, Togo became the first country in the world to eliminate four NTDs (guinea worm, lymphatic filariasis, trachoma, and sleeping sickness) while Benin and Ghana have eliminated three NTDs each, leading to recognition at an ECOWAS Heads of State Summit in 2013.

Meanwhile, 843 million people received treatment for an NTD in the year 2022 alone, powered by one of the most successful private public partnerships in the history of global health, with over 17 billion treatments for



Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of 21 infectious diseases that affect 1.65 billion people around the world and can disable, disfigure, and be fatal. Credit: Shutterstock.

NTDs donated by the pharmaceutical industry between 2012 and 2023.

These successes have been built on years of shared experiences in NTD prevention, control, and elimination efforts.

The human impact of this work is the most important measure of our success. Reflecting on this journey, I recall the faces of countless individuals whose lives have been touched by this work.

The children who can now attend school, the families who can now work and thrive, the communities that are no longer shackled by preventable diseases. These stories of transformation are the heartbeat of our mission and the fuel that has driven us forward.

Yet, as we celebrate these incredible milestones, we must also take stock of the critical steps needed to ensure this progress continues. We stand at a pivotal moment, where the

gains we have made must be solidified and expanded.

To do so, NTD programmes are in desperate need of sustainable, long-term financing and strengthened political commitment. One critical way to respond to this need is to prioritise disease elimination as a flagship initiative for 21st replenishment of the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA21), which provides grants and financing to the world's poorest countries.

This includes establishing a dedicated funding stream under IDA21's Health Track. Doing so would ensure sustained progress against these diseases and will help the World Bank achieve its mandate to alleviate poverty, boost economic growth, and improve living conditions for millions of people on a livable planet.

With only 15% of the Sustainable Develop-

ment Goals on track, the urgency to demonstrate impact at scale has never been greater.

Supporting countries on the pathway to eliminating NTDs by 2030 and helping 49 additional countries achieve elimination goals will be a smart investment for IDA21, delivering tangible and far-reaching impact. This is not just a health imperative; it is a moral and economic one.

Our journey is far from over. The path ahead requires sustained political will, continued resource mobilisation, and unwavering commitment.

We have the knowledge, the tools, and the momentum. Now is the time to harness these and push forward with renewed vigor. Let it be said, decades from now, that we did not waver in our fight. Let it be said that we left the world a healthier place, free from the scourge of neglected tropical diseases.

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 YA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)



By Special Correspondent,

Nairobi

Africa embraces green transport with rapid adoption of e-bikes

IN Nairobi, Kenya motorcycles have become an essential choice for residents due to their flexibility, convenience and affordability, with an increasing number of electric models on the roads.

Driven by growing environmental awareness and technological advancements, many African countries have begun actively promoting electric motorcycles in recent years to reduce pollution and shift toward sustainable transportation.

With the development of online motorcycle taxi services, the African motorcycle market is experiencing significant growth.

In Kenya, Africa's largest motorcycle taxi market, 5.2 million people are employed in motorcycle transport, with one in ten relying on motorcycles for their livelihood. Due to the recent surge in fuel prices, electric motorcycles have become the preferred option, as their cost per kilometer is only about 10 percent of the gasoline-powered ones.

This significant advantage has led to a boom in electric motorcycles in the African market. According to the latest report by Powering Renewable Energy, a think tank, the African motorcycle market is expected to reach 5.07 billion U.S. dollars by 2027, with electric motorcycles becoming the dominant product in the transition to sustainable transport in sub-Saharan Africa.

Many African countries are also considering ways to reduce pollution by promoting electric travel. According to Joyce Msuya, former deputy executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the rapid development of electric mo-



torcycles in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and other African countries "will reduce costs, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as create jobs."

Based in Kampala, Uganda's capital, Gogo Electric, one of the

country's three leading electric motorcycle manufacturers, imports lithium-ion batteries from China and assembles electric motorcycles for the local market.

Customers can always bring their used batteries to a battery

swap station, where they can get a fully charged battery at a lower price, said Janos Bisasso, the chief operating officer of Gogo Electric.

Bisasso said that over time, customers may realize that swapping batteries is less expensive than

refueling, which may encourage them to choose electric motorcycles.

Official data shows that the transport sector is one of the country's main sources of pollution, making a transition to green-

energy transport necessary.

The country will fully transition to electric mobility in public transport and motorcycle taxis by 2030. It will entirely shift to selling electric vehicles by 2040, according to Uganda's National E-Mobility Strategy, published last November.

Under this strategy, a sustainable transport system will be established, with a more than 25 percent reduction in transport-related emissions and the creation of over 500,000 green jobs by 2040.

According to a report by the International Energy Agency, the electric vehicle market in Africa has seen rapid growth in recent years, with notable successes in countries such as South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya.

With their technical experience in motorcycle manufacturing and batteries, Chinese companies have contributed significantly to this "revolution" with their affordable, high-quality products.

ARC Ride, a start-up in Kenya, has based its R&D, assembly and sales locally, but some parts still need to be imported from China, India and Japan, with China providing the majority.

Spiro Electric Vehicles, another major player in African electric vehicles, signed a strategic cooperation agreement with a Chinese company in 2023 to sell 500,000 electric motorcycles over the next five years, covering emerging markets such as Kenya and Uganda.

"China is an inspiration for many African companies in the field of electric transport," said Bisasso. "Gogo Electric plans to build the largest lithium-ion battery assembly plant in East Africa this year, and China is a key partner in this endeavor."

Drive to refurbish four schools launched in Dar

By Correspondent Zuwen Shama

THE Realising Education of Development (READ Tanzania) and Deloitte Tanzania have launched the implementation of their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which involves refurbishing and equipping libraries in four public secondary schools in the Dar es Salaam Region.

Deloitte is collaborating with the educational organisation as part of the WorldClass initiative, a global programme aimed to reach 100 million people by 2030 through partnerships with leading educational organisations worldwide.

Speaking during the launch in Dar es Salaam last week, Deloitte Tanzania's country managing partner, Kibiki Fortunatus stated that the collaboration aims to support the improvement of educational outcomes in Tanzania by creating an environment that stimulates students' interest in reading and fosters a love for literature.

He named the schools Kipunguni, Turiani, Minazi Mirefu, and Magomeni Makuti as the first phase of the project, with phase two to commence after the successful implementation and review of phase one.

"Deloitte is proud to support READ, which is working across Tanzania to enhance the quality of education by creating or refurbishing libraries, fully equipping them, and training teachers to apply advanced methodologies to improve literacy," said Fortunatus.

Naemy Sillayo, READ Tanzania executive director, Naemy Sillayo, stated that the project's goal is to improve the quality of education in the coun-

try by ensuring that public school environments are conducive to learning and teaching.

Sillayo highlighted that reading has been a challenge in many African countries and that supporting well-designed reading environments can enhance and motivate students, helping to build a reading culture and increase knowledge to address various societal challenges.

"To achieve this, we create well-arranged and furnished libraries equipped with various textbooks and literature, as well as computers. We also build the capacity of teachers to use advanced teaching methodologies and techniques to improve literacy," she said

She added that the organisation also empowers pupils through reading clubs to become self-reliant readers with improved self-esteem for future success.

She noted that the refurbishment of Magomeni Makuti and Turiani libraries will accommodate more than 68 students at a time.

Kinondoni Municipality's secondary education officer, Mtundi Nyamhanga said the launch of the modern libraries will help address longstanding challenges faced by the schools.

"I urge other stakeholders to support the government by investing in public schools and enhancing them with various educational infrastructures so that students can learn effectively," Nyamhanga said.

Magomeni Makuti's headmistress Sarafiya Bayo explained that previously, the school has for many years operated without a library and sufficient books, which hindered students'

“To achieve this, we create well-arranged and furnished libraries equipped with various textbooks and literature, as well as computers. We also build the capacity of teachers to use advanced teaching methodologies and techniques to improve literacy,

ability to read independently and study effectively, particularly during reading classes.

She also noted that due to the scarcity of books, many students had to share a single book, making it difficult for them to excel in their studies.

"This project has been immensely helpful because we now have a large, well-equipped library with a variety of books and computers. This will motivate both students and teachers to read more, gain additional knowledge, and ultimately improve exam performance," she said.

170 Morogoro young mothers endowed with sewing machines

By Correspondent Ashton

Balaigwa, Morogoro

ATOTAL of 170 young mothers in Morogoro Municipality, who had their education disrupted after becoming pregnant, have been supported with sewing machines and other equipment to help them achieve financial independence.

They received the support which went along with special sewing training through training provided by the Skills for Employment Tanzania (SET) project, run by Tesifa Tanzania (TT).

Speaking here recently, Jasca Punguti, TT programme director said the initiative aims to support women abandoned by their partners by equipping them with skills to become self-employed, thus preventing them from abandoning their children or turning to illegal activities to meet their needs.

The project was supported by Swisscontact through the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania.

In addition to aiding the women, the programme also supports a group of youth living in challenging conditions by offering free technical training and, upon completion, free supporting equipment to start their own businesses.

Masunga Isumbi, information

officer at Swisscontact Tanzania, revealed that the second phase of the SET project commenced in 2022.

By 2024, they had launched 23 projects aimed at teaching technical skills for self-employment or employment which have been carried out across various districts in Morogoro through different non-governmental organisations.

The project targets youth aged 15 to 24, providing them with technical skills training to enable self-employment or employment and help them avoid poverty.

Isumbi emphasized that the main objective of SET's participation in the Farmers' Exhibition is to provide youth with the opportunity to showcase products from their training in sectors such as fish farming, poultry, food processing, sewing, and other entrepreneurial areas. This aims to give them market experience, helping them become self-employed and combat poverty.

He said the exhibition has offered youth a chance to exchange ideas and experiences about their work and connect with businesspeople and farmers from other parts of Tanzania. This exposure is expected to inspire them to work harder and enhance their economic status

and that of their families.

Swisscontact, in collaboration with various stakeholders through the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania, will continue to support youth by providing knowledge and training in technical skills to help improve their livelihoods and overcome poverty.

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Swisscontact, in collaboration with various stakeholders through the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania, will continue to support youth by providing knowledge and training in technical skills to help them improve their livelihoods and overcome poverty.

In Morogoro Region, SET project is implemented in Morogoro Municipality, Morogoro District Council, Gairo, Kilosa, Mvomero and Kilombero districts and will continue to reach various areas in Morogoro based on needs, with plans to extend to the Iringa and Mbeya regions with funding from the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania.



Govt entities urged to abide projects' long-term loans, grants guarantees

By Francis Kajubi

THE ministry of finance has urged all public entities to abide by the Government Loans, Guarantees and Grants Act Cap 134 of 2020 and its regulations when filing long-term loans requests to the ministry for financing mega projects.

Public entities are obligated to file requests for funds to finance mega projects sourced from big financiers such as the World Bank and the International Monetary

Fund 9IMF) at the ministry for its approval.

Addressing journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Omary Khama, Assistant Commissioner for Debt Management Unit in the ministry said that some public entities had ignored the law leading to the borrowing of funds to finance projects that had no relevant impact to the country's economy.

To reverse the trend, the ministry had in September 2020 developed Guidelines for Project Planning and Negotiations for Raising

Loans, Issuing Guarantees and Receiving Grants.

According to him, since the endorsement of the guidelines a significant number of projects of no economic impact demanding for borrowed financing had been dropped.

"A bunch of projects that were to be implemented with borrowed money have been dropped for various reasons;

The regulations require that projects implemented with borrowed money must depict a direct economic impact to the nation and its

people," said Khama.

He asserted that 67 percent of loans from the big financiers are issued at interest rates that are below one percent. Most of them come with a repayment grace period of 10 years and above whereas the paying back period goes up to 40 years.

"We have been sensitizing public officials to ensure that all loan requests for implementing projects must be approved by the plan commissioner before they are submitted for further procedures," said Khama.

According to him, the ministry developed the guidelines targeting at achieving several goals such as to guide holistically the key steps of the project lifecycle, negotiations for financing and approval process.

The guidelines are meant to ensure there is explicit link and synchronization of activities from project preparation, financing process and implementation.

"The guidelines put a condition that ensures there is project ownership by some of the implementing agencies. They are

meant to avoid inadequate project preparations, delays in negotiations and implementation," said Khama.

He asserted that the guidelines are further meant to minimize high cost of borrowing and price variations across projects. The guidelines are used in describing project planning, screening and approval process.

They provide guidance on key elements of project implementation and coordination; describe the project, monitoring and evaluation processes.

Stanbic Bank finances merger & acquisition of Shanta Gold

By Guardian Reporter

Stanbic Bank Tanzania, leveraging through Standard Bank Group, Africa's largest bank by assets, has successfully provided a bridging facility loan which has enabled Saturn Resources to acquire and de-list Shanta Gold from the London Stock Exchange.

Saturn Resources is a wholly owned subsidiary of the diversified investment group ETC Holdings domiciled in Mauritius while Shanta is an East Africa-focused gold producer operating two flagship assets in Tanzania.

Standard Bank was appointed as joint mandated lead arranger in the \$150m bridging loan facility, which allowed Saturn to buy out existing Shanta Gold shareholders before de-listing the gold producer from the London Stock Exchange.

The privatisation of Shanta Gold is set to allow its promoters, management, and employees to deliver on the business strategy and maximise the potential return on all stakeholders.

"We have demonstrated commitment to supporting our key clients in funding their growth ambitions," said Elibariki Ndossi, Head of Investment Banking at Stanbic Bank Tanzania.

"The Standard Bank Group's deep mining sector knowledge, footprint across Africa and major international financial centres, multifaceted teams and on the ground, presence facilitated the quick structuring and execution of the deal," shared Ndossi.

Stanbic Bank through the Standard Bank Group also leveraged its global markets business to provide foreign exchange hedging facility to manage the US dollar/British pound volatility.

Africa's largest bank by assets has a footprint in 20 countries on the continent, to which it has committed to develop in an inclusive and sustainable way while managing risks.

The mining sector is a vital foreign exchange source for Tanzania, contributing about 9 percent of its GDP.

"Our deep mining sector knowledge, foot-

print across Africa and major international financial centres, multifaceted teams and on ground presence facilitated quick structuring and execution of the deal," Ndossi added.

"The transaction has demonstrated our ability to leverage across regional balance sheets (Isle of Man, Tanzania and Mauritius) and product capabilities across debt solutions and global markets to combine insights and ensure a bespoke and market relevant solution is delivered within a short timeline. The deal also indicated our balance sheet capability, as well our growing relationship with Shanta Gold and the ETC Group," said Tumi Mmolawa, Investment Bank - Mining and Metals, Standard Bank.

Shanta Gold is an East Africa-focused gold producer, developer and explorer.

Shanta is a growth-driven, people-focused, and responsible business, motivated by a commitment to deliver long-term value for all stakeholders.

Alongside its Tanzanian assets, the New Luika Gold Mine ("New Luika") and the Singida Gold Project ("Singida"), Shanta also owns the West Kenya Project in Kenya with defined high-grade resources and prospecting licences.

The Singida Gold Mine is located in the Ikungi district, Singida region of central Tanzania, approximately 620km West-Northwest of Dar es Salaam.

Singida is an Open Pit mining operation and achieved commercial production in 2023.

The New Luika Gold Mine is based in the Songwe District of Southwestern Tanzania approximately 700 km South-West of Dar es Salaam commenced its production in 2012.

New Luika is an Open Pit and Underground mining operation with a reputation as one of the safest gold mining operations of its peers.



Tanzanian firm Amsons marks its formal entry into the Kenyan cement market with the Bamburi acquisition. File Photo.

Local firm sets to acquire Kenyan cement producer

By Guardian Reporter

A Tanzanian conglomerate seeking to acquire Bamburi Cement has secured the backing of the major shareholders of the Kenyan cement giant.

Holcim, the Swiss-based leader in global building materials and aggregates, has agreed to divest its entire stake in Bamburi Cement to Tanzania's Amsons Industries.

Bamburi Cement has announced that its two largest shareholders committed in July to sell their shares to Amsons Group, a major player in Tanzanian manufacturing and energy.

Holcim controls 58.6 percent of Bamburi's issued share capital, with Fincem Holding and Kencem Holding Ltd each holding 29.3 percent.

Kenyan institutions and individuals collectively own about 32.17 percent of Bamburi's shares, while foreign investors hold approximately 9.23 percent.

"Amsons confirmed that on July 10, 2024, it received an irrevocable commitment from Bamburi's existing shareholders, including Fincem Holding and Kencem Holding," stated Bamburi Cement.

Earlier this month, Amsons made a binding offer to acquire Bamburi Cement in its entirety for Sh23.1 billion, translating to Sh65 per share.

This bid represents a 42.39 percent premium over the share price of Sh45.65 on July 9. Follow-

ing the announcement, the share price surged to Sh61.

Bamburi Cement has verified that Amsons has the financial resources necessary to complete the acquisition.

"KCB Investment Bank Ltd, as the transaction advisor and sponsoring stockbroker for Amsons, has confirmed that Amsons possesses the required financial capacity to meet the payment obligations for all Bamburi shares if the offer is fully accepted," Bamburi stated.

The deal is contingent upon regulatory approvals.

"If the offer achieves 75 percent or more of the shares, the offeror will review the feasibility of maintaining Bamburi's listing and, subject to Capital Markets Authority (CMA) approval, may seek to delist Bamburi from the NSE," Bamburi announced.

"According to takeover regulations, if the offer results in the acquisition of 90 percent of the shares, the offeror will provide the remaining shareholders with a consideration equal to either the prevailing market price of the voting shares or the offer price, whichever is higher. The Companies Act provisions will apply."

Founded in 2006, Amsons is a family-owned enterprise that has evolved from bulk oil and petroleum into a diversified manufacturing and energy conglomerate, generat-

ing over \$1 billion (Sh130 billion) annually

Its cement operations include a 6,000-tonne-per-day facility and the newly acquired Mbeya Cement in Tanzania.

"We are committed to expanding our investment in Kenya and Bamburi," said Edha Nahdi, Managing Director of Amsons Group, announcing the offer.

"This cross-border acquisition will strengthen our position in the East African cement market as part of our strategy for regional economic development and market integration."

The acquisition of Bamburi would mark Amsons' formal entry into the Kenyan market, with plans for further investments in the near future, according to Nahdi.

Holcim stated that the transaction "aligns with our strategy to reinforce our leadership in core markets as the global leader in innovative and sustainable building solutions."

"We are delighted to partner with Amsons Group, which is well-positioned to drive Bamburi Cement PLC's long-term growth," said Martin Krieger, Holcim's Regional Head of Asia, Middle East, and Africa.

The proposed \$180 million acquisition would be a landmark achievement for Amsons as it seeks to invest in one of Kenya's leading blue-chip companies listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange.



Banks urged to support farmers with better services

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbinga

MBINGA District Commissioner, Kisare Makori (pictured) has asked the banking industry to prioritise and supporting more farmers with various services to make them grow and realise their dreams.

DC Makori made the call here yesterday when speaking at the function where NBC has launched its campaign to revitalize the coffee industry in the district.

The campaign is aimed at providing tailored financial services and support to the district's coffee farmers, driving increased productivity and prosperity.

The campaign goes hand in hand with training on various services offered by the bank, including crop insurance and health insurance, agency services, digital services, agricultural

equipment, and input loans. Other services include the construction of warehouses and assistance to farmers in various activities related to agricultural season preparation and marketing of their crops. Makori said that the banking industry has a crucial role to play by coming up with banking services that are friendly to farmers and the agricultural sector in general.

He also lauded the lender for coming up with the campaign as its arrival in the district is an important liberation for coffee farmers who require special financial services, and the government is determined to ensure the bank's intentions are successful.

"Furthermore, I am delighted to hear that through this campaign, farmers can access loans for essential tools such as tractors and other modern agricultural equipment, agricultural

inputs, and pre-payment loans for farmers."

"The health and agricultural insurance services promoted by the bank through this campaign are also very important for farmers, especially in dealing with their personal health challenges and protecting themselves against losses resulting from natural disasters that affect their crops," he said.

On behalf of farmers, Loveness Kapinga, Nahongo AMCOS secretary expressed her fascination with the health insurance and crop insurance services due to the great need the farmers have for access to good healthcare services.

Kapinga also mentioned crop insurance as the right solution against the effects of various disasters that affect their crops.

Msafiri Shayo, the bank's head of strategy said the campaign is part of the bank's response to

the government's call to contribute to the achievement of the 10/30 agenda, which aims to increase agricultural production from 5 per cent to 10 per cent by 2030.

"Alongside the launch of this campaign for coffee farmers in Mbinga district, we also offer various services for farmers, including the opening of farmers' accounts, which have no monthly charges, issuing individual farmer loans for agricultural tools such as tractors, and loans for cooperative societies (AMCOS/Union) for inputs and pre-payment through the warehouse receipt system," he stated.

Raymond Urassa, the bank's head of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) said that it targets all farmers, including cooperative societies and individuals who will process their sales proceeds into the Shambani accounts.

SPECIAL REPORT

Climate change threatens Africa's black rhinos' population growth - 4



A crash of black rhino captured grazing. File Photo.

By Francis Kajubi

The government has been urged to prioritize wildlife conservation in the upcoming National Development Vision Plan 2050, with a particular focus on protecting rare species such as black rhinos from the growing threats posed by climate change.

Experts are calling for the inclusion of climate adaptation and mitigation measures in the new development vision to ensure clear strategies for wildlife protection in the face of potential climate crises.

Noah Sitati, a wildlife species expert with WWF Tanzania, highlighted in a recent interview that national parks and other protected wildlife areas are as vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as human populations. He emphasized the need for decisive action.

"We have advised the ministry to consider wildlife matters as the preparation of the development vision is ongoing. It is up to humans to establish protective and sustainable measures for the survival of wildlife and nature," said Sitati.

He highlighted that climate change signifi-

cantly affects reproductive issues in wildlife, particularly rare species like black rhinos.

"Drought, excessive rainfall, and invasive species are some of the key threats to ecosystems in wildlife conservation areas. Without plans in place to address these challenges, the health and reproductive status of rare wildlife species could be compromised, potentially leading to population declines or even extinction," Sitati warned.

He also noted that the private sector plays a crucial role in supporting government initiatives to protect and sustain rare wildlife species for future generations.

During the presentation of the 2024/25 budget in the National Assembly in May, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Angellah Kairuki, highlighted efforts to strengthen wildlife protection, particularly for black rhinos. The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) conducted 251 patrols in the previous financial year, resulting in the arrest of 339 suspects for wildlife-related crimes, the seizure of over 16,000 livestock illegally grazed in the parks, and the confiscation of four rifles.

Additionally, the NCAA removed invasive plant species from 866.68 hectares and con-

ducted controlled burning on 2,156 hectares in the Ngorongoro Crater and Nduu areas to eliminate invasive reptiles and insects.

In an effort to protect black rhinos, the ministry has developed a LoRa WAN rhino tracking system to monitor their survival in all national parks and conserved areas. Kairuki also announced plans to promote rhino tourism by establishing rhino sanctuaries in Mikumi and Burigi-Chato national parks.

The government's initiatives have led to an increase in the population of large animals in national parks, with current estimates showing 17,000 lions, 225,000 buffaloes, and 24,000 leopards.

Antonia Raphael, Principal Wildlife Officer in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, mentioned that her office has already gathered input from wildlife stakeholders on what should be included in the new development vision concerning wildlife welfare.

"Climate change-related issues have been featured in the proposals for the National Development Vision 2050. The government is eager to ensure wildlife is protected in the wake of the climate change crisis," said

Raphael.

The urgency of addressing climate change is underscored by the 2023 State of the Rhino Report from the International Rhino Foundation, which highlights the increasing risks posed by climate change to rhinos' survival.

In Africa, climate change-induced droughts are causing significant challenges for human communities, which, in turn, have cascading effects on wildlife. Competition for water resources may escalate conflicts between communities and between humans and wildlife, bringing rhinos and other animals into closer contact with people.

Poverty resulting from crop and livestock losses could also drive an increase in poaching as a source of income. Additionally, dry conditions may lead to more wildfires, further threatening rhino habitats.

Conversely, in Asia, increased precipitation and longer monsoon periods are causing direct harm to rhinos, with floods stranding or drowning them and sometimes separating calves from their mothers. These impacts are expected to worsen with intensified storms.

BANKING & FINANCE

In Tanzania, the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) reported severe drought in northern Tanzania (Manyara, Arusha, and Kilimanjaro) in October 2021, posing threats to water resources for both wildlife and humans. The year 2021 was declared the fourth driest year since 1970, with temperatures 0.5 degrees Celsius above the long-term average from 1981 to 2021.

In response, the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) constructed dams with a budget of 669.4 billion Tanzanian Shillings, while the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) was allocated 12.9 billion Tanzanian Shillings for wildlife management activities.

The Kiteto District Council in the Manyara region reported the deaths of eight buffaloes in 2021, with at least four large animals being rescued from muddy ponds on a weekly basis.

The Serengeti National Park ecosystem, home to 80 percent of Tanzania's black rhinos, and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area were reported by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to have escaped the worst effects of the drought in 2022.

In Kenya, a report by the Wildlife Research and Training Institute released in September 2022 indicated that the rhino population had not been significantly affected by the drought, with only one rhino death recorded in Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, Tsavo West National Park.

A research paper published in January 2023 explored the potential impacts of future climate change on black and white rhinoceros populations in Southern Africa.

The research was conducted Kruger park in South Africa, Etosha park in Namibia, Hwange park in Zimbabwe, Tsavo West park in Kenya, and Hlane Royal park in Eswatini.

The study found that rising temperatures and increasingly water-scarce landscapes could lead to stress, reduced access to food, and other challenges for rhinos, potentially making some habitats unsuitable by 2085.

According to the paper, the RCP4.5 scenarios which represents an anticipated future on climate policies limit and achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations to 4.5 W m⁻² by 2100 predicts average warming across the five parks of 2.2° Celsius (4° Fahrenheit) by 2055 from the pre-industrial baseline, and 2.5° Celsius (4.5°F) by 2085.

However, the high-emissions scenario, RCP8.5, forecasts a 2.8° Celsius (5°F) rise by 2055 and 4.6° Celsius (8.3°F) by 2085. It is stated in the paper that African rhino conservationists have primarily been concerned with poaching, a severe and ongoing threat. But climate change impacts on rhinos pose an additional threat.

The research underscores the importance of combining poaching prevention efforts with climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies to protect these iconic species.

Conservation organizations, park managers, and governments must work together, involving local communities, to develop and implement these strategies.

Configuring on-chain assets in a token economy

By Christoph Hock and Frank Scheidig

The token economy, which provides the foundation for assets and cash on the blockchain, can be seen as part of the internet's evolution since the early 1990s.

Historically, Web 1.0 focused on the transmission of information, with the 'read' function of search engines gaining popularity at the time. Web 2.0 then ushered the next step in the internet's journey - the platform economy. Companies like Amazon and Facebook, which recently crossed the one trillion dollar barrier, exemplify this period from the end of the 1990s and the beginning of this century.

From Web 1.0

Slow initial user adoption was characteristic of both Web 1.0 and Web 2.0. A similar trajectory awaits Web 3.0, the era of the token economy, where on top of writing and

reading, the functionalities of 'own' and 'execute' will be implemented.

These modes are what makes this new era so attractive for the financial industry. If we are to see the token economy as the next step in the internet's evolution, with the potential to reshape the financial sector, it then becomes a crucial catalyst for industrial change.

Many areas of the financial industry could be affected - such as post-trade processes, including settlement and clearing in combination with custody. Processes between the involved market players will also increasingly be mapped on the blockchain.

As well as a much higher level of automation going forward, value will be created by the setup of new roles in the ecosystem. On the other hand, oligopolies in the existing world of finance might be questioned and some intermediaries might partially lose



the importance they have today.

Another second area that could be affected is the product space. Tokenisation will be a more sophisticated electronic wrapper for investable products, for what is now known as securitisation in the form of physical global certificates. Combined with the fractionalisation of tokens, this will go hand-in-hand with further democratisation

and individualisation of investing.

Payment mechanisms will also likely shift to blockchain as a platform. Take central bank digital currencies and stablecoins. Looking at opportunities in data management, the acceptance of blockchain as a single source of truth will lead to efficiency gains, greater transparency, easier accessibility and significantly lower costs.

Regulatory clarity in the token economy, a clearly defined governance structure and guardrails for the financial industry are key elements for further evolution. Financial stability and investor trust are main characteristics of the industry as we know it today.

In this new era of the token economy, these elements must be maintained and preserved. European Securities and Markets Authority and its national regulatory bodies, along with the ministries of finance, have created a regulatory framework for crypto-assets, which also includes blockchain-based traditional securities. This offers market participants the opportunity to get involved in these products, keeping financial stability and trust in mind.

The life cycle of a traditional bond

The life cycle of a traditional bond (Figure 1) from origination and primary, secondary markets, post-trade processes

to life cycle events and maturity are shown in comparison with a blockchain-based, so-called tokenised bond.

Pain points in the current environment are addressed. Possible solutions for these based on blockchain technology with not only assets on the blockchain, but also required cash on the blockchain, are provided. Central banks will play a major role in this context.

What benefits can the new ecosystem deliver?

For clarification, it is not about technology for the sake of technology. When combining assets and cash on the blockchain, innovation and competition will lead to higher speed, lower costs and reduced risk. A higher level of automation will simplify administrative processes and a real-time golden source for data will provide a higher level of transparency.

Settlement and clearing will benefit from higher speed;

atomic settlement, meaning instantaneous settlement, will be a possibility going forward. Smart contracts as the brain behind blockchain technology will allow new features.

Overall, blockchain is the catalyst behind the token economy. The ability for tokenisation to make processes more efficient in terms of speed, costs, risks and enabling new business models, makes it a key force for change in the financial industry.

Now, the focus in 2024 must include central banks' implementation of digital currencies and the setup of distributed ledger technology-based secondary market trading platforms and regulatory initiatives like the go-live of the Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation.

Christoph Hock (pictured) is Head of Tokenisation and Digital Assets at Union Investment and Frank Scheidig is Global Head of Senior Executive Banking at DZ BANK.

Africa's energy sector to litigate banks for financial apartheid in oil, gas sector

By Guardian Correspondent

The withdrawal of Western financial support from Africa's oil and gas sector, coupled with delays in key practices due to lack of investment, threatens to undermine the continent's energy development and economic progress says the African Energy Chamber.

In recent years, several Western banks and financial institutions have implemented policies aimed at reducing support for fossil fuel projects, especially in Africa.

This has led to a sharp decline in investment in the continent's oil and gas industry, a sector that is crucial for its economic future and energy needs.

The African Energy Chamber (AEC) argues that these institutions are practicing "financial apartheid," arguing that while similar projects receive support in Europe, Africa's high-cost energy projects are being neglected.

The decline in investment is already having a noticeable impact, exacerbated by global shifts towards cleaner energy and prioritizing of ESG practices. Major international oil companies are reducing their presence in Africa.

For instance, Equinor has withdrawn from offshore exploration in South Africa and ExxonMobil has exited a deep-water oil prospect in Ghana. This decline is contributing to a bleak outlook for Africa's energy sector.



"As the international community moves to boycott investments in the African energy sector, African people and African development stand to suffer," says NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the AEC. "The role of oil in Africa's energy and economic future is apparent, and consequently, should be defended as Western elites move to disrupt African progress."

The broader implications of financial divestment are profound. Many African governments rely on fossil fuels as a cost-effective means to alleviate energy poverty and boost state revenues. However, the increasing pressure on financial institutions to cut funding for high-carbon projects creates uncertainty about the future of Africa's energy sector.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has added to these challenges with its calls to cease funding for oil and gas projects, highlighting a disparity: while natural

gas is considered a 'green' energy source for Europe, it does not receive the same treatment in Africa.

According to Ayuk, "The IEA has lost its relevance and its authority."

Originally focused on managing oil supply disruptions, the IEA now prioritizes policies aimed at achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Its 2019 projection that no new investments in oil, gas, or coal are needed if the world continues on this path has been particularly controversial.

Several key African projects are at risk due to the withdrawal of financial support. Significant initiatives like TotalEnergies' Mozambique LNG project, ExxonMobil's Rovuma LNG project, Nigeria's Train 7 LNG expansion, Senegal's Sangomar oil field, Uganda's Tilenga project and the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) require substantial financing to advance.

Despite these setbacks, some projects are progressing.

TotalEnergies is advancing its \$20 billion Mozambique LNG project, aiming to develop the Golfinho and Atum fields with a production capacity of 12.88 million tonnes per year.

Eni's Coral South FLNG project in Mozambique has achieved a production capacity of 3.4 million tonnes per year. Additionally, the Greater Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) LNG project, which started gas production in November 2022, is being developed by bp, Kosmos Energy and the national oil companies of Senegal and Mauritania. This project includes an FLNG facility with an initial capacity of 2.5 million tonnes per year.

Meanwhile Nigeria's Train 7 project, an expansion of the existing NLNG facility on Bonny Island, aims to boost production by 8 million tonnes per year, bringing the total to about 30 million tonnes per year. This development is crucial for Nigeria's growing population and its ability to meet its energy needs.

However, delays persist.

The Tanzania LNG project, involving Equinor and Shell, is stalled due to proposed government changes.

UTM Offshore's FLNG project in Nigeria, initially planned for 2023, has been postponed. Additionally, the EACOP faces significant criticism from financiers and environmental groups, complicating its development and financing.

Namibia, experiencing heightened

interest from recent oil discoveries, is facing delays with the Kudu Conventional Gas Development.

The Kudu Gas Project, an offshore initiative, has faced setbacks related to financing and project development challenges. As a result, the project is still pending FID and anticipated to commence production by 2026.

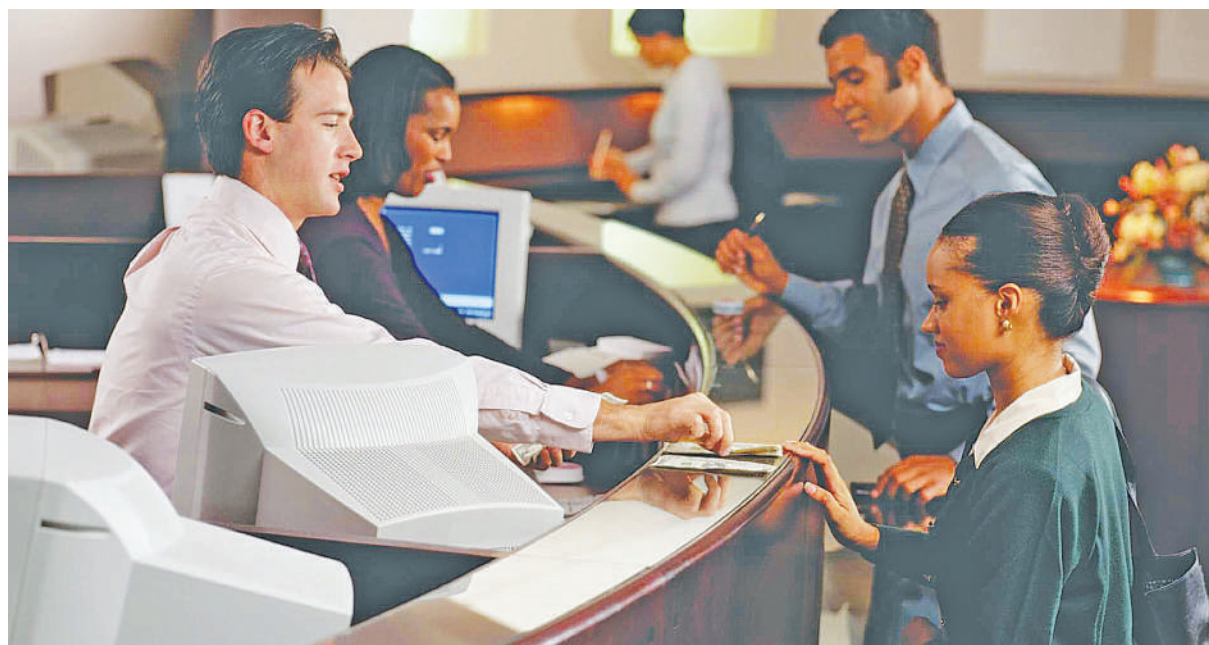
"Today, African Energy Poverty numbers are skyrocketing. Nine hundred million Africans lack access to clean cooking technologies, while 600 million lack access to electricity, most of them women. African families are facing high energy cost and inflation is going up," Ayuk emphasizes.

"It is shocking that financial institutions that do business in Africa continue to practice financial apartheid by cutting off capital and financing to oil and gas companies operating in Africa because of climate concerns. These same institutions fund gas development in Europe, where natural gas is deemed green and a fossil fuel for Africans."

The disparity in financing not only undermines Africa's ability to harness its natural resources for its development but also perpetuates a cycle of energy deprivation.

The AEC urges a re-evaluation of this approach and calls on global financiers to support Africa's energy projects, recognizing their critical role in advancing economic development, enhancing energy security, and improving living standards across the continent.

Top customer service strategies for banks



In the ever-evolving banking landscape, customer engagement is key to building trust, loyalty, and long-term relationships. Health insurer dacadoo lists the top 10 strategies banks can implement to enhance customer engagement. From personalised experiences to predictive analytics, these strategies will help banks differentiate themselves from competitors and foster growth.

1. Personalised experiences

Personalisation is at the forefront of effective customer engagement. By leveraging data, banks can create tailored experiences that go beyond generic offerings. Customers value this flexibility—87% prefer personalised communication, loyalty programs, and product recommendations, transforming transactions into meaningful relationships.

2. Exploring new touchpoints

Banks can engage customers by introducing innovative touchpoints. For example, integrating digital health platforms like dacadoo into banking apps provides customers with health insights, gamified challenges, and coaching. This holistic approach enhances customer connections by addressing both financial and lifestyle needs.

3. Understanding the customer journey

Deeply understanding the customer journey is crucial for strengthening relationships. Mapping out each interaction—from onboarding to offboarding—helps banks identify key touchpoints and

pain points. This understanding allows banks to anticipate needs and deliver optimised, customer-centric experiences.

4. Multichannel support

Offering seamless support across multiple channels is essential for customer satisfaction. Whether through phone, email, live chat, or social media, banks should provide consistent, personalized assistance. An omnichannel approach ensures customers can engage on their preferred platform, enhancing their overall experience.

5. Rewards and partnerships

Creating a compelling rewards ecosystem is a powerful engagement tool. By partnering with retail, travel, and entertainment businesses, banks can offer exclusive perks tailored to customers' spending habits and lifestyles. This approach makes customers feel valued, increasing loyalty and engagement.

6. Digital-first approach

Banks must prioritise mobile and online banking by optimising these platforms for ease of use, speed, and intuitive features. A digital-first approach includes offering mobile-specific tools, such as payments and budgeting features, to meet customers' needs on the go.

7. Seamless transitions

Creating smooth transitions between digital and human interactions is key to reducing customer friction. Banks should offer both self-service tools and human support for complex issues, ensuring a satisfying experience that minimises

frustration.

8. Data-led interventions

Using data to anticipate customer needs and proactively address potential issues can significantly improve engagement. For example, sending alerts for low account balances or upcoming bills demonstrates a bank's commitment to the customer's financial well-being.

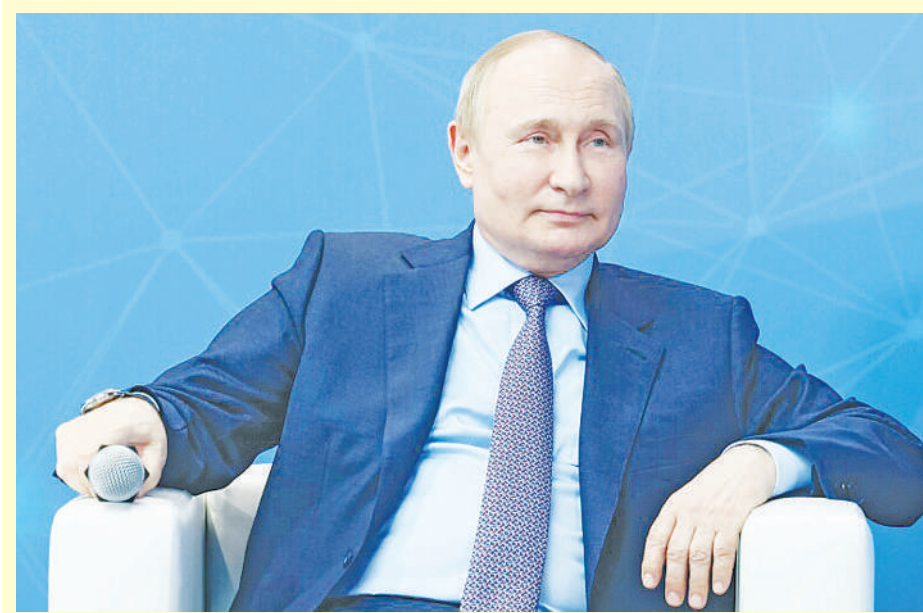
9. Predictive analytics

Predictive analytics allows banks to anticipate customer behavior, identify trends, and mitigate churn risks. By offering tailored recommendations and predicting which customer segments may be interested in new products, banks can further personalize the customer experience.

10. Building trust through clear communication

Clear, jargon-free communication builds trust and empowers customers to make informed decisions. Regular updates and accessible information about products, fees, and terms keep customers informed and engaged.

Customer engagement is vital to a bank's success, and by prioritising these strategies, banks can build stronger relationships with their customers. dacadoo's Digital Health Engagement Platform (DHEP) offers a unique approach by merging health and wealth management. Through personalised journeys, gamification, and data-driven insights, dacadoo helps banks understand and engage with their customers on a deeper level.



Russian President Vladimir Putin

Chinese banking refuses to process Russian payments

By Huiheng Tan

Now, 98 percent of Chinese banks – even small regional ones – are refusing to accept direct Chinese payment transfers from Russia. Alexey Razumovsky, the commercial director of payments company Impaya Rus, told the pro-Kremlin Izvestia media outlet.

Such issues appear to have intensified over the last three weeks, because smaller Chinese financial companies were still processing Russian payments in May and June, per Izvestia.

This comes on the back of recent news that about 80 percent of bank transfers made in the Chinese yuan were bouncing back with no explanation after being stalled for weeks, while banks decide whether they could transact, Russian media outlet Kommersant reported last month.

Razumovsky said the payment challenges with Chinese banks could contribute to supply chain difficulties and inflation in Russia, per Izvestia.

Since the invasion of Ukraine, Russia and its trade partners have skirted sanctions by using smaller banks and other payment modes or non-US dollar currencies to circumvent the West's ban of some Russian banks from the widely-used SWIFT messaging system.

However, the doors have been closing for these workarounds since December, when the US approved secondary sanctions targeting financial institutions that were helping Russia.

Some financial institutions in China are even starting to reject payments in the ruble, Alexey Poroshin, the general director of investment and consulting firm First Group, told Izvestia.

Poroshin said Chinese banks aren't keen on doing business with Russian companies through financial institutions in Hong Kong, a Special Administration

Region under China.

Russian companies are still send yuan to China via Russian bank branches on the mainland, there's a 5 percent markup, Ekaterina Kizevich, CEO of Atvira, a Russian foreign trade consultancy, told Izvestia.

Many Chinese companies would still refuse payments from the Russian bank branches on the mainland, Impaya Rus' Razumovsky told the newspaper.

Russian businesses still have alternatives like conducting transactions through "friendly" third-party countries.

Russia is also rushing to set up alternative payment systems, including crypto, to facilitate trade.

In July, the country is passed new laws regulating cryptocurrency and a plan for the digital ruble.

Under the new law, Russia's central bank will create a new "experimental" payments platform. Russian central bank governor Elvira Nabiullina said in early July that the first transactions are expected by the end of this year, per Reuters. Russia and China are even planning to revive the age-old practice of barter trade to get around Western sanctions, Reuters reported on Thursday.

Russia's problems with paying Chinese suppliers would cut off a crucial pillar of support for its war against Ukraine, Joseph Webster, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council think tank wrote in a June report.

"While Russia's exports help finance its war effort, its imports of industrial goods are vastly more important for sustaining the economic, political, and military dimensions of its war effort, at least in the short term," he wrote.

"Russia's imports prevent shortages, maintain political support for the war by stabilizing living standards, and, in some cases, facilitate military capabilities," wrote Webster.

WORLD

Mpox vaccines likely months away even as WHO, Africa CDC discuss emergency

LONDON

VACCINES to help curb an escalating mpox outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo and neighbouring countries may still not reach the central African country for months even as the World Health Organization considers following Africa's top public health agency in declaring the outbreak an emergency.

On Tuesday, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention declared a public health emergency of continental concern for the first time ever, and on Wednesday, a WHO-led panel meets to decide if it represents a global threat.

But while experts hoped the meetings would galvanize action worldwide, many obstacles remain, including limited vaccine supply, funding and competing disease outbreaks.

"It is important to declare an emergency because the disease is spreading," said Jean-Jacques Muyembe-Tamfum, head of Congo's Institut National pour la Recherche Biomedicale (INRB). He said he hoped any declaration would help provide more funding for surveillance as well as supporting access to vaccines in Congo.

But he acknowledged the road ahead was not easy in a huge country where health facilities and humanitarian funds are already stretched by conflict and outbreaks of diseases like measles and cholera.

"If the big declarations remain just words, it won't make any material difference," said Emmanuel Nakoune, an mpox expert at the Institut Pasteur de Bangui in Central African Republic.

Africa CDC said last week it had been granted \$10.4 million in emergency funding from the Africa Union for its mpox response,



and its director general Jean Kaseya said on Tuesday there was a clear plan to secure 3 million doses of vaccine this year, without elaborating further.

However, sources involved in planning a vaccination roll-out in Congo said only 65,000 doses were likely to be available in the short-term, and campaigns were unlikely to begin before October at the earliest.

There have been more than 15,000 suspected cases of mpox in Africa this year and 461 deaths, mainly among children in Congo, according to Africa CDC. The viral infection is usually mild but can kill, and causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions.

A new offshoot of the virus has caused outbreaks in refugee camps in the east of Congo this year, and spread to Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and Kenya for the first time.

Ivory Coast and South Africa are also experiencing outbreaks linked to a different strain of the virus, which spread globally in 2022, largely among men who have sex with men. This outbreak prompted WHO to declare a global emergency before ending it 10 months later.

Then, two vaccines were used - Bavarian Nordic's Jynneos, and LCI6, made by KM Biologics. Outside clinical trials, neither has ever been available in Congo or across Africa, where the disease has been endemic for decades. Only LCI6 is approved for use in children.

Congo's regulators approved the use of the vaccines domestically in June, but the government is yet to officially request any from either the manufacturers or governments like the United States looking to make donations through the global vaccine group, Gavi.

Agencies

Palestine to attend BRICS summit in 'outreach' format, says Abbas

MOSCOW

PALESTINE should be now expecting an invitation to attend the BRICS summit in Russia this fall in the 'outreach' format, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas told TASS on Tuesday following his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.



Palestinian leader Abbas arrived in the Russian capital of Moscow for an official visit on August 12.

"We have discussed our vision regarding the possible development of events in the nearest future and what it could lead to during such complicated times," Abbas said in an interview with TASS First Deputy Director General Mikhail Gusman after the talks with Putin.

"We have certainly also discussed bilateral relations, because we enjoy a very long-standing strategic relationship with Russia," the Palestinian leader continued. "This is why we have discussed bilateral ties between Russia and Palestine, the relations that we always support solidly both during the personal meetings as well as at the level of telephone conversations. We have discussed perspectives for their further development."

"We have also discussed BRICS. We have reached a verbal agreement that Palestine would be invited [to attend this forum] in the 'outreach' format," Abbas stated.

According to the Palestinian leader, "a particular format of a meeting could be organized and it will be devoted exclusively to Palestine, so that all countries would voice their views on the developments that are taking place in this area."

"It will all be as relevant as possible, considering the fact that the [member] countries of this association [BRICS] are all friendly to Palestine," Abbas said.

Russia took over the BRICS' year-long presidency on January 1, 2024. Russia's presidency features more than 250 various events, with a BRICS summit in Kazan in October 2024 being the central one.

Since its inception in 2006, BRICS has experienced two phases of expansion. In 2011, South Africa joined the original group, which included Brazil, Russia, India, and China. On January 1, 2024, five new members officially entered BRICS, namely Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia.

The Palestinian leader also stressed that he managed to discuss with Russian President Putin "all issues that were of concern for the both parties."

"Our meeting lasted for almost two hours and you can imagine that there were no forbidden issues among us as we had discussed all issues concerning both parties," Abbas added.

Tensions flared up in the Middle East on October 7, 2023, when militants from the Gaza Strip-based radical Palestinian movement Hamas staged a surprise attack on Israeli territory from Gaza, killing residents of Israeli border settlements and taking over 240 hostages, including women, children and the elderly.

Hamas described its attack as a response to the aggressive actions of Israeli authorities against the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City.

In response, Israel launched a military operation in the Palestinian enclave to destroy Hamas military and political wings and free all hostages.

Another round of escalation in the Middle East followed the violent death of Hamas Political Bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and the elimination of Hezbollah top military commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut. Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah held Israel responsible and asserted that the attacks will be met with retaliation. **Agencies**

World youths gather in Beijing to discuss civilisation exchanges, mutual learning

BEIJING

NEARLY 200 young people from both home and abroad have gathered here to share their views and discuss exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations.

An international lecture was held on Monday to provide an opportunity for young people to engage in dialogues about cultural diversity, civilizational exchanges and mutual learning, cultural inheritance and innovation, as well as the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Mohammed Jihad of Egypt advocated for active efforts to ensure that diverse cultures thrive vibrantly through dialogue.

Zhang Shanqing, a professor at the Institute of Dunhuang Studies of Lanzhou University, said that Chinese culture, as demonstrated by Dunhuang culture, is highly inclusive, allowing for the acceptance of foreign cultures.

Xinhua

White House claims Kiev did not inform it beforehand about plans to attack Russia's Kursk

WASHINGTON

THE Ukrainian government has allegedly failed to inform the US administration before attacking Russia's borderline Kursk Region, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre has told reporters.

When asked whether Kiev warned Washington prior to the attack and whether the United States was assisting Kiev in that regard, she replied: "Absolutely not."

"No, we had nothing to do with this. This is something for the Ukrainians to speak

to their military operations. Our policy has not changed on this," she added. "What we are going to do, as we have been for the past two-plus years, is to continue to provide Ukraine with the assistance that they need," Jean-Pierre added.

Maj. Gen. Apty Alaudinov, the deputy head of the Main Military-Political Directorate of the Russian Armed Forces and the commander of the Akhmat commando forces, said Ukraine's incursion near Kursk was developed under the guidance of US generals.



Many foreign mercenaries were involved, he added.

Pentagon Spokesman Patrick Ryder said Ukraine allegedly had not warned the US in

advance about its plans.

Ukrainian forces started a major attack on the Kursk Region on August 6. Missile attack alerts have been issued

repeatedly in the region since then. The attack killed 12 civilians and wounded 121 others, including 10 children, the latest data show. Hospitals have admitted 69 people. Of them, 17 are in serious condition.

More than 120,000 people left the Kursk Region areas close to the Ukrainian border, or were evacuated. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, Ukraine has lost up to 2,030 servicemen, 35 tanks and 31 armored personnel carriers since the start of fighting in the Kursk Region.

Agencies

China, Africa embrace closer economic, trade ties

BEIJING

CHINA and African countries have developed closer economic and trade ties with ever-increasing trade volume, diversified commodities and services on both sides, latest data showed.

Trade between China and Africa rose 5.5 percent year on year to 1.19 trillion yuan (about 166.6 billion U.S. dollars) between January-July, data from the General Administration of Customs (GAC) showed.

China has been Africa's largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years, customs data showed.

China-Africa trade reached a record high of 282.1 billion U.S. dollars in 2023, up 1.5 percent year on year, showing strong resilience.

In 2023, China's new energy vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products exports to Africa increased by 291 percent, 109 percent and 57 percent year on year, respectively.

Meanwhile, China's imports of African nuts, vegetables, flowers, and fruits increased by 130 percent, 32 percent, 14 percent, and 7 percent, respectively, compared to the previous year.

Specially, China's trade with Africa in intermediate goods posted 6.4 percent



year-on-year growth in the first seven months of the year, GAC data also showed.

Trade in intermediate goods between China and Africa accounts for 68 percent of the total value of bilateral trade, helping Africa in its process of industrialization and economic diversification efforts, said Lyu Daliang, an official with the GAC.

During the January-July period, China's exports to Africa hit 697.93 billion yuan, while imports reached 490.89 billion yuan, customs data revealed.

Sang Baichuan, dean of the Institute of International Economy at the University of International Business and

Economics, said that the China-Africa trade has grown rapidly as a result of mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation.

"It not only demonstrates the remarkable achievements of China's high-quality economic development, but also plays a significant role in promoting Africa's social development and improving local people's living standards," said Sang.

The China-Africa Trade Index, based on trade-indicator data between China and African countries, was released for the first time by the GAC in 2023, with the general index of data from 2000 serving as the benchmark.

Starting from 100 points in 2000, the index reached a record high of 990.55 points in 2022, indicating the rapid and positive development of China-Africa trade.

"China and Africa economies are highly complementary," Sang noted, adding that China possesses mature and applicable technologies, equipment, and sufficient capital, while African countries have significant advantages in terms of manpower and natural resources.

Strengthening trade ties between China and Africa is beneficial in leveraging their respective advantages and vast markets, achieving mutual benefits, and win-win development, according to Sang.

The 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will be held in Beijing from Sept. 4 to 6, and Lyu expects the two sides to enhance their economic and trade cooperation.

The theme of the 2024 FOCAC is "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future," according to an announcement made by the Chinese foreign ministry on July 30.

Xinhua

Iran, Britain discuss boosting ties, regional situation

TEHRAN

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer have exchanged views on bilateral ties and developments in West Asia, including the situation in Gaza.

In a phone call on Monday night, the two sides discussed ways to improve relations between Iran and Britain and ensure peace and stability in West Asia and the world, according to a statement published on the website of the Iranian president's office on Tuesday.

The Iranian president expressed his willingness to improve bilateral

ties and resumption of the talks on the revival of a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, stressing that all sides' fulfillment of their commitments is the key to the nuclear negotiations' success.

He slammed as being "irresponsible and in contradiction with international law" the international organizations' silence in the face of Israel's "unprecedented and inhumane crimes in Gaza and terrorist actions in the region" and some Western countries' support for Israel, saying such approaches had jeopardized peace and security in the region and the world by encouraging Israel to continue its

"crimes."

Pezeshkian added that Iran maintained that war in any part of the world would not be in the interests of any country, stressing that giving a punitive response to aggressors was a legal right of countries and a solution to stop "crimes and aggression".

The British prime minister, for his part, called for the cessation of the conflict in Gaza and the swift beginning of aid delivery to people in the coastal enclave, requesting Iran to further contribute to those processes.

Starmer expressed his country's readiness to promote relations

with Iran, hoping that the two countries' new ambassadors would begin their missions as soon as possible.

According to a press release published on the British government's website on Monday, during the phone call, Starmer also said that he was "deeply concerned by the situation" in West Asia, stressing that "now was the time for calm and careful consideration," and calling on Iran to refrain from exacting revenge on Israel.

Separately, Iranian Caretaker Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani and Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani discussed Tehran's re-

sponse to the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, the Iranian foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

In a phone call, Bagheri Kani condemned recent Israeli actions as violations of the sovereignty of Syria, Lebanon, and Iran, asserting Iran's right to retaliate against Israel for Haniyeh's killing. He added that Israel's actions had disrupted efforts to end the violence in Gaza.

Tajani emphasized the importance of implementing a truce initiative proposed by Egypt, Qatar, and the United States to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza as soon as possible. He expressed concern over the rising tensions and urged all parties to

exercise restraint, according to the Iranian foreign ministry's statement.

The Middle East has been bracing for escalating tension amidst Iran and its allies' threats to avenge the killings of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders last month.

In April, Iran attacked Israel directly for the first time in history with hundreds of ballistic missiles and drones in retaliation for an attack on the Iranian consulate in Syria earlier in the month, which killed seven Iranians, including two military commanders. Israel reported intercepting the majority of the missiles and drones.

Agencies

Russia follows developments in Palestine despite its special military op – Putin

NOVO-OGARYOVO

ALTHOUGH Russia is currently occupied with the special military operation in Ukraine, it is still paying attention to what is going on in Palestine, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday.

"Dear Mr. President, dear friends, allow me, first of all, to cordially welcome you here in Moscow, we have not seen each other for two years, although we are in constant contact, and I am very happy to see you all - you and your delegation," Putin said at a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Moscow.

"Everyone knows that today, unfortunately, Russia has to defend its interests, defend its people with the use of weapons. But what is happening in the Middle East, in Palestine, we are definitely paying attention to," Putin continued.

The Russian president stressed that Russia has long-standing and solid ties with the Arab world in general and with Palestine in particular, which Moscow values greatly.

"I am very glad to have the opportunity to meet with you today here in Moscow and to speak about the whole range of our relations, where they are now, and where they are headed," Putin continued.

He stressed that Russia had always stood for the peaceful settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"We are united in the stance that the problem's roots go far back in the past and are connected with the ignorance of international organizations to follow previously made decisions, first of all by the United Nations, decisions regarding the formation and establishment of an independent Palestinian state," Putin said.

The Russian president pointed out that Russia's stance regarding this issue has not changed.

"This stance was laid down a long time



ago and does not depend on the situation, we believe that in order to provide for a lasting, reliable and stable peace in the region it is necessary to implement all UN decisions and, first and foremost, to establish the full-fledged state of Palestine," the Russian president said.

Tensions flared up in the Middle East on October 7, 2023, when militants from the Gaza Strip-based radical Palestinian movement Hamas staged a surprise attack on Israeli territory from Gaza, killing residents of Israeli border settlements and taking over 240 hostages, including women, children and the elderly.

Hamas described its attack as a response to the aggressive actions of Israeli authorities against the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City.

In response, Israel launched a military operation in the Palestinian enclave to destroy Hamas military and political wings and free all hostages.

Another round of escalation in the Middle East followed the violent death of Hamas Political Bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and the elimination of Hezbollah top military commander Fuad Shukr in Beirut. Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah held Israel responsible and asserted that the attacks will be met with retaliation.

Africa embraces green transport with rapid adoption of e-bikes

NAIROBI/KAMPALA

IN Kenya's capital Nairobi, motorcycles have become an essential choice for residents due to their flexibility, convenience and affordability, with an increasing number of electric models on the roads.

Driven by growing environmental awareness and technological advancements, many African countries have begun actively promoting electric motorcycles in recent years to reduce pollution and shift toward sustainable transportation. With the development of online motorcycle taxi services, the African motorcycle market is experiencing significant growth.

In Kenya, Africa's largest motorcycle taxi market, 5.2 million people are employed in motorcycle transport, with one in ten relying on motorcycles for their livelihood. Due to the recent surge in fuel prices, electric motorcycles have become the preferred option, as their cost per kilometer is only about 10 percent of the gasoline-powered ones.

This significant advantage has led to a boom in electric motorcycles in the African market. According to the latest report by Powering Renewable Energy, a think tank, the African motorcycle market is expected to reach 5.07 billion U.S. dollars by 2027, with electric motorcycles becoming the dominant product in the transition to sustainable transport in sub-Saharan Africa. Many African countries are also considering ways to reduce pollution by promoting electric travel.

According to Joyce Msuya, former deputy executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the rapid development of electric motorcycles in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and other African countries "will reduce costs, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as create jobs."

Based in Kampala, Uganda's capital, Gogo Electric, one of the country's three leading electric motorcycle manufacturers, imports lithium-ion batteries from China and assembles electric motorcycles for the local



People look at the electric motorbikes during the launch of an e-bike project in Nairobi, capital of Kenya, on July 5, 2023. Xinhua

market.

Customers can always bring their used batteries to a battery swap station, where they can get a fully charged battery at a lower price, said Janos Bisasso, the chief operating officer of Gogo Electric. Bisasso said that over time, customers may realize that swapping batteries is less expensive than refueling, which may encourage them to choose electric motorcycles. Official data shows that the transport sector is one of the country's main sources of pollution, making a transition to green-energy transport necessary.

The country will fully transition to electric mobility in public transport and motorcycle taxis by 2030. It will entirely shift to selling electric vehicles by 2040, according to Uganda's National E-Mobility Strategy, published last November. Under this strategy, a sustainable transport system will be established, with a more than 25 percent reduction in transport-related emissions and the creation of over 500,000 green jobs by 2040.

According to a report by the International Energy Agency, the electric vehicle market in Africa has seen rapid growth in recent years, with notable successes in countries such as South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya.

With their technical experience in motorcycle manufacturing and batteries, Chinese companies have contributed significantly to this "revolution" with their affordable, high-quality products. ARC Ride, a start-up in Kenya, has based its R&D, assembly and sales locally, but some parts still need to

be imported from China, India and Japan, with China providing the majority.

Spiro Electric Vehicles, another major player in African electric vehicles, signed a strategic cooperation agreement with a Chinese company in 2023 to sell 500,000 electric motorcycles over the next five years, covering emerging markets such as Kenya and Uganda.

"China is an inspiration for many African companies in the field of electric transport," said Bisasso. "Gogo Electric plans to build the largest lithium-ion battery assembly plant in East Africa this year, and China is a key partner in this endeavor."

Climate alarms raised as extreme heat waves sweep globe

GENEVA

A major wildfire had been contained in the suburbs of Athens since Sunday, leaving one person dead, thousands evacuated and significant damage by Tuesday morning.

Greek firefighters have been battling wildfires across the country every day since May. The spate of fires comes after a report released by the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the European Union's climate agency Copernicus that Europe has become the fastest-warming continent in the world, with temperatures rising at roughly twice the global average.

In July, a streak of 13 consecutive months of record-breaking temperatures finally ended, Copernicus said last week. However, experts warned of the persistent threat posed by climate change.

"The overall context hasn't changed. Our climate continues to warm," said Copernicus Deputy Director Samantha Burgess. "The devastating effects of climate change started well before 2023 and will continue until global greenhouse gas emissions reach net zero."

Red alert

Prolonged and severe heatwaves have hit every continent, with at least 10 countries experiencing daily temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius in multiple areas over the past year, according to the WMO.

Japan's average temperature for July reached its highest level since records began in 1898. Japanese authorities said more than 120 people had died of heatstroke in Tokyo.

Spain recorded 608 deaths attributable to high temperatures in the first week starting August, almost double the previous week's total of 335, according to the Carlos III Health Institute.

Death Valley in California, the United States, recorded its hottest month in July, with an average 24-hour temperature of 42.5 degrees Celsius.

Even remote Antarctica was not spared. In July, ground temperatures soared by an average of 10 degrees Celsius above usual levels across large swathes of Antarctica's ice sheets. Antarctic sea ice extent was 11 percent below average, the second-lowest level for July in the satellite data records, behind only the lowest July value observed in 2023.

Kenyan campaigners urge enhanced protection for transboundary super tusker elephants

NAIROBI

KENYA observed World Elephant Day on Monday, with campaigners and scientists intensifying calls for the protection of super tusker elephants in the Amboseli ecosystem, which straddles the Kenya-Tanzania border.

Of the 2,000 elephants inhabiting this cross-border region, 10 are distinguished as super tuskers, known for their colossal tusks weighing up to 100 pounds (approximately 45 kg).

These majestic giants face threats from trophy hunting, poaching, habitat loss, and climatic stress, according to campaigners.

Paula Kahumbu, chief executive officer of WildlifeDirect, a Nairobi-based wildlife conservation lobby, said at a briefing in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, that conserving the super tusker elephants has immense ecological and livelihood imperative, calling for a rescinding of licenses permitting the trophy hunting of super tusker elephants in the Amboseli rangelands. Observed annually on Aug. 12,

World Elephant Day aims to bring attention to the plight of African and

Asian elephants and advocate for their protection amid mounting threats such as illegal poaching and mistreatment in captivity.

The 2024 World Elephant Day was held under the theme of "Personifying prehistoric beauty, theological relevance and environmental importance," underscoring the need to conserve natural habitats for the iconic giant mammals.

In Kenya, conservation lobby groups said they will petition the Tanzania government to ban the trophy hunting of super tusker elephants and reverse their declining population.

According to Kahumbu, five super tusker elephants have been killed by trophy hunters in the last eight months in the greater Amboseli ecosystem amid the threat of extinction.

Festus Ihwagi, senior scientist and research policy lead at Save the Elephants, a Nairobi-based elephants conservation lobby, called for cross-border initiatives to protect the remaining super tuskers, given their unique genetic traits and significant role in ecotourism.

Xinhua

More than 1,000 arrested following UK riots, police say

LONDON

BRITISH authorities have now arrested more than 1,000 people following days of rioting involving violence, arson and looting, a national policing body said on Tuesday.

The riots, which followed the killings of three young girls in the northern English town of Southport, began after the July 29 attack.

Violence broke out in cities

across England and also in Northern Ireland, but there have been fewer instances of unrest since last week after efforts to identify those involved were ramped up.

Many have been swiftly jailed, with some receiving long sentences.

The National Police Chiefs' Council said in its latest update that 1,024 had been arrested and 575 charged across the UK.

Those arrested include a 69-year-old accused of vandalism

in Liverpool and a 11-year-old boy in Belfast.

A 13-year-old girl pleaded guilty to violent disorder at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court, prosecutors said, having been seen on July 31 punching and kicking the entrance to a hotel for asylum seekers.

"This alarming incident will have caused genuine fear amongst people who were being targeted by these thugs - and it is particularly distressing to learn that

such a young girl participated in this violent disorder," prosecutor Thomas Power said.

The last time Britain witnessed widespread rioting was in 2011, when the fatal shooting of a Black man by police triggered several days of street violence.

Fast and tough judicial action was viewed as helping quell the unrest in 2011, when around 4,000 people were arrested over several weeks.

Eco-friendly designs in China's major engineering projects

HOW do migrating fish overcome a 63-meter-high dam?

The answer is artificial fishways. At the Huangjinxia water control project in Hanzhong city, northwest China's Shaanxi province, a 1,908-meter-long ecological fishway extends upward along the dam.

The water control project is the major water source of the Hanjiang-to-Weihe River water diversion project, which brings water from Hanjiang River, the Yangtze River's biggest tributary, to Weihe River, the Yellow River's biggest tributary, to meet the water demand in central part of Shaanxi province.

About 3,000 fish migrate at the dam every day during the spawning season, thanks to the water replenishment channels, fish gathering channels, and fish entry holes built by the fishway.

"Since the design stage of the project, we have planned to build an eco-friendly fishway to ensure the smooth migration of fish species in Hanjiang River, considering their migration and spawning characteristics," explained a staff member of the Huangjinxia water control project.

Eco-friendly designs such as fishways, bird corridors, culverts, and green bridges have become essential for major engineering projects in China, offering a unique perspective on the high-quality development of the country.

From bays to mountain-tops, from plains to deserts, China's major engineering projects are increasingly embracing green and innovative approaches.

The Qinghai-Xizang Railway, which links northwest China's Qinghai province and southwest China's Xizang autonomous region, is the highest and longest plateau railway in the world. To protect the plateau ecosystem and biodiversity, a total of 1.54 billion yuan (\$215 million) was invested in ecological conservation along the railway when the construction started.

Besides, 33 dedicated passages were built to facilitate the migration of local wildlife. Train conductors are strictly prohibited from sounding the horn when passing through the passages to minimize the disturbance to wildlife.

The roof of the Xiong'an Railway Station in Xiong'an New Area, north China's Hebei province, is a photovoltaic power station, with 17,700 polycrystalline silicon photovoltaic panels installed, which can generate 5.8 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) electricity on average annually.

The roof can save 1,800 tonnes of standard coal and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 4,500 tonnes on an annual basis, which is equivalent to planting 12 hectares of trees.

During the construction of China's Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the longest bridge-and-tunnel



Photo shows Qinghai-Xizang Railway, which links northwest China's Qinghai province and southwest China's Xizang autonomous region. (People's Daily Online/Peng Huan)

sea crossing in the world, the population of Chinese white dolphins, an endangered dolphin species under first-class state protection in China, increased from 1,200 to over 2,000.

The mega-project marks more than a step forward for China in bridge construction, but stands as a symbol of the harmonious coexistence between humans and the ocean in the country.

China attaches great importance to harmony between humanity and nature in its development planning.

Based on the carrying capacity of resources and the environment, the country has been cultivating new growth drivers and advantages through high-level environmental protection.

By effectively reducing the resource and environmental costs of development and continuously enhancing the potential and momentum of development, the country has managed to improve economic, social, and ecological benefits.

The innovations and breakthroughs in China's major projects make it easier to understand the deep connotation of "new quality productive forces are in itself green productive forces."

For instance, during the construction of the Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link, a mega cross-sea passage in south China, builders faced the challenge of transporting 5,035-meter-long prefabricated immersed tubes from the manufacturing base to the construction site, a distance of roughly 50 kilometers, using floating transportation.

The project team came up with a creative idea to build an integrated ship for transporting and installing the immersed tubes, leading to a reduction of dredging volume by over 10 million cubic meters and exhaust emissions by about 1 million cubic meters compared to traditional towing methods.

China defined the harmony between humanity and nature as a key fea-

ture of its drive to advance Chinese modernization.

In order to promote innovation in development models, it is crucial to uphold the principle that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, accelerate innovations in green technologies and the application of advanced eco-friendly technologies, and integrate digital and intelligent development with green endeavors in industrial development, thus laying a solid green foundation for high-quality development.

China attaches equal importance to protection and development when formulating plans for major engineering projects.

Focusing on the big picture while also paying attention to details, the country has adopted proactive strategies for its major engineering projects, ready to create more miracles and write a new chapter of Chinese modernization featuring harmonious coexistence between human and nature.

People's Daily

Tanzania dominates ICC U-19 Men's CWC Africa Division 2 Qualifier prizes

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

TANZANIA'S U-19 cricket team skipper Laksh Bakrania won the 2024 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Division 2 Qualifier Best Bowler prize as the squad wounded up an impressive run in the showpiece, which concluded in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The tournament hosts emerged as the event's champions after trouncing Sierra Leone by 36 runs via the Duckworth-Lewis (D/L) rule in the trophy clash and secured progression to ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifier Division 1.

The second-placed West Africans too sailed through to the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifier Division 1 showdown alongside Nigeria, which came third with a seven-wicket win over Rwanda in the third-place playoff.

Tanzania went on to dominate the Division 2 Qualifier honours handed over to players that excelled in the weeklong qualifier, with three cricketers winning the prizes.

The gifted Bakrania ended as one of the tournament's best wicket-takers after posting 13 wickets in five games, trailing Sierra Leone skipper Raymond Coker - the showdown's top-wicket taker with 14 wickets.

The Tanzanian bowler gave away 82 runs and his best day with the ball ended with the cricketer notching 4-11 in 2.3 overs when his squad came up against Ghana last week.

Compatriot Omary Ramadhan walked away with the Division 2 Qualifier's Best Wicket-Keeper prize after ending with nine dismissals.

Karim Kisetso stretched Tanzania's dominance in the honours, given the performer ended as the showpiece's Best Batsman - amassing 290 runs.

Kisetso, whose displays with the bat were instrumental in Tanzania's acquisition of key victories, emerged as the top run-getter, raking up two half-centuries and one century. The cricketer showcased batting prowess as his squad faced Mozambique - ending with 133 runs.

Sierra Leone kipper Coker secured the Division 2 Qualifier's Player of the Series honour.

Tanzania claimed a triumphant victory on home soil to secure the trophy in the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Division 2 Qualifier after 10 days of competition in Dar es Salaam.

Both sides had already sealed their qualification for next year's Africa Qualifier by winning their semi-finals on Friday, locking horns on Sunday with high hopes of enjoying an unbeaten run of the event.

The rain-affected match saw Sierra Leone win the toss and elect to bowl. Tanzania openers Dylan Thakrar and Darpan Jobanputra started brightly, seeing off the frontline bowlers in a 48-run stand before Jobanputra was dismissed by Mohamed Turay for 21.

The first wicket led to a collapse of some sort, with Tanzania falling to 57 for four by the 14th over, as Muray and captain Raymond Coker shared the wickets.

As Sierra Leone started to impose themselves on the batters, the middle order responded strongly, with skipper Laksh Bakrania (24) and Mohamed Mbaki (29) chipping in with valuable runs as the home side reached a spirited 178 for eight from their 50 overs. Sierra Leone set about the chase, but rain intervened to leave them with a revised target of 135 from their 29 overs for victory.

Tanzania's strike bowlers took advantage of the conditions to rip through the Sierra Leone top order early on, with Khalidy Juma, Hamza Ally, and Bakrania combining to reduce the visitors to 20 for five from the opening 10 overs.

Sierra Leone recovered briefly thanks to efforts in the middle order



Tanzania's U-19 cricket team's Laksh Bakrania (R) gets the 2024 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Division 2 Qualifier Best Bowler prize from Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro at the presentation ceremony of the showdown in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

from Sahr Lebbie (30 runs) and James Bangura (16 runs), they though left themselves too much to do, eventually falling to 98 for eight from their allotted overs, 36 runs short (D/L).

Tanzania captain Bakrania reacted after his side's victory: "It's a dream come true, but the journey has just begun. We don't want to do anything different but keep the basics right."

The performer remarked: "It was important to bring smiles to the faces of our fans who supported us throughout the tournament and came in such big numbers today for the final. We still can't believe and express how we feel."

Bakrania added: "I thank our coaches, all support staff, and my teammates. We couldn't have asked for more. Many thanks to our management for providing us with the best resources before this tournament."

Despite the loss, Sierra Leone captain Coker was named the Player of the Tournament, as he was rewarded for his leadership and individual performances - collecting three Player of the Match accolades as he claimed 14 wickets and hit 97 runs during his side's campaign.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Nigeria dominated their decisive third-place playoff match against Rwanda to seal the final spot at next year's Africa Qualifier, the final step on the road to qualification in the region for the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026.

Once their side was put in to bat at the toss, Rwanda's openers started with control but were soon undone by accurate bowling from the Nigerian outfit.

Opening batter Chris Namuhoranye top scored for Rwanda with 23 runs as they stumbled to 45 all out in 23.4 overs - Nigeria skipper Garaf Kareem was the pick of the bowlers with four for eight from his 5.4 overs, aided capably by Joseph Onoshagbe who claimed three for 15.

In response, Rwanda's Elise Gihozo enjoyed early success with the ball as he took three for 20 from his five overs, Nigeria though eased over the line, reaching the target of 46 for three from 12.3 overs, led by an explosive 26 off 21 balls from Peculiar Egamas.

Sunday's outcomes mean the Africa Qualifier will feature Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and already-qualified Kenya, Namibia, and Uganda, who will compete for the solitary spot on offer at the World Cup.

Atif Salim, the Tournament Coordinator, shared his thoughts on hosting the Division 2 event, noting: "Hosting this tournament has been an incredible experience. The dedication and hard work of the Local Organizing Committee, combined with the unwavering support from our volunteers, fans, and management, have made this event a grand success."

Salim said: "It's been a week of thrilling cricket, and we are proud to have showcased the talent and spirit of cricket in Tanzania. The enthusiasm and support from everyone involved has been phenomenal, and we are already looking forward to our next challenge."

Yanga cautiously approach CAF Champions League showdown with Vital'O FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DESPITE being heavy favourites, Young Africans have vowed not to underestimate Vital'O FC in their CAF Champions League preliminary round matchup.

The Jangwani Street giants are emphasizing tactical discipline and professionalism for both legs of the tie as they aim to secure a second consecutive qualification to the CAF Champions League group stage - a historic milestone for the club.

With both legs of the tie scheduled in Dar es Salaam, Young Africans hold a slight advantage. The first leg will be hosted at Azam Complex on August 17, with Vital'O acting as the home team, followed by the return leg at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on August 24.

Burundi's football giants, Vital'O, are back on the big stage after winning their 21st league title. They topped the Burundi Primus Premier League this season with 72 points from 30 matches, making them formidable opponents.

Young Africans resumed



training after their impressive 4-1 victory over Azam FC in the Community Shield final. Coach Miguel Gamondi, benefiting from a healthy squad, is strategizing to secure a commanding lead in the first leg.

New signings like Duke Abuya, Prince Dube, and Chadrack Boka have made significant impacts, while Clatous Chama and Jean Baleke provide depth from the bench.

Gamondi will look to capital-

ize on the team's momentum and improved form for a dominant performance in the first leg.

Young Africans' information and communication officer, Ali Kamwe (pictured), has called on fans to support the team in large numbers, stressing the importance of a strong first-leg performance.

"I've always said that the CAF Champions League has no easy opponents. We'll be fully pre-

pared for Vital'O. Given it's a home-and-away tie, we're fortunate that Vital'O opted to play both matches in Tanzania," Kamwe stated.

"We urge our fans to come out in large numbers, create a memorable atmosphere, and send a strong message to Africa about our organization."

The winners of the Young Africans vs. Vital'O clash will face the victors of Commercial Bank of Ethiopia and Uganda's Sports Club Villa in the next round.

Following their impressive Community Shield victory, Young Africans are determined to dominate domestically this season.

Kamwe declared the club's ambition to solidify their position as Tanzania's football powerhouse by winning every available title.

"Our goal this season is to win every major trophy. Winning the Community Shield was the first step in our quest to capture the Premier League, Federation Cup, Muungano Cup, and Mapinduzi Cup. We're determined to create history," Kamwe declared.



The Jakaya Kikwete Sports Centre youth soccer team players during a training session at the centre's grounds over the weekend in Dar es Salaam. PICHA: JUMANNE JUMA

Azam FC now gear up for tough CAF Champions League test against APR

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC are eager to break new ground by qualifying for the CAF Champions League group stage for the first time, ahead of a stern test against APR FC.

With the first leg scheduled for August 18 at the Azam Complex, the 2014 Premier League champions are well aware of the challenge ahead, with club officials describing the match as a tough test.

Last season, Azam FC were knocked out of the CAF Confederations Cup by Bahir Dar Kenema on penalties after a 3-3 aggregate score. APR, on the other hand, were eliminated by Pyramids FC with a 6-1 defeat.

This season, APR FC have undergone a massive recruitment drive in a bid to break the psychological barrier that has hindered Rwandan clubs on the African stage.

A victory in the two-legged tie will enable Azam to advance to the next round, where they could potentially face either Zanzibar's JKU or Egypt's Pyramids FC.

Azam FC spokesman Hashim Ibwe expressed the club's anticipation for a closely contested battle: "We expect a stern test when we face APR in the CAF Champions League first leg on August 18 at Chamanzi Complex. It's a crucial match that could determine who advances to the next round."

As part of their preparations, Azam played a friendly against Rwandan side Rayon Sports in Kigali on August 3. The match served as a valuable experience for Azam, helping them acclimate to the atmosphere and tension of playing in Kigali.

Azam FC will be aiming to put their Community Shield disappointment behind them after

defensive lapses contributed to a 4-1 loss to Young Africans in the season opener.

However, under the guidance of coach Youssouph Dabo, the team has worked to identify and address these defensive issues and is confident in its ability to handle high-pressure matches.

The primary objective for Azam is to qualify for the Champions League group stage for the first time in the club's history.

Ibwe emphasized the importance of the upcoming match: "We understand the magnitude of this match and are committed to giving our best. Our recent form, both in competitive and friendly matches, has been encouraging and indicates our readiness to perform well."

The first leg will be played at Azam Complex on August 18, with the second leg taking place

at Amahoro National Stadium on August 24.

Both Azam FC and APR FC enter their CAF Champions League preliminary round clash seeking redemption after recent domestic cup final defeats.

APR FC, the reigning Rwanda Primus League champions, suffered a shock penalty shootout loss to Police FC in the FERWAFA Super Cup final.

This marks the second consecutive cup final defeat for APR coach Darko Novic, following a penalty shootout loss to Zambia's Red Arrows in the CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup final.

With both teams looking to bounce back from their respective setbacks, the upcoming clash between Azam and APR promises to be a high-stakes encounter.

'Time to resolve' Man City charges - Premier League CEO

LONDON

PREMIER League chief executive Richard Masters says it is "self-evident" the case around Manchester City's 115 charges needs to be resolved for the good of the league.

An independent disciplinary commission is set to hear the case against City - who deny all charges - for allegedly breaching the Premier League's financial rules, with some dating back to 2009.

In an interview with BBC sports editor Dan Roan, Masters said he thinks "it is time now for the case to resolve itself".

When asked whether the case casts a shadow over the league, he said: "It's been going on for a number of years and I think it's self-evident that the case needs to be heard and answered."

Masters said he "could not confirm" the specific date of City's hearing. City were charged in February 2023.

However, BBC Sport understands the hearing is set to start next month, with the result possibly known early next year, as first reported by The Times.

Masters added: "When the case has been heard there will be a decision published and all the questions you would like me to answer will be answered as part of that process."

In a separate legal case, City are also taking action against the Premier League over the organisation's tightened rules over 'fair' sponsorship deals, but Masters said he was unable to comment as the processes are "entirely confidential".

BBC Sport understands the result of that case is expected in the next few weeks.

"We don't want asterisks against league tables"

Premier League clubs are trialing an alternative financial system that operates like a spending cap, alongside the existing Profitability and Sustainability Rules (PSR).

Top-flight clubs have faced difficulties with PSR: Nottingham Forest and Everton both received points deductions last season for breaches, with Leicester also charged.

Masters said the regulatory moves aim to create a situation where "we let the football do the talking".

He added: "We want to move to a new system that people have confidence in and can comply with and move away perhaps from normalising asterisks against league tables or long-running regulatory cases."

Premier League clubs have also been split over a 'New Deal' of funding the EFL, with the threat of a new football regulator on the horizon.

Masters said it is becoming increasingly tough to find "consensus for decisions," but he does not believe the Premier League is more divided than ever.

"I genuinely don't feel that," he added.

"We have some issues we have to resolve and a number of cases that need to resolve themselves and I believe they're going to do so."

"No plans' to play matches abroad

Masters said he did not envisage Premier League games being played in foreign countries, despite other leagues exploring the prospect.

In May, world governing body Fifa said it was setting up a working group to assess the potential impact of competitive domestic matches being played overseas.

Spain's La Liga is hopeful of staging games in the United States in the 2025-26 season.

Masters said: "It's not really clear what's happening at Fifa. We know there's been a court case in the US but what that means in terms of regulatory change at Fifa happening, whether it's going to be permissible or not to play matches abroad, I don't know."

"What I do know is that there are no plans to play matches abroad."

With the new season approaching, concerns over player fatigue are once again in the spotlight. Masters said he wants domestic football's interests to be considered in any changes to the international match calendar.

In July, top European Leagues - including the Premier League - and global players' union Fifpro announced they were launching legal action against Fifa over its "abuse of dominance" in the game.

However Fifa accused some leagues of "commercial self-interest" and "hypocrisy", arguing most players globally are not playing more football.

Masters said the Premier League has reached a point where they feel "enough is enough".

"With Fifa, there is no consultation about big issues with the global calendar with the leagues and I know a number of the players' unions feel the same," he added.

"We want consultation on the future of the international match calendar, we want domestic football's interests to be represented as part of that system, and we want the right decisions to be made for the future of the whole game"

"Everyone wants VAR to improve"

There are planned changes to the Video Assistant Refereeing (VAR) system for the 2024-25 Premier League season, including the introduction of semi-automated offsides "at some point".

England's top flight voted to keep the technology in June, with only Wolves voting in favour of scrapping it.

Although they haven't decided to remove VAR, Masters said the Premier League see that "everyone wants to improve it".

Will De Ligt finally settle down at Manchester Utd?

BBC

MATTHIJS de Ligt has struggled to find a footballing home.

At the age of 25, the Netherlands defender is with his fourth major European club having completed a move to Manchester United from Bayern Munich for an initial £38.5m.

Two and a half years in the Ajax team after coming through the academy, three years at Juventus and two at Bayern - with each transfer fee smaller than the last.

Could Old Trafford be where he finally settles down, and could he finally be the answer to United's defensive issues?

Five years ago, De Ligt was one of European football's hottest properties.

After captaining Erik ten Hag's Ajax to a memorable run to the Champions League semi-finals aged just 19, United were one of many clubs jostling for his signature.

By that time he had already played 77 times in the Eredivisie and succeeded Kylian Mbappe as the 2018 Golden Boy - becoming the first defender to win the award.

Among numerous records he broke in the Netherlands, he became Ajax's youngest full debutant, the youngest player to feature in a European final, and the youngest player to represent his country since 1931.

Despite interest from United, he joined Juventus for £67.5m, making him the Italian top-flight's most expensive defender.

He went on to win one Serie A title and one Coppa Italia in 117 appearances but the move was mixed for him and, just three years into a five-year deal, he joined Bayern in 2022 for £65.6m.

He played 73 games for the German club and won one Bundesliga title, but again failed to make the impact he was expected to and was left on the Netherlands bench at Euro 2024.

Having described himself as a "leader" in the past, the combative ball-playing centre-half will hope his move to Old Trafford reignites his career, with the Red Devils desperate to improve on last season's defensive record, which left them with a negative goal difference.

He also joins Andre Onana, Antony and Lisandro Martinez as former Ajax players reunited with Ten Hag.

"De Ligt will fight it out with Maguire"

De Ligt is United's second big-money summer signing at centre-back after the £52m recruitment of 18-year old Lille defender Leny Yoro.

The Frenchman is out for three months with a broken foot suffered during the pre-season tour of the United States.

"We will never know how much United would have stretched a 'tight' Profit and Sustainability position had Yoro not been ruled out, but Ten Hag felt he had to act," said BBC Sport chief football news writer Simon Stone.

De Ligt will compete with former club captain Harry Maguire and Argentina's Martinez, who incidentally replaced him in the Ajax team in 2019.

Raphael Varane left



Matthijs de Ligt links up with Erik ten Hag for the second time having played under him at Ajax [Getty Images]

the club this summer.

"Lisandro Martinez has to be viewed as the first choice in the left centre-back role once United have a left-back available," said Stone.

"That means De Ligt and Harry Maguire fighting it out for the other slot until Yoro is fit to return, which will add another dimension.

"Ten Hag has tended to think Maguire's body movement doesn't lend itself to opening the game out quickly enough when United play out from the back. Even in the Community Shield, it was clear that is the path United are heading down given how often goalkeeper Andre Onana had possession with the ball at his feet."

Veteran Jonny Evans is the other centre-back option, with Swede Victor Lindelof likely to leave the club.

"What has gone wrong for De Ligt?"

De Ligt was a man in huge demand when he left Ajax in 2019 - but now Bayern were happy to let him go even though summer signing Hiroki Ito has broken his foot.

"De Ligt was viewed as one of the most promising young defenders in the world when he skipped Ajax to within a minute of the Champions League final in 2019," Stone said.

"However, he was only 19 at the time and although Juventus paid £67.5m for him, it was done with an acknowledgement he still had a lot to learn.

"The problem was he joined a club that had a rock solid defensive pairing in Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini and was also heading down a different path commercially following the arrival of Cristiano Ronaldo.

"Chiellini did get injured quite early but flaws in De Ligt's game around his positional sense with the ball at his feet, and also tracking opponents, were exposed in what is a technical league.

"In addition, there is a concentration issue that wasn't really evident at Ajax but was heightened at Juventus as Bonucci has similar problems.

"Add Ronaldo into the mix and performances started to dip, which affected the confidence around the club and three changes of manager. The stability around

player in Spurs' Premier League history when he came off the bench against Manchester United in May.

Ange Postecoglou has spoken highly of the teenager, who can play both as wide forward or an out-and-out striker. He featured heavily during Tottenham's pre-season tour of Japan and South Korea, and recently signed a new three-year deal.

If Spurs' forwards aren't firing on all cylinders early in the season, Moore could get a chance to impress.

"Harry Amass (Manchester United)

Left-back Harry Amass was a regular in pre-season for Manchester United, starting all three

Juve disappeared, they stopped winning titles, everyone got criticised and the ownership was sucked in by the European Super League debacle."

Each transfer fee has been lower than the last. Juve paid Ajax £67.5m in 2019, Bayern shelled out £65.6m in 2022 and United have paid £38.5m.

Stone continued: "He played a lot of games for Bayern but at a time when they went on the same kind of slide as Juventus, almost losing the title in 2023 to Borussia Dortmund and then actually doing it last season.

"It means the spotlight has been on him for five years and critics have kept picking at what he can't do well, rather than the positives, like leadership and confidence.

"It means most feel he is still no better than he was in 2019, and the weaknesses it was already known he had have still not been solved."

"He won't hide any dissatisfaction"

Germany football expert Constantin Eckner said: "It is safe to say that De Ligt's move to Bayern in 2022 did not completely pan out as anticipated.

"Even though the Dutch defender struggled at times during his spell in Italy, he was still viewed as one of the most talented centre-backs in Europe. At first, De Ligt did not necessarily impress but was quite consistent in his performances for the German powerhouse, without committing too many costly mistakes.

"During the second half of the 2022-23 season, in which Bayern sacked Julian Nagelsmann and hired Thomas

Tuchel as his replacement, De Ligt increasingly stepped up his game and was arguably the best player in the Bundesliga."

After that promising run of form, it seemed like last season would be the making of De Ligt.

But "the opposite happened", said Eckner.

"De Ligt and Tuchel found themselves at odds for a while, with the Dutchman demanding to be a regular starter and anchor at the back, while Tuchel was frequently rotating his centre-backs until the later stages of the season when he picked De Ligt and Eric Dier as his preferred pairing.

"De Ligt seems to have a high opinion of himself and his abilities, thus he does not hide his dissatisfaction if he sits on the bench."

New manager Vincent Kompany, who left Burnley for Bayern this summer, is said to see Dayot Upamecano as his first-choice centre-back, with Englishman Dier and South Korea's Kim Min-jae battling for the second spot.

"So how will De Ligt get on at Old Trafford?"

Eckner said: "He has proven that he possesses the potential to be one of the more impressive defenders in any league, but performing consistently and not being upset about any setbacks is key now that he joins Manchester United.

"Perhaps the hype surrounding him amid his move from Ajax to Juventus in 2019 put too much pressure on a young player, and he still needs time to figure out how to perform as effortlessly as he did as a teenage sensation back in Amsterdam."

Five young stars to watch in the Premier League this season

By Callum Rice-Coates

THE usual high-profile names are set to light up the new Premier League season: Erling Haaland, Mohamed Salah, Bukayo Saka and the like.

But there will, as ever, be the emergence of some new potential stars, young players making their way into the first team and taking the burgeoning steps towards a career at the very top.

Last season, Cole Palmer went from a relatively unproven prospect to Chelsea's key man, while the likes of Conor Bradley, Jarrell Quansah, Lewis Mile and Kobbie Mainoo all made exciting breakthroughs.

But who might be the youngsters on the cusp of a first-team emergence in 2024-25?

"Ethan Nwaneri (Arsenal)

Getting into the starting XI at Arsenal is an unenviable task for the club's many talented young players. The intensity of the recent title battles with Manchester City has given Mikel Arteta few opportunities to experiment with untested youngsters.

But attacking midfielder Ethan Nwaneri could be an exception. He became the Premier

League's youngest-ever player when he came off the bench at the age of 15 in 2022-23.

Now 17, Nwaneri appears to be close to a breakthrough at the Emirates. He provided an assist for Gabriel Jesus in a pre-season clash with Manchester United and is expected to sign a new contract imminently.

The challenge for Nwaneri will be forcing his way into a team with so much quality both in midfield and attack.

"Nico O'Reilly (Manchester City)

If breaking into Arsenal's team is difficult, earning the trust of Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola is perhaps even more of a daunting challenge.

But 19-year-old midfielder Nico O'Reilly appears to have done that. He featured regularly in pre-season, impressing in a friendly against Barcelona. And he started in the Community Shield victory over Manchester United.

As with any player to make the grade at City, O'Reilly is technically accomplished and has an excellent eye for a pass. "He's a guy who will be a player," Guardiola said of the teenager. "He will be a player. I am pretty sure he can help us."

He may have to be pa-

tient, but the long-term future looks bright for O'Reilly.

"Trey Nyoni (Liverpool)

Liverpool's lack of a top-quality No 6 has been a talking point throughout pre-season, particularly after an unsuccessful attempt to sign Real Sociedad midfielder Martin Zubimendi.

Wataru Endo impressed last season but could struggle with the technical demands required under new manager Arne Slot. That could mean an opening for Trey Nyoni, who caught the eye in pre-season.

The former Leicester youth product only turned 17 in June but

plays with a maturity that belies his inexperience. He is smooth in possession and intelligent positionally, both qualities that will be crucial in Slot's team.

While it may be too soon for Nyoni to become a first-team fixture, expect to see him involved for Liverpool this season.

"Mikey Moore (Tottenham)

Tottenham's big-money signing of Dominic Solanke from Bournemouth could mean chances are limited for young attacker Mikey Moore, but he is certainly knocking on the door.

The 17-year-old was exceptional for the Under-21s last season and became the youngest

games on their tour of the US.

The 17-year-old was left out for the Community Shield final but with Luke Shaw's injury history and the lack of a standout left-back to replace the England international, Amass could be given an opportunity when the Premier League kicks off.

The former Watford youngster looked sharp in attack throughout pre-season, consistently driving forward down the left flank and looking to create opportunities.

Adjusting to the pace and quality of Premier League football might take some time, but Amass is one to watch this season.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



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Simba Queens off to Ethiopia, Mgunda happy with new signings

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

FOUR-TIME Tanzania Women's Premier League champions, Simba Queens, departed for Addis Ababa yesterday afternoon to participate in the CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Qualifiers.

The tournament, which runs from August 17 to September 4, will take place in the Ethiopian capital.

The CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Qualifiers will feature nine clubs, divided into two groups. The top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals, where they will compete for the two spots representing the CECAFA Zone in the CAF Women's Champions League.

Simba Queens have been placed in Group B, alongside Kawempe Muslim Ladies (Uganda), PVP Buyenzi (Burundi), and FAD Djibouti.

Under the guidance of head coach Juma Mgunda, Simba Queens have been preparing for the tournament at the Mo Simba Arena. The team held their final training session on Tuesday before departing for Ethiopia.

Coach Mgunda (pictured) expressed his confidence and optimism ahead of the tournament, as the team looks to reclaim the regional title they won two years ago.

"We are going to play against fellow champions. We are the champions of Tanzania, and we are going to meet the champions of other countries, so it will not be an easy competition. It is a competition that brings together champions.

"We know that, we are aware, and we recognize that fact. We are ready to play against our fellow champions, and we are well prepared. We are going to win as we are ready to compete in order to get good results and achieve our targets," Mgunda stated.

The team has strengthened its squad with the addition of several key players. The ex-Yanga Princess trio - Wincate Kaari, Saiki Atinuke, and Precious Christopher - along with former JKT Queens players Amina Bilal, Josephine Julias, and Emiliانا Isaya, have joined the squad.

Coach Mgunda expressed his satisfaction with the new signings, emphasizing the impact they will have on the team's performance.

"Recruitment is done with the goal of improving the team. We believe the new additions have matched our requirements.

"The arrival of new players has added something special to our team, especially ahead of this crucial tournament. I really believe in a player like Precious; she is one of the best players you can find.

"This competition needs players like these. Saiki, who is from Nigeria, and Wincate Kaari, a full-back from Kenya, are also crucial additions. I am confident that with commitment, we will achieve great things," Mgunda added.

Simba Queens, the 2022 CECAFA champions, will begin their campaign on Sunday against FAD Djibouti at Abebe Bikila Stadium.

They will then face Uganda's Kawempe Muslim Ladies two days later, before wrapping up their group stage matches against Burundi's PVP Buyenzi on August 22.

Yanga target domestic glory and deeper CAF Champions League run this season



By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AS the new season approaches, Young Africans Sports Club head coach, Miguel Gamondi, has expressed immense pride in the strength and resilience of his team. With their eyes set on multiple trophies, the Tanzanian giants are determined to build on their recent successes, including their impressive performances during the pre-season.

Young Africans' goals for the upcoming season are ambitious yet attainable. The club is aiming to secure local titles, starting with the Community Shield. They also have their sights set on defending their Tanzanian Premier League and Federation Cup titles, and most significantly, making a deeper run in the CAF Champions League.

Last season, Young Africans' journey in the continental competition ended in the quarter-finals, a result they are determined to surpass this time around.

Reflecting on the team's recent pre-season performances, Gamondi (pictured) noted the progress and quality they've displayed on the pitch. The Argentine coach, who was awarded the Best Coach of the Premier League last season, highlighted the team's victories in the Community Shield as a testament to their readiness for the challenges ahead.

Young Africans defeated their fierce rivals Simba SC 1-0 in the semi-final and then showcased their fighting spirit by overcoming a deficit to beat Azam FC 4-1 in the final.

"The two matches we played in the Community Shield are proof of the quality

we possess," said Gamondi. "We faced tough opposition, but our ability to come from behind and win, especially in the final against Azam, shows the strength and maturity of our squad."

The coach also emphasized the importance of the friendly matches they played during their pre-season camp in South Africa.

The Jangwani-based side faced high-level competition, including a narrow 2-1 loss to Germany's FC Augsburg, followed by victories against TS Galaxy (1-0) and Kaizer Chiefs (4-0). These matches, according to Gamondi, provided valuable insights into the team's readiness and highlighted areas for improvement.

Now, Gamondi is confident that Young Africans are well-prepared to start the season on a strong note.

"If you want to gauge your quality, you must compete with teams at your level or above," Gamondi stated. "The results from these

matches have given us the answers we needed. We've played well and secured results that boost our confidence as we prepare for the season."

The coach acknowledged that while the team's performance has been commendable, there is still work to be done, particularly in addressing the mistakes that led to conceding a goal against Azam FC. "Correcting these mistakes is crucial, but what pleases me most is the players' ability to respond with maturity during difficult moments," he added.

Looking ahead to the start of the season, Gamondi expressed optimism, citing the squad's depth and versatility as key factors in achieving their goals.

"We are ready for the competition ahead. We have a lot of work to do, but with the type of squad we have, I believe we can manage our objectives well. We have a team that can score, create

opportunities, and defend effectively," he said.

Complementing the coach's optimism, Young Africans' president, Engineer Hersi Said, also shared his satisfaction with the team's progress. Hersi praised the quality exhibited by the team in the Community Shield final, emphasizing that such performances are what is expected of Young Africans.

Hersi also commented on the club's successful player acquisitions during the transfer window, highlighting the impact of new signings like Chadrack Boka, who was brought in to replace the departing Joyce Lomalisa. "The changes we've made have been productive, and as leaders, we take pride in the success we continue to achieve," Hersi said. "However, we are fully aware that there is still a long way to go, especially in the international arena."

The club president reflected on last season's CAF

Champions League campaign, where Young Africans reached the quarter-finals after a long absence from the competition. "Our biggest goal last season was to reach the group stage of the CAF Champions League, which we hadn't done in a long time. Although we didn't go as far as we wanted, reaching the quarter-finals was a significant achievement, and we aim to build on that this season," Hersi remarked.

On August 17, Young Africans will face Vital'O FC of Burundi in the CAF Champions League first leg of the preliminary round at Azam Complex Stadium, with kick-off scheduled for 4:00 PM.

With the Premier League set to kick off on August 16, Young Africans are also preparing to defend their title, having won the league for three consecutive seasons. Their opening match against Kagera Sugar at Kaitaba Stadium on August 29 will set the tone for the season, with the reigning champions aiming to maintain their dominance.

Young Africans' fixture list includes several key matchups that could be pivotal in their quest for another league title. Following the Kagera Sugar match, they will face Ken Gold at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya, a game that promises to be closely contested. The club will then take on JKT Tanzania at Azam Complex Stadium on October 22.

As the season progresses, Young Africans will encounter crucial fixtures, including a fourth-round match against Mashujaa FC and a fifth-round clash with Singida Big Stars. These games will be critical in determining the side's standing in the league and their ability to continue their winning streak.

With a strong squad, ambitious goals, and a winning mentality, Young Africans are poised to tackle the new season head-on, determined to add more silverware to their illustrious history.

Huge relief for Tabora United as FIFA lifts transfer ban

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TABORA United can now sign new players after FIFA lifted the transfer ban following the club's settlement of outstanding payments owed to their former players.

The Tanzanian club had been in trouble since last season, with FIFA ordering them to pay ex-players Jean Didie Touya, Nyongani Junior Mutuale, Daniel Chitambai Chal, and Makuntima Kisombe Guylain before they could register new players.

These players signed contracts with Tabora United in August 2023 but depart-

ed the club the same year without making any appearances.

They all left while the club was owing them their dues, leading them to file cases with the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber, which ruled in their favor.

As a result, Tabora United faced a three-window transfer ban, preventing them from signing any players until July 2025.

However, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) confirmed that the club had settled the outstanding payments, leading to the ban being lifted.

"The International Football Federation (FIFA) has lifted the transfer ban imposed on Tabora United after the club completed the payment of the players who were owed," the TFF statement read.

"The foreign players are Jean Didie Touya, Nyongani Junior Mutuale, Daniel Chitambai Chal, and Makuntima Kisombe Guylain. After completing the payment, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has immediately lifted the domestic ban imposed on the respondent."

This development comes as a crucial boost for Tabora United, who had nar-

rowly avoided relegation by winning their relegation play-off against Biashara United.

With the 2024/25 season approaching, the club has already started recruiting new players to strengthen their squad, following the departures of key players like John Noble, Eric Okutu, Najim Mussa, Daudi Milandu, and Heritier Luloshi.

With the transfer window closing at 11:59 tonight, Tabora United have only a few hours left to finalize their squad registration for their second campaign in the NBC Premier League.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

