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CORRUPTION



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President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience with Juma Duni Haji, national Chairman of the opposition Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo), at Zanzibar's Tunguu State House yesterday. Haji assumed the post in late January this year and visited the president to introduce himself. Photo: State House

Cut levies to contain fuel prices, MPs urge

By Songa wa Songa, Dodoma

Govt seeking to soften fuel price hike impact

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has declared that the government is looking for workable options to alleviate hardships on the common people following the rise of oil prices in the world market.

He issued this assurance after holding discussions with a special cabinet committee on the manner, involving the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), George Simbachawene, the Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Minister for Energy January Makamba, their permanent secretaries and top officials from key regulatory agencies of EWURA, TPDC and the Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency (PBPA).

“What the govt is doing right now is to ascertain their capability in fuel distribution on the basis of needs and procedures set by the govt

“I call upon Tanzanians to remain calm and have faith in their government as we continue to do all that is possible to ensure we reduce the cost of living of the people,” he stated.

In remarks at his Oysterbay office in Dar es Salaam he said the meeting assessed the fuel prices situation and what the government can do to reduce the effects of fuel price rises on the public.

The meeting was held in the wake of a directive from President Samia Suluhu Hassan as to finding a solution on measures to take in regard to the fuel price impact.

The premier said President Samia has seen the challenges being faced by Tanzanians due to the fuel price rise, thus demanding short and long term solutions to deal with the challenges. Already Energy ministry authorities were examining how to reduce remaining charges after some levies were cancelled in relation to fuel imports.

The government was also examining opening room to other tenderers as advised by members of Parliament, he said, noting that 24

SCORES of parliamentarians yesterday asked the government to take urgent measures, including scrapping or cutting down fuel levies that now stand at 23, to ease the high cost of living occasioned by hiked fuel and consumer goods prices.

Another line of argument was to secure an emergency loan to subsidise fuel prices, noting that the situation was bad particularly in rural areas where filling stations sell a litre of diesel for up to 5,000/- compared to slightly over 3,000/- in urban areas.

Kilindi MP Omari Kigua pushed the motion that Parliament adjourns its order of business to debate fuel price crisis, where MPs agreed that fuel price hikes be treated as an emergency matter.

Simon Lusengekile (Busega) said that Tanzanians are suffering as fuel prices affect prices of other goods and services from transportation costs, hence the need for urgent action to sort out the situation.

The government has to subsidize fuel or slash levies by 400/- to 500/- for at least two months to salvage the situation, as otherwise the price of everything else will go up, he said.

Joseph Mhagama (Madaba) argued that since last month the cost of living has gone up by 21 per cent due to rising fuel prices.

“Fuel is everything. In a free market economy when things go wrong, the government must intervene through urgent changes in fiscal or monetary policy,” he declared.

“We have levies and duties whose importance we all know but we now need to do away with or cut those that do not directly affect development projects,” he urged.

Joseph Kakunda (Sikonge) said he had just arrived from neighbouring Kenya where he met the country's Finance Minister Ukur Yatani and asked him how they quickly secured billions to subsidize fuel outside the budget.

“He told me they borrowed money from the IMF. If Kenya did so, why not us?” he asked. “People want relief now and the government

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Shortlived bus strikes strand commuters in Arusha, Tanga

By Guardian Reporters

EXTENSIVE strikes by commuter bus drivers in Arusha and Tanga yesterday brought economic activity to a virtual standstill in scores of areas in the two cities.

The strike action lasting for upwards of four hours was geared to push fare hikes from 400/- to 500/- in all routes, as the bus crew could no longer absorb higher diesel costs and maintain current fares.

In Arusha, commuter bus drivers refused to take in passengers citing higher fuel prices while being required to stick to the old fares of 400/-, saying they were running at a loss.

“If you charge 400/- instead of 500/- you find yourself with little money for the bus owners as well as money for fuel,” remarked the leader of the drivers, Lusajo Mwasamwene. He said they did not go on

strike but put up action to demanding for their rights, the bus owners and conductors as well.

The sector has almost been forgotten while they are essential in transporting people and without them people will be inconvenienced in running their economic activities, he stated, noting that if passengers opt for other means of transport like motorcycles or tricycles, they will have to spend more.

The government has directed that the new 500/- fare start on May 14 but fuel prices continue to rise, he said, citing an example of his purchasing diesel at 2,838/- per litre not long ago but going back there some other day the price has risen to 3,321/-.

Even if the fare is raised to 500/- it will not sufficiently compensate hiked operational costs, he stated, airing the scary recommendation of 700/- per trip as the basic fare.

As to why some drivers continued to operate while others decided to go on strike, he said an earlier strike plan wasn't known to all drivers “but when they found that fuel prices had again risen, they also decided to down tools.”

For his part, Johnson Samuel, the driver for a Njiro bound bus, faulted the regulatory authorities in setting May 14 for taking off of new fares while fuel prices

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Tanzania's first avocado cargo berthed in Mumbai

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's High Commissioner to India, Anisa Mbega has received a consignment of 22.3 metric tonnes of avocados, the result of coordinated efforts with local stakeholders in looking for markets of horticultural products in South Asia.

High Commissioner Mbega thanked the

Indian government for cooperation in agriculture and other sectors, in a conversation with Unmesh Sharad Wagh, the Jawaharlal Nehru Mumbai port board chairperson after receiving the consignment arriving at the port on Wednesday.

The envoy and the port executive agreed to collaborate in the transport sector especially in the exchange of experience in regard to port

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WCF announces interest amnesty to employers who delayed paying contributions

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) has issued an interest amnesty to employers with delayed payments of employees' contributions to the fund on a monthly basis.

Prof Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), told journalists yesterday that the move is aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Workers' Compensation Act alongside promoting investment.

She said beneficiaries of the amnesty are employers that have paid the contributions but are yet to pay interest.

She explained that by August 2021 a total of 13,468 employers from the private sector and 191 from the public sector were on the fund's list of interest debtors.

“Under the powers vested in me as per section 75 (5) of the Workers' Compensation Act, I am granting an interest amnesty for the period from October 1, 2017 to August 31, 2021 to all employers who delayed in paying contributions,” the minister said.

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Tanzania's first avocado cargo berthed in Mumbai

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operations.

Indian traders were mobilizing efforts in the wake of intense consultation by the High Commission and local stakeholders, and are now ready to start importing a number of fruits like pineapples and mangoes, she stated, citing liaison efforts by the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), seeking markets for local horticultural products in India.

Cooperation with TAHA had facilitated the first avocado shipment to the new market, she stated, noting that India's IG International and Avofrica Ltd firm based in Makambako, Iringa Region were intensely involved.

The consignment consisting of the Hass variety was received in a colorful function led by the High Commissioner, who explained that this coordination arose from exchanges at the Dubai Expo 2020. The government and TAHA signed a number of bilateral trade accords to get channels into international markets from local fresh produce.

TAHA chief executive officer Dr Jacqueline Mkindi described the shipment as a win-win deal, noting that Tanzanian growers and exporters smile all the way to the bank after securing a niche market for avocados, and Indian consumers whet appetites as the Tanzanian fruits will be cheaper and fresh.

Amani Temu, the general manager of fresh products handling firm linked with TAHA, said logistics used absorbed costly time-consuming cross-border non-tariff barriers to export horticulture produce overseas.

TAHA Fresh Ltd offers a wide range of services in horticultural products export and import, including its flagship airfreight service with components like clearing and forwarding, refrigerated trucking, perishable handling and sea freight from Dar es Salaam and Mombasa ports.

The logistics firm is slowly but surely becoming a leading horticulture freight

specialist, designing solutions for the burgeoning industry now scaled at \$800m worth of business annually.

Echoing sentiments of the Ministry of Agriculture, the envoy commended TAHA and the private sector at large for a proactive role in seeking crop markets outside, as the government strengthens bilateral trade ties and works to open up overseas markets.

IG Fruits International executive Shubha Rawal said that with no import duty on Tanzanian avocados, the fruit would be reasonably priced for Indian consumers, helping grow the category.

"For a long time, India had been bereft of the goodness of creamy Tanzanian avocados," he remarked, asserting that the firm "will offer the joy of biting into a selectively luscious bunch of Hass avocados straight from the lush green lap of Tanzania at very fair prices."

Avo Africa is part of the Keitt Group, growing and exporting fruits and vegetables to markets in Europe and the Middle East for over two decades, and largely the leading grower-exporter of avocados from Tanzania and Kenya.

Dipesh Devraj, commercial and operations director of Keitt Group in East Africa, said the Indian market had enormous potential for Tanzanian avocados.

"In January, a trade prohibition on avocado shipments from Tanzania to India was removed, allowing us to access the Indian fresh produce market," he explained. "Over the years, our avocados have been adored across the world, and now we wish to introduce them to India."

"Anyone apart from IG Fruits International would not have sufficed as we were only going to approach the best. Their extensive network and our stringent quality control are a winning combination. We are thrilled to finally enter the Indian market as an exporter and look forward to watching our clients' faces light up when they eat our creamy avocados," the agro-sector executive intoned.



Bank of Tanzania Governor Florens Luoga (in specs) views books by Mwalimu JK Nyerere in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after launching open discussions on the life of the Father of the Nation. Left is Citibank Tanzania CEO Geoffrey Mchangila. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Cut levies to contain fuel prices, MPs urge

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must act now to ease the suffering," he emphasized.

Tarime Rural lawmaker Mwita Waitara said subsidy or levy cuts is the way out of the crisis, citing reports that fuel is cheaper in countries that import their oil through Tanzanian ports such as Zambia because of such measures.

At the beginning of the crisis, some Kenyan motorists used to cross to Tanzania to refill but they no longer do so after the situation eased across the border, he said.

Geita MP Joseph Kashoku said he was informed by his constituents that fuel was retailing at 5,000/- per litre, asserting that there was more than the Russia-Ukraine conflict in the crisis. Oil that is being sold in the country at the moment was procured nearly three months ago, he stated.

"I am also a businessman and I know that if an opportunity presents itself to make super profits, we don't squander it," he declared, citing unethical profiteering as the problem.

"But now that we are in a crisis, let's temporarily scrap or slash charges

on petroleum products as a matter of emergency during these difficult times."

Special Seats MP Grace Tendega (Chadema) suggested that fuel price hikes be treated with the same urgency with which the Covid-19 pandemic was treated because of its devastating impact on many people's ability to cope.

"Now that transport costs have gone up, prices of everything else will go up. We have to borrow and subsidize fuel as a matter of emergency or scrap some levies and duties," she elaborated.

Kasalali Mageni (Sumve) said when urban dwellers feel the pinch of prices of between 3,400/- and 3,900/- it must be remembered that folks in rural areas where incomes are generally low part with 4,000/- to 5,000/-.

"Scrapping some levies and duties is unavoidable at this time," he said, insisting that there is price increase and the possibility of prices being increased intentionally by profiteers.

Neema Rugangira (Special Seats) suggested that levy cuts be targeted as institutional charges which cost about 500/- in the price of a litre of

fuel. "These institutional levies do not directly affect government revenues for development projects. We should scrap these and this is doable," she emphasized, pushing an alternative idea that the government can borrow "then talk to our creditors for loan repayment rescheduling."

Rashid Shangazi (Mlalo) said although the main cause of price current hikes is external, namely the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Tanzania needs a fuel price stabilization fund as a long term mitigation measure.

As an urgent measure, borrowing is the only safe way out, he declared, urging the government to seek approval of the legislature to borrow at least 300bn/- monthly so that budget plans which depend heavily on fuel levies and duties are not disrupted.

But Stella Manyanya (Nyasa) cautioned that any decision made should not affect Tanzania's contractual obligations in the ongoing strategic projects such as Standard Gauge Railway.

She expressed doubts on fuel pricing, saying that there are people who are out to make a killing due to

the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Twaha Mpembenwe (Kibiti) opposed the idea of scrapping or slashing levies, proposing that the government finds alternative sources of revenue to cushion the people against the impact of fuel price hikes.

"If we scrap levies, how are we going to fill the gap in our national budget?" "We have brains in the Ministry of Finance and Planning hired to help us in situations like this; they should do their job," he elaborated.

Ezra Chilewesa (Biharamulo West) argued against complete scrapping of some levies but supported slashing the same by at least 50 per cent. "Let's also look at those who import fuel; they may have fixed their profits at the expense of final consumers," he suggested.

George Simbachawene (Kibakwe) said Tanzanians are suffering now and a solution has to be found.

"An emergency situation is resolved through emergency means," he asserted, hinting at the need for caution.

There are statutory areas that if touched, may affect a number of ongoing development projects in the country. "We have 23 fuel levies and duties which are already part of our budget," he added.

Shortlived bus strikes strand commuters in Arusha, Tanga

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were raised weeks before that date.

"The commuter transport sector has been forgotten, seeming to have little importance to the government," he charged, noting that scores of groups of civil servants depend on commuter bus services, even high officials of the government.

Drivers of commuter buses who went on strike included those plying routes to Moshono, Chekereni, Murombo, Ngaramtoni, Usa River, Kisongo and Monduli.

Mariam Musa, a city resident, said that since the strike affected activities since early morning yesterday, causing pupils and students to fail to attend schools, while many workers reported late at work.

Martin John, a Njiro suburb resident, said that earlier in the day buses were charging 500/- but later the drivers stopped operating and joined those strikers.

Arusha DC Said Mtanda met with commuter bus operators at Kilombero grounds for an open air talks, receiving their complaints, to which he said he was going to sort out the matter. District authorities were liaising on their complaints, he said, asking the strikers not to prevent those who opted to continue providing services.

Amani Mwakalebela, regional manager for the Land Transport Authority (LATRA), said earlier the drivers halted work due to high fuel prices, noting that the strike has ended. The new fares announced by

the government start immediately instead of May 14 as announced earlier, he affirmed.

In Tanga city the strike by commuter bus drivers shook the residents especially in the morning hours with many failing to reach their offices or trading spots.

Saidi Jumbe, the regional commuter bus operators' chairman, said since early morning the buses had stopped services due to high fuel prices. They failed to refuel their vehicles as they had little money after remitting the relevant sums to the bus owners, he stated, castigating the order that the new 500/- fare starts May 14.

The government needs to allow them to apply the new fare of 500/- right away, he stated, highlighting discussions he had the regional LATRA manager, who urged maintaining current fares "while the matter was being dealt with."

Regional traffic police chief Leopold Fungu said the drivers have been informed of new fares starting May 14, not earlier, with LATRA manager Kennedy Nyakabondo saying the strike arose from additional fuel price hike even after the new 500/- fare was announced, with a belated start.

The strike was taken up by drivers plying a number of routes while others continued to provide services, shrugging off pressures by their peers to join the strike. Bus services had returned to normal in Raskazone and Pongwe as well, earlier hit by the strike, he added.



Kilombero Sugar Company Ltd staff in a group photo during the just-ended Workers' Day celebrations held at regional level at Mikumi in Kilosa District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt seeking to soften fuel price hike impact

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applications had been submitted to the ministry and six of them have been picked up to proceed to the next stage.

"What the government is doing right now is to ascertain their capability in fuel distribution on the basis of needs and procedures set by the government," he added.

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adding that even employers who will pay their debts by June 30 will benefit from the amnesty.

She said that between 2015 and last year delayed remittances of contributions drew fines with 10 per cent interest. However, the government reduced the interest from 10 per cent to 2 per cent effective from September 2021.

According to the minister, the move was aimed at easing the burden on employers and creating a conducive environment for trade and investment

WCF issues interest amnesty to employers late in payment of workers' contributions

in the country.

She said employers delaying to pay contributions after the mentioned period will be charged with interest.

WCF Director General John Mduma hailed the government for reducing the amount of interest "which will facilitate the implementation of the WCF Act".

He explained that it is only employers

who are supposed to register with the Fund in which public sector employers contribute 0.5 per cent as against 0.6 per cent for the private sector.

WCF is a social security scheme established in under Section 5 of the Workers Compensation Act Cap.263 Revised Edition of 2015 and applies to all employers and employees in Mainland Tanzania.

The main purpose it is meant to serve is to provide for adequate and equitable compensation for employees sustaining occupational injuries or contracting occupational diseases arising out of and in the course of their employment as well as dependents of employees dying in such circumstances.

Photo on Page 4



NMB Bank Plc northern zone manager Dismas Prosper (2nd-L) pictured yesterday presenting to Finance and Planning ministry procurement officer Hilda Segere (2nd-R) 800 T-shirts that the bank has donated for use during Public Procurement Week celebrations to be held in Arusha city beginning tomorrow. With them are NMB branch manager Emmanuel Kishosha (L) and the ministry's communications officer, Saidina Msangi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

PM raises serious issues about MSD collusion, corruption, favouritism

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa will soon be descending onto the Medical Stores Department after the MSD was found to be bloating costs of procuring medical equipment meant to be distributed to local hospitals.

"I will be visiting the MSD headquarters on Monday and the management should be prepared to come up with an explanation why an item valued at say 5 million/- should be procured at 14.5 million/- three times the original price," the Premier demanded.

Majaliwa made the statement while officially launching the National Public Procurement week being held at the Simba Plenary Hall of the Arusha International Conference Centre and attended by more than 1000 delegates.

The Prime Minister seemed more irked by the fact that such tampering with public funds should affect sensitive areas where also people's health is concerned.

In listing all the exaggerated costs of buying medical equipment, PM Majaliwa realised that the government could have lost billions of shillings through a series of MSD procurement rackets.

Even worse, MSD was recently given the

responsibility of being the sole distributor of medicines, medical supplies and laboratory equipment within the entire Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

On the brighter side, the Premier lauded the Public Procurement Authority for the development of the Tanzanian National e-Procurement System (TANePS), the web-based, collaborative system, deployed to facilitate public procurement processes in Tanzania.

"I understand that through TANePS the government has managed to save 98.16 billion/-," said Majaliwa pointing out that, even the theme behind Public Procurement Week, addressing the 'Adaptation of digital Technology in Procurement,' complements the nation's current focus. Earlier on, the deputy minister of Finance and Planning, Ahmed Chande, revealed that 48,487 public institutions have so far been enrolled in the National e-Procurement system with transactions worth 22.7 trillion/- being

conducted through TANePS.

Previously, participants lauded the e-Procurement system saying it offers a secure, interactive, dynamic environment for carrying out procurement of all categories, complexity or value, in addition to providing transparency and saving costs and paperwork. During their respective presentations, procurement experts, Benard Mtelya, Emmanuel Urembo and Matoeko Owden described the benefits of TANePS in the system's support of processes of procuring goods, works, consultancy, non-consultancy and disposal of assets.

They explained how the system supports various public procurement procedures including user registration, tender notification, tender preparation and submission, online tender evaluations.

Other online services offered through TANePS include contract awarding, creation and management of catalogue, creation and management of framework agreements and auctions and payments.

Govt to introduce major changes in fuel procurement and storage

By Songwa wa Songwa, Dodoma

AS Tanzanians await immediate measures to curb high oil prices set for unveiling Tuesday next week, the government yesterday hinted at major changes in fuel procurement and storage as medium and long-term measures.

Energy minister January Makamba told the National Assembly here that there will be stricter terms in fuel procurement tendering whereby winners will have to commit to assuring price stability within a long period of time.

Talks are also underway with a number of oil producing countries to enable the government procure the key commodity directly aside the current tendering through bulk procurement, he said.

Also, there are plans to put in place a mega fuel storage facility not only for Tanzanian market but also neighbouring countries to ensure the prices remain stable at times of crises like the current one occasioned by the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

"As the Prime Minister (Kassim Majaliwa) said yesterday, we have to look at how we procure oil. We will have an honest discussion with those who meet importation criteria to ensure we get fuel at reasonable prices for a long period of time," he said.

The Minister said fuel business system is itself a war all the way from importers, big marketers to the pump hence a need for tight regulation.

"Within two weeks we will initiate a regulation for the establishment of fuel price stabilization fund," he said.

The government is also set to rehabilitate and expand capacity of the Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPPER) to enable it serve not only Tanzanian market but neighbouring countries as well. This will be done in collaboration with the private sector, he said.

"I have a meeting in Arusha this

month with Energy Ministers from this region to discuss how to procure bulk oil as one market," he said.

The minister said global geopolitics also makes fuel prices high hence a need to lobby as a bloc and get fuel at reasonable price because there is enough oil reserve in the world.

"We are engaging oil producing countries such as Algeria, Oman and Azerbaijan to see the possibility of getting oil at affordable prices," Makamba said.

The minister said oil prices are caused by three main factors namely price at the country of origin, transportation cost as well as cost of oil business locally.

He said the Russia-Ukraine conflict has greatly affected global supply because Russia which is amongst top three oil producers alongside the US and Saudi Arabia accounts for 12 per cent of global supply.

Because little can be done on global prices and transportation costs due to longer routes, Tanzania can now only work on reviewing taxes and levies which he said needed consultation.

The minister requested that the government consults and come up with concrete measures for immediate price control measure.

Speaker of the National Assembly Tulia Ackson permitted that the government consults so that the minister presents immediate plan of action in the house on Tuesday next week.

The debate followed a motion moved by Kilindi lawmaker Omari Kigua (CCM) who wanted the parliament to adjourn due to fuel price crisis in the country.

"We are engaging oil producing countries such as Algeria, Oman and Azerbaijan to see the possibility of getting oil at affordable prices"

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9. Facilitate both Audit exercise and inspections; following up Audit & Inspections recommendations.
10. Provide guidelines to operational staff in

areas of loan portfolio management.

11. Provide guidelines to statutory compliance issues including tax issues, monthly BOT/TCDC reports and other statutory obligation (NSSF, WCF, SDL, HELSB and PAYE).
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13. Carry out any other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors or SACCOS Manager.

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- Ability to work with only minimal supervision.
- Ability and desire to learn new things.
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Bus operators start charging new fares prematurely - Latra

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

TRANSPORTERS and passenger bus operators in Tanga have been told to wait until the set date for new fares to be operational instead of illegally charging new fares now.

Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) officer-in-charge of Tanga region Kennedy Jakabondo made the remarks yesterday after some operators in the region boycotted providing services over prices.

Explaining further on the matter, Jakabondo said they are currently in the process of coming up with new fares which will be standardized with the distance a passenger has covered.

"Let me remind operators that new fares will be operational from 14th this month, for now what we doing is to inform the general public on the new fares," he said.

He said what happened in the region was not a strike saying there were some drivers who were influencing others not to offer services with an aim of disturbing transport in the region.

Some operators who spoke to journalists said running a passenger bus business was now costly due to the hike in fuel.

One of the owners Mohammed Hariri said it is high time the government should look into the matter by coming up with a solution to cushion wananchi.

"For example fuel price has increased up to more than 3,000/- but the fare for Tanga town to Pogwe remains 700/- which at the end goes to fuel," he said.

Daladala operators association of Tanga Salim Jumbe said the operators concern was that fuel prices have increased but prices remain the same calling upon the government to take a look into the matter.

"Up to now it is only 10-perent of operators who have entered into the road because they are only making loses as it is only some few days ago that prices were a little bit low," he said.

He said the government must sit down and look into matter to see how the new fares can start to be used now instead of the two weeks' time which LATRA has announced.

On April 30 LATRA announced new fares for commuter buses within the city and long-distance buses.

Bus owners applied for an upward adjustment in fares in response to a rise in their operating costs, fueled mainly by increasing fuel prices.



Prof Joyce Ndlichako, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disability), addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on interest relief to employers who were late in submitting workers' contributions to the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF). To her left is WCF director general Dr John Mduma. Photo: John Badi

Z'bar govt to employ 4000 health workers

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has said it is in the process to employ 4,000 health workers including doctors for both Unguja and Pemba to strengthen health services in the Isles.

This was revealed by the Zanzibar Deputy Minister for Health, Hassan Khamis Hafidh in the ongoing session of Zanzibar House of representatives when responding to a question posed by Haji Omar Kheir, Representative for the Tumbatu Constituency who had sought to know when will the ministry start to employ hospital workers

including doctors to alleviate the ongoing acute shortage in the sector.

The Deputy Minister said following the ongoing building of 10 district hospitals in both Unguja and Pemba, the ministry plans to employ 3,000 new health workers.

He said the process of employing them has begun as the government priority is to send doctors to rural health centres. "Hon Speaker, I would like to announce that we have begun the process to employ 3,000 new doctors for the hospitals now under construction in various Unguja and Pemba districts," he said.

Four children die in house blaze in Simanjiro District

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjiro

FOUR children from Mgage village, in Loiborsoit ward, Simanjiro District, Manyara Region have died after the house they were in caught fire.

It was claimed that the blaze was caused by their grandmother who was using petrol to burn down bedbugs.

Loiborsoit Ward Councillor, Sirian Kiduya said Wednesday that the incident happened Tuesday this week at around 1:00 PM.

Kiduya said the tragic incident killed

the children, three of who died on the spot and one died as he was receiving treatment at KCMC Hospital, Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region.

He named the deceased as Jackson Mathayo (11), Sioni Raphael (9), Napokei Raphael (7) and Sifa Mathayo (5).

"Their grandmother also received burns and was rushed to KCMC Hospital as well," he added.

Simanjiro District Commissioner, Dr Suleiman Serera conveyed message of condolence to the Loiborsoit following the tragic accident.

PO-RALG: 158,186 applications received for health and education sector cadres

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) says so far 158,186 job applications have been received for the health and education cadres.

It says the situation reflects a big response of job applications while the vacancies for the two cadres are 7,612 for health and 9,800 for teachers.

However, the Minister of State (PO-RALG), Innocent Bashungwa added four more days for applicants who are yet to submit their applications for various reasons to do so.

A statement issued by Head of Government Communications Unit in PO-RALG, Nteghenjwa Hosseah, said earlier applicants were required to submit their applications beginning April 22 this year up to last Tuesday but now the time has been extended to May 8 this year.

"In regard to applicants, up to May 3 at 05:59 applicants in the health cadre numbered 39,053 and education 119,133, totaling 158,186," he said.

"Those who failed to submit their applications for various reasons should now use the added time to do so via ajira.tamisemi.go.tz," he said.

Government to speed up hearing of murder cases, says deputy minister

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has come up with new measures to help fast-track hearing of murder penalty cases, the deputy Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs, Geoffrey Pinda, told the parliament yesterday.

He said at least some 153 judges who had no jurisdiction to hear and making rulings in death cases have been empowered and authorized to preside over such cases.

At the same time, the government and the

offices of the director of public prosecution (DPP) and Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) has formed a task force to oversee speedy hearing of the cases.

The task force, he said is going through death penalty case files in all courts in the country and is expected to complete the task by the end of May, 2022, recommending what action to take.

"I appeal to the honourable members of parliament to be patient until the end of this month when full report will be out," said the

deputy minister.

The Deputy Minister made the statement in response to a supplementary question asked by the Lupembe MP, Edwin Swalle (CCM) who had wanted to know what the government was doing to ensure faster ruling of cases.

"Death cases are increasingly piling in courts more than other cases and they take long time before rulings are made, what the government is doing to revert the trend," he questioned.

He also noted that delay in death cases has serious effects as some people being held in remands die before their rulings are made.

In his main question, the lawmaker had also wanted to know when the government would start fast-tracking death cases. Experts argue that there are mental and physical affection of the suspects due to the improper treatment by the police officer during the long restrains.

Many suspects after being taken into court alleges that while in the custody for a such long time they are beaten, harassed as well as subjected to torture but this is due to the delay of the proceedings.

"I appeal to the honourable members of parliament to be patient until the end of this month when full report will be out"

IN LOVING MEMORY



TEDDY HOLLO MAPUNDA
21/01/1975 - 04/05/2021
1st Anniversary

IT IS ONE YEAR SINCE YOU WENT TO BE WITH THE LORD.

OUR MEMORY OF YOU, YOUR LEGACY OF LOVE, KINDNESS, HARDWORK AND THE MOMENTS WE SHARED ARE STILL FRESH IN OUR MINDS AND WILL FOREVER REMAIN TREASURED IN OUR HEARTS.

YOU ARE DEEPLY LOVED AND MISSED BY YOUR HUSBAND, SONS, FATHER, SISTER AND BROTHERS, YOUR ENTIRE EXTENDED FAMILY, MONTAGE LIMITED STAFF, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.

CONTINUE TO REST IN PEACE TILL WE MEET AGAIN.

THERE WILL BE A HOLY MASS AT ST. KIZITO'S CHURCH, KILONGAWIMA, KUNDUCHI, DAR ES SALAAM ON SUNDAY AT 6:30 A.M., THEREAFTER TO THE CEMETERY FOR PRAYERS AND THEN TO THE HOME OF THE DECEASED AT MTAKUJA CLOSE, KILONGAWIMA, KUNDUCHI, DAR ES SALAAM FOR LUNCH.






Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services 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 work/goods to be procured | Pre -Qualification Criteria |
|-----|-----------------|--|--|
| 1 | BUL -22-05 - 01 | TSF CELL 1 & 2 CLOSURE AND REHABILITATION CIVIL WORK | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRB Certificate Civil - Class 5 Earth Moving (Dozing and reclaiming Old Tailings) and Liner Install ation works capability List & Specifications of tools/equipment's must provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAT D8 Bulldozer (02 units) CAT Crawl Excavator 320D (02 units) Articulated Dump Trucks (ADT), 15m³ capacity, 30 Tonnes (02 units) Smooth Drum Roller Compactor 15 Tonnes (01 unit) Backhoe (01 unit) Manpower Resources with organization chart for respective project Experience with similar works - List of previous projects carried out in last 3 years Local Content Compliance & Ownership Company Health, Safety & Environmental Policy |

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 referencing the work package reference number should 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, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- BRELA - Register of Companies detailed information certificate
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on the 12th May 2022. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote reference number "BUL-22-05-01 - TSF CELL 1 & 2 CLOSURE AND REHABILITATION" in the subject line of your email.

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



MIC Tanzania Plc board chairman Rostam Aziz (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday when introducing himself as one of the partners of the company, owner of mobile phone service provider Tigo Tanzania. He is with Axion Company chairman and Tigo partner Hassanein Hirdjee. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt invites Norwegian and British investors to invest in infrastructure

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has invited Norwegian and British investors to invest in infrastructure projects especially in building roads and railway lines.

The invitation was extended by the Minister for Works and Transport, Prof Makame Mbarawa, when he addressed a meeting of 37 prospective investors from the two European countries which was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The tour of the European business delegation is jointly coordinated by the Norwegian-African Business Association (NABA), Invest Africa Company and the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC).

Prof Mbarawa said Tanzania needs investment flows in the physical infrastructure in order to open up the country and bolster investment and business opportunities.

He told the guests that implementation of the standard gauge railway (SGR) project has reached 97 percent, but added that Tanzania is a big country with many productive areas that still lack railway lines for haulage and transportation.

"I take this opportunity to invite many prospective investors from your countries to come and invest here. Our government,

led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, listens and values investors. It will particularly cooperate with investors in implementing big projects in building huge infrastructure projects in order to open up the country and generate jobs," he said.

The TIC Executive Director, Dr Maduhu Kazi, assured the guests of unflinching cooperation to businessmen and investors.

"I invite you warmly to invest in the financial sector, fisheries, transport, agriculture and transportation. I assure you the government has put in place an environment that is very friendly to investment," he said.

The NABA CEO, Eivind Fjeldstad, said the delegates chose to visit Tanzania in order to see for themselves available investment opportunities, explaining that their companies are determined to invest in agriculture, fisheries, transport and transportation. "This is very good opportunity for us to visit a country with many investment opportunities. If these opportunities will be exploited they are bound to be of great benefit to this nation," he said.

The European delegation is visiting Tanzania in response to current government efforts to promote Tanzania's investment opportunities.

TMDA issues warning on health impact of smoking

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) warned tobacco products users in the country to reduce dosage on reasons that they have serious health impacts.

Acting Director of Medical Products Control Dr Yonah Mwalwisi made the warning recently during training to journalists which were held in Mbeya.

He said tobacco products are dangerous to human health saying this was the reason the government and other international organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) are regulating their use.

According to Dr Mwalwisi tobacco can lead to cancer of the Uterus in women hence lead to infertility while in men the products can lead to reduced libido or kill sperms as the products affects blood circulation.

"When sperms are weakened it is likely that the man can father a child with cancer risks," he said.

Dr Mwalwisi said excessive use of tobacco products in children leads to deaths but also cause disability as they affect body parts.

He added that smoke from tobacco affects the respiratory system hence can weaken an individual's health.

According to Dr Mwalwisi tobacco use was now reducing in developed countries and increasing in developing countries a move which should be a concern to everyone.

Diseases associated with tobacco costs WHO \$1.4 trillion with only 20-percent of the world's population has managed to reduce the use of tobacco products.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner Juma Homera who opened the training said the use of tobacco has been causing diseases calling upon TMDA to continue sensitizing the society.

Homera said Mbeya was one of the region growing tobaccos to a large extent saying this was the time to sensitize farmers to grow alternative crops.

Govt planning for gender desks in all police stations across the country, MP told

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

POLICE force has established at least 70 gender desk offices in police stations in the country, the deputy minister for Home Affairs, Jumanne Sagini told the parliament yesterday.

Gender desks are dedicated units in each police station consisting of a reception area, interview and counselling room, resting area and an office.

The deputy minister was responding to a question by the Mbinga Urban MP, Jonas Mbunda (CCM), who had wanted to know what the government was doing to ensure the facility is available in all district headquarters.

Sagini noted that it is the government intention to establish the desks in all police stations in the country, adding that construction of police stations and the gender desks continue in accordance with availability of money.

"The government understands the importance of gender desks which have helped solve various problems facing children and women," he said, adding that all new police stations under construction have taken into consideration having gender desk.

According to a 2010 Demographic and Health Survey nearly 45 percent of 15 to 49-year-olds reported having experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, with husbands and partners cited as common perpetrators.

Another government study in 2011 showed that nearly 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 7 boys have experienced sexual violence and more than 70 percent of children experienced physical violence before the age of 18.

Women's rights activists say despite the prevalence of sexual and physical violence against women and children, survivors rarely tell their stories and only a few cases are reported to the police due to stigma.

swissport



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR BOARD DIRECTORSHIP

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Swissport Tanzania Plc. is a subsidiary of Swissport International Ltd. and the leading aviation services provider in Tanzania, currently operating at the Julius Nyerere and Kilimanjaro International Airports. The Company is listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).
- Swissport International Ltd., on behalf of more than 850 client companies, provides best-in-class airport ground services for some 97 million passengers annually and handles approximately 5.1 million tons of air cargo at 119 warehouses worldwide. With a workforce of 45,000, the world's leading provider of ground and air cargo services is active at 285 airports in 45 countries across all six continents.
- As per its Articles of Association, 2 directors of Swissport Tanzania Plc. shall be elected by the minority shareholders at the Company's Annual General Meeting to serve for 3 years. The majority shareholder, in this case, Swissport International Ltd., is entitled to appoint 3 directors and the Chairman of the Board from amongst its nominated directors.
- The term of the existing Directors representing minority shareholders is coming to an end in the near future. Interested persons who wish to be considered for election as members of the Swissport Tanzania Plc. Board of Directors is hereby invited to submit their applications. Elections are expected to occur during the next Annual General Meeting of the Company in Dar es Salaam on **26th May 2022**.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Understand and demonstrate a commitment to Swissport Tanzania's vision, mission, objectives and operations.
- Develop, promote and monitor the implementation of strategic objectives, business plans, budgets, policies and structure.
- Ensure effective management of Swissport Tanzania's risk profile.
- Ensure compliance with good governance practices.
- Ensure compliance with laws and regulations.
- Maintain strategic oversight for Swissport Tanzania operations.
- Maintain effective board performance.
- Accept fiduciary and other responsibilities as stipulated in the Companies Act, 2002.
- Select, advise and support the Chief Executive Officer.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Aspiring candidates should:

- Have a sound educational background with at least a minimum of a bachelor's degree in Finance, Accounting, Economics, Engineering, Law or equivalent qualification. Since the elected directors are expected to become members of the Board's Audit Committee, preferential will be given to the financial experts and those with extensive experience in accounting and business management.
- Possess a minimum of ten years' experience in senior management role.
- Possess the highest moral and ethical character.
- Not be a director in more than 3 listed companies.
- Have no potential or actual continuing conflict of interest in relation to Swissport Tanzania Plc.
- Be solvent and of sound mind.
- Consents to act as a director for Swissport Tanzania Plc and to promote its best interests.
- Needs to obtain share qualification within 2 months of his appointment.

DURATION OF APPOINTMENT

The duration of the appointment is three years, subject to performance.

APPLICATION

- If your qualifications and experience match the requirements for this role, please send your application together with cover letter outlining your competencies for the role as well as a detailed Curriculum Vitae to the address indicated below.
- Closing date for receipt of applications will be **18th May 2022**.

The Company Secretary

Swissport Tanzania Plc. P.O. Box 18043, Dar es Salaam | E-mail: TZ.info@swissport.com

FROM LANDING TO TAKE-OFF: WE CARE!



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VOLVO SPARE PARTS TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML) TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of Procuring Volvo spare parts and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of the service as detailed below.

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

Scope of work:

| REFERENCE NUMBER | SERVICE DESCRIPTION |
|------------------|--|
| GGME1442 | SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VOLVO SPARE PARTS TO GGML |

I.! INFORMATION REQUIRED

| PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS | 20% |
|--|-------------|
| COMMERCIAL | |
| Company Profile | 1.54% |
| Company Code of Conduct | 1.54% |
| Company Code of Ethics | 1.54% |
| Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate | 1.54% |
| Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) | 1.54% |
| Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents | 1.54% |
| Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association | 1.54% |
| Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns | 1.54% |
| Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN | 1.54% |
| Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license. | 1.54% |
| Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders | 1.54% |
| List of Directors | 1.54% |
| Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission | 1.54% |
| FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE | 5% |
| Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020) | 2.5% |
| At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position | 2.5% |
| SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS | 5% |
| OSHA Compliance Certificate | 1.25% |
| Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance | 1.25% |
| Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy | 1.25% |
| Health and Safety Programme | 1.25% |
| OTHER POLICIES | 5% |
| Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure | 1% |
| Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour | 1% |
| Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment | 1% |
| Grievance Procedure | 1% |
| Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme | 1% |
| PAST EXPERIENCE | 5% |
| At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed) | 1.7% |
| Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above) | 1.7% |
| Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients | 1.7% |
| TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01442) | 60% |
| Quality standard must be as per OEM to suite to L120F models for the following VIN(VCEL120FJE0027199,VCEL120FJ00027826,VCEL120FC00026807, VCEL120FH0073101 and VCEL120FH0073468) | 20% |
| Durability and reliability | 10% |
| Spare parts must be readily available or delivered on a short lead time | 10% |
| Be able to give technical support whenever required like troubleshooting, online parts view and component commissioning | 10% |
| Must provide warranty on components | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01442) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 8.30AM 20th May 2022 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of procuring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the requested supply as detailed below.

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

Scope of work:

| REFERENCE NUMBER | SERVICE DESCRIPTION |
|------------------|--|
| GGME01401 | SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) TO GGML |

I.! INFORMATION REQUIRED

| PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS | 20% |
|--|-------------|
| COMMERCIAL | |
| Company Profile | 1.54% |
| Company Code of Conduct | 1.54% |
| Company Code of Ethics | 1.54% |
| Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate | 1.54% |
| Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) | 1.54% |
| Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents | 1.54% |
| Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association | 1.54% |
| Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns | 1.54% |
| Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN | 1.54% |
| Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license. | 1.54% |
| Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders | 1.54% |
| List of Directors | 1.54% |
| Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission | 1.54% |
| FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE | 10% |
| Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020) | 2.5% |
| At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position | 2.5% |
| SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS | 5% |
| OSHA Compliance Certificate | 1.25% |
| Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance | 1.25% |
| Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy | 1.25% |
| Health and Safety Programme | 1.25% |
| OTHER POLICIES | 5% |
| Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure | 1% |
| Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour | 1% |
| Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment | 1% |
| Grievance Procedure | 1% |
| Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme | 1% |
| PAST EXPERIENCE | 10% |
| At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed) | 1.7% |
| Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above) | 1.7% |
| Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients | 1.7% |
| TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01401) | 50% |
| Valid authorized dealership letter from the Manufacturer for Branded safety Gears i.e Bisley, 3M, e.t.c | 20 |
| Warranty terms certificates | 10 |
| Document/Certificate to support Knowledge & Expertise | 20 |
| Any Document to support previous performance at least in past two years | 10 |
| Total | 100% |

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01401) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 8.30AM 20th May 2022 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



Ramadhani Mtindasi (L), director of projects with the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa), pictured in Mkuranga District yesterday briefing Sahili Geraruma (3rd-L), leader of this year's edition of the Uhuru Touch Race at national level, on the Mkuranga-Vikindu water project. It was at ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the project. Photo: By Guardian Correspondent

Mwinyi lauds WFP initiatives in supporting Z'bar development

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has commended the strategies and plans that have been put in place by the World Food Programme (WFP) for supporting the Islands' development.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks yesterday when speaking with Sarah Gordon-Gibson, a WFP Representative for Tanzania.

During the talks, President Mwinyi briefed Sarah steps to increase strategies and programmes to ensure that Zanzibar directly benefits from the services it provides in the implementation of development activities.

Dr Mwinyi was pleased with the WFP's commitment to work with Isles' government on the whole issue of disaster management, economic empowerment of women especially those seaweed farmers, nutrition and food security, assisting smallholder farmers especially in the construction of local roads and assisting them in the shipment of goods.

He however commended the efforts made by the programme to start negotiations with some of the relevant sectors in developing the projects, stating that the Zanzibar will continue to lend its support to the WFP in ensuring that it conducts its activities.

Mwinyi also commended the areas where WFP intends to increase its capacity including assisting mothers who cultivate their seaweed by empowering them to access their value as well as

finding them a reliable market.

Dr Mwinyi further lauded WFP for its commitment to rehabilitating child nutrition in schools, a step that will raise awareness and help children to become more nutritious.

He also explained that the organisation has been working well in the country and its intention to increase its strategies in its programs will help the community significantly including women and children.

Sarah Gordon-Gibson told President Dr Mwinyi that the strategies and plans put in place by the WFP for Zanzibar over a five-year period from July 2022 to July 2027 will be extended.

She also said that WFP, has already planned a number of programmes that Zanzibar in turn will benefit greatly over the next five years, including empowering women, especially algae farmers, dealing with disasters, nutrition and food security, helping smallholder farmers, especially in construction of local roads and assisting them in the entire supply chain as well as other programmes.

She explained how the programme operates in providing food services to refugees in mainland Tanzania as well as in neighbouring countries.

WFP official commended the good cooperation he is receiving through the agency here in Zanzibar and pledged to continue to provide its cooperation so that Zanzibar can be more successful in its development sectors.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Itambaleo residents set to benefit from 631m/- worth water project

OVER 2000 residents in Itambaleo ward and neighbouring areas in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region are set to benefit from a mega water project after the government released 631m/- for its implementation.

A statement issued yesterday by Mbarali District Commissioner Reuben Mfunze stated that the funds are part of the 1.3trn/- loan provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to support Tanzania's efforts in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic by addressing the urgent health, humanitarian, and

economic costs.

DC Mfunze said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has issued the funds to implement the project and ensure that residents are supplied with enough clean and safe water.

"The implementation of the project will bring huge relief to the residents who have been grappling for years to get the service, this will also stimulate

employment and economic growth," he said.

Eng Samwel Hechei, manager of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Mbarali said the project is implemented in two phases where the first phase will involve construction of a 300,000-litre water tank, eight water supply centres, a banner and the construction of a 15.9-

km pipeline network.

He explained that the second phase will be implemented in the villages of Matebete, Mbalino and Kapunga and will involve the construction of a 72.2-km pipeline network, 200,000 litre tanks as well as the construction of 19 water points. This will cost a total of 3.9m/-.

Mbarali District CCM Chairman

Hashimu Mwalyawa commended the government for implementing the ruling party's Election Manifesto by bringing the mega water project at the ward as the area was facing acute shortage of water.

He urged the residents to show full cooperation in the implementation of the project and make sure that they protect it once completed by avoiding

stealing its infrastructures.

Twalibu Lubandano, Itambaleo ward councillor said the area once completed, the water project will provide relief to the villagers who have for a long time been suffering due to scarcity of water.

He said the project will bring more joy to women as they are then ones who are forced to wake up early in the morning, travelling long distances to get the precious liquid.

The implementation of the project was signed on January 10, this year and is expected to be implemented within six months and once completed will benefit a total of 22,543 residents in the ward.



Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP-TZ), Plot 1486, Off Mwaya Street, Msasani Peninsular P.O. Box 105303, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Office Tel: +255 784 164 710, Visit our website: www.ccp.jhu.edu

VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania is a new, three-year (2022-2025) cooperative agreement between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Program (CCP). Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania is a social and behavior change (SBC) activity that aims to catalyze opportunities for Tanzanians to improve their health status by transforming socio-cultural norms and supporting the adoption of healthier behaviors. The activity will provide technical assistance to the Government of Tanzania (GoT) to improve the policy and implementation framework around SBC activities, and design, implement and monitor specific SBC interventions at the sub-national level as required. Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania will promote integrated SBC approaches to support family planning/reproductive health, maternal, neonatal, and child health (including nutrition), HIV, malaria, TB, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and other infectious diseases as needed.

CCP is currently inviting job application for qualified individuals to fill the following vacancies

1. Director of SBC Design and Implementation
2. Finance Manager
3. Human Resources (HR) and Administration Manager
4. Media Specialist
5. SBCC Specialist
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Price hikes fairly routine, call for scant emergency measures

WITH the rise in oil prices, bus fares and a range of staples there is a limited but audible line of concern as to what to do to tame the situation. One such voice is a policy spokesman for one of the leading opposition parties, delving into the fuel price, living costs and policy measures with a distinctive tonality. The measures this intervention suggested were somewhat radical, trying to grapple with what appeared to have a complete aura of an emergency situation, and the series of proposals indicated depth of concern.

What was firstly positive about this intervention was that this is precisely what a serious political party is supposed to do, to examine what is happening on a daily basis and where need be, offer suggestions based on expert views from those it usually consults in its activities. And admittedly any political party must have a minimum of expertise on public policy which set the tone for its presence in the political sphere, as each party is marked by a certain tonality, a specific outlook underlining the views it has on public issues. Such interventions help the public coalesce around clusters of systematic opinions as policy orientations.

This kind of intervention is helpful as it enables the public to figure out what kind of policy orientation there would be if a different party was in office, which contributes to rational political debate. It is quite removed from a destructive preoccupation with supposed illegitimacy of existing institutions, agitating to throw it to the dustbin and trying something else - and indeed, anything else but what retains the ruling party in place. This sort of debate is unhelpful, while debating

about policy initiatives is constructive. Still, the positive element notwithstanding, people must still ponder and evaluate the suggestions given, if they are usable alternative or carry more risks than the policies actually being followed. The lesson all the same about policy debate is what results one seeks to achieve, and here there was a distinctive contrast between what is being done by the government and what ACT-Wazalendo suggested, in terms of their objectives. The difference in objectives pave the way for alternative approaches to solving existing issues or containing emerging problems affecting daily life - how to look at the problem and what to do about it.

This can be said to be the point of difference between those who feel like the opposition party and those who are driving policy at the moment, that the policy spokesman essentially saw the issue as one of taking deliberate action to help the people afford the cost of living. It was in a sense a suggestion on how to take away the burden of oil price increases from the population (consumers of goods and services), seeing this as an ethical need and a political imperative. This though is to the other camp too idealistic.

The realistic perspective is that oil price hikes are a fact of life, so we take measures to dampen its effects, making the situation more manageable for poorer sections faced with price rises left, right and centre. In other words the ACT-Wazalendo intervention makes plenty of sense if the issue really is to lift the burden off the people and let the government carry it, which leads to inflation and economic instability. The party did a good job at policy intervention, but obviously their ideas merit acute debate as well.

Africa looks aside at youth violence, accident crises repeat tired formulas

EACH national day or important religious celebration is marked by an event that national leaders and clerics are compelled to reflect upon, and there are a whole series of other instances where public sentiments about what exists in society are registered. There is a growing desperation with jobs on the one hand and failing business initiatives, not to speak of dramatic effects of climate change noticed in floods and droughts, while the recent decimation of small traders' kiosks and belated protests of politicians all add to a crisis of expectations. Some disturbances that we see relate to adaptation mechanisms being tried.

Since we all celebrate religious festivals and often express pride for our cultural traditions, it would help if those in authority, or different levels of administration, realize that all the crises besieging society have ways they can be channeled either in religion or in tradition. There was an incident two years ago or thereabouts where more than 20 people died in a stampede to walk on anointing oil, with established religious authorities condemning the ceremony, but the government letting people practice their beliefs. That was the right thing to do instead of taking sides, but rituals of various sorts have promises and costs.

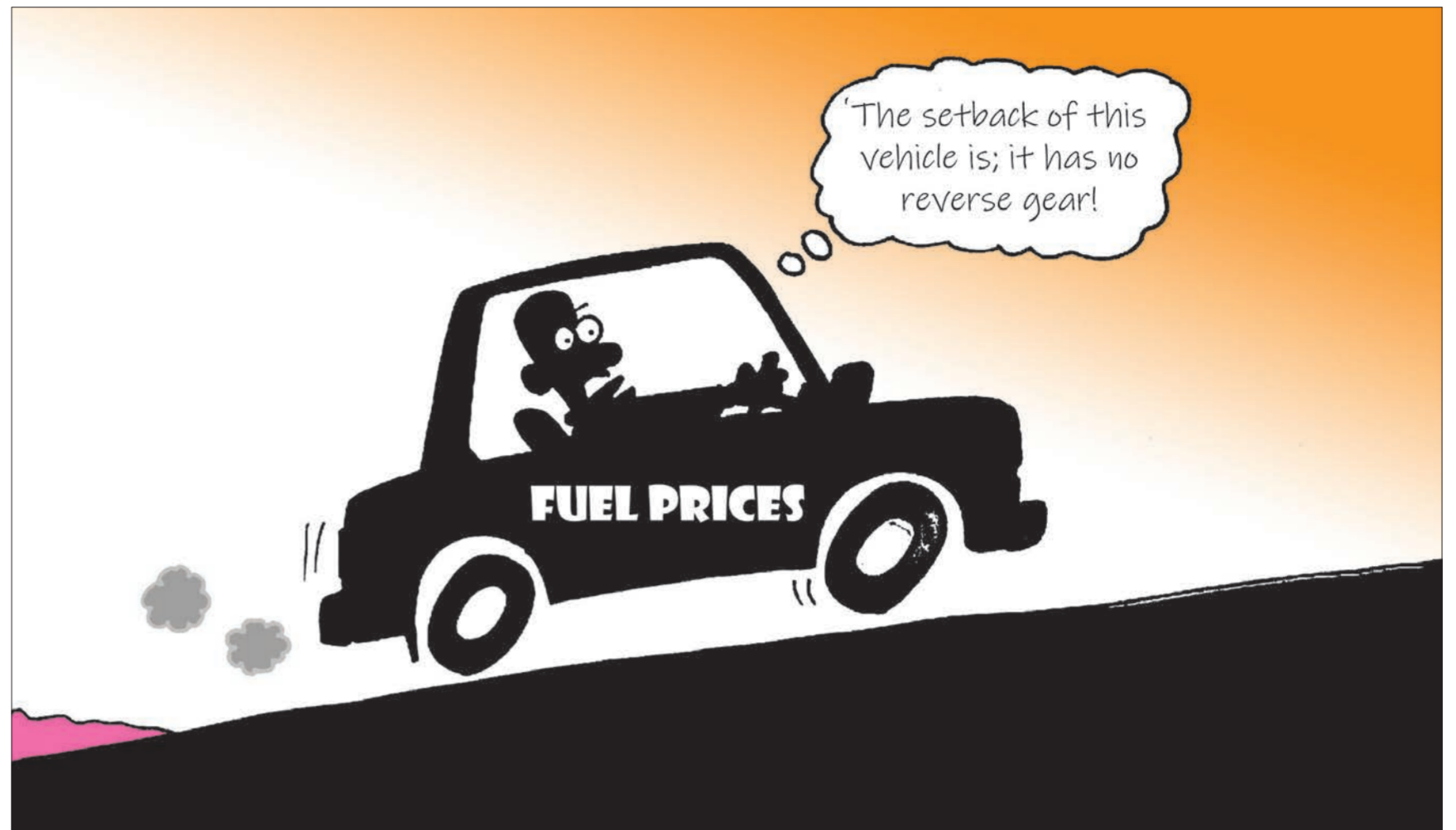
In the past two decades there were disturbances relating all sorts of bizarre instances only one of which was publicly acknowledged, that of hunting down people with albinism and severing their body organs for ritual purposes. There were other instances that authorities did their best to put out of view, and some still happen but are treated as instances of domestic violence, child abuse or drunk driving, while listening to preachers and testimonials indicates that plenty happens that isn't visible. The issue isn't to unravel these things but to find mechanisms to absorb

the sort of pressures leading to such incidents.

That is why it must be admitted that cultural limitations are eating into Africa's ability to develop, and nothing can happen to deter us from these choices. We reject fully fledged market economies and those with whom we were at par at independence like South East Asia are now in the first world and we remain in the third world. Political leaders and academia constantly discuss these things but they settle for tame conclusions like improving educational opportunities, or innovation as in the move to increase innovation funds from 1bn/- in the outgoing fiscal year to 5.5bn/- next financial year. Positive as these gestures might be, such projects add to a clogged market place where new products have few takers as the purchasing power is inadequate, grossly below its potential level by Western standards.

We need to ramp up what President Samia Suluhu Hassan discussed in the recent European tour, namely an economic partnership agreement with the EU and most favoured nation accords with others. State regulatory activities as in the oil supply crisis suffice, not in production as this outlook spells chronic underinvestment. One agency promotes 22 national parks and innumerable game reserves, whereas each one can have an international operator looking for campers, hunters and the like. We can change all that.

Permitting EU and other firms to purchase property will increase money circulation, boost industrial growth and engage massive wage labour. Most of those who feel like working shall do so, or get living allowances at least, not cross to Europe and drown at sea, constantly putting Africa to shame. Mwalimu Nyerere said back in 1964 'it can be done if you play your part,' to bring about vast changes, and not by the sort of structures that at that time we thought could work, enabling us to 'run while others walk.'



Sponsors of terrorism should be tried now!

By Femi Falana

SOMETIME in August 2019, a gang of 10 soldiers led by an Army Captain ambushed and killed the three police officers who had arrested an alleged kidnap suspect, Bala Hamisu (a.k.a. Wadume) in Jalingo, Taraba State. The cold murder of the police officers was designed to cover up the involvement of the soldiers in the several killings and illegal collection of hundreds of millions of Naira as ransom by the kidnapers who had terrorised the people of Taraba State for about three years.

The suspected killer soldiers were charged with terrorism in the Federal High Court by the Nigeria Police Force. But in a complete abuse of his powers under section 174 of the Constitution, the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice, Mr. Abubakar Malami SAN filed a nolle prosequi and withdrew the charges pending against the soldiers at the Federal High Court.

They have since been shielded from prosecution without any legal or moral justification. Our demand for the arrest and prosecution of the suspects has been ignored by the Federal Government. In another development, the Attorney-General of the Federation announced, between April and May 2021, that the investigation of the cases of sponsors of terrorism and 800 terror suspects by security forces had been concluded.

The Minister assured the nation that charges of terrorism would be filed at the Federal High Court against the 1,200 suspects once the industrial action of the striking staff of the Judiciary was called off. Even though the industrial action was called off in June last year, the Attorney-General of the Federation has not adduced any reason why the 400 sponsors of terrorism and 800 terror suspects have not been arraigned at the Federal High Court.

Thus, the suspects have been shielded from prosecution and exculpated by the Chief Law Officer of the Federation in spite of the overwhelming evidence already assembled against overwhelming evidence already assembled against them by the team of investigators. Our attention has also been drawn to the claim of Mr. Rotimi Amaechi, the Minister of Transport to the effect that the terrorist attack on the train in Kaduna would have been prevented if the Federal Government had acquired and installed security sensors.



The Minister said that "If those items were here, drones alone will tell you that there are people around the rail tracks because there are drones, there are equipment that pick sensors if you touch the track. But unfortunately, the process has not been able to get us that approval for us to import those items." However, the Minister did not explain why the trains were not grounded until the security gadgets were acquired and installed. Thus, it is clear from the admission of the Minister of Transport that the Federal Government knew that the tragedy was waiting to happen.

Having accepted full responsibility for the terrorist attacks the Federal Government should apologise to the nation and pay aggravated compensation to the survivors and family members of the deceased while efforts are intensified to secure the release of abducted passengers. No doubt, the deliberate refusal to prosecute arrested sponsors of terrorism and terror suspects has continued to exacerbate terrorism in the country.

However, as we join the people of Nigeria in condemning the dastardly attack on the Kaduna-Abuja train leading to the barbaric murder of several persons we are compelled to call on President Buhari to direct the Inspector-General of Police to prosecute all indicted terror suspects. Furthermore, we urge the President to order an investigation into the claims of the wanton negligence that led to the terrorist attacks.

-Femi Falana SAN is the Interim Chair, Alliance on Surviving Covid 19 and Beyond (ASCAB)

Why Nigerians Cannot Pay for Treatment of Injured Passengers

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Rotimi Amaechi was reported yesterday to have requested the traumatised people of Nigeria to contribute to the cost of treating the passengers who were injured in Monday's train attack by terrorists. During a visit to one of the hospitals where the passengers are being treated Mr. Amaechi said that some of them need drugs that are not manufactured in the country, asking Nigerians to assist in raising the money.

Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the tragic incident the statement credited to the Minister is highly provocative and insensitive on the following grounds: 1. On January 22, 2022 the Managing Director of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, Mr. Fidat Okhiria announced that a lot of measures have been put in place to ensure safety of travel by rail in the country.

Specifically, he said that "We have a lot of DSS who are working unnoticed and most of the time, we have information beforehand and we pass it to the appropriate quarters," he said. We have increased the number of people we have on the train -- both the civil defence, the police; both uniformed and non-uniformed; those armed and not armed. 2. Contrary to such assurance the security measures put in place by the Management of the Nigerian Railway Corporation and the Federal Government was designed to give passengers a false sense of security. Hence, the terrorists were able to bomb the Abuja-Kaduna train

on Monday.3.

The Minister of Transportation, who superintends the Nigerian Railway Corporation, has admitted that it was the failure of the Federal Government to acquire and install the vital security equipment which caused the terrorist attack and the injury inflicted on passengers and loss of lives as well as the kidnap of several others. Since the supervising Minister has established a case of the supervising Minister has established a case of criminal negligence on the part of the Federal Government and the Management of the Nigerian Railway Corporation he cannot turn round to ask members of the public to contribute money for the treatment of the injured passengers. 4. The Nigerian Railway Corporation claims to have sealed insurance contract with five underwriting companies to provide Group Personal Accident and Goods-in-Transit Insurance Scheme for its passengers.

In view of the foregoing, the Minister ought to withdraw the statement credited to him on the treatment of the injured passengers. More so that the law has imposed a legal obligation on the Nigerian Railway Corporation to bear full responsibility for injury or loss of life of passengers who were killed in the train. For the avoidance of doubt, section 78(1) of the Nigerian Railway Corporation Act provides that "The Corporation shall not be liable for personal injury to, or loss of life of a passenger, unless the personal injury or loss of life is caused by want of reasonable care, diligence or skill on the part of the Corporation or its servants."

Lawan's principles of politics and leadership

By Ola Awoniyi

WHEN Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan graduated from the University of Maiduguri in 1984 with a B.Sc. degree in Geography, taking an active role in partisan politics was not on his mind. The young man did not consider himself cut for the "dirty game." Rather, his focus was firmly on academics. And so for the next 10 years, he was in the Ivory Tower researching and imparting knowledge for the enlightenment and development of society. He was good enough at what he was doing such that in 1990, he was offered a scholarship by the European Union, one of a very few from the northern part of Nigeria at the time to be offered the privilege.

Lawan (pictured) went to Cranfield University, United Kingdom and returned home in 1996 with Masters and Doctoral degrees in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS). He resumed his career in academics, until 1998 when he was persuaded to join politics.

New in the game, Lawan quickly realised that politics is different from academics. It is safe to say that his experience in his early days in politics in his home state of Yobe was far from pleasant. "It was a near disaster," he once recalled. He found himself like a fish out of water such that his people at the grassroots had to teach him the ropes of practical politics. "Dr. this is not the academic environment. You are no more in the university. This is politics and it is not about blowing big grammar," he recalled once being told by a worried supporter. Since then he has learnt to flow with his people. They taught him to be part of them. And if ever elected into an office, to be a servant to the people.

Lawan has since mastered the art, which with the grace of God, has seen him come thus far. In six consecutive polls since 1999, Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan has been the clear choice of his people to represent them at the National Assembly. And he has remained a part and the servant of his constituents. Today, he is also the Senate President.

However, he has also refused to compromise his principles. For Lawan, politics is not an art of deception. "I don't believe politics is about deception. I prefer to call a spade a spade," Lawan once said while addressing his constituents in his country home, Gashua in Yobe State. His fidelity to that principle has won and cost him a few friends. But it has also underpinned the trust of his constituents, helping him to become one of the longest serving federal lawmakers in Nigeria.

Those who have worked with him will readily attest that you cannot persuade Lawan to act contrary to his conviction. Some see this as rigidity. But if you say that to him, Lawan would take it as a compliment, in as much as he believes that he stands for the common good.

He once narrated the huge pressure he and his colleagues faced in 2006 to support the now orphaned Third Term Agenda. Then in the House of Representatives, Lawan was lobbied severally to lend his support to removing a pillar of democratic stability. But he bluntly refused even at the face of a threat to deny him a return ticket to the National Assembly. However, the same Lawan also played a significant role in calming down his colleagues in the House every time they angrily attempted to impeach President Obasanjo over what they perceived as impeachable offences by the then president.

More recently, as Senate President, he came under pressure from some very powerful stakeholders in the oil industry who were against the passage of the Deep Offshore and Inland Basin Production Sharing Contract Act amendment Bill. Lawan rebuffed the pressure because he was convinced that the benefit of the amended bill is huge for the Nigerian economy. A similar pressure was mounted on him when the Ninth Assembly confronted the jinx of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB). But Lawan again stood his ground and the two decades old jinx was broken.

Until 2015, Lawan had been an opposition lawmaker. His voice was always loud on virtually every topical issue. By the time his party took control of the National Assembly, Lawan was well positioned for the coveted seat of Senate President. But he missed it at first attempt. Not that he lost the election to the seat. He was schemed out of the race.

As a devout Muslim, he took those shenanigans of June 2015 in good faith. He believes everything works for good for those whose purposes are good.

Lawan is a loyal party man and always stand firmly with his party in and outside the parliament. The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), consequently offered him the position of Senate Majority Leader. By the time he became the 14th Senate President in 2019, Lawan had acquired additional experience from that role to preside over the Upper Chamber and, as Chairman of the National Assembly, to pilot the affairs of the revered Institution.

From the onset, he had a clear vision of what he wanted to do and of the leadership strategy for maintaining unity and common purpose in the Senate and the National Assembly in general. He believes that a house of chaos, however elevated, is of no use to anyone.

This is why the defining trait of the Ninth Assembly under Lawan is the cordial working relationship with the other arms of government, more noticeably the Executive. But this has been achieved without compromising the independence of Parliament or the doctrine of Separation of Powers.

Understandably, people who prefer hostility to amity between the two elected arms of government do not like this. They have thus maligned him relentlessly and most unfairly derided the ninth Assembly as a rubber stamp.

You think that bothers Lawan? Instead, he considers himself lucky to be Senate President at a time a willing partner for cooperation heads the Executive arm of government.

The often ignored fact is that President Muhammadu Buhari even has ardently desires a healthy working relationship with Parliament. This is so that he can deliver his promises and fulfil his mandate to the Nigerian people. So both sides have chosen to address the unavoidable conflicts with cool heads and with their eyes set on the development goals of government.

Results commend the path that they have both chosen. In the immediate past Assembly, many executive bills were pronounced dead on arrival at the National Assembly. And many private member bills that passed were sent back to



the sender.

President Buhari felt that situation was unhealthy and should not be allowed to repeat itself as the Nigerian people were the losers. Both leaders since June 2019 have been wholly committed through reciprocity to building a cordial working environment between their two co-dependent institutions for the smooth running of government and benefit of the nation.

Let's recall a few fruits of this harmony. In October 2019, barely four months after the inauguration of the Ninth Assembly, the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, was at the National Assembly to meet with its leadership. Malami pleaded for a working relationship between the two arms of government that would enhance the passage of executive bills after due consideration by the lawmakers and presidential assent for private member bills. His move was to avert a repeat of the experience in the immediate past Assembly. Malami told the National Assembly leaders: "We cannot afford to expend resources, time and energy in formulating and drafting bills that will eventually not be passed or assented."

Also in September 2020, President Buhari set up an Executive, Legislative, Party Consultative Forum headed by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo to promote harmony in governance towards enhancing service delivery to the Nigerian people. "I am a firm believer in the doctrine of Separation of Powers which is fundamental to our constitutional democracy. But our practice should be harmonious checks and balances devoid of bitterness and petty rivalry," Buhari told members of the tripartite panel.

The foregone show some of the steps the Executive took to promote mutual cooperation with the parliament. They were well-received by most lawmakers and Lawan who have chosen harmonious relationship over unnecessary confrontation with the executive.

In the spirit of that relationship, President Buhari signed the 2022 Appropriation Bill into law on Christmas eve despite airing his reservations.

Also, the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) received Presidential assent despite reservations by the president on some of the provisions. Buhari signed the PIB into law and later proposed an amendment to the Act. The Deep Offshore and Inland Basin Production Sharing Contract Act amendment Bill was signed into law by the president in London where he was receiving medical treatment. That was very unusual. But that alacrity arose from a mutual understanding between the arms to preempt powerful stakeholders who were hell bent on scuttling the piece of legislation.

We cannot forget too how the President ordered the MDAs to promptly respect invitations by the National Assembly committees to defend their proposals, to ensure timely passage of budgets. But for this cooperation between the National Assembly and the Executive, the quest for a regular, predictable and reliable budget cycle would have remained a mirage.

The disposition of the Ninth Assembly under Lawan is to work for Nigeria rather than play to the gallery. You can be sure that this same spirit will smoothly resolve the disagreement over the Electoral Act Amendment Bill in the best interest of Nigerians.

Lawan has contributed to facilitating a new atmosphere in inter-arms relationships out of a conviction gained from over two decades in parliament. That conviction is that public interest is best served when institutions work together without forsaking their purposes. The achievement of that atmosphere is a legacy befitting even a reluctant politician.

This reflection on his politics and leadership principles is a tribute to Lawan, the Sardaunan Bade, on the occasion of his 63rd birthday.

Awoniyi is Special Adviser (Media) to the Senate President



Until 2015, Lawan had been an opposition lawmaker. His voice was always loud on virtually every topical issue. By the time his party took control of the National Assembly, Lawan was well positioned for the coveted seat of Senate President. But he missed it at first attempt. Not that he lost the election to the seat. He was schemed out of the race

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| | Reference No. | Description | Pre-Qualification Criteria / Goods Technical Specifications |
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| 1 | NM37/2022/A | <p>Civil Construction Works for three packages at North Mara Mine Site</p> <p>Package A: Civil Construction Works for Filtration Plant</p> <p>Package B: Civil Construction Works for Filter Cake Storage Shed</p> <p>Package C: Civil Construction Works for Paste Plant</p> | <p>i. Applicants to submit Company profile with proven experience in civil construction works</p> <p>ii. Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in last 5 years. For each project provide: description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of project</p> <p>iii. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of Clients, applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided</p> <p>iv. Applicant to submit list and specifications of Equipment's, including facilities and intellectual property</p> <p>v. Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel</p> <p>vi. Local content compliance with valid CRB registration, Class 3 contractor</p> <p>vii. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian Laws and Regulations</p> |
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| 3 | NM37/2022/C | Package E: Supply of BRC High-tensile Welded Square Fabric Mesh Reinforcement at North Mara Mine site | <p>i. Able to supply BRC high tensile welded square mesh with BRC reference 395, 500, 617</p> <p>ii. Size 6 metres x 2.4 metres</p> <p>iii. Minimum proof stress of 485 N/mm2 and a tensile strength of 510 N/mm2</p> <p>iv. Manufactured according to SANS 1024 Standard Specifications</p> <p>v. to be supplied with all test certificates as per British Standards BS4482</p> <p>vi. Lead time of delivery</p> |

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North Mara Gold Mine Limited

Gambia's transition to democracy slowed by rise in insecurity

By Mustapha Jobarteh

AFTER two decades of dictatorship, Gambia embraced democracy with president Adama Barrow's 2016 election victory. But as is often the case in transitions from autocracy to democracy, stability remains elusive and economic growth insufficient to alleviate structural problems like high unemployment. Barrow was re-elected in December 2021, and a crucial test for his second term will be to curb rising insecurity and crime.

Under Yahya Jammeh's rule, communal clashes and crimes such as armed robbery, arson and banditry were uncommon in Gambia. There was little political room for internal and external conflicts. Jammeh was notorious for 'setting an example' with anyone believed to be threatening the country's stability, especially those who challenged the security forces.

Human rights violations, state-sponsored summary killings and a lack of freedom of speech earned the country a 'not free' categorisation in Freedom House's political rights ratings between 2013 and 2016.

Jammeh's authoritarian rule galvanised the opposition against him. Still, even after Barrow's 2016 win at the polls, it took military intervention by the Economic Community of West African States Mission in Gambia (Ecomig) for Jammeh to accept defeat. He eventually fled to Equatorial Guinea, where he still lives.

Barrow's coalition government embraced democracy and freedom of speech. Media houses can report critically on state matters without fear of arrest or killings. Citizens openly discuss national issues on social media platforms, and many Gambians in exile have returned. The country has climbed on the Freedom House rating from 'not free' between 2013 and 2016 to 'partly free' from 2017.

These are significant achievements, but discontent is growing about the government's inability to maintain security in the country. In a recent nationwide survey by the Center for Policy, Research and



The Gambia's President Adama Barrow

Strategic Studies, 76% of respondents agreed that crime rates had either increased or increased rapidly in The Gambia since Barrow's election in 2017.

Armed robbery, especially of wealthy business owners, has reportedly become common and banditry and murder are rampant in urban and rural Gambia, seemingly with few criminal justice consequences. It is common for people to go missing, and burglary cases are rising.

In 2021, the Gambia Democratic Congress raised concerns in a media statement about "the stunning growth in violent crimes and lawlessness in the country" since 2020. The opposition party questioned the government's political will to deal with the problem. At the time, Barrow himself lamented the "disregard for the rule of law" in the country and acknowledged that crime was a

threat to national security.

Localised conflicts have also been building. In 2017, the newly-elected Barrow government faced resistance to its deployment of Ecomig forces in Foni – the region Jammeh was from. Civilian conflicts with Ecomig forces stationed in Foni have resulted in one death and escalating tensions.

Ecomig's checkpoint in Bwiam village next to the Gambia-Casamance border has led to clashes that have affected local communities. The checkpoint is aimed at stopping illegal timber trafficking by rebels from the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance in Senegal's Casamance region. In response, the rebels attacked an Ecomig military base leading to the death of three Senegalese soldiers and the capture of seven others.

This has caused fear and the internal displacement of 2,464

people from 302 households in the Foni Kansala and Brefet districts, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Foni residents live in constant fear of an incursion from the rebels along the long and porous border shared by Gambia and the Casamance region.

Community conflicts, some deadly, arising from land disputes have also increased – for example between Gunjur and Berending villages in the West Coast region in March 2019. In June 2021, clashes between the Manduar-Mandinka and Manduar-Touba communities in the West Coast region over Alkalorship (village leadership) resulted in police intervention. In the Serrahule communities of Upper River region, the caste divide between so-called royals and enslaved people has become another source of communal dispute since 2017.

The causes of rising insecurity are multifaceted. With youth unemployment at 12.4% in 2019 and 48% of Gambians living below the poverty line of \$1.90 per day, many young people have resorted to crime. The response from the Barrow government has been weak. In many cases, the culprits remain at large. When arrests are made, prosecutions don't follow and often family members manage to secure the release of suspects.

The police, generally under-equipped, have responded to the upsurge in crimes through various initiatives including the recent Operation Zero Crime. The operation targets criminal hideouts through increased patrols within the greater Banjul area and West Coast, but excludes most of rural Gambia.

Going forward, the government needs to invest in a more effective criminal justice system that can investigate crime and rapidly prosecute as part of broader ongoing security sector reforms. Border security must be tighter to prevent cross-border crime, and social cohesion promoted among divided communities.

The country also needs much more rapid economic growth. It should invest more in youth skills development through technical and vocational education programmes. It should also promote low- to mid-tech manufacturing industries through tax incentives and develop critical infrastructure that reduces the cost of doing business to spur private-sector growth.

Now that Barrow has been given a new five-year mandate, tackling rising insecurity and promoting economic growth should be prioritised. **DM**

By He Yin, People's Daily

China benefits world with its own development

CHINA stands ready to work with the rest of the international community to engage in closer exchanges and cooperation in the public health sector, jointly tackle global threats and challenges, build a global community of health for all, and make greater contributions to the health of people all over the world, said Chinese President Xi Jinping on April 25.

Xi made the remarks in a congratulatory letter to the International Forum on the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of Artemisinin and on Building a Global Community of Health for All.

In the letter, Xi also hailed the important contributions to the global prevention and treatment of malaria and to the protection of human health made by artemisinin, a specific anti-malaria drug first discovered and successfully extracted by China 50 years ago.

The letter demonstrated the Chinese leader's lofty vision of bearing in mind the well-being of the world and the value orientation of putting people first.

The story of artemisinin mir-

rors a success made by human beings in the arduous fight against diseases.

Fifty years ago, Chinese scientists, represented by Tu Youyou, firstly discovered and successfully extracted artemisinin thanks to their relentless efforts, which was later made into a new anti-malaria drug that is both effective and affordable, and comes with mild side effects.

"Artemisinin marks a small step in the process of human beings conquering malaria, and it is also a gift to the world from traditional Chinese medicine," said Tu.

Numerous lives have been saved in Asia, Africa, Europe and America thanks to the discovery of artemisinin, and the lactone generated from sweet wormwood extracts protects a significant number of families. According to statistics released by the World Health Organization, artemisinin has saved millions of lives since artemisinin-based drugs were promoted globally as antimalarials. More than 240 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have benefited from artemisinin treatment, and about



Photo shows medical experts and local people in a mobilization and health education activity of a China-UK-Tanzania tripartite pilot project on malaria control. File photo

1.5 million patients have escaped death thanks to this treatment.

The story of artemisinin mirrors the mutual assistance of efforts by China and other developing countries.

As a result of China's success in eradicating malaria at home, it has also launched large foreign-aid programs to help other countries prevent the disease with artemisinin.

By the end of 2021, China had provided billions of doses of artemisinin medicines, trained tens of thousands of anti-malaria professionals for developing countries, assisted in the construction

of malaria prevention and treatment centers for 30 countries, and sent 28,000 medical team members to 72 developing countries for malaria prevention and treatment. These concrete actions have made important contributions to the global efforts in preventing and treating malaria.

Thanks to a China-aided malaria elimination program, the number of malaria cases has dropped by 98 percent in Comoros, while deaths from the infection have been eliminated.

Senegalese President Macky Sall noted that it was because of the support from China and other partners that his country has achieved remarkable progress in the prevention and control of malaria.

The story of artemisinin mirrors China's efforts to benefit the world with its own development.

Humanity is a community with a shared future. Solidarity and cooperation remain the most powerful weapons against global and regional public health challenges. Be it joining hands with the rest of the world to combat malaria, or joining international cooperation in the fight

against SARS, bird flu, Ebola and COVID-19, China has always been giving a helping hand to other countries to tide over difficulties.

Facing the COVID-19 pandemic, the country has carried out its largest emergency humanitarian action since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. It has provided hundreds of billions of anti-pandemic supplies to 153 countries and 15 international organizations and supplied 2.1 billion doses of vaccine to more than 120 countries and international organizations. It is making COVID-19 vaccines an accessible and affordable public product for developing countries.

From eliminating major infectious diseases such as malaria, to promoting international cooperation on the fight against COVID-19, China has always put people and their lives in the first place, which is responsible for not only the health and lives of the Chinese, but also the global public health cause. With concrete actions, the country is practicing the vision of building a global community of health for all and building a powerful joint force for the world to fight COVID-19.

People's Daily

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 |
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CAPITAL RADIO

Understanding root cause of Russia-Ukraine conflict

By George Muntu

THE Russia-Ukraine military conflict has been ongoing for more than two months, and there is no sign for an end in the near future. According to the latest data of the United Nations, over 12 million people are believed to have fled their homes in Ukraine since the conflict began, which accounts for nearly 30 per cent of the total population in Ukraine. The conflict and the subsequent economic sanctions have dealt a heavy blow to the world economy, resulting in soaring prices of oil and natural gas and greater food insecurity in parts of Africa and the Middle East.

Then what's the root cause of the conflict? How has the dispute between Russia and Ukraine evolved during the past years? What's the right way to end the conflict? What should we do to maintain long-term peace between the two countries? There are questions crucial for understanding the current conflict and bringing about a fair and feasible solution to it.

To understand the root cause of the ongoing conflict, we must know the history of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and its relations with Russia during the past several decades.

To begin with, let's review the purposes of establishing NATO. The North Atlantic Treaty was signed by the United States, Canada, and 10 western and northern European countries on April 4, 1949. Guided by the Truman Doctrine, the main purpose of establishing NATO is to contain Soviet geopolitical expansion during the Cold War. NATO constitutes a system of collective security, whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.

Given the aforementioned goals, it was expected that NATO would cease to exist after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War in 1991. However, the alliance continued to expand by incorporating former Soviet republics, contrary to its promise of "not one-inch expansion eastward". Even after the Warsaw Pact was dissolved, NATO has continued to exist and enlarge itself. With the accession of Baltic countries into the alliance in 2004, NATO is already an immediate neighbour of Russia.

It should also be noted that, in the whole process of German unification, several Western leaders, including the then U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and German Foreign Minister at that time Hans-Dietrich Genscher, assured the then top leader of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev that NATO would not expand further east after East Germany became part of the Federal Republic of Germany and NATO. But all these assurances were not fulfilled.

Due to the breach of their promises and NATO's determination to continue expanding toward Russia's borders, it has pushed President Vladimir Putin to come up with the demand calling on NATO to abandon its plan to incorporate Ukraine into the alliance as well as to withdraw troops and military equipment from some former Soviet republics. However, Putin's demands were rejected by NATO and U.S. leaders.

The continued expansion of NATO and its failure to keep its promises have reinforced Russia's belief that it has been cheated by NATO and Western countries and a strong sense



of insecurity has emerged on the part of Russia.

It should be noted that NATO is an instrument of the US-led Western bloc to promote their political systems and values, and maintain its dominance in global affairs. To join NATO, nations are expected to respect the values of the North Atlantic Treaty, and to meet certain political, economic and military criteria, which include among others a functioning democratic political system based on a market economy and a commitment to democratic civil-military relations and institutions.

In the view of Western countries, Russia under Putin's rule is a centralized, authoritarian state, which does not meet the criteria for NATO membership. NATO's eastward expansion will further isolate Russia, and aggravate Moscow's security concerns.

Despite Russia's repeated warning, NATO has undergone five rounds of eastward expansion since the end of the Cold War, granting membership to 14 countries which were in the past the territories of the Soviet Union.

Although NATO claims that its enlargement is not directed against Russia, it has deployed anti-ballistic missile launchers in Poland and Romania, which can be easily converted into offensive weaponry. In addition, NATO has been frequently conducting military exercises in the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea and central as well as eastern European regions during the past decade. It's quite natural that Russia sees these moves as provocative and threats to its national security.

Moscow's legitimate security concerns have been largely ignored by the United States and its NATO allies. From 1992 to 2013, the U.S. government has spent about \$5.1 billion to support democracy-building programs in Ukraine. In 2008, the then US President George W. Bush said he "strongly supported" Ukraine's attempt to join NATO, and warned he would not allow Russia to veto its membership bid. The current US President Joe Biden has also announced his support on Kyiv's bid to join NATO.

In November 2013, under Russia's pressure, the then Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich ordered the suspension of preparations for signing an association agreement with the EU. However, his decision triggered strong protests

from pro-EU forces, and finally resulted in his exile in southern Russia and taking control of domestic politics by pro-West forces in Ukraine.

The annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 has further strengthened the position of pro-West forces in Ukraine. The country has since abandoned its non-alignment policy and amended its Constitution to include such poisonous clauses as "acquiring full-fledged membership of Ukraine in the European Union and in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation".

By now, Ukraine has completely sunk into the arms of the US-led Western alliance. As the country shares a 2,000-kilometer border with Russia, its accession into the NATO would cross a red line in terms of Russia's security concerns.

Russia has repeatedly called for dialogue with Ukraine, the United States and NATO in order to address its legitimate concerns, but these requests were rebuffed. Meanwhile NATO conducted several joint military exercises with the Ukrainian army, and this trig-

gered Russia's military operation in Ukraine.

Therefore, to end the current Russia-Ukraine conflict, we must take into consideration the legitimate security concerns of Russia, while at the same time upholding the basic norms governing international relations, such as the sovereign equality of states, the prohibition of the threat or use of force, and peaceful settlement of international disputes.

George Muntu is a Dar es Salaam-based independent writer



Ukrainian troops at a frontline military outpost shortly before the area was hit by artillery fire from Russian-backed separatists at NovoLuhansk in eastern Ukraine on Feb. 19. File photo

African city dwellers benefit from better socio-economic outcomes and standards of living

By Special Correspondent

URBANISATION in Africa contributes to better economic outcomes and higher standards of living, with cities notably outperforming national averages across most socioeconomic indicators including the share of skilled jobs, wages, education and access to service and infrastructure, according to a new report.

Produced by the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD) in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), Africa's Development Dynamics 2022

The Economic Power of Africa's Cities analyses data from four million individuals and firms in 2,600 cities across 34 African countries and offers the most extensive assessment of the impact of Africa's cities on social and economic outcomes.

Speaking at the virtual launch, Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, SWAC Honorary President and CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, said: "Africa's cities have maintained their economic performance despite growing by 500 million people over the last 30 years, providing several hundred million people with better jobs and improved access to services and infrastructure. This in a context of very limited public support and investment is probably one of the most underappreciated achievements of African cities."

Edlam Yemeru, acting Director of ECA's Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division said: "Africa's urbanisation is a game-changer. The shift is not just de-

mographic but is also reshaping economic and social outcomes substantially. Cities must therefore be placed at the core of national economic policymaking."

Approximately 30% of Africa's per capita GDP growth over the last 20 years has been due to urbanisation and the agglomeration economies generated.

Urbanisation drives economic transformation. Skilled workers account for nearly 36% of total workers in urban areas while in rural areas; they make up just under 15% of the workforce. It also improves access to financial services. Approximately 49% of urban households have a bank account compared to only 17% of rural households.

Urbanisation increases education levels. The average urban dweller receives 8.6 years of formal education, while their rural counterpart attends school for only half as many years.

Cities benefit rural areas. Rural areas close to cities perform better than remote rural areas in terms of employment, education, access to finance and infrastructure. For example, the share of rural households that has a bank account is twice as high among rural households that live within 5 kilometres of a city as compared to those that live 30 kilometres from the closest city.

Clusters of cities provide new opportunities. Five out of six major African urban clusters cross national borders, providing new pathways for economic development and regional integration.

Nevertheless, the report notes that economic and political constraints continue to



limit the potential of cities to contribute more meaningfully to economic growth and social development, running the risk of leaving many people behind. It further identifies an urgent need for timely data and new locally tailored approaches to meet the existing and emerging challenges of African cities.

Against this backdrop, the report proposes actions that policy makers can take to maximise the benefits of urbanisation and unlock the full economic potential of Africa's cities:

National governments should anchor cities in national development and economic planning through better co-ordination of

national and local development policies, by leveraging cities as drivers of development and investing in infrastructure that connects cities and increases productivity.

National governments should empower local governments by considering them as equal partners in shaping economic devel-

opment, allowing city authorities to manage their investment decisions and build their skills.

National governments should boost local investment capacity through improved finances by implementing predictable and stable intragovernmental transfers, increasing local revenues through taxes, tariffs and fees,

and facilitating greater access to debt financing.

In his closing remarks, Solomon Quaynor, AfDB Vice President for the Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization, said: "Urbanisation is one of the most important transformations the African continent will undergo this century."

Perils of hunger, food insecurity in southern Africa: Challenges and opportunities

By Menghestab Haile

FOOD systems are under severe stress around the world now. The thresholds of tolerance are already exceeding limits with millions facing acute food and water scarcity throughout all continents. Over a quarter of Africa's population are facing hunger and food insecurity. Conflict, droughts, flooding, rising unemployment, inequality, economic crises, and the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic have been ravaging the Continent on an unprecedented scale.

In Southern Africa, the food systems are heavily dependent on traditional small holder farmers who are mostly women and old men and is largely reliant on rainfed agriculture which is highly vulnerable to climate change. These are compounded by very high youth unemployment and unfortunately the youth are not interested in working in agriculture in its current form.

Evidence points out that more than 50 million people are acutely food insecure, mostly women and children with 36 million of them in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 3 and 4. Weather extremes that disrupted recent growing seasons are again wreaking havoc. The last quarter of 2021 was one of the driest for 40 years in southern Madagascar, southern Tanzania, northern Mozambique, southern Angola, Namibia and most of Malawi. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the world's biggest hunger emergency, home to Africa's largest population of IDPs and biggest source of refugees, a staggering 26 million children, women and men are acutely food insecure. The impact

of the worst drought in four decades in Southern Angola has left 1.6 million in misery and destitution. In Mozambique 1.9 million are experiencing hunger and acute food needs. These statistics are based on the field assessments of international partners.

Rural and urban populations are equally affected. In Zimbabwe, severe poverty and food insecurity has increased in urban areas representing 2.4 million people or 42 percent of the urban population. There is an increase in internally displaced people within the region. In February this year we have witnessed how recurrent powerful storms have battered coastal areas on Madagascar and Mozambique causing dozens of fatalities, forcing hundred of thousands people from their homes, knocking out power and crippling other infrastructure. Added to these is recurring levels of acute and chronic malnutrition among children.

It has dawned upon us that there is a global food crises and supply chains are badly affected throughout continents. There is an awareness that food systems are interconnected between sectors- i.e, directly linked to energy supply (fuel, fertilizer), health, education, economy, water shortages, infrastructure, social services, climate adaptation and transportation. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) are challenged.

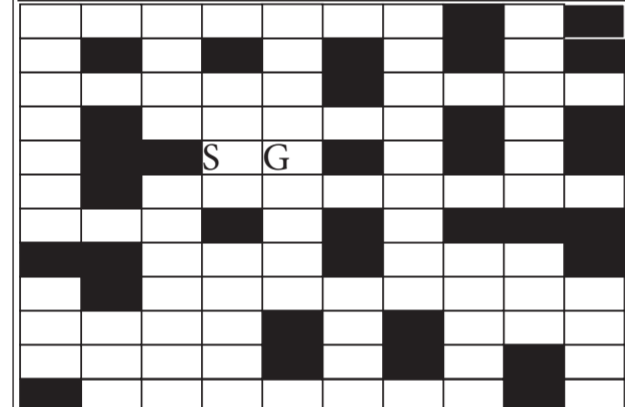
To address this unprecedented alarming situation, where needs are competing, this imperative must be addressed with focus on every continent equally. In the Southern Africa region we require immediate support to help the exhausted communities.

National governments are central to country both in humanitarian and de-



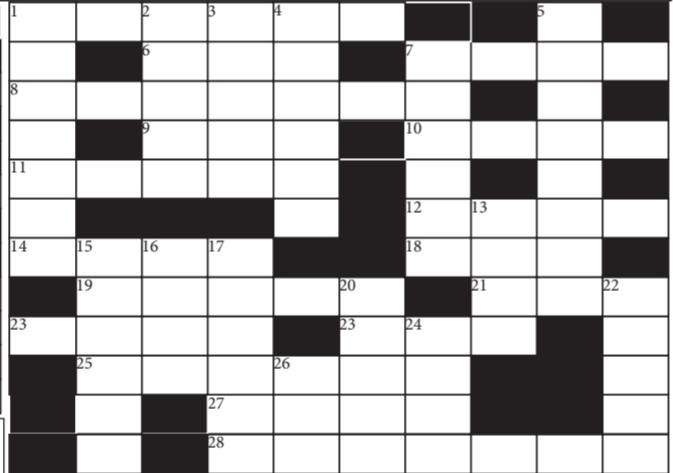
A woman and her two young daughters sit next to what is left of their house in the aftermath of Cyclone Batsirai in Madagascar.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 277 00--



- 3 letters CAR, UMU, UTE, NEE, ELM, OAT, ARE,
- 4 letters KIVA, DOME, ELSE, LOBO, MALT, OKRA, YEAR
- 5 letters NOVEL, ALIVE, MINCE, RIOTS,
- 6 letters BAMBOO,
- 7 letters KIKWETE, KINETIC, BRAMBLE, TESTATE
- 8 letters BEHAVIOR, MINORITY
- 9 letters ENLIGHTEN, ENDEAVOUR

WORD-FIT



- CLUES: Across**
- contemporary
 - exclamation used to express good wishes on meeting or parting
 - Qatar Capital
 - Rabat is the mother city
 - manage to make a living with difficulty
 - lacking interest or excitement
 - place where Andean people live
 - letters and parcels sent by post
 - in addition
 - a stiff bristle growing from the ear or flower of barley, rye, and grasses
 - 19.Ionian 21. epoch
 - assert or confess openly
 - suffix forming adjectives
 - pass 27.a measure
 - a diazo copying or colouring
- Down:**
- largest Port in Kenya
 - defied
 - recall to the conscious mind
 - a small space set back in a wall
 - monetary unit of Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda
 - Capital city of Tanzania
 - 13.to or at a distance
 - a special uniform worn by a servant, an official, or a member of a City Company
 - proceeding towards the inside
 - hereditary classes of Hindu society
 - avoid
 - a cylinder on which film or wire can be wound
 - give money someone for work

velopment spheres. The best way is to support the government plans. This is the time to revisit and realign priorities with clearly defined goals. Strong political will and leadership are required.

A combination of both international and national assistance should focus on supporting government priorities. Resources, both national and international are necessary. Impact can be better when International organizations, including UN agencies, regional financial and development institutions, together with NGOs commit to support national priorities with enhanced coordination and collaboration.

With a multi-dimensional and targeted approach gains can be achieved. The Southern Africa Development Agency (SADC) plays an important role both regionally and extending to the Continent. In this context, the African Union (AU) Heads of state has endorsed the outcomes of the Third Africa Rural Development Forum (ARDF-3) in Kinshasa held in January this year recognizing the imperative for a multi-dimensional and a holistic food systems approach.

The Region is endowed with vast lands and water resources for agriculture and other natural resources. With urgent investments good gains can be realized in the immediate term in food production. In the medium to longer term, with climate adaptation and support to resilience building activities, there is hope for recovery and stability. Prosperity and progress will show their full faces when the dignity of women, children and the youth, together with other vulnerable is recognized and accorded due place in the society.

Development will be meaningful when their roles are accommodated into every activity. The future generation needs to be well nourished, preserved in an integrated

and inclusive way.

Advocacy and a holistic engagement are the requirements to address hunger, food insecurity and nutrition with the provision of evidence based data and information in the Southern Africa region. Technical support to data collection and analysis through the use of latest technologies and tools will ensure evidence driven decision making. Strong political will can help formulate appropriate policies and programs that create conducive environment for development. Innovative solutions can be developed through South South collaboration building on good practices and with the support of development partners.

There is certainly hope in overcoming the current situation in the region by strengthening the nexus between humanitarian and development. To attain results a "Culture of Cooperation" must be forged.

Dr. Menghestab Haile, is the Regional Director for the Southern Africa Region for the UN World Food Programme. With a background in meteorology, Dr. Haile has been integrating climate and weather analysis into food security systems in many parts of the world.



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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

RUSSIA 'INTERESTED' IN A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR MOROCCO-NIGERIA GAS PIPELINE

RABAT

RUSSIA has expressed interest in investing in the Morocco-Nigeria gas pipeline (NMGP) that aims to supply Europe and West Africa with natural gas.

Timipre Sylva, Nigeria's Minister of State for Petroleum resources, said on Monday that many countries and organizations want to invest in the trans-African pipeline with Morocco and Nigeria remaining the project's main investors.

"The Russians were with me in the office last week, they are very desirous to invest in this project and there're lots of other people who are also desirous to invest in the project," Sylva said in remarks made at Nigeria's State House.

Commenting on the funding progress, Sylva noted that the selection of partners remains a work in progress.

The pipeline's feasibility study was estimated to cost \$90.1 million. Last week, the OPEC Fund agreed to partially fund the study with a budget of \$14.3 million.

Launched in 2017, the joint project is a 7,000-kilometer pipeline that traverses the territorial waters of 13 countries.

In a phone call with Morocco's King Mohammed VI in February of this year, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari noted that his country is working on implementing the project as soon as possible.

The acceleration of the pipeline's progress comes at a time when Europe is facing a severe energy crisis caused by the ongoing war



Nigerian President Mahamoud Buhari (R) and King Mohammed VI of Morocco. PHOTO/AGENCIES

in Ukraine and the Russian threat to cut gas and oil supply to Europe. Russia's months-long threat has since become a reality in Poland and Bulgaria.

In late March, Sylva noted that Nigeria can be a reliable supplier of natural gas to Europe to solve "the energy problem," arguing: "It is only when investment in these areas is increased that Nigeria can meet that obligation."

However, questions about the ability of African countries to offset Russian supply remain at the center of discussion about Europe's ongoing energy crisis and thus the stability of the global energy prices.

The pipeline would be an extension of the existing West African Gas Pipeline, which runs from Lagos, Nigeria, connecting to Cotonou, Benin; Lomé, Togo; and Tema and Takoradi, Ghana.

The Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline would additionally connect to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire; Monrovia, Liberia; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Conakry, Guinea; Bissau, Guinea-Bissau; Banjul, Gambia; Dakar, Senegal; Nouakchott, Mauritania; Tangiers, Morocco; and Cádiz, Spain.

The Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline was proposed in a December 2016 agreement between the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Moroccan Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (National Board of Hydrocarbons and Mines) (ONHYM).

In August 2017, NNPC and ONHYM began a feasibility study for the pipeline. The pipeline is estimated to cost \$25 billion, and would be completed in stages over 25 years.

Morocco is reportedly pushing Nigeria to pursue this pipeline rather than the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline, arguing that the latter would have to pass through a region with significant militant activity.

Based on the 25-year estimate given in 2017, construction will be completed by 2046.

When completed, the over 7,000km long gas pipeline will link Nigeria with Morocco, across 11 West African countries and extend to Europe. It will be the longest offshore pipeline in the world and the second-longest pipeline overall



However, questions about the ability of African countries to offset Russian supply remain at the center of discussion about Europe's ongoing energy crisis and thus the stability of the global energy prices.



Informal settlement in Cape Town.

One in five in J'burg, Cape Town live in informal housing - report

JOHANNESBURG

ABOUT one in five people in some of the country's biggest cities - including Johannesburg and Cape Town - live in informal housing, according to the 2021 State of South African Cities report released by the South African Cities Network (SACN).

The report took a closer look at the nine largest municipalities in South Africa.

It also found that in Cape Town and Johannesburg, nearly half (45 percent) of residents lived on less than R1 300 a month in 2016.

In terms of food security, Cape Town came off worst, with about one in four residents not having adequate access to food in 2018.

In other municipalities, numerous residents were even further below the breadline. In Mangaung 36.6 percent of people lived on less than R714 per month, while in Ekurhuleni 35.9 percent of people lived on less than R992 per month.

But urban populations are still growing. The population of Johannesburg grew by just under 30 percent since 2011, and housing remains a challenge. In the City of Johannesburg, 21.7 percent of its 5.7 million residents lived in informal settlements by 2018

- down only marginally from 22.8 percent in 2015.

Of the nine municipalities under the microscope, Nelson Mandela Bay had the smallest percentage of people in informal housing - 6.1 percent of its 1.2 million residents.

But it also had the highest level of unemployment at 35.7 percent in 2020.

In Msunduzi, which includes Pietermaritzburg, around a fifth of residents live in informal housing at 20.9 percent. In the City of Ekurhuleni in Gauteng, 19.9 percent of its 3.8 million residents lived in informal settlements by 2018; in Cape Town, Western Cape, this applied to 19.3 percent of its 4.5 million residents.

The report also found that in the City of Tshwane, 16.8 percent of its about 3.6 million

residents lived in informal housing by 2018, followed by Mangaung (11.7 percent) and the City of Ethekwini (13 percent).

Tshwane was the most food secure, with 91. Percent of its residents reporting adequate access to food.

Nosipho Hlatshwayo, executive manager: programmes for the SACN, told Fin24 the findings of the report show that government cannot be the sole custodian of urban development in South Africa. Partnerships with the private sector, and participation of all spheres of government will be needed, Hlatshwayo said.

She flagged ongoing joblessness as the biggest crisis. All the cities showed an increase in unemployment between 2016 and 2020, except for Cape Town and Ekurhuleni.

"It seems these were the two cities which focused on local economic development, including city-facilitated employment programmes," she said. "It is also worth mentioning that it seems these two cities had the most stability in terms of politics, which in turn helps investor confidence."

The study found that in 2020, Nelson Mandela Bay had the highest level of joblessness, namely 35.7 percent; followed by Msunduzi (34.2 percent), Johannesburg (32.6 percent), Mangaung (32.5 percent), Ekurhuleni (32.3 percent), Buffalo City (29.7 percent), Tshwane (29.1 percent), Cape Town (22.5 percent) and Ethekwini (22 percent).

AGENCIES

US housing market shows signs of cooling

NEW YORK

AS buyers grapple with rising rates and home prices, demand has begun to wane. The housing market is showing signs of cooling but a housing crash is unlikely.

Speculation about a possible housing bubble has taken full bloom this spring homebuying season.

And talk of bubbles inevitably leads to the question of whether the bubble will pop with a crash or more gently ease back to earth in a modest correction.

As the Federal Reserve's decision to raise interest rates from their near-zero levels propels mortgage rates to a twelve-year high, it's put additional pressure on housing costs.

With housing affordability sitting at a decade low, the homebuying frenzy that rocked the real estate market is beginning to fizzle and that means a larger shift is looming.

"While springtime is typically the busiest homebuying season, the upswing in rates has caused some volatility in demand," Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist, said in a statement.

"It continues to be a seller's market, but buyers who remain interested in purchasing a home may find that competition has moderately softened."

As homebuyer demand wanes, either one of two things can come next: a correction or a crash.

The former would entail a gradual drop in prices to more sustainable levels, whereas the latter would result from either a rapid drop in prices triggered by widespread panic from homeowners and investors or a wave of foreclosures.

However, with homeowners leveraging more than \$3.2 trillion in home equity and mortgage lenders enforcing strict standards, it's unlikely the real estate

market is heading towards a crash especially the likes of 2008.

The COVID-19 housing market is drawing many comparisons to the real estate market of the mid-2000s, but the two periods couldn't be more different.

"This is not the same market of 2008," Odeta Kushi, First American's deputy chief economist, previously told Insider. "It's no secret the housing market played a central role in the Great Recession, but this market is just fundamentally different in so many ways."

The housing bubble that led up to the 2008 crisis is attributed to a combination of cheap debt, predatory lending practices, and complex financial engineering that resulted in many borrowers being placed into mortgages they could not afford. The situation triggered a foreclosure crisis among homeowners and a credit crisis among the investors who owned bonds backed by defaulted mortgages and birthed a global recession.

In 2022, the real estate market is in a much better position. Almost all American households have rebuilt their nominal net worth to pre-recession values and lending standards have tightened while home values have soared.

However, despite the market's improvement, there still remains a great imbalance between supply and demand. But as buyer demand declines amid soaring costs, it's easing competition and that could mean a correction rather than a crash is on the way.

According to the Census Bureau, U.S. new-home sales have declined every month in 2022, and in March, they fell to a four-month low highlighting the impact soaring borrowing costs are having on potential buyers.



While springtime is typically the busiest homebuying season, the upswing in rates has caused some volatility in demand," Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist, said in a statement. "It continues to be a seller's market, but buyers who remain interested in purchasing a home may find that competition has moderately softened

LAFARGE ATTRIBUTES GROWTH IN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS, INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING

By Chinedum Uwaegbulam

A sub-Saharan Africa building solutions company and member of Holcim, Lafarge Africa Plc., has attributed its growth to improved real estate investments and government's infrastructure spending.

The company also said the 27.1 per cent increase in net sales was driven primarily by strong volume and price improvement. It reported a Profit After Tax (PAT) of N51 billion, a 65.4 per cent growth as against the previous year's result.

In Tanzania, the company has been operating in local and international markets for over 30 years, supplying Tanzania and neighbouring countries in southern Africa.

Lafarge Africa Plc is a cement manufacturer headquartered in Lagos and quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange. It is majorly controlled by the Holcim Group.

Chairman of the company's board, Prince Adebode Adefioye, who spoke at its 63rd yearly general meeting in Lagos, said the audited financial result for 2021 is an indication of the strength of the company's execution of its strategy, which has led to impressive results.

Adefioye hinged the company's success on the rising demand for cement as building and construction activities picked up nationwide.

"The cement industry experienced another year of strong growth, mainly attributable to increased government expenditure on infrastructure and improved real estate investments by private and commercial home builders," he said.

According to Adefioye, the company benefited

from these improved market conditions with volume and price growth; with net sales increasing by 27.1 per cent compared with the previous year, to close at N293.1 billion.

"The positive impact of increased net sales, moderated cost of sales, selling, distribution and administrative expenses amidst inflation and devaluation pressures resulted in improved margins recorded for the year.

"Through effective governance frameworks, assessments, as well as monitoring and evaluation, we are entrenching a culture of ownership, ethics and corporate responsibility in our activities. We also continue to pursue and leverage strategic partnerships that help sustain value and with a positive impact on our stakeholder groups.

"We are providing thought leadership initiatives to strengthen our voice and position as a foremost company in Nigeria committed to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)," he said.

Adefioye, while thanking the Shareholders for their support over the years, said that the dividend pay-out was a worthy return on their investments, assured them of the final dividend payment to shareholders, whose names appear in the register of members as at April 1, 2022 and who had completed the e-dividend registration and mandated the registrar to pay their dividends directly into their bank accounts.

While responding to shareholders during the meeting, the Country's Chief Executive Officer, Lafarge Africa Plc., Mr. Khaled El Dokani, said: "Our 2021 result was a record one and the PAT also was the best profit declared in a decade. Our top-line was mainly driven by volume growth, as well as



Lafarge Cement dry mortar mix plant in Zimbabwe PHOTO/AGENCIES

the price improvement that we have noticed throughout the year, both have contributed to our topline compared to last year."

El Dokani further remarked: "In 2021, the cement demand was fairly good, I believe the country showed extreme commitment towards developing the infrastructure across the board."

He noted that the company's performance

has once again shown the tenacity of the board, management and employees in achieving the overall goal of creating value for its stakeholders.

"Our journey has been one of resilience, integrity and innovation, as we strive to meet the needs of our customers, while adapting to the changing economic situations and growing demand for sustainable

practice in the construction industry. I sincerely thank the entire Lafarge Africa team for their contributions to these successful outcomes" he added.

Also speaking at the event, representative of the shareholders, Pastor Olagoke Olusegun, commended the company for sustaining profit and dividend payment despite the harsh and challenging economy experienced last year.

Another shareholder Mr. Tunji Bamidele, thanked the company for its resilience throughout the global pandemic and the tough business environment, which led to the delivery of exceptional results.

The shareholders unanimously agreed on the proposed total dividend of 200k per share.

On 10 July 2015, Lafarge merged with Holcim. Later that July, the new company was officially launched around the globe under the name of LafargeHolcim, which later was renamed to Holcim Group in 2021.

Dubai's 2022 luxury market continues to smash price, sales records

DUBAI'S residential and ultra-luxury markets have continued their upward trajectory in 2022, with demand from international buyers resulting in high competition and several record-breaking sales. Driven Properties in Dubai is a leader in the luxury and ultra-luxury market. Founder and CEO Abdullah Alajaji (pictured) recently sat down with Forbes to discuss 2022 market dynamics and what's driving the real estate boom in Dubai.

What does Dubai's current market look like coming out of Q1?

AA: We just witnessed one of the best quarters ever recorded. The total transaction volume from January to March 2022 was the highest Q1

to date, with sales values of over \$15.3 billion and over 20,000 transactions.

Apartment sales accounted for most of these transactions. Off-plan sales (new developments) were up nearly 95 percent and secondary market sales (resales) were up nearly 75 percent. Compared to Q1 2021, there were 77 percent more apartments, and 58 percent more villas were sold.

This overall upward trend in Dubai's property rental and sales prices can be attributed to the emirate's efficient policies, a strong recovery from the pandemic, as well as visa reforms that are contributing to Dubai's popularity as a long-term residence. We saw strong demand for spacious villas and townhouses which is a

Abdullah Alajaji, founder and managing director of Dubai Driven Properties, is an established leader in the field of fine homes and luxury real estate.

continuation of the trend in post-pandemic purchases. Branded residences continue to be a popular choice with both locals and ex-pats.

What do the prices look like compared to six months ago?

The luxury segment was

outperforming all others, and the prices continue to go up. This is especially the case in the ultra-luxury segment where the lack of supply caused prices in certain areas to double. We recently fully sold out one of the most luxurious projects in Dubai-Sea Mirror, where the average

price per villa was around \$20 million.

Mid-range properties are always popular and sought after. Those prices are not rising at the same speed as in the luxury segment, the increase has been slower, but steady. The affordable end of the market is the one with

the least changes in prices in the last six months.

Tell us about Dubai's culture in 2022.

Dubai is a cosmopolitan city where everyone feels welcome, as it has been the case for years. We are very lucky to be in the city that is the bridge between East and West, making the Emirate a perfect destination for a second home.

Who are some of the buyers and sellers you are working with?

Buyers and sellers are coming from all around the world. If I had to identify the most active groups at the moment, it would be the following: the buyers are mostly coming from Europe, primarily France, Germany, and Switzerland, with a strong presence of CIS nationals. Of course, locals and Saudis are always an important part of the equation. There is a similar mix on the seller's side.

What is your forecast for the rest of 2022?

We are entering Q2 evident of increased activity. Some of the largest single transactions were recorded recently in April, and the first quarter was groundbreaking. Dubai is lively and bursting with people. One can just have a glimpse at the hotel rates and understand how busy and popular it is.

Expo 2020 is now behind us, and hotels are still fully booked, many with rates higher than during the prime winter season, with no sign of slowing down. Based on that, we expect similar activity in Q2. We are keeping a close eye on all the changes happening and have many reasons to stay optimistic in the coming months.

Proofing IP infrastructure vital to internet connectivity

By Guardian Reporter

GOOGLE made global headlines last week when it announced plans to open its very first product development center on African soil in Nairobi.

The decision comes just months after the company pledged to invest \$1 billion in the continent over a five-year period, with other major tech players following suit.

Given the growing youth population and rapid urbanization throughout the continent, it's hardly surprising that big firms are jostling for position in the African market.

However, the upsurge in demand requires the creation of new infrastructure that can increase internet capacity and speed, as well as lead to a drop-off in data prices.

The developing situation in Africa, however, could be stunted by a wider issue in the world's internet infrastructure: the exhaustion of existing IPv4 addresses and the sluggishness of the uptake of its Internet Protocol successor, IPv6.

Although the latter ultimately represents the only long-term solution to the problem, better management of the existing IPv4 market is necessary to ease the transition.

Although Africa has made substantial progress with regard to its online capabilities in recent years - with average download speeds doubling between 2015 and 2019, while data

costs have nearly halved - it still lags behind the global average (64 percent) in terms of its own (43 percent) internet penetration rates.

The World Bank estimates it will take around \$100 billion of investment to bring universal internet access to the continent by 2030.

But although those costs are high, so are the potential rewards. By the end of the decade, it's expected that Africa will be home to around 800 million internet users.

A 10% increase in penetration rates could bring a 2.5 percent increase in GDP, with a \$180 billion benefit to the economy touted by 2025.

If the population continues to grow at projected rates and reaches 2.5 billion by 2050 (up from 1.3 billion today), the injection of capital could exceed \$712 billion.

But while the projections are encouraging, there are structural challenges to continued growth, not least posed by the lack of availability of IP addresses. Every device, whether be laptop, smartphone, tablet or other contraption, requires an IP address to connect to the internet.

The IPv4 system upon which the majority of the world currently depends for its connectivity was designed 40 years ago and its supply of 4.3 billion unique addresses - once thought to be virtually inexhaustible - having now been exhausted for several years.

The IPv6 system dreamt up to replace it was conceived in the late 1990s and an "IPv6 Launch Day" was announced in June 2012.

Yet, a decade on, uptake remains underwhelming low. This is largely due to the fact that IPv6 systems are not able to communicate directly with their predecessor, meaning that the transition is cumbersome, expensive and complex.

Most experts believe it will not be complete for many years, if not decades.

As such, it's clear that IPv4 still has a role to play, but the dwindling availability of addresses is a huge cause for concern in Africa and elsewhere.

On the continent, there are 0.07 addresses per African resident and their lack of availability is an issue that's only likely to become more pressing as time wears on and demand increases.

The situation has been complicated by the fact that major players in the tech industry anticipated the problem of IPv4 address scarcity many years in advance and used their considerable wealth to buy up remaining stores.

Obviously, this has massive repercussions for fledgling entrepreneurs, start-ups and small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs), who cannot afford the cost of acquiring their own address.

Since an online presence is absolutely crucial to continue developing businesses online,

the issue of securing IPv4 addresses is extremely important.

Thankfully, there are several stopgap solutions at hand, one of the most effective of which is the secondary market.

As highlighted in a recent White Paper by Larus, one of the most popular solutions has been to lease unused addresses for prices as low as \$2.50 per year.

Meanwhile, the loaner has access to the internet upon which their very survival depends, at a price which won't threaten it in the process. Best of all, IPv4 infrastructure is being optimized as much as possible. Everybody wins.

But while this course of action would seem the most sensible solution until IPv6 can fully get off the ground, there are those with power in the existing status quo who are highly resistant to it.

One of the main blockages comes in the shape of the five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs), which were initially set up to distribute and catalogue IP addresses among their member nations.

Since then, the exhaustion of IPv4 addresses their role as distributor all but obsolete. But because many RIRs are refusing to accept this reality and develop a more dynamic IPv4 market, it is even more difficult to get the dwindling IPv4 addresses in the hands of the smallest and less powerful businesses.

Bolt: We will continue to operate in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE online transport company Bolt has said it will continue with the country's transport services as usual.

Following an article published on 20th April, 2022 by an online publication, TechCrunch, bearing the statement on the state of business in Tanzania as a result of the new ORDER NO. LATRA / 01 12022 dated 14 March 2022, Bolt Tanzania says has since had a successful meeting with LATRA on April 27, 2022 to further discuss this matter.

Commenting on the statement, Bolt Regional Manager, East Africa Kenneth Micah said "from the meeting we have held, we would like to state that we have made great strides in reaching a solution to this issue and look forward to a speedy resolution".

He explained: "Bolt would like to reiterate that it is committed to continue offering ride-hailing services in the Tanzanian market, and creating entrepreneurial opportunities that enable more people to earn a sustainable living".

"Bolt remain hopeful that our engagements with the relevant stakeholders including LATRA will yield a favourable review of regulations on the tariff, and commission capping for ride-hailing companies to enable long term operations," the regional manager concluded.

TECHNOLOGY

HOUSING MARKET IS HISTORICALLY OVERVALUED IN US, MOODY'S SAYS

WASHINGTON

HOUSING market slump looked all but assured two years ago. At the time, it made sense: The strict state-issued lockdowns had pushed the U.S. unemployment rate to its highest level since the Great Depression era, and many states had banned in-person home showings.

However, a housing bust didn't come to pass. Both Congress and the Federal Reserve stepped in with unprecedented economic aid, and after just two months of recession the U.S. economy and housing market flipped into high growth.

But the ongoing housing boom—which has seen home prices climb 34 percent over the past two years—could soon wind down. At least that's according to Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

The Federal Reserve has a dual mandate from Congress: Maintain maximum employment and keep prices stable. Of course, with inflation at its highest level in 40 years, there's no doubt which of the Fed's mandates currently tops its priority list.

An inflation-fighting Fed has big implications for the U.S. housing market, Zandi says. Already, the Federal Reserve is putting upward pressure on mortgage rates as a way to rein in price growth in the housing market and the broader economy.

Indeed, over the past two months, the average 30-year fixed mortgage rate has spiked from 3.11 percent to 5.1 percent.

That swift uptick in mortgage rates amounts to an economic shock to the red-hot housing market. We're already starting to see it soften the market a bit. In the coming months, Zandi says, that cooling should only intensify. By this time next year, he predicts, year-over-year home price growth will be at zero.

At this point, Zandi doesn't foresee a national home price correction. However, he does believe some of the nation's most overpriced housing mar-



kets could see home prices decline up to 10% over the coming year.

To get an indication of which housing markets are at risk of a home price correction, Fortune asked Moody's Analytics for its proprietary analysis of U.S. housing markets. The firm aimed to find out whether local income levels could support local home prices.

The finding of the 392 metropolitan statistical areas it looked at, 96 percent are "overvalued." Among those 392 markets, 149 are overvalued by at least 25 percent.

The most overvalued being Boise, where home prices are 73 percent above what fundamentals would support. The fact Boise is "overvalued" relative to local incomes isn't surprising given the influx of California expats who bought there during the pandemic.

Over time, regional housing markets can't remain "overvalued" to this degree, Zandi says. That should be a drag on future home price growth.

"In terms of house prices, I expect it [growth] to go flat...there will be mar-

kets where we will see a price decline of around 5 percent to 10 percent," Zandi says. While he doesn't foresee the ongoing boom as a housing bubble—which would require both home price overvaluation and speculation in the market—he does say there is some "speculation creeping in" including in places like Phoenix and Charlotte.

According to Moody's Analytics' analysis, Phoenix and Charlotte are overvalued by 46 percent and 33 percent, respectively.

Moody's Analytics isn't the only firm calling this an overvalued housing market. CoreLogic, a real estate research company based in California, provided an analysis to Fortune last month that found 65 percent of regional housing markets are overpriced.

Meanwhile, an analysis provided by Black Knight, a mortgage technology and data provider, finds the typical American household would have to spend 31 percent of its monthly income to make a mortgage payment on the average-priced U.S. home. That's the highest reading of Black

Knight's mortgage-payment-to-income ratio since 2007.

While CoreLogic and Moody's Analytics agree the housing market is overvalued, CoreLogic isn't quite as bearish. The real estate research firm says only 3 percent of housing markets have an "elevated" or "high" chance of seeing home price declines over the coming year.

Nationally, CoreLogic expects home price growth to jump another 5% over the coming 12 months. That would mark a deceleration from the latest 12-month home price jump (19.8%); however, it would hardly be the relief home shoppers seek.

"New listings have not kept up with the large number of families looking to buy, leading to homes selling quickly and often above list price. This imbalance between an insufficient number of owners looking to sell relative to buyers searching for a home has led to the record appreciation of the past 12 months," wrote Frank Nothaft, chief economist at CoreLogic, in a report published last month.

Nigerian govt to generate \$201bn from Lekki port

ABUJA

NIGERIAN Minister of Information and Culture minister, Lai Mohammed has said the Federal and Lagos State government would generate \$ 201 billion through taxes, royalties and duties from the Lekki Deep seaport.

He said the port would have a great impact on the economy as it is going to create 169,972 jobs and enable Nigeria to regain the maritime business it lost to ports in Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.

Mohammed stated this yesterday during an inspection of the port alongside a team from the Ministry of Transport. He said with the port, Nigeria will become a transshipment hub, noting that the revenue the country is currently losing to neighbouring countries would be regained.

The minister said the port would commence operation in the last quarter of the year and is expected to help Nigeria's quest to boost its economy through the window of African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

"The investment is huge, \$1.53 billion on fixed assets and \$800 million on construction. But the aggregate impact has been put at \$361 billion in 45 years, which will be over 200 times the cost of building it. The direct and induced business revenue impact is estimated at \$158 billion, in addition to a qualitative impact on manufacturing, trade and commercial services," he said.

The Managing Director of Lekki Deep Seaport, Du Ruogang, said the port would change the economic landscape of Nigeria and become a hub in the West and Central African region.

He said the second phase of the port would commence in about six to seven years time, adding that in the long-term, the third phase of the port would be developed.

Ruogang appealed to the government for support in the transshipment policy, which he said is an important target for the port.

He also called for government's support in the cargo evacuation system, noting that the roads connecting to the port are not satisfactory to the demands of the evacuation requirements of the port.

The General Manager/Head of Government Relations and Security, Lekki Freeport Terminal, Fubara Awanta, said with the draft of the port, which is the deepest in West Africa, Nigeria should not lose the huge revenue that it would make from the port due to several bottlenecks.

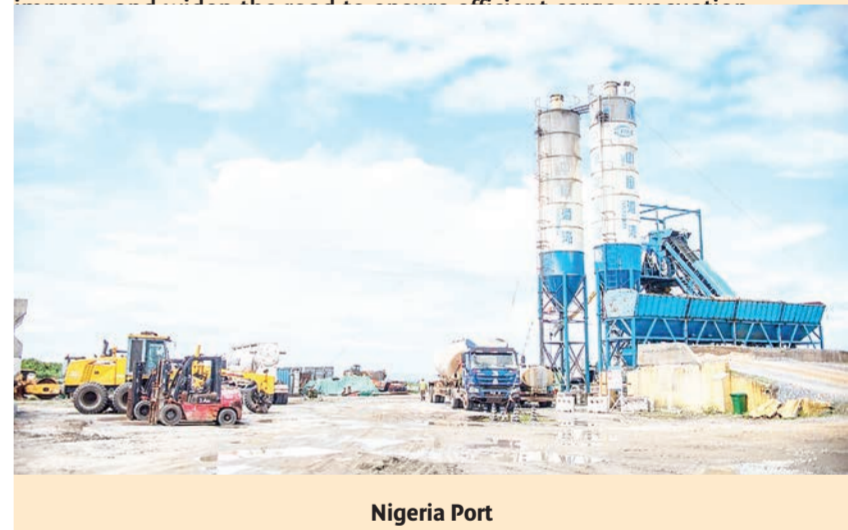
He appealed to the government to ensure the key roads connecting the port should be completed to boost cargo evacuation as the short-term support, while for the medium term the government should assist in ensuring the movement of consignment through barging.

"In the course of doing barging there are so many additional fees that will be paid like Cabotage, if all these additional costs are not well managed, most persons will not want to evacuate their cargoes that is why you see from the point of calculating our return on investment, our pricing must be highly competitive," he noted.

The Executive Secretary, Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC), Emmanuel Jime, raised concern over badge creation modalities out of the port, which he said is a critical component, noting that if not careful, Lekki port will become like Apapa and Tin Can in terms of cargo evacuation.

Responding to their pleas, the visiting minister assured them that the government was passionate about developing the business environment, noting that the idea of Presidential Council on Enabling Business Environment was to ensure the country is competitive.

On the issue of roads, the Minister said the Lagos State government, Federal Government and Dangote Group are in a private partnership to



Nigeria Port

Labour unrest grows as Korean shipyards faces scarcity of workers

SEOUL

WORKERS across South Korea's shipbuilding industry are intensifying their labour actions protesting the shortage of skilled workers and the industry's efforts to bring in less expensive foreign labor to meet the current shortages in key skills.

The umbrella union that represents workers at eight of the major shipbuilders announced today that it would join the strike against Hyundai Heavy Industries.

Protests began in late April in response to the government's announcement that it would relax visa requirements at the request of the shipbuilders.

They committed to increasing the limit by five times its historic level to a total of 4,400 workers from lower cost Southeast Asian countries, including Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines.

The new visas are specifically for skilled workers for the shipbuilding industry including welders, painters, and others with essential skills.

The move came after the shipbuilders pressed the government saying that they did not have enough skilled workers to keep pace with their orderbooks and the flow of new contracts.

Each of the major shipyards is reporting that their orderbooks are full into 2024 with as many as 37 additional ships ordered in just the first three months of 2022.

The 2022 orders were equivalent to half of 2021's already elevated pace continuing the surge in business for the shipbuilders.

The unionized workers of Hyundai's three shipyards, as well as Samsung Heavy Industries, Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering, HSG Sungdong Shipbuilding, K Shipbuilding, and HJ Shipbuilding



Labour actions that began at Hyundai's shipyards are gaining support across the South Korean industry (FILE PHOTO)

& Construction, are all supporting the labor actions.

They are blaming the shipbuilders for creating the problem and now undermining the long-term health of the industry and their jobs.

The unions are calling for higher wages, improved labor conditions, and the rehiring of workers let go in recent years. The unions contend that employment fell from over 200,000 mid-decade to around 90,000 in 2021.

Automation has offset some of the declines but many tasks they highlight required skilled workers. The unions argue the shipyards laid off too many workers and are doing little to attract young people to join the workforce.

In response to the move by the shipyards to bring in more foreign workers, the unions cited what they believe will

be an increased danger and potential for accidents due to language and experience barriers. Long-term they are also saying that the South Korean yards are following a similar model to the Japanese shipbuilders which they contend led to the collapse of the Japanese industry.

The South Korean industry argues that it needs to increase the labor force if it is going to keep pace with the orders and meet delivery schedules.

They contend that Japan's industry collapsed due to high costs and a lack of workers, as well as the competitive pressures from South Korea, the same issues which are now confronting the yards in South Korea.

By some estimates, the South Korean shipbuilding industry needs to add as many as 25,000 workers to meet the

current workloads.

Faced with stiff competition from Chinese shipbuilders, the South Korean industry is also struggling to lower costs to meet the competition and address rising material costs. While the largest Korean shipbuilders all exceeded targets for 2021, they also all reported financial losses.

In addition to raising the visa quota, the government is also promising to support the industry by providing training for foreign workers to address issues such as a potential language barrier.

The government's longer-term strategy has been to shift the focus to higher-value new technologies such as autonomous shipping and alternative fuels to raise the value of the shipbuilding industry.

Mortgage rate rises to slowdown in UK housing market

LONDON

RISING mortgage interest rates are squeezing homebuyer budgets as the cost of living crisis threatens to put the brakes on two years of frenzied activity and soaring prices in the UK property market.

Figures from the Bank of England released on Wednesday showed the effective interest rate on newly drawn mortgages – the actual interest rate paid – increased by 14 basis points in March to 1.73 per cent.

The increase comes as the BoE's Monetary Policy Committee considers again whether to raise its main interest rate to curb inflation.

Rising rates are among several factors that could reverse two years of rapid increases in UK house prices, alongside soaring inflation, falling real incomes and diminished consumer confidence.

"While housing demand potentially will be supported by the savings that households have accumulated during the pandemic, the combination of falling real disposable incomes, low consumer confidence and rising mortgage rates is too toxic for the housing market to come away unscathed," said Samuel Tombs, chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

Interest on mortgages has edged up since hitting historic lows during the pandemic lockdown, when the central bank slashed the base rate of interest to 0.1 per cent to cushion the economy.

It has since increased the rate gradually to 0.75 per cent but, in a closely watched decision on Thursday, policymakers could announce a further increase, most likely to 1 per cent.

Mortgage interest rates have edged up further in recent days. Yorkshire Bank, Clydesdale Bank and Metro Bank raised rates on selected mortgage products this week ahead of the expected BoE rate rise.

BoE analysis of new mortgages showed new quotes for two-year fixed rate products at loan-to-value ratios of 75 per cent carried an average interest rate of 2.11 per cent last month, up from 1.23 per cent in August 2021.

Some economists predicted a fall in prices as buyers are able to borrow less. "If we are right that interest rates will be raised to 1 per cent tomorrow and to 3 per cent next year... then it won't be long before the housing market slows," Paul Dales, chief UK economist at Capital Economics, said.

"We think house prices will fall in 2023 and 2024, by around 5 per cent in total.

BoE figures on Wednesday also suggested the housing market could be calming down – but analysts were divided over the extent to which this would affect demand and prices.

WORLD

Sweden says received US security assurances if joins NATO

STOCKHOLM

SWEDEN has received assurances from the United States that it would receive support during the period a potential application to join NATO is processed by the 30 nations in the alliance, Foreign Minister Ann Linde said in Washington on Wednesday.

Sweden and neighbor Finland stayed out of NATO during the Cold War, but Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its special military operation against Ukraine have led the countries to re-think their security policies, with NATO membership looking increasingly likely. Both countries are concerned they would be vulnerable during an applica-



Two men arrive at the entrance of the building housing the NATO headquarters in Brussels on May 7, 2018. File photo

tion process, which could take up to a year to be approved by all NATO's members.

"Naturally, I'm not going to go into any details, but I feel very sure that now we have an American assurance," Linde told Swedish TV from Washington after meeting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

"However, not concrete security guarantees, those you can only get if you are a full member of NATO," she added.

Linde declined to say what assurances she had received from Blinken.

"They would mean that Russia can be clear that if they direct any kind of negative activities against Sweden, which they have threatened, it would not be something that the US would just allow to happen ... without a response," she said.

A US State Department statement issued after the meeting said Blinken had reaffirmed Washington's commitment to NATO's policy

of welcoming new members, but it made no mention of security assurances.

Sweden's defense minister said last month that an application could trigger a number of responses from Russia, including cyber attacks and hybrid measures - such as propaganda campaigns - to undermine Sweden's security.

Moscow has warned it could deploy nuclear weapons and hypersonic missiles in the European exclave of Kaliningrad if Sweden and Finland become NATO members.

Linde, who will now travel to Canada to discuss security matters with its government, said the United States was strongly supportive of Swedish and Finnish membership in NATO, which would increase stability in the Baltic and Arctic regions.

Both Sweden and Finland are expected to make a decision about whether to apply to join NATO this month.

Agencies

UN meets to help reverse tourism slump

UNITED NATIONS

ABDULLA Shahid, president of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), on Wednesday highlighted the need to build a more sustainable, resilient, and responsible global tourism sector as part of the "long journey" to recover from COVID-19.

At the first-ever High-Level Thematic Debate on Sustainable Tourism held at the UN headquarters in New York, Shahid said that the COVID-19 pandemic halted the entire tourism industry, dealing a "devastating blow to the global economy."

"In 2019, prior to the pandemic, tourism contributed 3.5 trillion U.S. dollars to global GDP. The precipitous drop during the pandemic is estimated to have cost up to 120 million jobs," the UNGA president noted.

Though easy to sum up the devastation in numbers, capturing the overall toll on people, communities and services, is much harder, particularly for many small island states and least developed countries, which remain heavily reliant on tourism to fuel public spending, he said.

Looking beyond the numbers,

tourism plays a deeply human role: "Travel and tourism connect and unite us...builds bridges and facilitates inter-cultural exchanges... (and) fosters peace and solidarity across continents and borders," Shahid added. Inventive efforts were made to help tourism weather two years of COVID, including "travel bubbles," "vaccine passports" and "resilient corridors."

"As the pandemic wanes, the tourism sector is rebounding," he said, speaking of "the human need to connect, to explore, to experience." "However, as it rebounds, it is important that we reflect on its future direction."

Shahid noted that tourism is important economically, but its effects on the planet, such as carbon emissions, oceans brimming with plastic, and human impacts on ecosystems and wildlife, must also be considered.

"We know that many of the communities and historic sites around the world that are beloved by tourists are climate and disaster prone and need support to build resilience," he added. According to the UN Environment Programme's Green Economy Report, a "business-as-usual" scenario predicts



that by 2050, tourism will generate an increase of 154 percent in energy consumption for the sector, 131 percent in greenhouse gas emissions, 152 percent in water consumption, and 251 percent in solid waste disposal. "We cannot allow this to continue. We must not re-boot global tourism in a business-as-usual manner, we must be more ambitious than that, more responsible than that," Shahid said.

Throughout the discussions, Shahid encouraged participants to address their commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and enhance the inclusion and empowerment

of women, youth, indigenous and other marginalized communities. "Today, I call on all stakeholders to seize every opportunity to transform the tourism sector, and to target a more sustainable, inclusive and responsible approach," he said.

Zurab Pololikashvili, chief of the World Tourism Organization, commented that the current energy crisis contributes to the vulnerability of the tourism sector, while asserting that investments in tourism are also investments in peace.

Tourism was especially important to the livelihoods of women, youth, and rural communities, he said, urging for a sustainable

balance between the short-term needs of tourists and the long-term needs of communities.

Pololikashvili said tourism can drive positive change, and commended the various sectors for participating in the "landmark" sustainability conversation. Sameh Wahba, director of the World Bank's Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice, spoke about inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities.

According to him, tourism creates opportunities for rural communities, small businesses and women, since it employs 10 percent of the global workforce. Nations should support sustainable tourism that benefits the poor, preserves cultural heritage, and preserves the environment, he stressed.

According to deputy UN chief Amina Mohammed, the world's tourism industry is "in turmoil," largely because of the COVID pandemic, but also because of conflict settings, including Ukraine. She emphasized the importance of sustainability for the tourism sector and urged it to become a force for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Xinhua

US CDC says travelers should still wear masks on airplanes

GENEVA

THE US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday recommended travelers continue to wear masks in airplanes, trains and airports despite a judge's April 18 order declaring the 14-month-old transportation mask mandate unlawful.

The CDC said it based its recommendation on current COVID-19 conditions and spread as well as the protective value of masks.

The Justice Department last month filed notice it will appeal the ruling and it has until May 31 to do so. But the government has made no effort to seek immediate court ac-

tion to reinstate the mandate.

The mask mandate had been due to expire on Tuesday just before midnight unless the CDC sought an extension of a Transportation Security Administration directive.

A CDC spokeswoman said, "As a result of a court order, the mask order is no longer in effect and is not being enforced."

At a Senate hearing Tuesday, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg cast doubt on the idea that the administration wanted to reimpose the mask mandate.

"The appeal concerns whether the CDC has the authority to (require masks) in this pandemic or in any pandemic, which is com-

pletely distinct from whether a mask mandate ought to be applied any given day," Buttigieg said. Buttigieg said he agreed that based on conditions on April 13 when the mandate was extended for 15 days that it should have been allowed to expire but said it was a CDC decision.

Hours after the April 18 ruling, the Biden administration said it would no longer enforce the mask mandate, which prompted airlines to let passengers end wearing masks mid-flight. Passengers report now that on some flights 10 percent or fewer air travelers are wearing masks.

Meanwhile, almost 13 million children in

the United States have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, according to the latest report by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital Association.

Over 149,000 of these cases were added in the past 4 weeks. Over 5 million reported cases were added in 2022, according to the report published late Monday.

Children represented 19 percent of all COVID-19 cases in the country, the report showed.

Over 53,000 child COVID-19 cases were reported in the week ending April 28, an increase of over 60 percent from two weeks ago.

China ranks first globally in international patent applications for third consecutive year

CHINA has ranked first in the world in terms of the number of international patent applications for a third consecutive year, said a recent press conference.

According to the press conference, last year, the country granted a total of 696,000 invention patents, approved registration of nearly 7.74 million trademarks and accepted 3,979 applications for rights for new plant varieties.

China has constantly encouraged local governments to improve relevant policies, cancelled subsidies for intellectual property right (IPR) applications, and strengthened the support for translation, administrative protection and public services of IPR, shifting its focus from quantity to quality, said Shen Changyu,

head of the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA).

Over the last year, China has witnessed prominent improvement in the quantity, quality, and benefits of utilization of IPR.

The average ownership of high-value invention patents reached 7.5 per 10,000 people, up 1.2 from a year ago. Chinese applicants submitted 69,500 foreign patent applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), ranking first in the world for a third consecutive year.

Last year, China's patent and trademark pledge financing hit 309.8 billion yuan (\$47.29 billion), up 42 percent year on year, benefiting more than 15,000 enterprises. The import and export volume of intellectual property royalties

reached 378.3 billion yuan. In particular, the export volume was 76.02 billion yuan, rising 27.1 percent year on year. A total of 219,000 contracts about IPR were inked, totaling more than 14 trillion yuan in transaction value. Besides, the country released 42 intellectual property-backed securities that totaled 9.5 billion yuan.

In 2021, China has further enhanced efforts on IPR protection. It cracked down upon 50,100 cases of patent and trademark infringement, made 49,800 administrative adjudications on patent infringement and disputes, and launched mediation for 64,800 IPR disputes. In addition, the country also investigated 2,957 counterfeiting

crimes and deleted nearly 1.2 million copyright-infringing links.

According to an investigation report, the public's satisfaction with intellectual property right protection in China grew to 80.61 points.

In terms of the protection of digital IPR, which attracts wide social attention, the CNIPA has started pilot programs in Zhejiang province, Shanghai and Shenzhen, to gain replicable experiences in IPR legislation and certification, and lay a foundation for future institutional design.

He Zhimin, deputy head of the CNIPA, introduced that the administration cracked down upon 482,000 cases of malicious trademark registration. It re-

jected 60,400 applications aiming at malicious hoarding of trademarks, as well as 1,628 maliciously registered trademarks that harmed social and public interests. The administration vetoed on 30,000 maliciously registered trademarks in reviewing procedures and declared 1,729 trademarks invalid, five times of those in the past decade.

So far, IPR-related public service organizations have been established in all provincial-level regions and sub-provincial cities. Eighty-eight public service stations of IPR and 50 support centers for technology and innovation have been newly built.

The country opened access to 10 types of IPR data, and for the first time,

the layout design data of integrated circuits have been opened to the public. It also launched an enquiry system for EU trademarks and a campaign promoting IPR services, which benefited more than 300,000 small- and medium-sized enterprises.

According to statistics, since the China-EU Geographical Indications (GIs) Agreement came into effect in March 2021, 244 China-EU GIs have been mutually recognized and protected. Last year, Chinese enterprises filed 8,596 patent applications in Belt and Road countries, a year-on-year increase of 29.4 percent, and 4,711 were authorized, up 15.3 percent from a year ago.

People's Daily

Shanghai creates 'white list' so people can return to work

SHANGHAI is building a white list for workers in industrial companies, major construction projects and commercial enterprises in its push for the safe resumption of work as the city experiences a steady decline in daily COVID-19 infections.

A total of 192 new cases of infection were found among people not in quarantine with exposure risk to the virus from Sunday to Tuesday, accounting for just over 1 percent of the total locally transmitted cases, while the rest were all found among people in quarantine, said the city government.

Zhao Dandan, deputy director of Shanghai's health commission, told a news conference on Wednesday that the city reported 260 new confirmed cases, 4,722 asymptomatic cases and 16 deaths on Tuesday.

"The combined nucleic acid and antigen tests and the corresponding control measures were showing their effect as the number of people living in locked-down zones has been dropping steadily while the number of people in precautionary zones is increasing," he said.

In the meantime, more than 65,000 patients were discharged from designated hospitals after treatment and medical observation during the past May Day holiday.

Zhao said the recovered COVID-19 patients are required to undergo a seven-day self-health monitoring at home and are exempt from taking community testing with others.

The local government and community should arrange an individual nucleic acid test for the recovered on the seventh day at their doorstep, or transport them in a closed-loop fashion to a public hospital to take the test, Zhao said.

"If the result is positive, the person must be sent back to designated hospitals for quarantine," he said. "In this case, the person's test results will not affect the risk level of the community and the apartment building where they live."

As the daily new infections continue to decline, the government has also been pushing for the safe resumption of work, and a white list has been established for workers in industrial companies, major construction projects and commercial enterprises.

"The entities can submit their personnel list and those who meet epidemic control requirements will get an electronic pass for returning to work," Zhao said.

"But the entities must implement closed-loop management for their workers and enact a higher protection standard such as wearing an N95 mask and face shield for workers with higher exposure risk," he said.

The closed-loop management also requires factories to provide separate accommodation for workers at the production lines from those who have to go out to reduce cross-infection risk.

Ye Junping, deputy director of the city agriculture commission, said 93 percent of the city's agricultural production has resumed and the production rate for vegetables was back to 98 percent, with more than 3,000 metric tons of green-leaf vegetables produced per day.

The seeds, fertilizer and farming machines for spring plowing have also been arranged and distributed to farmers, he said.

"Our next step is to help connect the vegetable and fruit farmers with big distributors and direct purchase from residents," Ye said.

Xinhua

Study: Omicron as severe as previous COVID-19 variants

WASHINGTON

THE Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV2 virus is intrinsically as severe as previous variants, unlike assumptions made in previous studies that it was more transmissible but less severe, a large study in the United States has found.

"We found that the risks of hospitalization and mortality were nearly identical between periods," said four scientists who conducted the study based on records of 130,000 COVID-19 patients, referring to times in the past two years when different variants were dominant across the world.

The study, which is undergoing peer review at Nature Portfolio and was posted on Research Square on May 2, was adjusted for confounders including demographics,

vaccination status, and the Charlson comorbidity index that predicts the risk of death within a year of hospitalization for patients with specific comorbid conditions.

The studies that assumed that the Omicron variant was less severe were conducted in various places including South Africa, Scotland, England, and Canada, said the scientists from Massachusetts General Hospital, Minerva University and Harvard Medical School.

They said their study could have several limitations, including the possibility that it underestimated the number of vaccinated patients in more recent COVID waves, and the total number of infections, because it excluded patients who performed at-home rapid tests.

Agencies



This video grab taken from a handout footage released by the Russian Defence Ministry on April 19, 2022, shows Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu attending a meeting of the collegium of the Ministry of Defence in Moscow. AFP

Russia threatens to attack NATO military aid transports in Ukraine

MOSCOW / BRUSSELS

ANY vehicle of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) that arrives in Ukraine with weapons or material for the needs of the Ukrainian armed forces is considered by Russia as "a legitimate target for destruction," Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Wednesday.

Shoigu made the remarks at a meeting with Russia's top defense officials, noting the United States and its NATO allies are continuing to supply weapons to Ukraine.

Russian troops together with the forces of Lugansk and Donetsk are controlling more areas of Donbass, and they will continue to fulfill their tasks, according to the minister.

For the safe evacuation of civilians from combat zones, humanitarian corridors are opened daily, he said, adding that the Russian armed forces are actively providing humanitarian assistance to residents living in cities controlled by the forces.

European Union

Meanwhile, the European Union (EU) will phase out Russian crude oil within six months and refined products by the end of the year, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Wednesday, announcing the sixth package of sanctions against Russia.

"We now propose a ban on Russian oil. This will be a complete import ban on all Russian oil, seaborne and pipeline, crude and refined," von der Leyen told lawmakers in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.

The package also includes a new list of sanctioned Russian military officers and other individuals, the "de-SWIFTing" of Russia's biggest bank Sberbank and two other major banks, the cutting-off of three Russian state-owned broadcasters from European airwaves and a ban on services of EU-based accountants and consultants to Russian companies.

The sixth sanction package aims to deprive the Russian economy of "its ability to diversify and modernize," von der Leyen said.

The European Commission president also pledged financial support to address Ukraine's immediate needs but gave no further detail about its amount.

UN pledges support for Nigeria's anti-terrorism effort

ABUJA

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday pledged further support to the Nigerian government for ending terrorism, saying the world body will also mobilize more funds to the country's humanitarian response plan.

Guterres (pictured) met Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari at the State House in Nigerian capital Abuja as part of his three-nation visit to Africa. He promised that the UN will mobilize an additional 351 million U.S. dollars to a current plan in support of the country's humanitarian efforts in the country's northeast region, which has been suffering from terrorist activities.

"We are very active in support of the humanitarian efforts of the Nigerian government and that is why we have called for an additional 351 million dollars as part of the overall 1.1 billion for the humanitarian response plan for Nigeria," said the UN head during a meeting with Nigeria's top officials.

Guterres also told reporters at the State House that his visit to Nigeria focused on addressing security challenges in the most populous African country, Lake Chad, and the Sahel.

Buhari, in his response, said Nigeria remains grateful to the UN and some world leaders for their steadfast partnership in fighting terrorism, adding his country and the African continent were concerned that the Russia-Ukraine conflict would crowd out other issues, but the UN head's visit clearly showed "the world has not forgotten us."

He also noted that the Nigerian government has started a gradual and steady process of resettlement and reintegration where local people are encouraged to return to the country's northeast region.

Earlier on Wednesday, Guterres attended a wreath-laying ceremony for victims of the 2011 bombing by Boko Haram at Nigeria's UN House in Abuja. During the visit to Nigeria, the first since he took office as UN secretary-general, Guterres said the United Nations is committed to alleviating the suffering of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the northeastern state of Borno, where he visited some camps for IDPs and transit areas of repentant Boko Haram militants in the restive Borno.



Zelensky: Ukraine won't agree to 'frozen conflict' with Russia

KYIV/MOSCOW/BUDAPEST/ROME/BUCHAREST

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky has said that his country will not agree to any deal that would lead to a "frozen conflict" with Russia, according to the Ukrinform news agency.

"We will not settle for a frozen conflict... I am against it. We will definitely not have such a document," the Ukrinform report quoted Zelensky as saying on Wednesday.

The Minsk agreements, which had put an end to the intense military stage of the Donbass conflict several years ago, proved to be ineffective, said the Ukrainian leader.

Russia withdrew from the Minsk agreements when it attacked Ukraine on Feb 24, he added.

The Minsk agreements, reached in September 2014 and February 2015, outlined the steps needed to end the conflict in Ukraine's eastern region of Donbass that started in April 2014.

Russia bans Japanese top officials

Moscow has barred 63 Japanese citizens, including top officials like Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, "permanently" from entering Russia.

"The administration of Kishida has launched an unprecedented anti-Russian campaign, allowing unacceptable rhetoric against the Russian Federation, including slander and direct threats," the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.



People gather to watch Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speak on a screen at the City Hall Square in Copenhagen, May 4, 2022. AP

"It is echoed by public figures, experts and media representatives of Japan, who are completely biased towards the attitudes of the West regarding our country."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno, Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki and Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi are also blacklisted, among other government officials and lawmakers. The entry ban also applies to some media executives and university professors.

Hungary 'can't support' new EU sanctions

Hungary's government cannot responsibly support the European Commission's new package of sanctions against Russia in its current form as it would "destroy" the country's security of energy supply, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijjarto said on Wednesday. The EU will phase out Russian crude oil imports within six months and refined products by the end of the year, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday, announcing the sixth package

of sanctions against Russia.

The new restrictions would involve a ban on crude oil shipments from Russia to Europe with a rather short notice, which in Hungary's case would apply from the end of next year," Szijjarto said in a video message posted on his Facebook page.

Hungary's energy supply is currently secure and stable, but this package of sanctions would "completely destroy" it, making it impossible for the country to procure the amount of oil needed to keep the economy running, he said.

He recalled that Hungary was a landlocked country without access to the sea and to large tankers transporting crude oil from places other than Russia.

Furthermore, Hungary's refineries can only process Russian Urals crude but not other products such as Brent. The only way oil gets to Hungary is through pipelines.

Draghi, Kishida for negotiated settlement to conflict

The leaders of Italy and Japan on Wednesday

day said they would push for a negotiated settlement to the Ukraine conflict. Italy's Prime Minister Mario Draghi hosted his Japanese counterpart, a, as part of a series of bilateral meetings between the leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) countries. Following their meeting, Kishida said it was essential "for the international community, including the G7, to respond resolutely" to the Ukraine crisis.

The leaders also addressed the challenges related to global energy supplies, the slowdown of the global economy and the lingering impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Draghi urged Kishida to speed up the processing of visas for Europeans visiting Japan to encourage tourism between Europe and Japan.

This year's Summit of G7, an intergovernmental political forum made up of the world's seven most industrialized economies, is scheduled for next month in Elmau, Germany.

Draghi thanked Japan for agreeing in February to redirect ships carrying liquefied natural gas to Europe as gas supplies for European countries tightened due to the Ukraine crisis.

Germany 'less dependent' on Russian energy

Germany's dependency on Russian energy resources has been significantly reduced, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said

on Wednesday during a visit to Bucharest.

Germany's dependency on Russian oil is currently 15 percent, Steinmeier told a joint press conference with his Romanian counterpart Klaus Iohannis.

The Romanian president said that his country supports the European Commission's proposed ban on Russian oil, which would be implemented through a phase-out period of six months.

Authorities in Bucharest are now working on sustainable solutions that can be rapidly mobilized, Iohannis said. "Romania wants to play an active role in achieving the EU's strategic objectives for diversifying its natural gas supply."

Talks between the two leaders also focused on the support granted to Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees, support for the EU accession of the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia, and Romania's expectations regarding accession to the Schengen area.

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on Tuesday on retaliatory sanctions against individuals and entities in response to their "unfriendly actions" over the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The Russian government was ordered to compile a list of individuals under sanctions within 10 days.

Xinhua

How will abortion rights fight affect US midterms?



Protests over abortion rights in the US.

WASHINGTON

A recent leak on abortion rights from the U.S. Supreme Court has given Democrats a cause to rally around, which could energize the party's base for the midterm elections in November.

Earlier this week, a leaked document said that the U.S. Supreme Court has voted to overturn the nearly 50-year-old decision that gave women the ability to choose to terminate a pregnancy without excessive restrictions from the government.

The groundbreaking news sent shockwaves through Washington, sparking several protests in Los Angeles, New York and Washington D.C. "Democrats until now had no real campaign plan," Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the center for international and security studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua.

"They were preparing mostly to take their licks and regroup. Now the leak of the Supreme Court draft opinion has changed the subject," away from the looming recession, the surging inflation, and the rising crime rates in big cities, Ramsay said.

The issue "will galvanize the Democratic base," Brookings Institution senior fellow Darrell West told Xinhua. In the past, young people and women often voted at low rates during the midterms, but they "now understand the loss of their individual rights," West said.

These are core issues for young people and will "help Democrats narrow what might have been a tidal wave election," West said. "Young voters and independent women are going to be energized," Democratic pollster Celinda Lake was quoted by local news website Axios as saying.

Polls, however, indicated that the issue of abortion was not on the top of voters' minds. A March Gallup poll placed the issue near the bottom of a list of over two-dozen other issues with which Americans are concerned.

Less than 1 percent of respondents told Gallup that abortion was "the most important problem facing the country today," while it remains unclear whether the Supreme Court leak will push the issue higher on the list.

The three most important issues were the government/poor leadership, at 22 percent, high cost of living/inflation at 17 percent and the economy in general at 11 percent, according to Gallup.

Several analysts said Democrats would maximize the impact of the leak to salvage midterms. Ford O'Connell, adjunct professor at the Graduate School of Political Management of the George Washington University, told Xinhua that Democrats are "trying to quickly mobilize their base."

"Chances are it's not going to stop what's going to happen in November," O'Connell said, noting that the Democratic Party is still expected to take significant losses in the midterms. "But they're going to use this any way possible to minimize the bleeding," O'Connell said.

Christopher Galdieri, assistant professor at Saint Anselm College, said he doubts the issue of abortion "outweighs the impact of inflation, particularly in swing states and districts."

"It will certainly help with fun-

draising, and gives Democrats an issue where they are by and large on the same side as public opinion. That's not nothing," Galdieri said.

Axios reported that voters who are most passionate about abortion rights have historically been "more reliable" in terms of midterm turnout, including Black women and liberal, college-educated women. But polls also suggest it "may be harder for Democrats to use the issue to turn out working-class, male or Hispanic voters," Axios added.

Galdieri said it is possible that those most offended by the Supreme Court decision had already decided to vote in the midterms before the leak.

"But on the other hand, if this is enough to get those suburban voters who voted blue (Democrats) in 2018 and 2020 to do the same again this year, that could make a difference in a meaningful number of races," Galdieri said.

Electorally, the biggest impact is likely to be in places where the election was already likely to be close, Galdieri said. Politico, a U.S. political publication that broke the leak story, wrote, "Deliberations on controversial cases have in the past been fluid."

Justices can and sometimes do change their votes as draft opinions circulate and major decisions can be subject to multiple drafts and vote-trading, sometimes until just days before a decision is unveiled, Politico noted. "The court's holding will not be final until it is published, likely in the next two months," it said.

Xinhua

US makes biggest interest rate hike in 22 years

WASHINGTON

THE Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised its benchmark overnight interest rate by half a percentage point, the biggest jump in 22 years, and the US central bank's chief made an appeal to Americans struggling with high inflation to be patient while officials take the hard measures to bring it under control.

In a widely expected move, the Fed set its target federal funds rate to a range between 0.75 percent and 1 percent in a unanimous decision, and Fed Chair Jerome Powell said policymakers were ready to approve half-percentage-point rate hikes at upcoming policy meetings in June and July.

The level of specificity - effectively announcing Fed rate hikes in advance - was unusual, but reflected Powell steering a course between high inflation that requires a strong Fed response, and trying to avoid the sort of overkill that might tip the economy into recession.

In a news conference after the release of the Fed's policy statement, Powell explicitly ruled out raising rates by three-quarters of a percentage point in a coming meeting, a comment that triggered a stock market rally.

But he also made clear the rate increases the Fed already has in mind were "not going to be pleasant" as they force Americans to pay more for home mortgages and auto loans, and possibly dent asset values.

The Fed also said it would start next month to reduce the roughly \$9 trillion stash of assets accumulated during its efforts to fight the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic as another lever to bring inflation under control.

"It's very unpleasant," Powell said of the impact on households of inflation, which is running about three times the Fed's 2 percent target. "If you're a normal economic person, then you probably don't have ... that much extra ... to spend and it's immediately hitting your spending on groceries ... on gasoline on energy and things like that. So, we understand the pain involved."

Powell told reporters that he and his Fed colleagues were determined to restore price stabil-

ity even if that meant steps that would lead to lower business investment and household spending, and slower economic growth. The implications of inflation getting out of hand, he said, were worse.

"In the end, everyone is better off ... with stable prices," Powell said.

Still, Powell said he felt the US economy is performing well, and strong enough to withstand the coming rate increases without being driven into recession or even seeing a significant rise in unemployment.

Despite a drop in gross domestic product over the first three months of this year, "household spending and business fixed investment remain strong. Job gains have been robust," the central bank's Federal Open Market Committee said in its policy statement.

Officials sharpened their description of the risks for elevated inflation to persist, especially with factors that have arisen since the start of the year, including the Russian special military operation war in Ukraine.

"The Committee is highly attentive to inflation risks," the Fed said in language analysts interpreted as a sign of the Fed's commitment to push interest rates as high as needed to get inflation, and the expectations surrounding its future path, back to the 2 percent target.

The statement said the Fed's balance sheet, which soared to about \$9 trillion as the central bank tried to shelter the economy from the pandemic, would be allowed to decline by \$47.5 billion per month in June, July and August and by up to \$95 billion per month starting in September.

Policymakers did not issue fresh economic projections after this week's meeting, but data since their last gathering in March have given no definitive sense that inflation, wage growth, or a torrid pace of hiring had begun to slow.

US stock markets jumped following the announcement, extending gains after Powell poured cold water on the idea of hiking rates by three-quarters of a percentage point. The S&P 500 index closed about 3 percent higher, notching its biggest one-day percentage gain in nearly a year.

Agencies

SPORT



Director of an organization, which coordinates training and community empowerment economically and environmentally, known as Equip For Change, John Wambura (R), participates in tree planting with Kivule FC's players in Dar es Salaam recently. The organization has planted more than 1500 trees at Kivule District Hospital in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Simba SC will hardly give up on NBC Premier League title race, says official

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC had yesterday started preparations for the NBC Premier League's 23rd round tie against Ruvu Shooting which will be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The Msimbazi Street squad arrived in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday from Lindi via Mtwara after finishing its league match against Namungo FC that took place on Tuesday, forcing a 2-2 draw with the Lindi club.

SimbaSCInformationandCommunication Manager Ahmed Ally said after arriving in Dar es Salaam, all of the outfit's players were given a break to celebrate Eid, and they were yesterday expected to return to camp to continue shaping up for the duel.

"After the squad had returned on Wednesday, the technical bench allowed the players to reunite with their families to conclude the Eid celebrations, and today (yesterday) they will begin preparations for the next game," Ahmed disclosed.

Regarding this season's Premier League title defense, Ally said Simba SC has not given up and will continue to fight until the end, believing that anything can happen in the remaining games.

The official noted: "As a big team we have a responsibility to make it to the end, Simba must, even if it plays friendly matches, win, lose or draw."

"Another thing that continues to inspire

us to fight is to please our members and fans who need to be happy all the time, if we win everyone in Simba is happy, so we still have a responsibility to make sure we win our games."

Ally stated: "We should not get to the point where we missed the title and hurt fans and members of Simba SC."

Simba SC is sitting second in the NBC Premier League standings with 42 points, behind league leader Yanga which boasts of a 13-point margin. In another development, Simba SC's right fullback, Shomari Kapombe, has admitted that this season has been so competitive that they are in for a tough time defending the NBC Premier League title.

Kapombe said many issues have caused his outfit to find the going tough, noting that one of them is fatigue which has come about after playing a series of continental competitions.

"We are fighting to defend our title but things have been difficult and I think the tiredness we had has affected us because we did not have time to rest for long," Kapombe pointed out.

The defender said despite all that they will continue to fight to make sure they do well in the remaining matches.

According to the footballer, defending the Premier League title is difficult due to the points difference between Simba and its rival Yanga.

Simba SC had on Tuesday played the 22nd round match of Premier League against Namungo FC in Lindi and drew 2-2.

Msimbazi Street side goals were scored by Kapombe and forward Kibu Denis.

Adebayo, Butler lead Heat past 76ers 119-103 in Game 2

MIAMI

BAM Adebayo caught a lob for an alley-oop dunk midway through the fourth quarter, then threw a lob to Jimmy Butler for another dunk about a minute later.

Both were very easy.

Joel Embiid could complicate those plays going forward – and the Miami Heat are heading north expecting that he might be waiting for them.

Adebayo scored 23 points, Butler had 22 points and 12 assists, and the Heat beat the Philadelphia 76ers 119-103 on Wednesday night for a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

"It's always nice to win," Butler said. "We just did what we're supposed to do at home."

Victor Oladipo scored 19 points on his 30th birthday and Tyler Herro added 18 for the Heat, the East's No. 1 seed. Oladipo had 10 of those points in the fourth quarter.

Tyrese Maxey scored 34 points for Philadelphia, which got 21 from Tobias Harris and 20 from James Harden.

"We've just got to go back to the drawing board and try to figure it out," Maxey said.

A 10-0 run in the fourth turned an eight-point Miami lead into an 18-point edge, sealing the win and ensuring the Heat would hold home court before the series shifts north. Game 3 is Friday in Philadelphia.

And now, the Heat will hope history holds – and the 76ers will hope it doesn't.

Miami has taken a 2-0 lead in 18 previous series, including the first round this season against Atlanta, and won the matchup every time. The 76ers' franchise has dropped the first two games of a matchup on 19 other occasions, never recovering to win the series.

The question going into Friday will revolve around whether Embiid could be ready for Game 3. The league's scoring champion and MVP finalist is recovering from an

orbital fracture and concussion and has, not surprisingly, been big-time missed by the 76ers.

"We don't have a big man right now," Philadelphia coach Doc Rivers lamented.

Adebayo surely isn't complaining. He was 8 for 10 from the field and 8 for 8 from the line in Game 1; he followed that up with a 7-for-11 night from the floor on Wednesday.

But he said he's preparing as if Embiid will play Friday. And Butler, who is close with Embiid from their time together as teammates in Philadelphia, is hoping his MVP pick can play in the series.

"I want to compete against him," Butler said. "I really do."

Rivers, however, didn't sound optimistic about the possibility of Embiid being ready.

"He's got so many steps to go through," Rivers said. "I don't think he's cleared any of them right now."

It wasn't just the absence of Embiid, though, that hurt Philadelphia. The 76ers were awful again from 3-point range, shooting 8 for 30 in Game 2. They're now 14 for 64 from deep in the series.

"When it comes down to it, you've got to make shots, especially when you're on the road against a really good team," Harden said. "It's pretty simple."

Danny Green was 1 for 10 from the field – the second time in his playoff career that he had that many attempts and shot that poorly in a postseason game. The other? A 1-for-12 effort for San Antonio in 2013, also in Miami, the night the Heat won their third and most recent NBA title.

The Heat aren't close to that yet. But they are two wins from the East finals.

"It's not easy to get playoff wins." Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We had some great stretches, particularly defensively. We had some really good stretches offensively. ... Our defense really carried us to the win, but we had some really timely offensive plays."

SPORTS

Coach Pablo Martin reveals reasons for lack of first eleven



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the NBC Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC head coach Pablo Franco Martin has responded to some of Tanzania's football stakeholders questioning his decision to change the squad from time to time.

The club has had a difficult time not having the first team since the arrival of the Spanish coach, replacing French coach Didier Gomes whose contract with the outfit was terminated.

Martin took over after the club was eliminated from this season's CAF Champions League preliminary round in October 2021 by Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy FC.

The tactician disclosed that his decision to change the squad from time to time is based on technical terms as he monitors his players day by day.

He said a large percentage of his players had failed to keep up

with the standard, and it is difficult for him to use them regularly for fear of things going wrong.

Martin revealed: "I don't have the first team because the players don't have a good continuation of their quality."

"I can't use a player who has failed to show me something in practice because he did well in the previous game," Martin pointed out.

Despite making frequent changes, coach Martin has shown confidence in some of the Simba SC players such as goalkeeper Aishi Manula, defenders Mohamed Hussein, Shomari Kapombe, Joash Onyango, and Henock Inonga.

In another development, Martin has denied rumours, which have it that there is a misunderstanding between him and the outfit's Zambian midfielder Clatous Chama.

The two allegedly got into a misunderstanding after arguing in the locker room during halftime of the Premier League match between Simba and Yanga that took place in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

The move prompted coach Martin to rest Chama and bring in the latter's compatriot Rally Bwalya.

In addition to the decisions, it was alleged that the tactician decided to leave Chama in Dar es Salaam when his team went to Lindi to play against Namungo FC on Tuesday, as part of a punishment for what happened on Saturday.

The coach said that reports of a dispute with the midfielder are not true because every Simba SC player has a good relationship with the technical bench.

He said Chama was left in Dar es Salaam during a trip to Lindi due to health problems, while winger Bernard Morrison had personal

problems that the tactician was not prepared to make public.

Martin noted: "Chama was not part of the squad because he was suffering from a fever, Morrison had a personal issue, the rest of what is being said I do not know where it comes from."

Martin disclosed: "Every one of my players has a very good relationship with me along with all my assistants on the technical bench, there has never been a quarrel between me and anyone in the squad."

Coach Martin's Simba SC is still struggling in the NBC Premier League, sitting second as Yanga keeps on leading the league standings boasting a 13-point lead.

TPC unveils coaches for national Paralympic team

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Paralympic Committee (TPC) has mentioned Bahati Mgunda and Iddi Muhunzi as the national Paralympic team's coaches.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, TPC Secretary-General, said Mgunda has been selected as the national Para-athletics field events' coach while Muhunzi is the national Para-athletics track events' head coach.

Namkoveka pointed out: "TPC would like to inform the general public that it has appointed Mgunda and Muhunzi as national team coaches in Para athletics track and field events respectively."

"We hope they will contribute to the development of Para sports in the country," Namkoveka revealed.

He said the appointment of the two followed a joint meeting between Tanzania Para Athletics Association (TPAA) and TPC.

Namkoveka said TPC has appointed the two as the aim is to promote Para athletics in the country and the two have been appointed following their qualification and experience.

The TPC official said currently they are looking for a coach who will be training cycling (wheelchair races and cycling).

He said the first assignment of the coach is to train a team which will be announced next week.

Recently TPC hosted the first-ever National Championships which attracted more than 100 athletes.



Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) secretary-general, Ramadhan Namkoveka.

The tournament attracted athletes from both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar and was sponsored by Toyota Tanzania, Gold Star Paint, and National Sports Council (NSC).

Pep: City will need 'time to process' loss to Madrid

MADRID

PEP Guardiola says his Manchester City players will need "time to process" what happened in the final minutes against Real Madrid after they were dumped out of the Champions League in dramatic fashion.

City led 1-0 on the night and 5-3 on aggregate as the tie entered the 90th minute only for Real Madrid to score twice inside a minute to level the scores.

Karim Benzema scored a decisive penalty in the first period of extra time to set up a date with Liverpool in Paris on May 28 and Guardiola admitted afterwards Real's remarkable comeback had hit the dressing room hard.

"They are sad," said Guardiola. "They were close to reaching the final of the Champions League. We need time to process that and come back with our people at home for the last four games [in the Premier League]."

City seemed in control when Riyad Mahrez scored midway through the second half and Real Madrid couldn't muster a shot on target until substitute Rodrygo scored twice in injury time -- both after crosses into the box.

Illustrating the scale of the comeback, at one point Madrid were as long as 45-1 to come from behind against Man City with Caesars Sportsbook.

Guardiola's team led the tie from the second minute of the first leg until the 90th minute of the second leg but still went out and will now have to lift themselves for Newcastle's visit to the Etihad Stadium on Sunday as they try to hold off Liverpool in the title race.

"In the first half we didn't have rhythm," said Guardiola. "We were not good enough but didn't suffer much. After we scored we were better, we found our tempo, the players were comfortable."

"In the last 10 minutes you expect they attack and you suffer and it didn't happen. Then they put a lot of players in the box with [Eder] Militao, Rodrygo, Vinicius Jr., [Marcos] Asensio and they scored two goals."

"We didn't suffer much but we didn't play our best but it is normal in a semifinal -- players feel the pressure. We were close but football is unpredictable. Sometimes it is like this and you have to accept it."

Meanwhile, Carlo Ancelotti admitted there's been "something strange" about Real Madrid's progression to the Champions League final after overseeing yet another comeback in their 3-1 semifinal second leg win over Manchester City.

Riyad Mahrez scored in the 73rd minute

to put City 5-3 up in the tie, before Rodrygo grabbed two goals in two minutes and Karim Benzema converted an extra-time penalty to send Madrid to the final with Liverpool in Paris on May 28.

It's the latest unlikely turnaround for Madrid, who had also trailed to Paris Saint-Germain in the round of 16 and Chelsea in the quarterfinals before rallying late to advance.

"Something strange has happened," Ancelotti, who is now the first manager to coach in five Champions League finals, said in his postmatch news conference. "We've had fantastic nights. We've played against very strong teams, teams seen as candidates to win the Champions League."

"The players never gave up. It's special here. Nobody thought Real Madrid would play another final this year, and we're there."

Madrid were behind in the 90th minute on Wednesday before Rodrygo made it 1-1 on the night with a clever finish from Benzema's pass, and then put Madrid ahead with a header seconds later to force extra time.

"There's no better feeling," midfielder Casemiro said. "There's no way to explain this. The best is yet to come...but we have to enjoy the moment. We've eliminated a great team with a great coach, and wow, they play good football."

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said Madrid, who won the LaLiga title last weekend with four games to spare, were "capable of anything."

"We believed until the end," he said. "[Ferland] Mendy made a key save on the line, and I did too. We made it 1-1 and then 2-1 and they were dead. We won't say they were crapping themselves, but they knew anything could happen."

He added: "We've eliminated great teams, teams that have spent a lot of money to try to win the Champions League. The route we've taken, with PSG, Chelsea and today. The last few minutes were incredible."

Ancelotti, who quit as Everton manager last summer to return to the Bernabeu for his second spell in charge, has previously faced Liverpool in two Champions League finals as a coach, when in charge of AC Milan.

"I'm very happy to play another final, against a great team, Liverpool," Ancelotti said. "I played Liverpool as a player in 1984 [in the European Cup final] and then [as coach] in 2005, 2007 and again now. I lived in Liverpool for two years. For me it's a derby, I'm still an Evertonian."

(Agencies)

Maradona 'Hand of God' jersey sells for \$9.28M

LONDON

THE jersey that Argentina's Diego Maradona wore when he scored the "Hand of God" goal against England in the 1986 World Cup has sold for a world-record price of \$9.28 million at an auction at Sotheby's in London.

The final price surpasses both the previous record for a match-worn jersey, which was the \$5.64 million paid in 2019 on Babe Ruth's 1928-1930 New York Yankees jersey, and the record price for a piece of sports memorabilia, which stood at \$8.8 million for the original hand-drawn Olympic manifesto that was sold in 2019 in New York.

Maradona wore the shirt in a quarter-final against England in 1986 in which he scored both of Argentina's goals in their 2-1 win. The first was the famous "Hand of God" goal where he palmed the ball past England goalkeeper Peter Shilton. Maradona, who died in November 2020, had said the goal was "a little from the head of Maradona, and a little with the hand of God."

His second goal is widely considered one of the finest to grace a World Cup. Maradona picked up the ball on the half-way line, dribbled through the England team and dinked it over Shilton to give Argentina a 2-0 lead. It was later named Goal of the Century by FIFA.

Steve Hodge, the former England midfielder, swapped shirts with Maradona after the 1986 match. He had previously turned down potential bids for the shirt, and it had been on display in the National Football Museum since 2002. But on April 6, Sotheby's announced the shirt was up for auction.

"This historic shirt is a tangible reminder of an important moment not only in the history of sports, but in the history of the 20th century," said Brahm Wachter,

Sotheby's head of streetwear and modern collectables. "In the weeks since we announced the auction, we have been inundated by sports fans and collectors alike, with a palpable excitement in the air for the duration of the public exhibition -- and this unfiltered enthusiasm was echoed in the bidding. This is arguably the most coveted football shirt to ever come to auction, and so it is fitting that it now holds the auction record for any object of its kind."

Sotheby's placed an estimate of \$5 million to 7.5 million on the shirt, and within hours of the auction opening on April 21, there was a first bid of \$4.99 million. Once the buyer's premium, overhead premium and tax were all factored in, the price exceeded the previous record of \$5.64 million on Ruth's jersey.

The listing was not without controversy. When Sotheby's announced the auction, Maradona's daughter Dalma claimed it was not the correct jersey. She said the shirt Hodge had was in fact the jersey Maradona wore in the first half of that 1986 match, not the one he had on when he scored both goals.

But Sotheby's turned to Resolution Photomatching to independently verify Hodge had the correct jersey from the second half, and it was the "Hand of God" shirt. The buyer will remain anonymous, and auctioneer Brahm Wachter told ESPN that "whoever buys it, [the jersey] probably never surfaces again."

This auction comes just a month after an unnamed bidder spent \$5.516 million at auction on the clubs Tiger Woods used to win all four majors between 2000 and 2001. Sources within the sports memorabilia world told ESPN they expect a further boom in demand for match-worn jerseys, specifically from football, over the coming months.

(Agencies)

Madrid rallies past Man City to reach Champions League final

MADRID

THE "Si se puede! (Yes we can!)" chants gradually faded at the Santiago Bernabéu as the minutes passed and Real Madrid looked beaten.

As the end of regulation approached, many in the stands -- and on the field -- were close to giving up as Manchester City defended its 1-0 lead.

It seemed that there would be no magical night at the Bernabéu for the 13-time European champions this time.

But Madrid took its Champions League comebacks to another level on Wednesday, rallying late with two goals in two minutes by substitute Rodrygo to force extra time and defeat Manchester City 3-1 to reach the final -- a showdown with Liverpool.

Karim Benzema, the hero of Madrid's previous comebacks this season, converted a penalty kick in extra time for the decisive goal that allowed Madrid to advance 6-5 on aggregate after a 4-3 first-leg semifinal loss in which it escaped losing by a bigger margin.

"I didn't think we could do it again because we were struggling," Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said. "We had already eliminated some top teams that spent a lot of money to try to win a Champions, but today it was more impressive, happening in the final minutes."

Madrid had already pulled off thrilling comebacks at the Bernabéu against Paris Saint-Germain in the round of 16 and Chelsea in the quarterfinals.

"I cannot say we are used to living this kind of life, but what happened tonight happened against Chelsea and also against Paris," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "If you have to say why, it is the history of this club that helps us to keep going when it seems that we are gone."

By doing it again against City, Madrid booked a spot in the May 28 final in Paris against Liverpool, which advanced after defeating Villarreal on Tuesday. Madrid defeated Liverpool in the 2018 final, when the Spanish powerhouse clinched its record-extending 13th title.

"We have a score to settle," Liverpool



Real Madrid's Rodrygo, third left, scores his side's second goal during the Champions League semi final, second leg, soccer match between Real Madrid and Manchester City at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday, May 4, 2022. (AP Photo)

pool forward Mohamed Salah said on Twitter after Madrid's win.

The result ended City's latest quest for its first Champions League trophy. Pep Guardiola's team lost in the final last year to Chelsea.

"We were close but at the end we could not reach (the final)," Guardiola said.

Madrid looked defeated near the end of regulation before Rodrygo scored his goals two minutes apart. Riyad Mahrez had put City ahead in the 73rd but the Brazilian forward equalized in the 90th and got the go-ahead goal with a header a minute into stoppage time.

A few minutes before Rodrygo's first goal, Ferland Mendy had saved Madrid from conceding a second goal that could have sealed City's qualification by clearing the ball in front of the goal line while tumbling backward to keep an attempt by Jack Grealish from going in.

Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois moments later saved a Realist shot with the bottom of his cleat.

Madrid carried all the momentum into extra time and Benzema gave the hosts the 3-1 lead by converting a 95th-minute penalty kick after he was fouled inside the area.

It was the 15th Champions League goal this season for Benzema, the competition's leading scorer. It was his 10th goal in the knockout stage alone, tying Cristiano Ronaldo's record in a single season.

Benzema had scored hat tricks when Madrid rallied against both PSG and Chelsea. Madrid came back against PSG after losing the first leg in Paris and conceding early in the second leg at the Bernabéu. Against Chelsea, Madrid won the first match 3-1 but was down 3-0 in the second leg before rallying in extra time, when Benzema again scored the deciding goal.

Wednesday's game started tighter than last week's back-and-forth first leg in Manchester, but City eventually opened the scoring when Mahrez found the top corner

with a firm left-footed one-timer from inside the area following a pass by Bernardo Silva, who attracted the Madrid defenders before feeding the ball to his teammate.

Mahrez had scored both of City's goals in the second leg of last season's semifinal against PSG. The Algerian became the first City player to score seven times in a single Champions League campaign.

Madrid had scored 22 goals in its last eight games in all competitions but struggled to get past the City defense.

Benzema set up Rodrygo's first goal from inside the area, and Marco Asensio flicked Dani Carvajal's cross for the Brazilian's stunning header in stoppage time. Rodrygo had scored twice when Madrid clinched the Spanish league title in advance at the Bernabéu on Saturday, when celebrations went late into the evening with players and coach Carlo Ancelotti asking for the fans' support against Man City.

Fans had already given players a spectacular welcome as the team's bus arrived before the match on Wednesday, crowding the streets around the Bernabéu.

Real Madrid make Champions League magic again while Manchester City left to ponder talk of curse

MADRID

PEP Guardiola might just be starting to believe that he will never win the Champions League with Manchester City.

Leading by two goals on aggregate against Real Madrid in the Santiago Bernabeu and just a matter of stoppage time away from facing Liverpool in the final, City imploded to commit one of football's most unthinkable meltdowns and blow their chance of reaching a second successive final.

As for actually winning the competition that has become an obsession for the club, and Guardiola, another year goes by with somebody else getting their hands on the trophy. While Real and Liverpool go head-to-head in the Stade de France outside of Paris, Guardiola will probably still be wondering how on earth his team could lose this semifinal 6-5 on aggregate.

This season's knock-out stage has shown us that you should never, ever write off Real, with Carlo Ancelotti's team overturning what appeared to be lost causes to defeat Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea at the Bernabeu in previous rounds. But with 90 minutes on the clock and City holding a two-goal lead -- Riyad Mahrez's 73rd minute goal had put them 1-0 ahead on the night and two goals clear on aggregate -- Real's luck had surely run out.

They were up against Guardiola's City, perhaps the only team capable of halting Liverpool's pursuit of a Quadruple, and the Premier League leaders had been so assured in the Bernabeu that goalkeeper Ederon had spent 89 minutes largely as a spectator. But what happened during the six minutes of stoppage time may haunt Guardiola and his ambitious club forever.

Real's fightback was typical of the great club that they are, but no team,

at any level, should concede twice in stoppage time, especially when a place in the Champions League final is at stake. Some clubs just have a knack of getting the job done and winning European trophies. Real and Liverpool, who will meet in the final on May 28, are perhaps the two greatest examples of teams who know how to win when it matters.

"The greatness of this club. It's just that. It's a club that doesn't allow you to give up when it looks like it's all over, it gives you the strength to carry on and continue and fight and believe, that's what we did," said Ancelotti when asked how his side pulled off the comeback.

"The weight of this shirt, all the history of this club, the pride we all have to be part of this club, a bit of everything."

City don't have the football heritage of either of those historic clubs and it showed. They stumbled once again and, despite the billions invested in the club by Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al Nahyan, City have still to win the Champions League and the scars from this semifinal exit will run deep for a long time.

It is a testament to the resolve of this Real team that they managed

to pull off one of the Champions League's most memorable comebacks, but City only have themselves to blame for their humiliation. On three occasions, they opened a two-goal lead in the first leg at the Etihad, but failed to keep Real at bay and in the Bernabeu, they appeared to have produced the perfect game-plan, even though star men such as Kevin De Bruyne and Phil Foden failed to perform to their usual high standards.

Yet they just couldn't kill Real off. Substitute Jack Grealish twice went close to making it 2-0 on the night, and surely finishing the tie, with two surging runs in the closing stages, but on each occasion, the £100 million midfielder failed to score.

In the Premier League, City always seem to enjoy the small margins going in their favour, but the ball bounces differently for them in the Champions League. But still, regardless of their missed chances, it all boils down to conceding twice in stoppage time when Guardiola and his players could have been forgiven for picturing the Eiffel Tower from the Parisian hotel window. "We were close but football is unpredictable. Sometimes it is like this and you have to accept it," Guardiola

la said afterward.

That has nothing to do with bad luck in a competition. It is basic bad defending. Karim Benzema was allowed space to tee up Rodrygo for Real's first goal in the 90th minute, while City's defenders then left the same player to head in from six yards just a minute later, with Marco Asensio given the time to cross from the right. Where was City's game management and determination to run down the clock?

Perhaps their dominance of English football has worked against City at this level of the Champions League because they get tested so rarely. There is a naivety in their play when the pressure is on in Europe and it cost them spectacularly against Real. Of course, at 2-1 on the night, the score was 5-5 on aggregate, so City went into extra-time with the tie still alive and the opportunity to reclaim the lead.

But their belief had evaporated and Guardiola was at a loss to help them from the sidelines. The former Barcelona coach, whose second and last Champions League win with Barca came in 2011, watched on increasing desperation and he probably knew the game was up when referee Daniele Orsato awarded Real a penalty on 94 minutes following a Ruben Dias foul on Benzema.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Madrid rallies past Man City to reach Champions League final

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Kaze: Yanga was unlucky against Ruvu Shooting

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YANGA assistant coach Cedric Kaze feels his side was unlucky not to come away with maximum points from Wednesday's goalless draw with Ruvu Shooting in an NBC Premier League duel that took place at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma.

Ruvu Shooting started the match strongly and thought they had grabbed the elusive goal when forward Sadat Nanguo put the ball behind Yanga goalie Djigui Diarra's net, only for the assistant referee to raise the offside flag.

Yanga responded strongly with top scorer, Fiston Mayele, hitting the crossbar twice.

After the interval, the visitors seemed to take more control of the game and Ruvu Shooting goalkeeper Mohamed Makaka had to be at his best to deny both Mayele and substitute, Heritier Makambo, in the dying minutes.

It was Yanga's second consecutive goalless draw and Kaze felt his side did enough to merit victory despite not taking the most out of their numerical advantage after Ruvu Shooting was forced to play with 10 men in the last 15 minutes following Rashid Juma's sending off.

Speaking to the press after the game, Kaze, who was in the dugout for the third game in place of the suspended head coach Nasredine Nabi, voiced his frustration with the results.

The tactician noted: "Every match is different, today we approached the game intending to play but the pitch did not allow free-flowing football. We had to change our approach in the second half."

"I can say we were unlucky. We struck the post twice in the first half. We missed several clear-cut chances in the second half. We are going back to the training pitch to work on what has to be done in the next game."

The Burundian coach who is on his second spell with Yanga after his departure last season, also took the time to stress they are in perfect control of the title race after challengers Simba SC could only manage to share spoils with Namungo FC on Tuesday.

The results mean Yanga maintain their almost unassailable 13-point lead over the nearest rivals with just nine games remaining. Kaze revealed: "We are still in a very good position in the title race, but we have to double our efforts to ensure we return to winning ways."

The 27-time record Premier League champions travel back to Dar es Salaam to prepare for their next week league assignment against relegation-threatened Tanzania Prisons before making the short trip to the capital city to face Dodoma Jiji FC.



Yanga's assistant coach, Cedric Kaze.



Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports, Mohamed Mchengerwa, takes the spot-kick to signal the official launch of the World Cup trophy tour in Tanzania. Witnessing are Coca-Cola Company First Director-General, Unguu Sulay (R), and Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia (in white shirt). Tanzania has been selected as one of nine African countries where the World Cup trophy will tour. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Former France forward to accompany World Cup trophy tour in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

FORMER French footballer, David Trezeguet, is expected to land in Tanzania courtesy of the FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour which is set to jet in the country on May 31.

The country's sports fraternity members will have an opportunity to see the World Cup trophy for the fourth time.

The tour has been made possible by Coca-Cola Company in collaboration with FIFA and Tanzania is among eight African countries selected to have the golden chance of hosting the tour which is a rare opportunity.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday about the tour, Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Mohamed Mchengerwa hailed massive support rendered by Coca-Cola Company in promoting the football sector, saying the government will continue to work closely with them.

The minister noted: "As you know, the World Cup is the biggest event on earth which is followed by many people worldwide and for us to host the tour, it is a big opportunity in terms of enhancing football and promoting good cooperation."

"To be picked to embrace this tour, we need to give ourselves a big acknowledgment because it is an honour which has been presented to us by FIFA showing that they are touched with what we are doing in this sector," he said.

He then urged many Tanzanians to turn up when the title lands in the country on May 31 so that the world should know that the country is sports-loving and all procedures to welcome it are unfolding well.

Moreover, Mchengerwa noted that the sixth administration under President Samia Suluhu Hassan had already shown strong determination to fast track the development of sports and that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Furthermore, he assured Coca-Cola Company about the government's commitment to work with them to foster the development of the beautiful game in the world.

Earlier, Coca-Cola Kwanza Managing Director Unguu Sulay said they are thrilled to bring the real World Cup trophy to Tanzania almost after eight years and that it is a big honour.

Sulay said: "This is a big reputation for the country because the whole world will be watching us, see how we are going to embrace this great tour thereby promoting tourism."

"It is not a hidden fact that the sports sector is among the leading employment providers in the country that is why we are happy to venture into this area because many people are benefiting a lot through it," Sulay said.

He added that the tour comes at the best moment when Tanzania is cherishing the Royal Tour initiative championed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the sake of accelerating tourism hence the two things are vital.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia admitted that Coca-Cola Company is doing a lot to keep the football sector moving as the firm always works with the federation.

"We still have many projects that need to be financed and I would like to take this opportunity to urge Coca-Cola to give us the much-needed support to implement them well," he disclosed.

According to the available schedule, when the trophy arrives on May 31, it will be taken to the State House where President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is the only person authorized to touch it, will have the opportunity to hold it on behalf of millions of Tanzanians.

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We still have many projects that need to be financed and I would like to take this opportunity to urge Coca-Cola to give us the much-needed support to implement them well

Simba SC makes Premier League title admission



Simba SC's winger, Pape Ousmane Sakho (L), dribbles past Namungo FC midfielder, Abdulaziz Makame, as the outfits locked horns in this season's NBC Premier League clash that took place in Lindi early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA SC's Media and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, has admitted their chances of defending the NBC Premier League title are extremely slim this season and believes they are now in a battle for the Azam Sports Federation Cup.

Simba SC is 13 points adrift of Yanga who currently leads the way with just eight games remaining.

Too many draws have cost the Msimbazi Reds in recent weeks which have seen their title hopes dashed, and the battle for Federation Cup is a more realistic target for the top-flight defending champions.

The Msimbazi Reds have seen three back-to-back draws against Polisi Tanzania, Yanga, and Namungo FC, a sign of their lack of consistency in the league which has come to bite them as the season approaches its later stages.

On Tuesday afternoon, Simba and Namungo FC played out a thrilling 2-2 draw in what had been a game billed as a return to winning ways.

On top of the disappointing league results, coach Pablo Franco's side was knocked out of the CAF Confederation Cup's last eight by Orlando Pirates in April.

Ally has not given up fully and relishes the challenge, but admits the Federation Cup is the more realistic target and that is where their focus is geared towards.

The official revealed: "We drew against Namungo FC and that means our chances of winning the title are fading but as a big club we are still responsible to win every remaining game."

"Every game counts for Simba SC, even a draw in a friendly match is frustrating our fans."

"We are now playing to make our fans happy even if it means little in the title race. A win in any game at the moment is good, we don't have to reach a point where we lose the title and frustrate fans by losing games."

"Our target was to win all the three domestic trophies, Mapinduzi Cup, NBC Premier League,

and Federation Cup. We have won the Mapinduzi Cup but the Premier League is a tough one, every Simba SC fan must understand this."

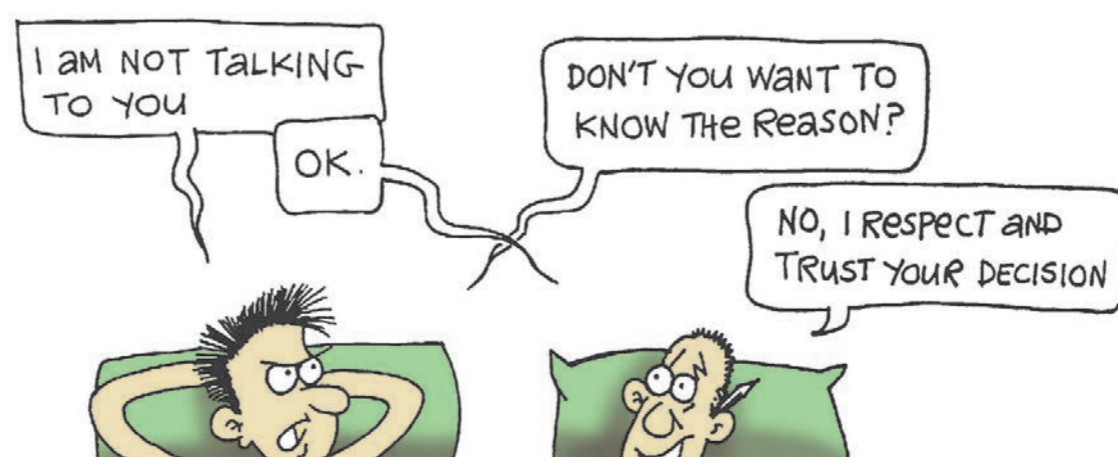
"However, the Federation Cup is still up for grabs, anyone who will be better in the remaining two or three matches can win it."

"We are still fighting in the league but our focus is on the Federation Cup. That's how life is, sometimes you have to focus on realistic targets."

"We have a better chance of success in the Federation Cup. If we lift the Federation Cup we will be the most successful side this season."

The Msimbazi Reds have got a Federation Cup quarterfinal tie with Mwanza's Pamba on May 15. The winners of the tie will face Yanga in the semi-final.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



We still have many projects that need to be financed and I would like to take this opportunity to urge Coca-Cola to give us the much-needed support to implement them well