



National Pg 4 TANZANIANS URGED TO BOOST PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE



National Pg 5 MINISTRY COMMITS TO FUND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES



National Pg 6 TBS ON PACKAGING MATERIALS



BUSINESS SELF reaches more entrepreneurs with soft loans in Dodoma, Singida

MICROFINANCE IDEA FINANCE

Central bank in the spotlight as lenders run out of dollars

Chongolo calls for closest subsidised fertiliser centres

Rwanda targets Rwf2.5tn investments in manufacturing industry incentives

CSOs laud national strategy for NGOs

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

A NUMBER of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the capital have commended the government for formulating the national strategy for the sustainability of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Edward Mbogo, co-ordinator for the non-governmental organisation network in Dodoma (NGONEDO), said at a capacity building training organised in collaboration with the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS), said it is important for leaders of those organisations to understand the guidelines.

The sustainable NGOs strategy is the first national framework focusing on the capacity of NGOs to conduct their operations and what can be done to improve the situation.

Participants said the recently introduced document is likely to help NGOs to find different ways of funding and not just rely on development partners as a single source.

The strategy set out for 2022/2023 to 2026/2027 attempts to put in place an enabling environment for NGOs to attain improved institutional capacity for effective operations.

It lays out strategies for a strong and diversified financial base with the potential for lasting impact in the respective NGOs, the coordinator stated, urging fellow activists to work on the document.

They will find the breadth of the government's goodwill in empowering NGOs countrywide, he stated, asserting that some leaders of NGOs do not understand the requirements and compliance conditions in different areas like tax provisions, etc.

Representatives from over 50 NGOs attended the capacity building meeting for empowerment on various issues, the coordinator noted, affirming that the meeting was one of a series of planned meetings.

The purpose is to help regional NGOs understand various issues regarding the new guidelines, while also using the platform to share experiences, he stated.

Jacqueline Mmari, an activist with the Tanzania Mentors Action argued that the five years strategic plan is important in setting direction for the development of NGOs all over the country.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured at the State Lodge in Arusha city yesterday presenting East African Community Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki with a free title deed for a 125-acre chunk of land for use by the Arusha-based regional economic bloc's secretariat. Photo: State House

'Africa needs container ships, own logistics hub'

By Guardian Reporter

MARITIME transport stakeholders in Eastern and Southern Africa have called for heavy investment involving the procurement of container ships to ferry cargo to an efficient continental logistics hub. Daniel Kiyange, executive secretary for the Intergovernmental Standing Committee on Shipping (ISCOS) said at a transport stakeholders' conference that as the world's shipping businesses are fast growing,

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Z'bar in ACT-Wazalendo legislator's final farewell

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Speaker of the Zanzibar of Representatives, Zebeir Ali Maulid, has described the late Mtambwe Representative Habib Ali Mohammed as a man who was dedicated to serving the people.

The speaker led House members in paying their respects to the late representative for Mtambwe constituency in Pemba on the ACT-Wazalendo ticket.

Habib collapsed suddenly at the House of Representatives building when preparing to attend the morning session and was rushed to Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar. He was airlifted for treatment at the Saifee Hospital in Dar es Salaam, where he died early yesterday.

Representatives of all political wings were saddened by the loss of the representative, he said, noting that he will be remembered for his contributions, working tirelessly in ensuring that the people of his constituency were properly represented.

"We have worked with him for a short period of two years but we have seen his abilities in serving the people especially on issues which were essential to the people he represented," he stated.

Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla said the late representative will be remembered for his dedication. "His death is a challenge to the people he represented and his party," he said.

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It lays out strategies for a strong and diversified financial base with the potential for lasting impact in the respective NGOs, the coordinator stated, urging fellow activists to work on the document

TURN TO Page2

Burundi confirms move to deploy troops in DRC

By Guardian Reporter

BURUNDI has confirmed the deployment of its troops today to aid the East African Regional Force in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Dr Peter Mathuki, the secretary general of the East African Community (EAC), said in a statement

yesterday that EAC troops contributing partner states will shortly deploy their units within the agreed time frame. This is in line with the roadmap set by EAC army commanders at a meeting in Nairobi early last month, with the deployment being part of implementation of a directives by the Heads

of State. The 20th extra-ordinary summit of EAC Heads of State held on February 4 in Bujumbura, was followed by a meeting of EAC chiefs of defence forces on February 9 in Nairobi, to explore the situation.

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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Z'bar in ACT-Wazalendo legislator's final farewell

FROM PAGE 1

House colleagues said his death comes at a time when his contributions were sorely needed. Hassan Hamad Omar, the representative for Kojani (ACT-Wazalendo) said he received the news of his colleague's death with shock.

He was a close friend and was of the same party, he said, with an eulogy saying that the late representative born at Mtambwe on 22/06/1960 and attended primary school at Uondwe in Pemba and Karume secondary school in Unguja from 1967 to 1976.

He went for higher studies in the Soviet Union from 1979 to 1982 where he graduated in industrial development studies, later employed in the cloves industry in Zanzibar, where he finally became a director for production.



KCB Bank Tanzania's marketing manager Shose Kombe (L) and Arusha Branch manager Judith Lubuva (2nd-L) have a word with Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella at the bank's pavilion in Arusha city yesterday as he went around an exhibition by women and young entrepreneurs organised by an agency known as TAWEN. This is an empowerment, marketing, financing and capacity building network. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CSOs laud national strategy for NGOs

FROM PAGE 1

She expressed gratitude for organisers of the training for enabling the various NGO practitioners to go through the guidelines, gaining more understanding on how to lead their organisations.

Charles Komba, a senior monitoring and evaluation

officer in the office of the NGOs registrar, took the participants through some of the issues, saying the document is angled on broader aspects of NGOs' sustainability.

"As in many other parts of the world, the survival of NGOs in Tanzania is becoming a challenge because of changes in the external funding environment as well as the

local operating environment," he said, underlining the need to boost the capacity of NGOs, especially the small resource-constrained NGOs, to adequately respond to these changes.

"Most NGOs in Tanzania remain heavily dependent on external financial resources, and any change of priority on the part of funding entities or

an external shock presents a big challenge to the sustainability of the local NGOs," the mentoring official intoned.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the necessity to develop a sector that is agile and adaptable to current social economic dynamics, he said, pointing out that guidelines were drawn up in response to a directive by President Samia

Suluhu Hassan.

During the annual NGOs forum on 30th September 2021, the president directed the ministry responsible for NGOs to work in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders to develop a comprehensive approach to enhance the sustainability of NGOs operating in the country, he added.

'Africa needs container ships, own logistics hub'

FROM PAGE 1

bringing up the need for Africa to ensure predictable, reliable, transparent and guaranteed logistics systems.

Gabriel Migire, the Works and Transport permanent secretary in charge of transport said at the opening session that world cargoes are mainly transported by water.

ISCOS is a regional maritime organization operating in Eastern and Southern Africa, with Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia as its founding members.

"The maritime transport sector is growing day after day, with most of the world's cargo transported by water. African countries should strive to own container vessels for transportation of cargos from Europe to Africa," he said.

If African governments, private institutions and individuals own ships, this will boost openings for maritime

colleges output, who face challenges in practical learning. "We need to own ships to assist our students to gain practical experience," he said.

Funmi Folorunso, the African Ship owners Association secretary general, said it is important for African governments and individuals to own ships because maritime conveyance is the world's most reliable transport.

Once African countries have their own ships, they are likely to reduce transportation costs and contribute in African countries' foreign currency earnings, she stated.

It is important for Africans to have ships, and the organization is currently looking for best ways to assist member countries to buy and operate own ships, she further noted.

Godwin Isdori, an official of the Songoro Marine Transport Ltd, a local firm that builds ships, said that African governments owning ships will help create jobs.

Minister tasks TAA to construct airport passenger terminal of quality standards

By Guardian Reporter

Prof Makame Mbarawa, minister for Works and Transport has tasked the Tanzania Airport Authority (TAA) to ensure the airport passenger terminal being constructed at Arusha airport abides by international standards.

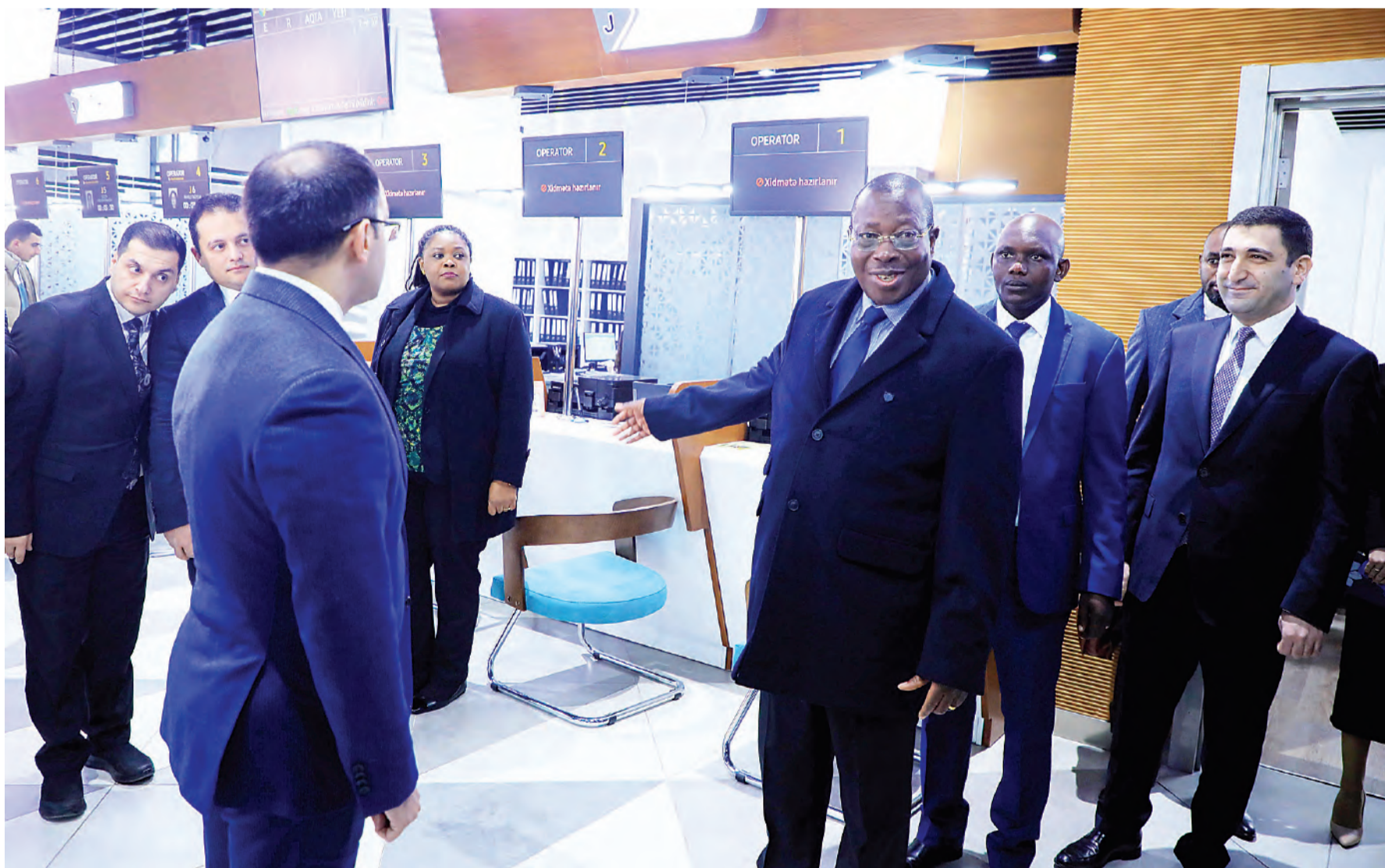
Speaking after inspecting the construction of the terminal in Arusha, Prof Mbarawa said the airport will be used mostly by tourists, saying it was important for experts to ensure the facility was constructed to quality standards.

"Most of the passengers who use the airport are tourists, ensure that the facility is completed on time because we want to increase the number of tourists and this airport is key," he said.

Prof Mbarawa said despite the good job which TAA is doing in improving airports in the country the improvements at the airport will help to increase the number of tourists in the country.

Legislator for Arusha Urban Mrisho Gambo hailed the government for improving the airport, saying there has been a challenge for a long time especially to passengers who use the airport.

The manager for the airport Elipid Tesha told the minister that the project will increase the revenue at the airport from 2.8bn/- to 6bn/- annually.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango pictured yesterday visiting the Azerbaijan State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovation in the country's capital and largest city, Baku, where he has been for the Summit-level Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in Response to Covid-19. Left (foreground) is the agency's head, Ulvi Mehdiyev. Photo: VPO

Burundi confirms move to deploy troops in DRC

FROM PAGE 1

There was also a restrained summit on peace and security in Eastern DRC on the sidelines of the 36th African Union summit on February 17 in Addis Ababa, where the main frame of deployment was agreed.

The EAC monitoring and verification mechanism to monitor and verify the ceasefire and withdrawal by all armed groups was set for 28th February, with the timeline of constituting and deploying the troops set in that context.

The EAC partner states have since identified members of the verification mechanism, joining existing mechanisms such as the ad-hoc verification mechanism and expanded joint verification mechanism in Eastern DRC.

Burundian President Évariste Ndayishimiye, the summit chairman, then held a consultative meeting with the commanders of the verification mechanisms, after the restrained summit was concluded, the statement noted.

The meeting was tied to reviewing

deployment progress and set up a joint verification framework in line with the restrained summit directive, it stated.

The EAC quest to find a sustainable solution leading to the restoration of peace and security in Eastern DRC has received support from across the globe, it affirmed.

At the AU ordinary summit, the AU council on peace and security committed funds to support EAC peace-making efforts in Eastern DRC, drawn from the organisation's peace fund. Development

partners and global agencies are similarly committed to finance the deployment process, it stated.

"The EAC remains committed to the utilization of existing regional and global frameworks to address the security crisis" it said, reiterating the call by EAC Heads of State for immediate ceasefire.

The measure must entail the withdrawal of all armed groups in eastern DRC and embracing of dialogue, the statement



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has an audience in Arusha city yesterday with former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda (L) in the course of a retreat for ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, deputy permanent secretaries and various other senior government officials opened by President Samia Suluhu Hassan on Thursday. Photo: PMO

Stakeholders call for more research, civic awareness on human genetics

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

STAKEHOLDERS have called for more research and civic awareness to the general public on human genetics for better understanding to facilitate treatment of diseases caused by genetics.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam during Tanzania human genetics organisation (THGO) second conference, director general of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof Said About said more research needs to be conducted in order to understand exactly what causes the disease and how well it can be treated.

The conference which has brought together different experts and researchers from various institutions with the aim of discussing research on human genetics is conducted under the theme: "leveraging human genetics research in the era of personalized medicine."

"Understanding genetic factors and genetic disorders is important in learning more about promoting health and preventing disease," he explained.

He further noted that some genetic changes have been associated with an increased risk of having a child with a birth defect or developmental disability or developing diseases such as cancer or heart disease.

Prof About further said that the human genetic studies are important in identifying various diseases but also in the use of cures for diseases that are inherited.

THGO president Dr Siana Nkya, said the goal of the meeting is to bring together health stakeholders with the aim of providing education on various issues related to human genetics.

Founder and chairperson of Lupus awareness and support foundation Harjat Mohamed said, "We have requested researchers to do more research so that it can help diagnose diseases because human genetics can also be used to help treat various diseases."

Arafa Salim founder of sickle cell disease patients' community in Tanzania said that genetics can help treat diseases and if there is an increasing number of professionals to help deal with emerging challenges.

Treasury registrar wins 2.5bn/- in libel case

*Aggrieved MCL set for the Court of Appeal

By Guardian Reporter

THE High Court of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam Zone yesterday ordered Mwananchi Communications Ltd (MCL) to pay 2.5bn/- in compensation to the Treasury registrar, Nehemiah Mchechu.

But in a rejoinder issued late yesterday, MCL said it was aggrieved by the court's decision and would file an appeal within 30 days from yesterday to the Court of Appeal.

In the ruling for case No 48/2031 delivered by Judge Leila Mgonya, MCL was instructed to pay Mchechu 2bn/- in compensation for tainting his image and 500m/- for ruining his reputation and that of his family.

The court's decision based on satisfaction that allegations presented by Mchechu, who until last week, the Director General of the National Housing Corporation (NHC), that MCL through its newspaper—The Citizen published information that defamed and injured his reputation in Tanzania and international wise.

Mchechu presented the claims to the court through his two advocates, Aliko Mwamanenge

and Vitalis Peter who claimed that on March 23rd, 2013. The Citizen published an article—'Why JPM dissolved NHC Board, sacked Mchechu'.

"March 23 was a bad day for me. It was the day The Citizen had written about me on its front page with an intention of tainting my image to the public. They wanted me to be discredited by the community, to tell people I cannot be a leader anywhere", claimed Mchechu as he presented his evidence at the court.

Mchechu had requested the court to instruct the company to pay him a compensation of 3bn/- plus other related costs incurred after his reputation was diminished.

Apart from paying the funds, MCL is also required to pay an interest rate of 12 percent of 2.5bn/- per year if there will emerge any delay in payment.

Judge Mgonya alleged that upon reaching the ruling, the court looked at four issues including of the news article itself which aimed to insult the complainant, the impacts he got due to publication of the article and the veracity of the

claims published in the article

In the first argument, the article aimed to insult the complainant, placing him as a dishonest person, a thief who has no ability and qualifications to lead a public institution.

According to the Judge, the news did not contain any truth that Mchechu was fired by the late President John Magufuli as claimed and even the videos provided as evidence did not prove that.

"In the videos shown at the court as evidence for the defense including clips which were aired by Azam TV, there is no part that showed that President Magufuli fired Mchechu," said Judge Mgonya adding: "Even when the news was published, Mchechu was still an employee of NHC until June, 2018."

The Judge said another thing that shows that the news was not in good faith is due to the respondent's failure to present evidence on the allegations raised, including information from within the institutions that were supposed to investigate the allegations against Mchechu, including the NHC's Board of Directors.

Another reason, he said, is the lack of evidence regarding NHC board meetings held in Dubai.

In the news, it was claimed that



Mchechu was being investigated for a conflict of interest regarding the acquisition of 500 acres of the NHC Safari City project, which Mchechu claimed was not true when giving his testimony and that the organization had never bought an area of that size.

In addition, it was claimed that the project's land was previously reported to have been bought by a company owned by Mchechu who purchased it from a foreigner and investigation showed that he sold it to NHC at a high price.

It was also claimed that Mchechu owned an NHC to construct a road towards his area near Safari City project while the whole expenses were carried out by the Corpora-

tion.

In her decision, the Judge said that all the claims haven't been proved and showed any reality where the respondent side failed to bring their detailed evidence to prove the claims.

"It is true that Magufuli said the words and named people's names but he did not name the companies and their locations," he claimed.

On the word "sack" which raised disagreements among lawyers from both sides, Judge Mgonya said the word directly meant suspension and not otherwise.

The defense side claimed that the word meant that a person has been temporarily dismissed in his position and not suspended as claimed by Mchechu's lawyers.

On reports that an insurance company which one of its directors was Mchechu's wife and it was given a tender to insurer NHC houses in Mtwara, it was not proved before the court and the claims were ruled as false.

Judge Lugonya said the story on the newspaper went against principles of human rights as stipulated in the constitution including the right to be heard which Mchechu was not given before the story was published.

"Due to the evidence gathered,

the complainant has given evidence beyond doubts that the story was aimed at defaming, disrespecting, and portray a bad image in the society," the judge said.

Mchechu claimed before the court that the story made him lose trust hence miss various business opportunities which he was involved in as well as lose partners who he worked with.

"The story brought negativity to my image, I lost hope which affected by health, I failed to develop my career and was forced to resign in some of the boards both locally and abroad where I was a member," he claimed.

Mchechu said when the story was being published he was involved in an interview for an international organization which deals with shelter saying the story made him lose the job even though he was a potential candidate.

Mchechu said the story also made him lose trust in the church where he was chairman of the financial committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Eastern and Coast Diocese where there fear of the safety of the church's finances.

"The story has portrayed me as a hypocrite, conman and someone who abuses my office," he said.

CCM urges leaders to conduct regular visits at grassroots level

By Guardian Reporter, Singida

THE Secretary General of the ruling CCM, Daniel Chongolo, has urged leaders in various public offices to conduct regular visits to the people at the grassroots level so as to address their challenges.

According to him, the majority of leaders, especially those appointed by the head of state, have been spending much of their time in offices until top national leaders conduct tours and unearth the blues that people are facing.

Speaking yesterday during the meeting with party members at Mtinko village in Singida district, Chongolo (pictured) wanted the leaders to focus on finding solutions to various challenges facing Tanzanians.

"Our role as leaders is to address challenges in the society; we need to also share our contacts so as to enable people air their grievances, we have all heard how President Samia Suluhu Hassan is disappointed with leaders who do not fulfil their responsibilities," he said.

He insisted that CCM is not going to people to only speak but know their challenges, address them as well as look on the areas where things are not going well so as to increase pace.

Chongolo wanted regional and district commissioners to ensure that they spent their time in ad-

ressing people's challenges commending Singida region for doing well in the area of listening to people's complaints.

Similarly, when responding to people's issues during a public rally in Nduguti in Mkalama district in the region, Chongolo said addressing people's challenges should be the first priority of every leader.

He hailed the Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe for putting people first and has always been taking time to respond to people's issues including farming inputs.

Earlier, CCM's Ideology and Publicity Secretary, Sophia Mjema said that Tanzanians have a number of challenges

which waits for the leaders to go and listen to them.

"What President Samia is doing should be a big lesson to the leaders, she is committed to ensure that the majority of challenges which the country is facing are addressed, so everyone needs to fulfil his/her responsibility," she said.

Issa Gavu, secretary of the National Executive Committee (NEC)-organising unit reminded leaders to supervise and ensure that members pay fees so as to have the right to vie or be elected.

He wanted the party leaders at street and village level to convene meetings with members so as to identify areas with challenges and work on them.



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All parties concerned and who have claims are hereby called to attend the meeting at **Basil & Alred office, Ace Building (1st Floor), Haile Selassie Road, Dar es salaam, Tanzania on 4th April, 2023 at 10am.**

GODFREY BASIL MRAMBA
Liquidator

For TANGA FORESTS LIMITED



Kaya Foundation director Annapili Ngome (L) contributes to discussions on sexual and other forms of violence targeting women. The event was held in Dar es Salaam's Segerea suburb yesterday as part of the run-up to the climax International Women's Day (March 8) celebrations. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

World Bank: East Africans' real income to rise under AfCFTA

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

EAST Africa is set to benefit from swift implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), according to the World Bank.

This will be accomplished particularly by lowering trade expenses related to trade facilitation, as well as decreasing the costs of non-tariff policies and non-tariff barriers.

The AfCFTA is designed to strengthen the economies of East Africa, with countries like Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda projected to grow significantly in their real income generated in the next few years.

Executive Director of the East African Business Council (EABC), John Kalisa said during the recent private sector sensitization workshop on the AfCFTA agreement in Nairobi, Kenya that implementation of AfCFTA's policies is sure to boost the East African economy and also real income for East Africans.

Within the East African Community (EAC) bloc, real income is anticipated to rise by 10 percent in Tanzania, between 2021 and

2035. Real income will rise by 11.8 percent, 3.8 percent, and 3.6 percent in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda respectively.

Tanzania's and Kenya's intra-AfCFTA export shares will increase as their total world exports are projected to rise by 28 percent and 43 percent, respectively for the EAC.

Uganda and Rwanda are expected to have similar projections of 29 percent and 33 percent respectively.

The AfCFTA agreement was a demonstration of the African nation's commitment to the new system, Mucai Kuniyha, Director of the EABC board, said: "They have shown commitment to doing more trade and investments among themselves."

The AfCFTA agreement aims to increase intra-African commerce by gradually removing tariffs on more than 90 African items.

The elimination of non-tariff barriers and trade restrictions on products and services, respectively, are also a part of the goal. The EAC's goods exports to Africa were \$7.9 billion, or 42 percent of the overall EAC goods exports to the globe.

Zanzibar govt to take stern measures against traders hiking food prices during Ramadhan

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said his government will not hesitate to take stern actions against traders who will hoard food and raise prices thereof during the Holy month of Ramadhan expected to start early next month.

Dr Mwinyi said there is no reason for the food prices to rise because the country's food situation was good.

He made the remarks at Zanzibar State House here on Wednesday when responding to a question posed by this paper's reporter in regard to inflation, during his meeting with the media.

He said the government will take to court and charged for economic sabotage traders who will be found to hoard food for the purpose of raising their prices.

"We expect that during the month of Ramadhan there won't be a shortage of rice, flour, sugar

or cooking oil because these items are in ample supply," he said and added that in the past few weeks after his meeting with food traders following rising food prices, food items were in ample supply countrywide.

He said inflation is not a government problem, but is contributed by various global factors, taking into consideration Zanzibar imports rice from Pakistan where there have been floods, and wheat from Ukraine where there is a rag-

ing war with Russia.

He noted that Zanzibar also depends on food from Tanzania Mainland where drought has affected some regions that produce food.

He added that to blame the government entirely on inflation is not right because the government is not the one rising prices of food and other items.

He said his government will continue addressing inflation in order to bring relief to the people but the

relief will not be similar as in the past years because these prices are already high from the countries of their origin.

Some Zanzibar residents who spoke with this paper in regard to Dr Mwinyi's speech said it is a good speech that gives them hope to overcome food prices during the coming month of Ramadhan.

Haji Juma resident of Kisakasaka said some food traders usually make the month of Ramadhan as their month for making business

by raising food prices, the practice that undermines poor people, and added that he is happy to hear that the president will take stern legal action against the culprits.

Another resident from Magomeni area in Unguja appealed to government officials to help president Mwinyi, they should not be glued to their office chairs, and they should visit shops and market places to look for those raising food prices.



Dar es Salaam City Council engineer Isalia Edmund (L) briefs Angelliah Kairuki (R), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), yesterday on ongoing construction work at Liwiti Secondary School. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzanians urged to boost protection of wildlife and other natural resources for benefit of future generations

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIANS have been called upon to work together in ensuring the protection of wildlife and other natural resources for the benefit of the current and future generation.

Minister for Tourism and Natural Resources, Mohammed Mchengera said in a statement as Tanzanians joined the World to commemorate World Wildlife Day.

Celebrations to mark the day will go together with celebrations to mark 50 years of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which has 184 countries as signatories, including Tanzania.

This year's celebration goes by the theme: 'Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation' which calls for collaboration in conservation which is cross-cutting.

The minister also called upon the general public especially in rural areas to collaborate at all levels to protect wildlife for the benefit of the current generation.

"When we celebrate this day, it is important to remind each other that Tanzania

has played a key role in conservation in fact it has set aside 32.5 percent of its land for conservation and wildlife protection," he said.

The minister said Tanzania has 22 national parks, 29 game reserves, Ngorongoro Conservation area and many others.

The minister hailed various financial supporters, game rangers and others for working tirelessly in ensuring that the country's natural resources were protected despite various changes.

"The government will continue to put in place various initiatives aimed at safeguarding the country's wildlife and other protected resources," he said.

World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that their conservation provides to people.

At the same time, the day reminds us of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species, which have wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impact.

Number of children without critical social protection on the rise globally

By Guardian Reporter

THE number of children without access to social protection is increasing year-on-year, leaving them at risk of poverty, hunger and discrimination, according to a new report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNICEF.

Shahra Razavi, Director of the Social Protection Department at the ILO said: "Ultimately, strengthened efforts to ensure adequate investment in universal social protection for children, ideally through universal child benefits to support families at all times, is the ethical and rational choice, and the one that paves the way to sustainable development and social jus-

tice."

Natalia Winder-Rossi, UNICEF Director of Social Policy and Social Protection said: "As families face increasing economic hardship, food insecurity, conflict, and climate-related disasters, universal child benefits can be a lifeline. There is an urgent need to strengthen, expand and invest in child-friendly and shock-responsive social protection systems."

The report highlights the urgent need to build universal social protection for children warns that an additional 50 million children aged 0-15 missed out on a critical social protection provision - specifically, child benefits (paid in cash or tax credits) between 2016 and 2020, driving

up the total to 1.46 billion children under 15 globally.

According to the report, child and family benefit coverage rates fell or stagnated in every region in the world between 2016 and 2020, leaving no country on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of achieving substantial social protection coverage by 2030.

It warns that failure to provide children with adequate social protection leaves them vulnerable to poverty, disease, missed education, and poor nutrition, and increases their risk of child marriage and child labour.

Globally, children are twice as likely as adults to live in extreme poverty - those

struggling to survive on less than \$1.90 a day, approximately 356 million children.

A billion children also live in multidimensional poverty, without access to education, health, housing, nutrition, sanitation, or water.

However, children living in multidimensional poverty increased by 15 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic, reversing previous progress in reducing child poverty and highlighting the urgent need for social protection.

The report emphasizes that all countries, irrespective of their level of development, have a choice, whether to pursue a "high-road" strategy of investment in reinforcing social protection systems, or

a "low-road" strategy that misses out on necessary investments and will leave millions of children behind.

To reverse the negative trend, the ILO and UNICEF urge policymakers to take decisive steps to attain universal social protection for all children, including investing in child benefits which offer a proven and cost-effective way to combat child poverty and ensure children thrive.

It also urged countries to building social protection systems that are rights-based, gender-responsive, inclusive, and shock responsive to address inequities and deliver better results for girls and women, migrant children, and children in child labour.

Cholera: EU allocates EUR 1.5 million in emergency financing for Malawi

LILONGWE

THE European Union (EU) has released emergency humanitarian funding of EUR 1.5 million to support Malawi in its efforts to address the on-going cholera epidemic.

The current cholera epidemic broke out in February 2022 and is considered the worst in a decade. It has already resulted in over 49,000 cases, with over 1,500 deaths reported. All 29 districts of the country are affected.

Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenarčič said: "Cholera remains a tragic reality for many countries. Unsafe and contaminated water sources and poor hygiene practices are among the main factors increasing the risk of the disease spreading. Our funding will support our humanitarian partners on the ground in controlling and eventually vanquishing the disease".

In addition, the EU has increased by EUR 500,000 its contribution to an ongoing UNICEF project providing life-saving health and WASH services to cholera-affected communities to improve case management and reduce deaths. The original funding, of EUR 540,000 had

been allocated in November 2022 to support UNICEF in its efforts to combat cholera.

Inadequate infection prevention and control practices by communities and poor knowledge of cholera by health staff also increase the risk of the outbreak spreading.

The EU funding of EUR 1.5 million will support WHO in procuring essential supplies to strengthen its rapid response capabilities, carry out district-level forecasting for supplies and develop a multi-partner information-sharing system for the best use of resources.

Malawi is highly vulnerable to serious infrastructural damage caused by heavy rains, cyclones and floods during the rainy season, including critical WASH infrastructure.

The money will support EU humanitarian partners on the ground in controlling and eventually vanquishing the disease.

In 2022, the EU also released emergency funding for cholera epidemics in other parts of the world, including Syria, Ethiopia and Haiti.

The European Union and its Member States are the world's leading donor of humanitarian aid. Relief assistance is an expression of



Tanzania Education Authority director general Bahati Geuzye (L) has an audience with Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) conservation commissioner William Mwakilema in Arusha city earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent

Ministry reiterates commitment to fund research activities

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Ministry for Education, Science and Technology has reiterated its commitment to continue funding research activities and advocate for the use of research findings in addressing social economic challenges.

Director of Higher Learning in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr Kenneth Hosea made the assurance during the official launch of the first phase of the Institutional University Cooperation Project which is funded by

the Flemish Interuniversity Council - University Development Cooperation.

He said institutions of higher learning have the responsibility to attract and sustain research partnerships and research funding for broadening the scope of the activities funded by the government.

"I highly commend the efforts made by Ardhhi University in securing this Institutional University Cooperation Programme and I strongly urge all Implementing Partners to work hard towards achieving the Project's intended objectives," he

said.

He added that the government of Tanzania recognizes the crucial role played by Science, Technology and Innovation in the country's development and through the Five Years National Development Plan III of 2021/2022 - 2025/2026 and the Tanzania Vision 2025, it emphasizes that Research, Innovation and Skills development are of crucial importance towards achieving and sustaining an industrialized economy.

He said most higher learning institutions in Tanzania implement

a variety of research activities producing significant research outputs and innovating solutions to address challenges faced by our communities.

However, he said the dissemination of research outputs is not always done efficiently and consequently uptake of the outputs by different users such as the industry and decision and policy makers becomes limited.

ARU Vice Chancellor, Prof Evaristo Liwa said in March 2021 Ardhhi University was selected to receive funding from the VLIR - UOS to

support a research, training and community outreach project titled 'Establishing a new centre, to build capacity in education, research, innovation and societal outreach.

He said it is a ten years Institutional University Cooperation Project that involves Ardhhi University in Tanzania and the Hasselt University in Belgium as the lead universities.

He said during the ten-year implementation period, the project will support training of current Ardhhi University Staff and those qualified to take up teaching positions at

ARU.

He said the training support will offer 54 Masters and 44 PhD scholarships during the ten years adding that research and community outreach activities implemented in the project sites will contribute practical and actionable solutions for the researchers, practitioners and local communities involved.

The VC said the Project will also improve ICT infrastructure at Ardhhi University, train ICT staff and contribute to developing innovative smart sustainable and inclusive cities solutions.



Zanzibar's Health minister, Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (L), cuts ribbon to launch a book on Medical Women Association of Tanzania (Mewata) founder Prof Esther Mwaikambo (C) as the association's 20th Scientific Conference got under way in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MEWATA brings together health experts to discuss various challenges including NCDs

By Guardian Reporter

THE Medical Women Association of Tanzania (MEWATA) has brought together health experts in a major forum aimed to discuss various challenges including the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the forum brought together doctors, specialists, scientists and various health stakeholders where it will be followed by the association's 20th General Meeting as part of the commemoration of its 35th anniversary since it was established.

Themed: "Addressing NCDs: Reproductive system cancers and Mental health", the forum was officiated by the Zanzibar Health Minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui.

Speaking during the opening of the conference, MEWATA President, Prof Esther Mwaikambo said the association is focused on fighting cancer, a disease that affects a large percentage of women specifically cervical and breast cancer.

"We also implement initiatives to encourage girl children to take science and later study doctoral courses, we are happy that this is producing positive outcomes as many girls now are interested and taking medical courses," she said.

Prof Mwaikambo further said that the association has also organised a number of health check-ups exercises to women in

the regions of Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Lindi, Mtwara, Kilimanjaro, Njombe, Iringa, Tabora, Dodoma, Songea and Mwanza.

"In these exercises, we managed to reach a total of 73,744 with the breast cancer check-up services and 9,307 with cervical cancer check-up. We found that many women are facing health challenges but due to low awareness and economic challenges they fail to go to hospital," she said.

Prof Mwaikambo said the association was also planning to construct a modern hospital in Mbweni area, Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam with support from the Japanese government.

"We have also collected contributions from our members amounting to 31.5m/- which will also support the construction of the hospital that will reach women and the public with quality health services," she explained.

The association's president further said that the association recognised the big effort by the government to transform the health sector through investing in quality infrastructures, human resources and tools so as to reduce burden of diseases including fighting maternal and child mortality.

"Mothers and children in many areas are now accessing quality health services due to the major investment done by the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan," she added.

Over 300 Bagamoyo women benefit from training on proper use of digital platforms

By Getrude Mbogo

OVER 300 women from various entrepreneurship groups in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region have benefited from a special training organised to equip them with essential skills and strengthen their awareness on proper use of digital platforms to grow their businesses.

Prepared by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), the training was part of the commemoration of International Women Day set for March 8.

Speaking during the opening of the training in Bagamoyo on Thursday, Anna Henga, executive director of LHRC said women especially in rural areas play a huge role in

production, thus contributing to the country development.

However, she said the majority of these women are not well equipped and supported to conduct the economic activities well thus ending up applying old practices especially in farming and harvest little.

Henga said that it was important for stakeholders to continue reaching out to women groups in rural areas and equip them with essential skills that will stimulate growth of their businesses and other economic activities.

According to her, the move will also help enable women to be confident and improve self-awareness, something which also contributes to the eradication of gender-based

violence (GBV).

"We should not tolerate oppressive systems, we need to wake up and know our rights and value, there are a number of opportunities that women can grab especially in digital space and transform their lives," she said.

This year's theme for the International Women's Day is: "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality". The theme is aligned with the priority theme for the upcoming 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-67), "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

Henga said the theme insists on continued investment in digital technology and innovation so as to push the development wheel to achieve gender equality goals.

She said that the centre will continue working closely with the government to ensure that equality in digital education is well promoted so as to ensure that all people benefit from various opportunities brought by the development of science and technology.

Mohammed Usinga, chairman for Bagamoyo District council, wanted leaders to ensure that all women groups who have participated in the training by LHRC to be given priority in the provision of council loans.

He urged the groups to ensure that they utilise the opportunity to improve their businesses but also pay back on time so as to benefit other groups.

Bagamoyo MP, Mharami Mkenge reminded women on child protection wanting them to be vigilant on the development steps of their children.

"The world has greatly changed, we are now living in a world which pushes us to hold our children so closely, we should not leave them carelessly as culprits are everywhere, so my call to parents and guardians is to take good care of our children, invest in their education and supervise them to achieve their goals," he explained.

\$105m worth water project to reduce costs of access to clean and safe water in Iringa region

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

A new project to distribute water in three towns in the Iringa region which will cost \$105 million has been earmarked as a game-changer in reducing the costs of access to clean and safe water.

The project is expected to be completed by 2027 and will facilitate clean and safe water access to residents of Iringa, Kilolo and Ilula up to 2045.

Speaking when receiving a report from the Iringa Water Supply Agency (IRUWASA), District Commissioner Peres Magiri said the project was key to availability of water in the region calling upon residents to take care of the project.

"There should be collective efforts to protect the project among stakeholders because the project has been available due to the ef-

forts by the government to deliver clean and safe water for the majority," he said.

However, DC Magiri said the project will offer job opportunities to more than 6000 people who are both Tanzanians hence addressing unemployment.

Fabian Maganga who is the circulation manager for IRUWASA said they are expected to collect more than 33 million litres from Mitu River which will be a solution to water availability to 100 percent.

Maganga said the completion of the project will address the water shortage outcry in the region saying it will also address the complaints of high bills which most residents of Iringa were complaining of.

"Water from Mitu River will travel for 46 kilometers to Iringa town therefore they will also reduce the amount of electricity used to generate water in the region," he said.



Kilombero Sugar Company managing director Guy Williams (gesturing) briefs Kilombero district commissioner Dunstan Kyobya (R) when the latter visited the firm yesterday for a first-hand account of the implementation of an ongoing expansion project. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Meet standards to win competitive labour market, TBS boss challenges packaging materials dealers

By Guardian Reporter

PRODUCERS and suppliers of packaging materials have been tasked to ensure that their products meet standards to protect the environment and enable the consumer to find a product that is in line with the value for money.

Dr Yusuf Ngenya, Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Director General made the remarks when opening a one-day seminar organised by the bureau that involved the stakeholders of plastic packaging and alternative bags including producers and distributors.

He said that plastic packaging

products and alternative bags are very important, but they have been getting complaints from the people probably that these products do not meet the standards, so the seminar has been held to educate each other about the importance of these products having quality.

"If these products have quality first, the country's economy becomes strong, they can also compete with other products imported into the country and even compete abroad and bring in foreign currency to the nation and raise the economy of our country," said Dr Ngenya emphasizing:

"Therefore, the issue of quality is

not for plastic packaging products and alternative bags alone, all products must be of quality. If the products are of quality, the country's economy will grow and enable our citizens to have good economic conditions."

He said that TBS is very involved in raising the country's economy, because competing products are being sold abroad and within the country. "So today (yesterday) we are here to inform the producers and suppliers of plastic packaging and alternative bags in relation to the quality that should be considered so that it is involved in raising the country's economy," explained Dr Ngenya.

He asked citizens to consider the quality logo of TBS when buying any product. "Therefore, we offer to the public not to buy an alternative bag that does not have the quality mark of TBS," emphasized Dr Ngenya.

Eng Redempta Samwel, National Environment Management Council (NEMC) senior environment management officer praised TBS for its decision to educate stakeholders on standards needed on packaging materials.

She said that they as NEMC are in charge of the environmental law, where within that law there is a rule to ban the use of plastic bags which within that rule there are plastic

packaging allowed.

"The regulation has empowered TBS to develop standards for plastic packaging and alternative bags, but as NEMC in monitoring and complying with the law, they have found that there are many challenges that TBS has seen, let's discuss with stakeholders why these challenges have become more numerous in the sense that the concept of the government to say that they exist plastic packaging to preserve quality is now being used, isn't it," said Eng Redempta.

She said there are those who make plastic packaging secretly and do not comply with the standards and the bags are used as carriers and have

become many in the market used to carry products, while the packaging is supposed to pack the product to preserve the quality before it goes to the market.

Sylvester Kazi, Foreign Marketing Manager of A to Z Textile Mills Ltd said that as stakeholders and manufacturers of various packaging materials, the seminar will enable them to understand the procedures and principles of packaging products and alternative bags.

He said: "As stakeholders, I see this as an opportunity because they are coming from a small market in East Africa and are going to the biggest market in Africa."



Digmip Africa's ICT expert, Getrude Mligo, pictured in Bagamoyo yesterday conducts training for women entrepreneurs on the use of information and communication technology in business. It was organised by the Legal and Human Rights Centre. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Over 3,000 girls to benefit from SEQUIP programme

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A TOTAL of 3,352 girls aged 13-21 years and who did not continue with their secondary education due to various reasons, have enrolled to continue their education through the Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQUIP) run by the Institute of Adult Education (IAE) for the 2023 academic year.

The Institute's Director General, Dr Michael Ng'umbi made the remarks during the launch of the 13th IAE Workers Board held here this week, saying that the girls who continue to enrol themselves follows achievements made in 2022 that saw the enrolment of 3,333.

He said enrolment of the girls who discontinued with their lessons due to various reasons including illness, pregnancies and economic disability has surpassed the expected target of the government's strategies in making sure girls get opportunity to continue with their secondary education.

In regard to the IAE project, Dr Ng'umbi said it aims to reach about 12,000 girls countrywide in five years to enable them continue with their education.

In regard to alternative education outside the formal education system, he said IAE has prepared curricula and administered various programmes using an independent system in order to reach more among the targeted.

However, he appealed to the government to look into the possibility of meeting the cost of a hostel and meals for the girls to spur them to attend lessons in order to realise their life dreams.

Opening the Board on behalf of the permanent Secretary of the ministry of education, Science and technology, the Director of Administration and Human Resources, Michael John directed IAE to make sure it supervises well the projects in order to meet all the set goals, including SEQUIP as the government has a big responsibility in providing financial resources.

He also said the Ministry will continue assisting IAE in solving some of its challenges according to the available budget and advised it to look for other financial sources.

Govt acknowledges outdated customs and stigma in HIV infections increase

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has acknowledged the existence of inequality, outdated customs and traditions, discrimination, isolation and stigma in various forms that have to a great extent been contributing to the increasing pace of new HIV infections in the country.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule made the observations here on Wednesday in her opening speech at the event marking international

day against Stigma and discrimination.

At the event RC Senyamule represented the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination) George Simbachawene.

"We must also not forget that as our statistics show, when we talk about gender equality, harmful customs and cruelty, the main victims are always women and girls," she said.

She said due to being isolated by families, associates and the entire community, many people living with HIV/Aids or who

are in danger of being infected have been abandoned without being able to get the services they require.

"In addition, stigma and discrimination of groups using illicit drugs have contributed many among them being infected with HIV. "There is a big relationship between HIV infections and gender equality," stressed RC Senyamule.

She said more HIV infections among women and girls are caused by the absence of equality in gender relationship and gender based violence and added

that gender based violence spurs HIV infections. She said hazardous customs and traditions have contributed to the absence of gender equality and the existence of gender based violence in Tanzania, the situation spurs the increase of HIV infection levels.

However, she said the government, in collaboration with various stakeholders including the National Council of People Living with HIV (NACOPHA) have been able to mobilise people living with HIV to join the group that cooperate to free

themselves from economic hardships.

"I therefore take this opportunity to commend all stakeholders and institutions providing assistance to people living with HIV and orphans.

"I also commend TACAIDS and NACOPHA for continuing overseeing the interests and the rights of people living with HIV," she said. She also appealed to religious leaders' forums to educate the community on the hazards of stigma and discrimination and build robust structures of love and collaboration.

Govt promises to compensate residents affected by Olemringaringa-Ngaramtoni Juu road construction

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has promised to compensate all residents in the Mianzini area in Arusha city who have been affected by the construction of the 8.5km Olemringaringa-Ngaramtoni Juu tarmac road.

Minister for Works and Transport, Prof Makame Mbarawa said this when he inspected the construction of the 18km road project which commences from Mianzini- Olemringaringa-Ngaramtoni Juu and Olemringaringa- Sambasha-Timbolo.

The project has now reached 23 per cent and is expected to be completed in August, 2023.

"We know that the road has taken some plots of people and we promise that all these people will be compensated as this is their right," he said.

According to him, the construction of the road is a promise issued by the late President John Magufuli who wanted it to be constructed at tarmac level so as to improve transport services and stimulate economic activities.

"The government has continued to ensure that all the promises issued by previous leaders are implemented so as to improve infrastructures connecting villages, towns and countries with quality roads," he said.

The Minister wanted the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) regional manager to supervise the project and ensure that it is constructed well at a required quality standard and value of money.

Chairman of the ruling-CCM in Arusha, Steven Zelothe commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her efforts to bring key services in all areas which include strengthening infrastructures.

Mrisho Gambo, Arusha Urban legislator said once completed the project will bring huge relief to the residents as it will improve transport services enabling people to engage in their economic activities smoothly.

Earlier, in his report, TANROADS regional manager Eng Reginald Massawe said the road is constructed by adhering to all the required standards and will have a lifespan of over 20 years.

"The contractor has already brought equipment and vehicles which will be used during the construction of the road and we hope that it will be completed within the scheduled timeframe," he explained.

The 18-km Mianzini - Olemringaringa - Ngaramtoni Juu and Olemringaringa - Sambasha/Timbolo road project is implemented by the Chinese- STECOL Corporation at a cost of 22.226bn/-.



Members of groups of entrepreneurs from Mtwara Region pictured at Dar es Salaam's Kipunguni Community Voice Centre on Thursday taking part in training involving the making of charcoal using insulation materials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Allow abortion resulting from sexual assault, govt challenged

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Morogoro

STAKEHOLDERS have asked the government to domesticate the Maputo Protocol and enact laws to allow abortion resulting from sexual assault, rape and incest to reduce maternal mortality and protecting reproductive rights.

This was observed during a capacity building workshop for journalists' which was held in Morogoro recently, organised by Family Planning Association Tanzania (UMATI) and Marie Stopes Tanzania (MST)

through their Comprehensive Post abortion Care services (cPAC) under a consortium for Coalition to Address Maternal Morbidity resulting to unsafe Abortion and its Complications (CAMMAC).

"We believe that social and economic empowerment is a key factor to improving sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and girls. It enhances their ability to have a voice in decision making processes like marriage and pregnancy," they pointed out.

In Tanzania, it is estimated that one million women get unintended pregnancy of which 39 percent end

abortion as a result of in-access to safe abortion services, women are forced to keep unwanted pregnancy or procure unsafe abortion.

Restriction of legal and safe abortion especially for pregnancies resulting from sexual assault, rape or incest has badly impacted on the physical and mental health of many women in Tanzania as indicated in the 2021, GBV Incidence Report.

The current law is such restrictive that it is only allows termination of pregnancy to save the life of the mother but doesn't include other reasons like rape, sexual assault and incest.

On the magnitude of unsafe abortion in Tanzania, Dr George Alcard said that it is estimated that one million women get unintended pregnancies of which 40percent end in abortion.

His said unsafe abortion is one of the leading but preventable causes of maternal deaths and morbidities.

Dr Alcard explained that each year 405,000 Tanzanian women have abortions and almost all clandestine, but about 40% result in complications that require medical treatments.

"As a result of in access to safe abortion services (cPAC), women

are forced to keep unintended pregnancy or procure unsafe aborted," he said.

Senior Associate Baraka Thomas said that Tanzania's laws protect some internationally recognized reproductive health rights.

He added that the right to reproductive health is a broad concept and includes the right to decide whether to give birth or not to give birth and if a person has decided to give birth, then when should he give birth.

However, Advocate Thomas, said that the laws of Tanzania do not protect the right to decide when to

give birth to its extent.

He explained that the penal code under section 150, 151, 152 and 230 prohibits abortion except in circumstances where the life of the mother or child is at risk.

It also contributes to the practice of unsafe abortion and increases the number of deaths and other problems caused by unsafe abortion.

However, access to safe abortion services in Tanzania even for legally authorized reason, is extremely limited, as result, unsafe abortion and the need for post abortion care are not uncommon.



Belgium's Ambassador to Tanzania, Peter Huyghebaert (R), Director of Higher Learning in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, Dr Kenneth Hosea (2nd-R), and Ardhi University vice chancellor Prof Evaristo Liwa (3rd-R) reading the writing on a plaque they had just jointly unveiled in Dar es Salaam on Thursday at the inauguration of the Ardhi University Cooperation Project. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

30-percent of pregnant women do not visit maternity clinics, says Z'bar health ministry

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Ministry of Health in Zanzibar has said 30-percent of pregnant women do not visit hospitals a move which contributes to increase in maternal mortality.

Zanzibar minister for health Nassor Mazrui made the remarks in Zanzibar over the week during the launching of a training session to experts on the use of modern medical equipment on post abortion care which was prepared by DKT Tanzania.

He said maternal deaths were still a problem saying still there are steps to be taken to address the matter which has been a problem.

"The global goals are that by 2030 the deaths must be reduced by 70 percent because currently we are 160 per 100,000 people," he said.

He said the deaths are caused by several reasons including failure to visit hospitals timely and failure to attend clinics during pregnancy.

He said still there are pregnancies which are being terminated in ways which are not recommended especially with women who are not ready to give birth.

He said the move makes women breed much with others develop-

ing cancer due to lack of proper care upon terminating pregnancies.

He added that the products which are issued by DKT are aimed at reducing deaths resulting from pregnancies but also reducing pain during post abortion care.

He said most of them arrive in hospitals while the situation is bad saying most hospitals and health centres use materials which are not recommended.

Deputy Director of Prevention in the Ministry Fatma Kabola said maternal deaths were still a challenge adding that more than 10 children die weekly.

She said the aim is to have zero deaths adding that the government has put in place various strategies to address the matter including improvement of service delivery at grassroots level.

Head of marketing for Tanzania Deogratius Kithama said the new equipment are aimed at protecting the health of women in reproductive health.

He said still more education was needed to the society on safe abortion adding that despite the matter being illegal in the country pregnancies are still being terminated in secrecy and in an unsafe way.

NARCO launches beef shop to serve meat lovers in capital city

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania National Ranching Cooperation (NARCO) has opened a major meat shop to encourage and increase uptake of meat among Dodoma city residents and nearby communities.

Dubbed 'NARCO Kongwa Beef VIP Shop' the investment is among concerted efforts by the state-owned cooperation to increase its income while dispensing the residents in the city with well-processed fresh meat.

NARCO director general, Prof Peter Msosfe said the facility which has been installed at the heart of the capital city has capacity to sell a total of 5 tonnes of meat per day.

"The meat we sell at the market has been carefully and professionally prepared by the relevant experts, contrary to the meat available at other butchers. For instance, the facility involves a special chiller room whereby after being slaughtered the meat is placed in the room for at least 24 hours in order to abide with the recommended

standards before being released on sale," the don detailed.

He added, the cooperation was marketing the meat at the far patriotic prices of 8,000/- per one kg, urging the residents to turn out in multitude to enjoy the professional meat services at the newly opened VIP shop.

"We have decided to establish the service given that Dodoma is currently home of high-ranked government officials, different diplomatic figures, business tycoons as well

as other dignitaries and thus, such people deserve to have professional and well-checked meat services," he insisted.

He further expressed that the mission was to extend meat services to some key areas within the region, one at the government city in Mtumba suburb and the other at University of Dodoma (UDOM).

"The plan is to have special mobile butcheries, be it through special van or equipped motorcycles, the meat courier facilities that will be carrying meat to serve the people

at their offices and residents' doors at two mentioned areas," he briefed.

Prof Msosfe challenged the proprietors of meat butchers across the region to use the shop to procure fresh, good and certified meat in order to improve performance of their businesses.

NARCO, a parastatal organisation under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries responsible for large scale commercial ranching in the country.

SATURDAY 4 MARCH 2023

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

Management and leadership important for public health

HEALTH, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity. A variety of definitions have been used for different purposes over time. Health can be promoted by encouraging healthful activities, such as regular physical exercise and adequate sleep, and by reducing or avoiding unhealthful activities or situations, such as smoking or excessive stress. Some factors affecting health are due to individual choices, such as whether to engage in a high-risk behaviour, while others are due to structural causes, such as whether the society is arranged in a way that makes it easier or harder for people to get necessary healthcare services.

Leadership is an innate aspect of human behaviour and, when lacking, progress in society, at community, national or individual level cannot be achieved. Sectors where providing leadership are several, ranging from politics, trade unions, business, military, sports and science. However, regardless of the sector, some required qualities are shared: any leader needs to have a vision, to be innovative, ready to take (controlled) risks, curious, flexible but determined and—lastly yet importantly—brave.

Africa is putting its young people front and centre in the latest efforts to advance health security on the continent.

With over 60 per cent of its population under the age of 25—they are also expected to make up 42 per cent of the global youth population by 2030—the continent is a leading example of the global demographic shift toward younger generations.

In a bid to tap into the power of this demographic, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has

launched health initiatives targeting the youth.

Initiatives to create platforms for young people to take leadership roles in improving health systems on the continent and underscore the centrality of the young population in building sustainable health systems in Africa is crucial. In a similar youth-centred approach, Africa's largest gathering of health professionals, the International Conference on Public Health in Africa, hosted by Africa CDC, was preceded by the first youth pre-conference in December aimed at spurring youth engagement on regional public health issues.

"The future trajectory of Africa's health security is in the hands of its current and emerging young public health professionals, health advocates, and policymakers."

Ibraheem Bukunle Sanusi, is head of the Strengthening Crisis and Pandemic Response in Africa project, GIZ

Recommendations from the pre-conference included developing a strategy for meaningful youth engagement, ensuring better youth mainstreaming in decision making within Africa CDC, providing platforms for peer-to-peer dialogue and intergenerational discussions, and promoting the recruitment of African youth with specialized skills through capacity.

At the conference, Africa CDC's acting director, Dr Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, also announced the creation of a youth advisory team for health to support the vision of Africa's New Public Health Order. The team will "help ensure that Africa CDC's strategies and initiatives are inclusive and adequately address young people's health concerns," Africa CDC said in a statement.

Speaking at the youth conference, young people underscored the importance of working with other generations and high-level engagement.

Let's conserve diversity of life on planet earth

WE join in marking World Wildlife Day with many partners around the world. Together, we can conserve the diversity of life on this planet, which is critical for supporting healthy ecosystems.

Many wildlife species are under increasing threats from wildlife trafficking and nature crime. Wildlife trafficking is a security threat and an especially harmful form of transnational organized crime, often with far reaching impacts on nature. Wildlife trafficking undermines the rule of law, facilitates corruption, deprives communities of legitimate livelihoods and natural resources, and contributes to the spread of disease.

Tanzania contains some 20 per cent of the species of Africa's large mammal population, found across its reserves, conservation areas, marine parks, and 17 national parks. Wildlife resources of Tanzania are described as 'without parallel in Africa' and 'the prime game viewing country'.

Serengeti National Park is located in northern Tanzania and is famous for its extensive migratory herds of wildebeests and zebra while also having the reputation as one of the great natural wonders of the world.

The wildlife resources in Tanzania provide an annual income of US\$30 million to the national exchequer, and an income of US\$9 million as revenue from the leasing companies.

Illegal hunting is estimated to be worth US\$50 million. In the 1990s, exports of 1.68 million birds, 523,000 reptiles, 12,000 mammals and 148,000 amphibians

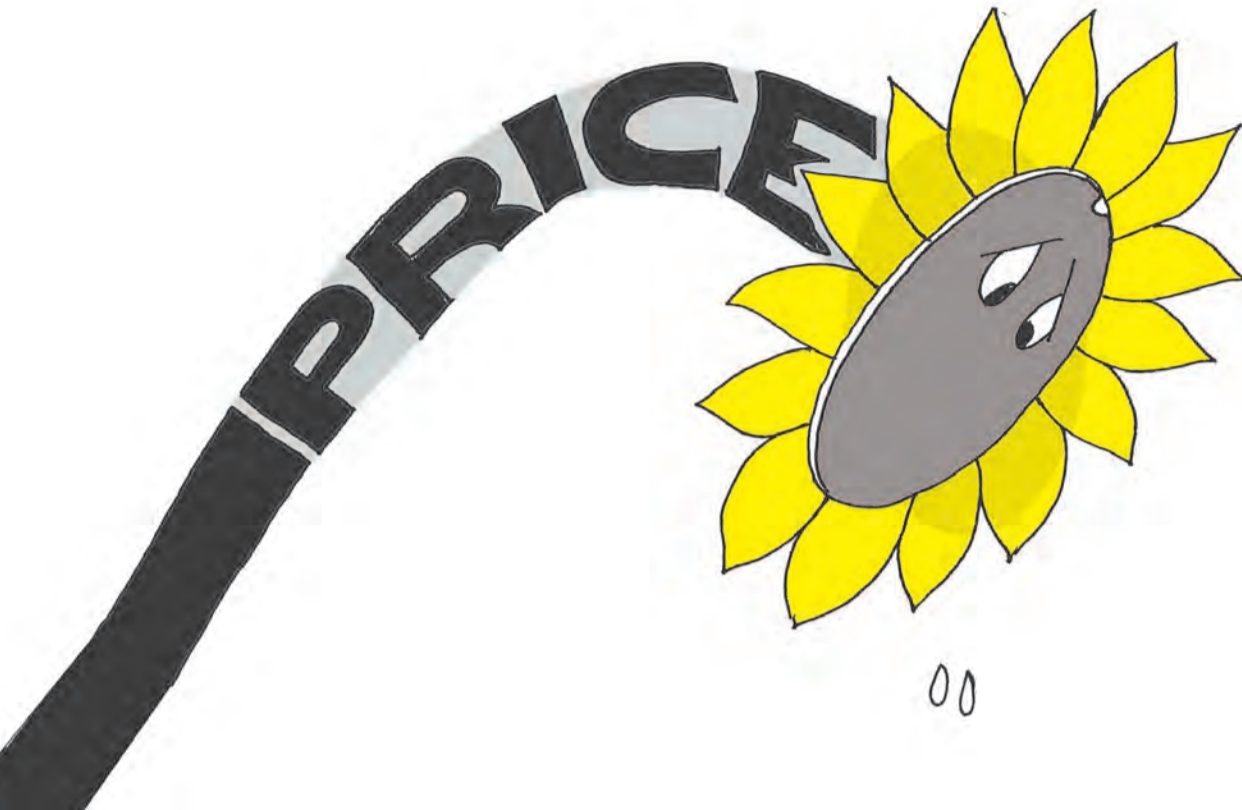
occurred, in addition to an increase in wildlife related tourism by about 30 per cent. Fishery resources have also contributed richly to the export revenue of the country, with export value of US\$130 million reported in 2003, with the export of the Nile perch accounting for a major share of US\$100 million.

Wildlife refers to undomesticated animal species, but has come to include all organisms that grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans.

Wildlife was also synonymous to game: those birds and mammals that were hunted for sport. Wildlife can be found in all ecosystems. Deserts, plains, grasslands, woodlands, forests, and other areas, including the most developed urban areas, all have distinct forms of wildlife. While the term in popular culture usually refers to animals that are untouched by human factors, most scientists agree that much wildlife is affected by human activities.

On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in its resolution decided to proclaim 3 March, the international day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on the planet raise awareness and benefits fauna and flora in 1973, as World Wildlife Day.

The commemoration was proposed by Thailand to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora.



Ruto seeks Western sanctions against Raila over mass action

By Special Correspondent

PRESIDENT William Ruto's administration wants the West to impose sanctions, including a travel ban, against opposition leader Raila Odinga over his calls for mass action and rejection of his election win.

Lawmakers and politicians allied to the Kenya Kwanza administration have revealed to the Press a raft of actions that they want the United States, the United Kingdom and western countries to take against Odinga, whom they accuse of destabilising the government.

Similar travel and economic restrictions have in the past proved to be effective in softening political hardliners who fear losing access to their overseas investments and access to advanced healthcare. The government wants Odinga banned from travelling to friendly Western nations should he proceed with his plans for mass action intended to force President Ruto out of office.

Odinga has previously staged mass protests that have paralysed economic activity and caused loss of lives, forcing sitting governments into power-sharing negotiations, ceding ground to policy and legal reforms, as well as creating room for negotiated political solutions.

Odinga on Wednesday announced that he will lead mass protests in 14 days if the Azimio la Umoja One Kenya coalition's demands for changes in the formula for choosing Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) members and lowering the cost of living are not honoured by the government.

Yesterday, at a political rally in Kakamega, he declared that the Ruto administration has 11 days left to accede to Azimio's demands, which stem from the disputed August 9 General Election that was settled by the Supreme Court.

The latest escalation of hostility comes in a week when diplomatic sources indicated that Dr Ruto was behind the termination of the Azimio leader's role at the African Union. It forms part of the larger scheme by the President to 'politically contain' the former premier.

"You cannot earn the respect of the international community when you are busy trying to cause civil strife in your country. (President Robert) Mugabe of Zimbabwe was a respected democrat but when he started undermining the same democratic tenets, the international community placed tough sanctions against him. Raila has earned a name for himself for being a democrat. But if he starts behaving like a rebel, we will ask the international community to punish him," said National Assembly deputy majority leader Owen Baya.

Dr Ruto has placed in motion

multiple strategies to deal with Odinga, his main challenger in the highly charged 2022 succession race, among them, buying out his MPs, doling government jobs to fiercest critics in his strongholds and instigating defections from Azimio.

A lawmaker allied to Dr Ruto says the plan is to use both diplomatic and constitutional means to deal with Odinga, likening his planned activities to those of a rebel out to cause civil strife. The MP has also suggested that Odinga be denied the privileges he enjoys both locally and internationally by virtue of his former office, among them access to VIP lounges at airports. He sees Odinga's pronouncement of seeking to reclaim his "stolen victory" as dangerous and says it should not be ignored by the international community.

"Does he want to overthrow the legally elected government and proceed to install himself? We are having a conversation about this even with Uhuru (Kenyatta); if he continues undermining the current regime, we will ask that he be withdrawn from his regional peace mission."

Defence and Foreign Relations Committee chairman Nelson Koech said Odinga's international recognition stands to suffer greatly if he continues with his threats against Dr Ruto's administration. He said the international community has a lot of interests in the country and would not hesitate to isolate him.

"It is not unusual for governments across the world, in pursuit of their national interests and global order, to place sanctions on individuals and organisations with a high appetite for causing political and economic instability. The globalisation of markets and production means the international community has insurable interests in Kenya's political and economic stability. Anybody who attempts to cause instability in the globalisation matrix will soon find himself isolated and swimming with sharks in dark cold waters," said Koech.

He said Odinga's refusal to recognise Dr Ruto's administration was laughable as some Azimio leaders have recognised him as the duly elected president. He says the former premier risks being isolated by his allies for pursuing "selfish interests".

"Kenyan, as well as our international partners and stakeholders, are shocked that Odinga is treating Kenyan institutions and voters with contempt by attempting to undermine a democratically elected administration," he added.

Nandi Senator Samson Cherargei says the planned mass action is meant to incite the public against a legitimate government. He holds that Odinga should be denied the privileges he enjoys for undermining the authority of the current administration.

"Tinga (Odinga) should lose all the privileges accorded to him locally and internationally by virtue of his former PM office. The international community normally bans individuals who sponsor civil strife against legitimate governments," he said.

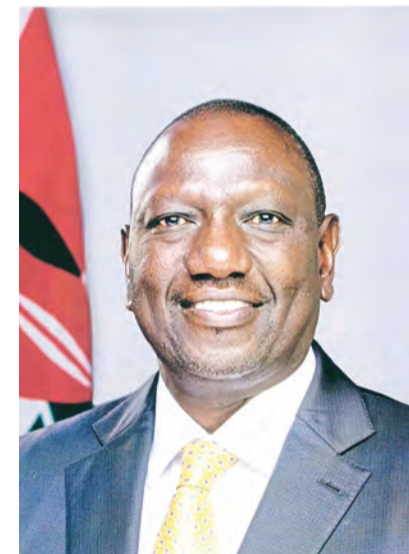
But Foreign and Diaspora Affairs CS Alfred Mutua said there are no plans as of yet to have Odinga banned from travelling to Western countries. He said the government "has no time to engage Odinga in his unending political theatrics". "We are not into witch-hunting. From where we stand, we are not interested in what he wants to do. If he wants to demonstrate, let him proceed," said Dr Mutua.

Macharia Munene, a professor of history and international relations, said it is normal for governments to ask for sanctions against people they deem problematic. He, however, said such requests can either be rejected or accepted. "The government is always making these kinds of requests," said Prof Munene.

But Azimio leaders said the planned mass protests are within the Constitution. They said it would be surprising for western countries to listen to such unfounded requests. "We're not scared by those threats, as what we are doing is within the law. If Western countries can agree to those requests, then they will justify our fears that they rigged Kenya Kwanza into power," said Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osoti.

National Assembly minority leader Opiyo Wandayi said those thinking they can manage the opposition leader through such blackmail will be in for a rude shock. "Raila Odinga is an institution. Anybody imagining that he can be cut down to size is living in a world of fantasy. They should watch out; they will definitely be surprised," said Wandayi.

Jubilee Secretary General Jeremiah Kioni said the threats by the govern-



ment will not stop them from pursuing electoral justice.

"They tried to blackmail Uhuru with the issue of retirement benefits and it did not work. They also came with the imaginary tax evasion issue that also did not work," he said.

In Parliament, Azimio is gearing up to cause drama on Tuesday on the floor of the House to protest what it calls 'state capture' of Parliament by the Executive. Minority Whip Junet Mohamed told the Press the plan is to disrupt House business on Tuesday.

"It will not be business as usual on Tuesday, you wait for it," Mohammed said.

The move has been occasioned by what the Azimio coalition says is interference from the Kenya Kwanza side on the management of its parliamentary affairs after a plan by the minority side to make changes in various committees was thwarted.

In the plan, Azimio was set to move ODM rebels who visited State House to committees considered less lucrative. But a hot debate ensued in a Wednesday meeting of the selection committee chaired by Majority leader Kimani Ichung'wa.

Kenya Kwanza accused Wandayi and Mohammed, who attended the meeting, of 'sneaking' the agenda to punish the 'rebels' yet it was not among the business listed for discussion.

The strained relationship between the coalitions spilt on the floor of the House on Thursday after Ichung'wa and Mohammed had bitter exchanges on the planned changes.

"If the minority whip and the minority cannot effect changes, like what is happening in the Senate, then why are we in office, why is parliament facilitating us, why can't we close those offices and give the keys to the majority leader and the clerk to run parliament the way they want," Mohammed said.

"The way we run the minority side cannot be dictated by the majority side. Our proposal to rationalise committees was rejected," he added.

Mr Mohammed, however, denied assertions that changes were aimed at punishing anyone, saying the minority just wanted to 'rationalise' their committee memberships.

"We were not punishing anyone but just re-organising committees so that they can become more effective because if you want to punish anyone, you de-whip them but this one we just wanted to ensure that members who have four committees an only serve in two in order to serve effectively but we were denied that chance," Mohammed said.

While Ichung'wa admitted that there was a list from the minority side, he denied any interference from the majority side in effecting the changes.

Maji Maji: The resistance which forced colonialists to cut back their brutality



Delegates, including traditional leaders, arrive at this year's Maji Maji resistance commemoration in Songea town, Ruvuma Region. Photo courtesy of the National Museum of Tanzania

By Correspondent Emmanuel

Onyango

THE Maji Maji resistance (1905-1907) is described in many historical documents as the most significant African challenge to German colonial rule out of all the territories the colonizer bagged at the 'scramble for Africa' that began with the Treaty of Berlin in 1885.

Apart from German East Africa (today's Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi), the European power also took control of Togo and Cameroon in the west as well as German Southwest Africa (today's Namibia)—all for free.

Through the German Colonisation Society founded by Dr Karl Peters, Germany established its control over Tanganyika by 1898 and imposed a particularly violent regime in order to control the population, including a policy of imposing the types of crops to cultivate and killing traditional leaders and anyone who resisted the occupation.

The oppressive regime bred discontent among Tanganyikans and resentment reached a fever pitch in 1905 when one Kinjikitile Ngwale emerged as leader of indigenous people in Southern Tanganyika and motivated his fighters with his 'sacred' water which he said could make bullets harmless, earning the rebellion the name Maji Maji.

By the time the rebellion was quelled in 1907, it is estimated that between 75,000 to 300,000 people died, overwhelmingly from famine which Germans used as a weapon of war. Although Maji Maji uprising was ultimately unsuccessful, it forced Kaiser Wilhelm's government in Berlin to institute reforms in their African colonies as they realized the potential cost of their brutality.

On every February 27, Tanzania starts commemorating Maji Maji rebellion a three day event which takes place at Maji Maji Museum in Songea Municipal Council, Ruvuma Region where historical events related to the resistance are kept. This year's occasion was graced by Mary Masanja, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, and attended by several traditional chiefs from the region.

Tales about African resistance against the Germans began as early as in 1891 when the famous Chief of Hehe tribe known as Mkwawa and his soldiers defeated German troops at Lugalo in present-day Iringa municipality in a fight that lasted until 1894.



The museum offers tourists historical event that took place in Southern Tanzania by presenting other exhibitions including slavery and slave trade and related events that took place from Malawi to Kilwa in Lindi Region and Mikindani in Mtwara Region.



Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Mary Masanja (R), for who was guest of honour at this year's Maji Maji resistance uprising commemoration, places traditional weapons at a monument near where 66 Hehe fighters were hanged by German colonialists. Photo/ National Museum of Tanzania

The German went back and reorganized their troops and invaded Chief Mkwawa's garrison at Kalenga who escaped arrest through back door and disappeared in a bush for another four years until his lifeless body was found in August 1898 at a place called Mlambalasi on the outskirts of Iringa town.

Seven years later, leaders such as Abushiri ibn Salim of the Pangani and Mangi Sina of Moshi joined the Maji Maji rebellion which was the last and the most memorable in the history of Tanzania and German colonial history.

The Maji Maji Memorial Museum is a branch of the National Museum of Tanzania (NMT) and is located at Mashujaa Street on Mahenge road, Songea Municipality.

Just a kilometer from Songea town are the gallows where Maji Maji fighters were hanged and besides the gallows stands a raised stone with plaque inscribed with 66 names of chiefs, sub-chiefs, headmen and ordinary citizens who were publicly executed.

A few meters from the gallows, is the museum building where one can see the archived artifacts and other documents explaining the active resistance mounted by brave Tanganyikans. Songea derives its name from Chief Songea Lwafu Mbano, a Ngoni who led his tribe in the resistance.

Chiefs and their soldiers were captured and detained in prison camps until then Governor of Deutsch-Ostafrika (German East Africa) Gustav Adolf Graf von Götzen endorsed the death.

On the day of public execution, some of the resistance warriors were baptized but some daring ones refused. On the list there is one woman called Mkomani who was baptized as Yasintha and hanged thereafter.

Later, the policy was adopted whereby the resistance fighters were being hanged publicly in groups of four at a time and their bodies sent to a graveyard located at the current Maji Maji Memorial Museum. It's from this painful history that the government hosts a three-day annual cultural festival.

The museum was officially

opened to the general public in 2010, presenting the painful history of resistance in the country. In the same year, a monument was erected just adjacent to the hanging place to honour the place because of its significance and thereafter, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism handed over the museum to NMT.

The two-storey building holds important historical documents, with the ground floor is taken up by Chief Kawawa's memorial, holding an exhibition of his political life. The Maji Maji exhibition is on the first floor, displayed in a series.

The heroes' monument is purposely for commemorating the site and makes it an important tourist attraction as it is one of the sources of national history.

Apart from other sweet lessons of history, this one is painful given the brutality of colonialists. For instance, for transport, the Germans used grown African men to carry them around in hammocks no matter how long the distance was. Also on display are images of the colonialists like Dr Karl Peters, Dr

Karl Juhike and Joachim Graf, the key players in German colonial rule.

Balthazar Nyamusya, Coordinator of NMT told The Guardian in an interview that Maji Maji captives were treated extremely brutally by Germans.

"Captives had huge iron rings attached to chains cuffing their necks and arms," he said as this writer saw photos showing the same and others such as ruins of buildings, including churches, which were destroyed during the war of resistance.

Within the museum there is also an exhibition hall in which original traditional weaponry and tools used in the rebellion are on display for visitors to see. These are axes, bows and arrows, clubs, shields and spears as well as the original photos of some of the warriors. Also in the exhibition hall are items such as a rosary, an amulet, a snuff container and a bell. These items are believed to be over a century old.

The museum offers tourists historical event that took place in Southern Tanzania by presenting other exhibitions including slavery and slave trade and related events that took place from Malawi to Kilwa in Lindi Region and Mikindani in Mtwara Region.

In the gardens outside this museum building is a mass graveyard where the executed fighters were buried. Remains of 66 fighters were buried here but a hundred metres away is that grave of Chief Songea Mbano who was buried separately.

Unlike his fighters who were hanged, this Ngoni leader was tortured to death and had his head cut off and which has never been returned back into the country.

Immediately after the Maji Maji uprising ended in 1907, German colonial masters proclaimed that they had succeeded to capture, control, rule and dominate the area that was under the Principal Sub-Chief.

Five years ago, Members of Parliament urged the government to put pressure on Germany to pay compensation for deaths caused during the Maji Maji revolt over a century ago, a move that hit a snag.

The legislators had accused German forces of various crimes including forced starvation in their rule that existed for 33 years from 1885 to 1918 in the country.

Tanzanian legislators lodged for a compensation claims for tens of thousands of people who allegedly were starved, tortured and killed by German soldiers as they sought to quell the rebellion.



Mangroves in Tai O, Hong Kong. Coastal wetland protection and restoration is an example of the kind of multifunctional solution that is needed to address multiple global crises together. Credit: Chunyip Wong / iStock

By Paula Harrison, Pamela McElwee and David Obura

Interwoven global crises can best be solved jointly

WHEN global crises are interlinked, they overlap and compound each other. In such cases, the most effective solutions are those that work at the nexus of all these challenges.

In September, almost every Government on Earth will gather at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York to take stock at the halfway mark of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of what has been achieved and what remains to be done.

Despite some progress, global development efforts have been hamstrung by unprecedented environmental, social and economic crises, in particular biodiversity loss and climate change, compounded of course by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tackling these interlinked challenges separately risks creating situations even more damaging to people and communities around the world, and exacerbates the already high

risk of not meeting the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This is especially true because the myriad drivers of risk and damage affect many different sectors at once, across scales from local to global, and can result in negative impacts being compounded. For example, when demands for food and timber combine with the effects of pollution and climate change, they can decimate already degraded ecosystems, driving species to extinction and severely reducing nature's contributions to people.

The global food system offers another example of this negative spiral of interlocking crises - where food that is produced unsustainably leads to water overconsumption and waste, pollution, increased health risks and loss of biodiversity. It also leads

to excessive greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change.

Yet policies often treat each of these global threats in isolation, resulting in separate, uncoordinated actions that typically address only one of the root causes and fail to take advantage of the many potential solution synergies. In the worst cases, actions taken on one challenge directly undermine those needed to tackle another because they fail to account for trade-offs, resulting in unintended consequences, or the impacts being externalised, as someone else's problem.

This is why almost 140 Governments turned to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) - requesting IPBES to undertake a major multiyear assessment of the interlinkages among biodiver-

sity, water, food and health in the context of the rapidly-changing climate. This 'Nexus Assessment' is among the most complex and important expert assessments ever undertaken - crossing key biophysical domains of climate and biodiversity and elements central to human wellbeing like food, water and health. It will also address how interactions are affected by energy, pollution, conflict and other socio-political challenges.

To fully address this 'nexus', the assessment is considering interactions across scales, geographic regions and ecosystems. It also covers past, present and future trends in these interlinkages. And, most importantly, it will offer concrete options for responses to the crises that address the interactions of risk and damage jointly and equitably - providing a vital

set of possible solutions for the more sustainable future we want for people and our planet.

One example of the multifunctional solutions that will be explored is nature-based solutions - such as coastal wetland protection and restoration. When coastal wetland ecosystems are healthy - whether conserved or where necessary, restored - they are a refuge and habitat for biodiversity, improving fish stocks for greater food security and contributing to improve human health and wellbeing. They can also sequester carbon, helping to mitigate climate change, and protect adjacent communities and settlements from flooding and sea level rise.

To develop and implement these kinds of multi-functional solutions, responses for dealing with the major global crises need

to be better coordinated, integrated, and made more synergistic across sectors, both public and private. Decision-makers at all levels need better evidence and knowledge to implement such solutions.

Work on the nexus assessment began in 2021 - with the final report expected to be considered and adopted by IPBES member States in 2024. A majority of the 170 expert authors and review editors from around the world are meeting in March in the Kruger National Park in South Africa to further strengthen the draft report, responding to the many thousands of comments received during a first external review period.

The assessment will also include evidence and expertise contributed by indigenous peoples and local communities - whose rich and varied direct experiences and knowledge systems that consider humans and nature as an interconnected whole have embodied a nexus approach for generations.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the recently-agreed Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework provide the roadmaps for tackling the climate and biodiversity crises. The IPBES nexus assessment will offer policymakers a practical guide to bridge the vital interlinkages across the two challenges, to other relevant frameworks, and link to the sustainable development agenda.

For more information about IPBES or about the ongoing progress on the nexus assessment, go to www.ipbes.net or follow @ipbes on social media.

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IPS UN Bureau

UN falls short of aid pledge to Yemen despite peace efforts

By Alexander Kozul-Wright

AT a high-level UN event, global donors pledged US\$1.2 billion in aid operations to Yemen in 2023. Millions of Yemenis require humanitarian assistance as the country continues to suffer from the fallout of a prolonged civil war.

While the Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths noted that the UN had received 31 commitments during the conference on February 30, 2023, in Geneva, the amount pledged remains well below the organisation's target of US\$4.3 billion.

The conflict in Yemen started in 2014 when Iranian-backed Houthi rebels - representing the country's Zaidi Shia Muslim minority - seized the capital, Sanaa. The war intensified in 2015 when a Saudi-led coalition intervened on behalf of the government against the Houthis.

Owing to repeated Saudi-led bombardment campaigns and deep territorial divisions (half of the country remains under Houthi control in the north and the other half under government control in the south), Yemen's economy has ground to a halt.

Last year, exogenous factors

also led to steep falls in Yemen's Rial relative to the U.S. dollar, pushing inflation up to 45 percent. Elsewhere, food prices surged by 58 percent. In 2022, 13 million people in Yemen relied on the UN's World Food Program for basic staples.

To date, the conflict has killed more than 375,000 people, sixty percent from indirect causes (mainly from malnutrition and disease). The war has also razed the country's civilian and physical infrastructure, including its oil sector - Yemen's only source of foreign exchange.

Last year, warring parties agreed to an UN-brokered ceasefire. Though it expired in October, the six-month truce led to a reduction in casualties. It also enabled commercial traffic to flow through the port of Hodeida, increasing the supply of goods and aid into the country.

A slight improvement in food security at the end of last year meant two million fewer Yemenis suffered from acute hunger. The number of people in famine-like conditions also dropped from 161,000 to zero. But progress remains fragile.

Yemen continues to rely on foreign aid. "More than 21 million people, or two-thirds of



In the southern city of Taiz, 11-month-old Ameer Hellal receives WFP supplementary food to ease malnutrition. Photo: WFP/Albaraa Mansoor

the country's population, will need humanitarian assistance in 2023," said UN secretary-general António Guterres.

Among those in need, more than 17 million are understood to be living below Yemen's poverty line. Meanwhile, an estimated 4.5 million Yemenis are internally displaced, largely due to climate-change-related events.

According to the UN, Yemen is "highly vulnerable" to the effects of rising global temperatures (notably arid weather). In recent years, severe droughts have exacerbated food shortages caused by the war.

Yemen remains in need of external support

The UN's US\$4.3 billion funding objective is nearly double what it received last year. Looking ahead, reliance on external aid will be particularly acute in 2023 due to constrained oil exports linked to Houthi attacks on government-held oil terminals last October.

This week's conference took place as the country's rival groups agreed to an informal suspension of hostilities. Efforts are underway to declare a lasting peace after the parties failed to extend their UN-backed peace agreement last year.

"We have a real opportunity to

change Yemen's trajectory and move toward peace by renewing and expanding the truce," noted Guterres at the pledging event, co-hosted by Sweden and Switzerland.

The meeting was attended by officials worldwide, including U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock. In his speech, Blinken called on donors to step up their contributions, citing last year's funding shortages.

The UN missed its financing target for Yemen by US\$2 billion last year. Blinken also urged the international community to help restore Yemen's economy, suggest-

ing this would "reduce people's suffering over the long term."

"Large-scale investment will be needed to rebuild Yemen's physical infrastructure. Securing peace, however, remains the top priority. "Without it, millions will continue to face extreme levels of poverty, hunger and suffering," added Blinken.

Meanwhile, the UN secretary-general warned that aid funding would not provide a panacea for Yemen.

"Humanitarian assistance is a Band-Aid. It saves people's lives but cannot resolve the conflict itself."

IPS UN Bureau Report

NIT, Chinese institutes launch batch of joint training programme for automobile students

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Institute of Transport (NIT) and Zibo Vocational Institute (ZBVI) of China's Shandong Province have launched the first batch of a joint training programme for automobile engineering students at NIT.

The Luban workshop training programme was established in order to accelerate the implementation of the outcomes of the Beijing summit and forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

NIT, ZBVI and Sunmaker Oil and Gas Training Institute agreed to establish a Luban Workshop on automotive and China - Tanzania automotive institute in Tanzania.

Based on the principles of equality, integrity and mutual benefit, the parties have reached a cooperation agreement on the joint construction of a Luban Workshop and an automotive institute by giving full play to their respective resource advantages.

In his remarks at the launching of the first batch of a joint training programme for automobile engineering students held via Zoom yesterday, the NIT rector Professor Zacharia Mganilwa said that the Institute's automobile students will now be able to correctly master the assembly, inspection and debugging methods of the main automobile units as well as be able to maintain automobiles correctly.

The Rector pointed out that the talent training will enable students to equip them with the basic skills and knowledge of Chinese and turn them into international talents who can communicate in Chinese.

"The training will broaden students' scope of knowledge by

teaching them the social, cultural, economic, and political conditions of the Chinese-speaking countries and regions, as well as the basic facts about China," he said.

He added: "This talent training will also foster students' ability to use Chinese in cross-cultural communication and business communication so that they are capable of actually using Chinese in their future workplace."

"This training will again develop students' ability to use computers and search for information on the Internet in Chinese," he observed.

He further said: "All students must be equipped with the following hands-on skills before graduation: - Be able to read automobile parts drawing and assembly drawing, they must be able to use fitting skills flexibly in the automobile repair process as well as be able to use tools, including the measuring tools correctly and skilfully and operate common inspection and maintenance equipment."

He went on to say that the students who will graduate in this programme must also be proficient in the detection and repair of an automotive electrical and mechanical systems and proficient in the detection and repair of automotive electronic control systems.

Professor Mganilwa named other hands-on skills before graduation as students must be proficient in the detection and repair of automobile comfort system and safety systems, students to have comprehensive automobile fault diagnosis and repair ability, be able to inspect the car after repair as well as be able to read simple English vehicle maintenance information.

"This program will be done for a maximum of four years, two



semesters per year and in each semester, students will be taught at least one subject/module," Prof Mganilwa said.

He said that the training programme set to help students to understand in depth the current automobile market in terms of fast technology changes, the curriculum major aims is to cultivate

The programme will equip NIT's students with high-quality technical and skilled talents so as to be able to adapt to the needs in the development of the whole automobile or unit assembly and overhaul technology.

"This curriculum is based on the objective of equipping students

with solid Chinese language knowledge and comprehensive Chinese application ability and stresses the development of students' practical language skills," he said.

He insisted: "The training is aimed at developing international Chinese-speaking talents who possess solid Chinese listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, are familiar with Chinese people's customs and traditions and China's social conditions, have a fascination for Chinese culture and are willing to make a contribution to the cooperation and communication between China and foreign countries."

He concludes: "Lastly, thanks to

ZIBO for initiating this training to make sure many Tanzanians have acquired basic automobile Technical skills to be able to attend the booming automobile units and assembly repair and maintenance."

ZBVI's Principal Professor Sun Qiyou said at the sidelines of the launching ceremony: "In order to do a better job in this programme of Luban workshop with NIT, we have made overall preparations such as the allocation of teachers, the design of teaching content, and many other aspects."

Prof Qiyou added: "We have organized several teaching seminars to discuss the teaching forms, teaching content, task settings,

and many other details. We have formulated a training program tailored to the learning content for students.

According to our plan, the first stage of the class is mainly to learn and master basic Chinese knowledge, and the later stage will go to the professional courses of technical skills."

The Chinese Professor has further said that at present, the Workshop has built an integrated teaching management platform, and developed four international courses and supporting teaching resources, which include Maintenance of electronic control system of automobile engine, automobile maintenance and servicing practice, engine disassembly and adjustment, and vehicle chassis electronic control system maintenance.

"In the second half of last year, we selected excellent teachers and carried out an 8-week online training for six teachers on your side. The training mainly covers two courses that is engine electronic control system overhaul and automobile maintenance and servicing practice. Besides, 39 students from your institute have been admitted to our joint training program," he said.

He insisted: "In addition, as the Chinese chairman of the China-Africa Vocational Education Alliance, we jointly organized the development of Tanzania's National Occupational Standards and Programme Delivery Standards together with Sunmaker Oil and Gas Training Institute, and our institute led and participated in the development of two standards; An experienced teacher from our institute was sent to offer technical training for local students in Uganda and Mali for four months."

UNHCR: Horn of Africa has entered consecutive wet season with no rain

By Kiran Pandey

THE Horn of Africa has now entered its sixth consecutive rainy season with no rain, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said in a statement.

The last five rainy seasons have been deficit and the rains from March-May were likely to be average, according to the joint statement released by multilateral agencies and another report by REACH, a humanitarian initiative.

Three countries in the Horn of Africa – Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia – have been experiencing an ongoing drought since late 2020. A humanitarian crisis has been brewing since then and is now even more worrying for Somalia. The number of displacements in the country has peaked to a new high of 3.8 million people.

Since January 2023, at least 288,000 people have become internally displaced in the country due to conflict and drought according to UNHCR estimates (as of February 28, 2023). This is very close to total 305,000 new displacements during the entire year of 2016, according to the UNHCR data portal.

Failure of rains and conflict in Somalia could further force people to migrate to major cities and towns, especially Baidoa and Mogadishu. Close to 300,000 people could be newly displaced by July 2023, according to the projected the International Organization for Migrants (IOM). Somalia migrants seek refuge in drought-affected areas of Kenya and Ethiopia too, stated UNHCR.

"Most of the newly displaced might never go back to their places of origin because the land can no longer provide, and insecurity will only increase as competition for the already scarce resources grow. As a result, entire families will be born and raised in informal settlements amid unsuitable living conditions," said Ugochi Daniels, IOM deputy director general.

Daniels called upon donors to invest in solutions to prevent further displacement and address the dire living situation of the millions affected by the ongoing drought and conflict.

There is a need to invest in the places of origin to foster resilience and to prevent further displacement from happening. So, the IOM projects are aimed towards improving their access to land and long-term housing, social services through an inclusive planning process with local authorities and communities.

This lays the foundation for long-term development planning, the statement noted.

"An amount of \$137 million is needed to help displaced people in the Horn of Africa. As of February 28, 2023, over eight million people require food assistance and around 332,000 urgently need food, otherwise their lives are at risk," stated Olga Sarrado, the UNHCR spokesperson.

The UNHCR plans to provide basic relief including emergency shelter and household items to new refugees and displaced people in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Tourism College in drive to meet five million tourists target by 2025

By Guardian Reporter

THE National College of Tourism (NCT) has unveiled strategies to complement the government's mission of meeting the target of registering five million tourists per year by 2025.

Dr Florian Mtey, NCT's chief executive officer (CEO) revealed this recently in an exclusive interview that the college remains one key cornerstone to driving the government agenda of boosting the number of tourists visiting Tanzanian annually.

Dr Mtey said: "This is so due to the fact that tourism and hospitality continues to be one of the fastest growing sectors of the Tanzanian economy. Marketed as the land of Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar and the Serengeti, Tanzania magnificent tourism product attracts close to 1 million visitors annually."

He however stated that while the sector continues to grow at a fast pace, employment by Tanzanians in the industry continues to remain at very low numbers.

"This is something that we at the NCT are committed to redressing, for our country can only reap the true benefits from tourism growth, if more of our people are employed in the sector, particularly at the middle and upper management levels. The government has given us a clear mandate to ensure that more Tanzanians are employed in tourism, and we are determined to deliver on this," he said.

In a special interview, the acting college CEO, stated that the NCT recently introduced a new competency-based curriculum for its technician certificates and ordinary diploma programmes, and it will soon be offering bachelor's degree programmes in tourism and hospitality.

According to him, the move is meant to produce more experts



Dr Florian Mtey, NCT's chief executive officer

in the tourism and hospitality industry, which is line with the government's move to registering as many tourists as possible within the soonest time and make the sector contribute handsomely to the national coffers.

"So, we're here to ensure that everyone in the tourism value chain contribute to the sector development as we want to make sure that since the tourist lands at the airport, gets in the hotel to the tourist destinations is served efficiently by our former students," he said.

Dr Mtey said that the government-owned college offers short and long-term courses in different fields of tourism and hospitality.

"The arrival of The Royal Tour firm by President Samia Suluhu Hassan gave us more impetus by training more experts in the industry," he said, lauding the private sector players within and

outside the tourism sector for their contribution to the successful shooting of the film.

The college which operates in for campuses—Arusha, Bustani, Temeke and Mwanza has been teaming up with different institutions across the globe to produce competitive candidates who can offer services of the international standards, which are highly needed in the sector.

As a result of the nationalization process of 1967, Hallmark Hotels was also nationalized and gradually, the institute was handed over to the Tanzania Tourist Corporation (TTC) in 1969.

According to Dr Mtey, NCT originates from the Hotel & Tourism Training Institute (HTTI) which was established in 1969 under a British firm called "Hallmark Hotels Ltd". The main objective was to provide basic skills in Front Office Operations, Housekeeping

& Laundry, Food Production and Food & Beverage Techniques.

He also unveiled that considering space problem, the Institute which was known as Tanzania Hotel School was relocated from New Africa Hotel to Dar es Salaam club at Forodhani, Kivukoni Front / Ohio Street. It was during that time when it changed its name to Hotel and Tourism Training Institute. The institute was training students mainly from Parastatal Organizations e.g. TTC, Air Caterers and Railway hotels. It was later handed over to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in 1977.

"By that time the institute could only accommodate 50 students. As time went on, the demand increased. Students who were self-sponsored were enrolled in big numbers."

Due to the emerging need for improving service delivery and the growth demand of the tourism industry, the institute was launched as an Executive Agency under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in January 24th 2003 in accordance with the Executive Agency Act No. 30 of 1997 and changed its name into National College of Tourism.

Dr. Pindi Chana, Former Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism once lauded NCT for providing young people with the necessary skills and knowledge so that they can contribute to the tourism sector development.

"This spirits need to go on for the growth of the important sector, which contribute handsomely to the country's development and people's well-being," Dr Chana said when conferring diplomas and certificates to a total of 474 graduates for the year 2021/2022.

"This number is extremely good to increase the number of graduates who will help to improve the provision of services in our tourism sector," she stated.

Grey days – Greylisting sets South Africa and Nigeria on long and daunting paths

By Peter Fabricius

THE greylisting of South Africa last month by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has made waves in the country, occupying substantial media attention. South Africa became only the second G20 country to have been greylisted other than Turkey – an embarrassing fall from grace. Nigeria's addition to the list seems to have gone relatively unnoticed, no doubt due to the past weekend's national elections.

FATF is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1989 on the G7's initiative to develop global policy against money laundering. Since 2001, its mandate has expanded to include financing terrorism and nuclear weapons proliferation. Its 38 member states and jurisdictions – South Africa is the only African member – set standards that more than 200 countries have committed to implementing.

Greylisting means that South Africa and Nigeria have been placed under enhanced monitoring of their measures to counter the financing of serious crimes. Greylisting is obviously better than blacklisting because it indicates that a country is attempting to comply. The three countries on FATF's blacklist – Myanmar, North Korea and Iran – are effectively declared to be incorrigible.

Nonetheless, most analysts believe greylisting has considerable negative effects on a country's economy, including discouraging investment. Some, for example, require fund managers to apply greater diligence before investing in greylisted countries. An International Monetary Fund study estimates that countries have on average experienced capital outflows equal to 7.6% of GDP after greylisting.

Even though the danger of being greylisted had been on South Africa's radar for many months, and the government has tried to forestall it, it was no surprise that the FATF executive board



A Financial Action Task Force Plenary meeting in 2023. (Photo: Financial Action Task Force)

ultimately greylisted the country on 24 February.

The problem was not so much a lack of legislation but implementation. FATF's statement made it clear – and Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana confirmed – that South Africa was greylisted because of a failure to adequately investigate and prosecute money laundering and terrorist financing.

Illicit activity

Last year the United States (US) government imposed financial and other sanctions on four South Africans thought to be channelling funds to Islamic State in Mozambique and elsewhere in Africa. It was widely believed that the US had tried to jolt the

South African authorities into action – but with little effect.

South Africa has now agreed to implement FATF's eight-point corrective action plan that includes “demonstrating a sustained increase in investigations and prosecutions of serious and complex money laundering and the full range of (terrorist financing) activities in line with its risk profile.”

The action plan also required South Africa to implement an updated and comprehensive national strategy to counter the financing of terrorism, and to issue targeted financial sanctions against terrorist financiers.

State Capture

The FATF action plan includes some big challenges for South Africa

to tackle money laundering, including a demand for better supervision of non-financial institutions. These include estate agencies, accountants, auditors, real estate developers and precious metals dealers who often facilitate money laundering.

These organisations have to observe due diligence of inflowing capital, including identifying the beneficial (real) owners of assets. This prevents criminals from hiding their ill-gotten gains behind anonymous trusts and the like.

This underscores Godongwana's point that it is not South Africa's financial sector that is at fault but law enforcement and prosecution. The country's intelligence, policing and prosecutorial functions have still not

fully recovered from their deliberate sabotage during the State Capture of Jacob Zuma's administration.

The grindingly slow efforts to bring the perpetrators of State Capture to book reflect how difficult it could be for South Africa to tick all eight boxes in the FATF action plan.

Which is why James George, Compliance Manager at Compli-Serve SA, believes Godongwana and Police Minister Bheki Cele are being optimistic when they predict South Africa will get off the list by mid-2024. George says unless the government and private sector really work hard together, it could take as long as five years.

If one looks at Nigeria, the challenge seems even more daunting. Many of the points in its nine-point FATF action plan are similar to those in South Africa's. But the scale of the challenge looks much greater because of the size of its population and the severe problem of violent extremism.

Godongwana and other government officials have said that South Africa will take some lessons from Mauritius in complying with FATF's demands. The Indian Ocean island state was greylisted in February 2020 but managed to get off the list only 20 months later. Several other African countries have also been removed from the grey list.

George agrees South Africa should learn from Mauritius, which he says got off the list by strengthening anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing laws and implementing regulations. It also put in place a risk-based supervision framework to monitor financial institutions and non-financial businesses, and improved its detection of fraud, prosecuting criminals and confiscating illegal proceeds. South Africa could do the same, though he doubts its capacity for speedy implementation.

By Noura Hamladji and Samuel Rizk

THERE is no better environment for the expansion of violent extremist groups than a vacuum in state authority. It provides ideal conditions for these groups to prey on existing and historical grievances, fill the void with promises of financial support, access to services and attention for marginalized, neglected communities.

But at what cost?

In sub-Saharan Africa, we are witnessing the toll. In the past decade, violence linked to the influence of global violent extremist groups like Al Qaeda and Daesh has spread swiftly across the region. In 2022, new global epicentres of terrorism were found in sub-Saharan Africa.

With thousands killed and millions displaced, this violence threatens the stability of the entire region and hinders development gains on the continent.

To better understand how violent extremist groups proliferate, and how they impact development and social cohesion, UNDP commissioned unique research to find out what gives violent extremists a foothold in particular contexts.

We looked at the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, DR Congo, Somalia and Northern Mozambique. What we found is that while every country – and district – has its own story, there are clear common denominators that help design relevant, coherent responses.

This new study, Dynamics of Violent Extremism in Africa: Conflict Ecosystems, Political Ecology, and the Spread of the Proto-State complements the research we have done into how and why individuals join violent extremist groups in the Journey to Extremism series.

Filling the void

As they expand in size and resources, buttressed by a link to a global ideological orientation, some violent extremist groups



While each context has a unique mix of factors contributing to the growth of violent extremism, UNDP research uncovered common denominators that can inform relevant, coherent responses. Credit: UNDP Somalia

The dynamics of vicious, violent extremism in sub-Saharan Africa

organize in ways akin to local government structures. They begin to compete with the state not only by monopolizing the threat/use of violence – in this case, instilling terror – but also by promising some of the most essential local services that people are aspiring to, such as a relative sense of security, sources of income and swift adjudication of disputes.

They may do so cruelly and oppressively, but even that may initially be attractive to communities weary of years of lawlessness, corruption and chaos. Indeed, the more deeply structured local violent extremist groups have evolved from raiding bands and now show many of the characteristics of a “proto-state”, typified by Daesh in Syria.

As the study findings suggest, the modus operandi of these local violent extremist groups is not

centred mainly on persuading people to adopt their ideology. Instead – and often coming from the locality itself – they are grievance entrepreneurs, exploiting local development deficits, and forging alliances of convenience with other violent groups and criminal networks, like smugglers or local militias.

Even so, this does not make them one-dimensional opportunists. Their link to global networks helps to give them direction, binds them together and adds to their appeal. They are both global and local, both ideological and economic alternatives that can be appealing to people living in perceived or de facto state vacuum.

One common finding in this study is that violent extremist groups rarely appear in places well served by stable, predictable governments and governance sys-

tems. Instead, they operate where there is already poverty and instability, away from capital cities, in marginalized places where public services are thin or non-existent – all of which are often the product of local power-brokers' interests.

The lack of trust between communities in these remote and crisis-hit areas and their government is also a common factor highlighted in the research. All too often communities suffer acute insecurity, feeling let down, targeted, and abused by the very state that should be protecting them. Violent extremist groups then plug in to fear or anger among communities and local leaders.

The first step to addressing this growing trend is to understand the political economy of violent extremist groups, and the sources of their power, with a view to halt and reverse their stranglehold on

society.

The next step requires collaboration by the international community, supporting national partners not only to address the visible manifestations of the problem, but also to reverse years or decades of state fragility, exclusion and insecurity that emboldened these groups over time.

To this end, UNDP's work on sub-national and local governance and institutions is critical – resilient, responsive, accountable, transparent, linked to national-level reforms that will have the biggest impact on violent extremist groups’ “business models.”

UNDP also works to empower local communities and local leaders towards positive and inclusive governance and improving access to basic services in under-served areas. This is the way to avoid recreating the same conditions that enabled the governance void to exist in first instance.

Gaining a foothold

It is clear that many of the conflicts which give these groups a foothold are over land and water. Desertification, climate change and poor land management have made traditional ways of life difficult in many places where land has degraded and pastures no longer support herds, nor do farms support crops.

But this need not be irreversible. With careful attention to local power politics, social relationships and trust-building, we can help communities to regenerate land and revive livelihoods – and to capture carbon in the soil in the process, offering local solutions to global problems and giving communities agency in shaping their present and future.

We call it “political ecology”, and with this approach we can simultaneously improve lives and undercut the appeal of violent extremist groups.

Also crucial to this approach is understanding how illicit funds flow around an economy, both inside a country and across borders; how power-brokers depend on and manipulate instability and

corruption for greater influence; and which actors have a real interest in reform. This knowledge can help identify and interdict income sources of violent extremist groups while sustainably rebuilding local economies.

A human-centred approach

While there is a common thread of misogyny in the narrative and behaviour of violent extremist groups, women's roles are not homogenous or predestined to victimhood. On one hand, Boko Haram has used women as suicide bombers and al Shabaab as intelligence sources, but on the other hand women form the backbone of many peace building and victim support efforts, and are the engine of cross-border trade in many areas.

This very diversity makes it more important to ensure that both women and men are fully involved in our efforts, from analysis to implementation to evaluation. In the end, where does the study address our collective approach to human security, to people-centred development, justice and peace?

These conflicts, and all the horrors committed by these groups, leave deep scars, and the trauma is long-lasting. Even in contexts that are not impacted by war, political conflict or pervasive violent extremism, we are starting to understand the cost of recent lockdowns and isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, in mental health and alienation.

In conflict zones, the depth of trauma needs much more research, but we know it is severe. And people cope with it in ways that can lead to further violence, at a personal, family and community level. Sadly, that often helps to perpetuate cycles of conflict.

So, if we are to address these historical, multigenerational grievances which violent extremists can prey on, while working to heal their ongoing grief, we need to expand our capacity to provide the mental health and psycho-social support that individuals and communities need.

IPS UN Bureau

BUSINESS

SELF reaches more entrepreneurs with soft loans in Dodoma, Singida

By Guardian Reporter

Central bank in the spotlight as lenders run out of dollars

NAIROBI COMMERCIAL banks are running out of dollars on some days following a shortage of the US currency, making it difficult for manufacturers and general goods importers to meet their obligations.

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has directed commercial banks to ration dollars following a shortage of the currency and the race to protect reserves.

A number of currency traders and importers say banks have imposed a daily cap on dollar purchases of as little as \$5,000 as firms struggle to obtain adequate forex to meet their supply needs.

This has forced industrialists to start seeking dollars daily and from several lenders for their monthly hard currency needs as the shortage puts a strain on supplier relations and the ability to negotiate favourable prices in spot markets.

Having banks, including the top tier lenders, run out of the greenback suggests an escalation of the currency woes that started mid-last year with lenders rationing scarce dollars.

"We are now scavenging for dollars. Only half of every six banks we call daily for dollars will have something for us. Three of the banks will ask us to check later," said a top executive of a manufacturing firm who sought anonymity for fear of reprisals from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK).

"What is available at banks is between \$5,000 and \$10,000. One will be fortunate to get \$20,000 and extremely lucky to get \$50,000 from a single bank. This is crazy for a business that requires \$1 million monthly for supplies and we are getting each dollar at Sh137," he added.

Importers say they cannot access the dollar at the official buy rate of Sh127.39, forcing them to buy at a rate of Sh137 or higher.

Top firms have started trading in dollars among themselves, with hotels and aviation firms attracting interest from those in need of hard currency.

This is creating a parallel shadowy market, which is in breach of the law and has the potential to trigger a range of economic problems including discouraging foreign direct investment (FDI), encouraging rent-seeking and reducing the interbank FX market.

Multiple bankers admitted the caps on dollar purchases but declined to come on record fearing retaliation from the CBK.

Industrialists say the lack of access to adequate hard currency was negatively affecting their ability to settle obligations to overseas suppliers in a timely manner.

The industrialists' lobby said the dollar crunch has strained relations with suppliers at a time competition for raw materials has intensified globally due to rising demand amid lingering supply chain constraints.

The shortage is the product of rising dollar demand being driven by increased shipments of raw materials and equipment in the wake of the recovering economy. There was no immediate comment from the CBK on the shortage of dollars.

But the regulator has repeatedly maintained that Kenya has sufficient foreign currency to meet demand, brushing off manufacturers who continue to warn about the shortage of dollars.

Importers reckon that the scarcity of dollars is worsening despite earlier comments from the banking lobby that it was temporary due to strong demand from companies remitting dividends and manufacturers importing components.

"Banks would previously dispense \$10,000 in a single visit and this ration has come down to \$5,000," said an executive at a top international logistics firm.

"When you have an appetite of \$250,000 but can only get \$5,000 at a time, how many trips is one going to make to meet the order? It stops making sense at some point."

The executives say some Kenyan firms have started sourcing dollars from neighbouring countries, especially Tanzania.

Analysts have blamed the CBK for the dollar crisis, saying the regulator introduced tough rules on the foreign exchange interbank market, crippling market operations.

Through the interbank forex market, banks are able to trade hard currency among each other and at rates which determine the official or spot rate.

A muted interbank market has, for instance, forced banks to seek dollars from companies and individuals, forcing retail transactions to happen at weaker rates.

"Liquidity in the interbank FX market has dried up and shifted to the bank-client market where forex transactions are executed at a much-depreciated rate," the IMF observed in December.

As spreads between the interbank and market rate widen, banks have shied away from selling dollars to each other on the increased margins on clients' business.

SELF Microfinance Fund has extended 313bn/- in soft loans to 225,000 beneficiaries between the periods of 2,000 and 2022.

The agency operates under the Ministry of Finance and Planning and is responsible for providing financial services to low-income citizens.

It's marketing and promotion manager, Linda Mshana, revealed the news on Thursday during a training session for journalists from Dodoma and Singida regions about the activities carried out by SELF MF in promoting economic growth.

She said that the loans with concessional terms have been given to small entrepreneurs, financial institutions, SMEs and SACCOS.

He said the agency started with a capital of 62bn/- but due to good returns from borrowers which is about 93 percent, the capital of the fund has reached 313bn/- which has been lent to entrepreneurs.

Mshana said the role of SELF is to give people the opportunity to work through the provision of microcredit services at low cost where the loans provided include agriculture, business, housing, fees, salary and group loans.

SELF Dodoma branch manager, Aristid Tesha, said that the loans provided by the fund are insured except for those provided to the company and the insurance fee charged to the customer is 0.6 percent per year and it helps the customer when he suffers from disasters and is stuck in repaying his loan.

He said that the fund does not give loans to those who do not pay government taxes and that the goals are to ensure that the beneficiaries who borrow small loans over time will have a large amount to run their activities so that they can reach the capital that will make them pay taxes to the government.

Tesha said that loans are given to those who do business that is not illegal and that the services provided by the fund targets at helping them to develop and establish financial systems and providing financial and credit education to the whole community.

One of the beneficiaries of the loans provided by SELF, Aziza Nasibu, who owns a water bottle processing plant, said she started the business by collecting bottles on the streets in collaboration with her husband and they used to transport them to Dar wa Salaam.

He said later he met with the SELF Fund and borrowed 50 million Sh. and now he has opened three factories, two in Dodoma region and one in Dar es Salaam region.



THE Secretary General of the ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi Daniel Chongolo, has instructed the Ministry of Agriculture to increase the number of subsidized fertilizer sales centres due to some farmers complaints about the input being sold at a high price and people having to walk long distances to buy it.

Chongolo gave the directives yesterday when addressing residents of Mtinko ward in Singida District after the people complained that the fertilizer is available at a high cost despite the presence of a subsidy given by the government due to the distance and the lack of stations.

He said the government's decision to subsidize inputs such as fertilizers has a major mission to reduce the burden of production costs.

"You all know that the price of fertilizer went up because the government raised the price, no, in the world where they produce it, they were closed because of the Corona disease, so the price of fertilizer and oil went up and it was sold for 140,000/- to 160,000/-," he said.

Chongolo said that the challenge that arose this year in terms of fertilizer will be solved because it was a trial year, but next year there will be certainty that fertilizer will reach the people in all areas.

He said that factories that produce fertilizers in the country including Dodoma whose fertilizers have been loved by farmers should increase production because it is impossible for us to continue to order and use fertilizers from abroad which are fundamentally incompatible with the local

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By Guardian Reporter



Daniel Chongolo, CCM secretary general.

Chongolo calls for closest subsidised fertiliser centres

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Rwanda targets Rwf2.5tn investments in manufacturing industry incentives

KIGALI

THE government recently announced the second phase of the Manufacture and Build to Recover Programme, aimed at fast-tracking private sector investments in key priority sectors to boost economic recovery from Covid-19 effects.

The programme initiated in 2020 sought to extend tax breaks and tax credits to businesses with an aim of reducing cost of investment for new manufacturers as well as those seeking to expand existing operations.

The New Times' Alice Kagina spoke to Richard Tushabe, Minister of State in charge of the National Treasury, on the impact of the first phase of the programme and the expected outcome of its extension.

Q: Can you give a brief overview of the first phase of the programme; what was the uptake and its impact?

A: The program was initiated as a measure to drive economic recovery from the effects of Covid-19, by focusing on key priority sectors including manufacturing agro-processing, and construction because the pandemic exposed the gap in our self-sufficiency as a country.

Despite global economic disruptions such as inflation, the first phase was successful where we saw investments exceeding the expected \$1 billion to around \$1.8 billion by end of 2022 and 36,000 jobs created, more than the anticipated 25,000 jobs.

We received 123 companies that applied through the programme, 106 of them were approved and are operational while the remaining 17 firms are undergoing assessment.

Q: What's the reason behind the extension of this programme?

A: As I mentioned, there were global economic and trade hurdles, things were not as smooth as we planned. For instance, the time it took for a container of goods from European countries to reach Rwanda almost doubled and this delayed the implementation of projects.

So, it's within that context that we decided to extend, by two years, the timeline for projects in the first phase and also to accommodate more who are wishing to invest in these three sectors.

Q: How much would you estimate that the government will forego in tax revenue considering the incentives of tax breaks and credits?

A: Truly, there is no loss for the government by offering such tax incentives to attract more investors and those expanding their business operations because we wouldn't have gained them otherwise.

This is a short-term measure which will create long-term benefits such as creating jobs for the next 5, 10 years or more of operation in the country.

While you can do numbers and attach a monetary value to exemptions given, you can come up with a figure like Rwf8 billion foregone in these incentives but it is technically not a loss to the government.

Q: What value of investment do you expect from this second phase?

A: We expect to double the investment made in the first phase and see about \$2.5 billion (Approx Rwf2.6 trillion) in the next two years.

You may question whether there has been any tangible impact but it takes time to see return on investment. We believe that in the next two to three years, we see this policy yielding results.

For construction, we require one to have a project valued at a minimum of \$10 million, and if one is setting up a new manufacturing industry/plant, the threshold is to invest at least \$1 million. In agro-processing, one is required \$100,000 which we intentionally minimized to attract a bigger number of investors to attain food security.

If you are an existing manufacturer and have plans of expanding operations, the programme has a threshold of at least 20 per cent of your total investment or at least \$1 million.

Q: How can investors be assured to venture into these sectors in the face of current cost of money due to measures taken to curb inflation?

A: What we did is to reduce the cost of investment with an approach of removing Value-Added Tax (18 per cent) on imported goods and removal of customs duties on goods imported from African countries outside EAC, as well as tax credits.

So when you put in place such incentives, in addition to ones accessed under the Economic Recovery Fund, they all reduce the cost of investment by close to 40 per cent, and it helps the person to invest without any fear.

Q: There are concerns over the gov't prioritizing big businesses over SMEs in terms of incentives given to boost the economy, how do you respond to this?

A: These big businesses don't work alone, there are a number of SMEs along the value chain. For instance, a factory that produces juices will need a small company that is into packaging or if you are going to construct a commercial building, there is a whole chain of companies involved in supplying materials.

But, it would be a great idea to come up with a specific programme targeting the SMEs in the country, in addition to the access to finance they get under the Economic Recovery Fund.



Richard Tushabe, Minister of State in charge of the National Treasury at Rwanda's Finance and Economic Planning ministry.

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For construction, we require one to have a project valued at a minimum of \$10 million, and if one is setting up a new manufacturing industry/plant, the threshold is to invest at least \$1 million. In agro-processing, one is required \$100,000 which we intentionally minimized to attract a bigger number of investors to attain food security.

If you are an existing manufacturer and have plans of expanding operations, the programme has a threshold of at least 20 per cent of your total investment or at least \$1 million.

Q: How can investors be assured to venture into these sectors in the face of current cost of money due to measures taken to curb inflation?

A: What we did is to reduce the cost of investment with an approach of removing Value-Added Tax (18 per cent) on imported goods and removal of customs duties on goods imported from African countries outside EAC, as well as tax credits.

So when you put in place such incentives, in addition to ones accessed under the Economic Recovery Fund, they all reduce the cost of investment by close to 40 per cent, and it helps the person to invest without any fear.

Q: There are concerns over the gov't prioritizing big businesses over SMEs in terms of incentives given to boost the economy, how do you respond to this?

A: These big businesses don't work alone, there are a number of SMEs along the value chain. For instance, a factory that produces juices will need a small company that is into packaging or if you are going to construct a commercial building, there is a whole chain of companies involved in supplying materials.

But, it would be a great idea to come up with a specific programme targeting the SMEs in the country, in addition to the access to finance they get under the Economic Recovery Fund.

Q: Can you give a brief overview of the first phase of the programme; what was the uptake and its impact?

A: The program was initiated as a measure to drive economic recovery from the effects of Covid-19, by focusing on key priority sectors including manufacturing agro-processing, and construction because the pandemic exposed the gap in our self-sufficiency as a country.

Despite global economic disruptions such as inflation, the first phase was successful where we saw investments exceeding the expected \$1 billion to around \$1.8 billion by end of 2022 and 36,000 jobs created, more than the anticipated 25,000 jobs.

We received 123 companies that applied through the programme, 106 of them were approved and are operational while the remaining 17 firms are undergoing assessment.

Q: What's the reason behind the extension of this programme?

A: As I mentioned, there were global economic and trade hurdles, things were not as smooth as we planned. For instance, the time it took for a container of goods from European countries to reach Rwanda almost doubled and this delayed the implementation of projects.

So, it's within that context that we decided to extend, by two years, the timeline for projects in the first phase and also to accommodate more who are wishing to invest in these three sectors.

Q: How much would you estimate that the government will forego in tax revenue considering the incentives of tax breaks and credits?

A: Truly, there is no loss for the government by offering such tax incentives to attract more investors and those expanding their business operations because we wouldn't have gained them otherwise.

This is a short-term measure which will create long-term benefits such as creating jobs for the next 5, 10 years or more of operation in the country.

While you can do numbers and attach a monetary value to exemptions given, you can come up with a figure like Rwf8 billion foregone in these incentives but it is technically not a loss to the government.

Q: What value of investment do you expect from this second phase?

A: We expect to double the investment made in the first phase and see about \$2.5 billion (Approx Rwf2.6 trillion) in the next two years.

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Animal protection agency works with artists to speak for wildlife

By Guardian Reporter

ANIMAL welfare campaign organization, World Animal Protection (WAP), is teaming up with artists and young people in Kenya to raise awareness about wildlife protection.

The collaboration aims to build a movement of people to protect Africa's wildlife from being exploited as commodities of trade.

This year's World Wildlife Day, which is being marked on 3rd March, is celebrated under the theme "Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation".

Edith Kabesime, wildlife campaigns manager at World animal protection, said in this year's celebration, the organization choose to work with young people who use their platforms to raise awareness and inspire action.

Collaborate with artists will allow the organization to reach new audiences and engage with people in a way that goes beyond statistics and data.

"By harnessing the power of art and creativity, we can inspire and create a global movement of people who respects wildlife as sentient beings and take individual and collective actions to protect them in their natural habitats where they belong", she said.

According to her, this year's World Wildlife Day coincides with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) marking 50 years of existence.

Therefore, it comes at a crucial time to reflect on the existential crisis facing wild animals in Africa, not only from a conservation angle, but from a welfare perspective as well.

The suffering that animals go



through in trade is heartbreaking. They are ruthlessly captured in their habitats, crammed into small spaces in unsanitary conditions during transportation, they are then slaughtered crudely or made to live the rest of their lives tied or caged.

She asserted that it is essential to recognize that wildlife trade that involves extraction of individuals from the wild or breeding them in captivity is inherently cruel and causes immense animal suffering.

Wildlife trade, whether legal or illegal, has become a major threat to the

survival of many species in Africa. Legal trade is generally marred with enforcement failures due to lack of capacity faced by enforcement agencies and corruption.

Kennedy Odongo, the talent development officer at the Kenya National Theater said that art can be a powerful tool to raise awareness on important issues such as animal welfare.

"I hope that our collaboration will inspire people to take action to protect all species of wildlife. We will continue to use our Poetry After Lunch events to place animal welfare agenda

at the top of people's mind as a way of giving a voice to animals considering that there is a raft of exploitative practices that are causing so much suffering to wildlife including trophy hunting, traditional medicine and exotic pet trade," He said.

According to him, African governments need to take a pre-cautionary approach on wildlife trade. They need to be aware of and address the health dangers of the wildlife trade.

They also need to realize that wild animals are much more valuable alive than when they are dead. There is a need to recognize the intrinsic value of wild animals, as well as their contribution to the ecosystems and the planet.

WAP is of the view that some progressive governments in Africa such as Kenya have been praised for being champions at CITES and getting species up listed for better protection.

However, there is still much more to be done. African governments are urged to address extractive practices, such as reptile farming for export for pets and traditional medicine. Kenya is encouraged to do more to strengthen enforcement to ensure that the country is not used as a hub for pangolin and other wildlife trafficking.

"On this World Wildlife Day, let us remember that wildlife trade is just cruel and subjects animals to tremendous pain during capture, transit, slaughter and in homes and commercial venues where some live the rest of their lives in misery;

We need to work together to ensure that we protect them from commodification. Wildlife have a right to a wild life." Said Edith Kabesime when addressing attendees at the art even held at the Kenya National Theater.

growth in the consumption of LPG by Kenyan households, reporting a per capita increase from 2kg in 2012 to 6.6kg in 2020, and 7.5kg in 2022.

LPG consumption has been on the decline following the re-introduction of the 16 per cent VAT on cooking gas and the high costs of crude globally due to the Russia-Ukraine war.

Kenya introduced a value-added tax (VAT) of 16 percent on LPG in July 2021, causing a further rise in prices but was later halved to 8.0 this year, after a public uproar.

LPG prices shot up by at least Sh350 due to the tax and high costs of crude globally further driving the prices, hurting the ability of homes to buy the commodity and prompting a return to dirty fuels like charcoal and kerosene.

The rise in gas prices has pushed more Kenyans to use dirty fuels such as charcoal and firewood as they struggle with the soaring cost of living that has seen inflation rise to 8.5 percent, the highest since July 2017.

According to the 2019 population census, nearly a quarter (24 percent) of Kenyan households primarily depend on cooking gas as their main source of cooking fuel.

KNBS data says the usage of cooking gas is highest in urban areas at 52 percent while only five percent of rural households use LPG.

Firewood is the most popular cooking fuel in the country with a usage of 55 percent nationally and 84 percent in the rural set-up.

Consumption of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) dropped by 35 percent in the first half of the year, as the impact of the high prices driven by taxes and the Russia-Ukraine conflict forced Kenyans back to dirty fuels.

Data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows that Kenyans bought 123,150 tonnes of cooking gas in the six months to June this year, down from the 188,850 tonnes purchased in a similar period last year.

He said there has been an increased cover the entire continent.

"One is to look at the product complementarities between our countries, so we could have African countries trading inputs with another country where, perhaps, you have a much larger processing capacity."

Pedro said the commission was making a trade decision supporting modelling, which is an exercise to identify the best export destinations for African countries.

However, he said the distance between African countries was much farther away than the distance between Africa and other continents.

"In the case of Cameroon that we have done one study; Nigeria certainly is the closest trade destination, however, what is very interesting is that a country that is not far from Cameroon which is the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is trade distance," he added.

Dairy exports see 11 pc rise as challenges grow tougher

KAMPALA

DAIRY exports fetched more than Sh382b for the economy compared to export earnings from the same sector in FY 2020/2021 despite the drought in some milk sheds in the country.

The annual dairy performance report for FY 2021 by Dairy Development Authority (DDA) shows that Sh382.2b was earned from dairy exports during the reviewed financial year (2021) compared to Sh344.2b in FY 2020, an increase of 11 per cent.

DDA attributes the rise in the export earnings to the increased compliance of Uganda's dairy products both regional and international standards.

"Uganda exported a total of 83,063 metric tonnes of dairy products to 16 countries," the report reads in part.

It added: "Although the value of exports and related volume have recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic in the last two years, the country fell short of the National Development Plan III target of \$121.7m for the year."

Export destinations drop to 16

Despite the surge in the export volumes, the export destinations dropped from 18 countries in FY2020 to 16 countries after losing Qatar, UK, Czech Republic and Sri-Lank. Only two countries were registered as new market destinations, these are; United States and Somalia.

According to the report, the major exported products include; UHT milk, butter, casein powder, milk powder, whey protein, and cheese.

These were mainly exported to the East African Community (EAC), Comesa countries, Japan, US, Oman, India and Ethiopia.

DDA also noted an increase in the average international raw milk price estimated at Shs1,757 per litre from Shs1,120 in FY2020. The international market price is at least 48 percent higher than the national farm gate price recorded at Shs1,118.

However, whereas the authority described the farm gate milk prices as 'relatively fair', it noted that the national per capita milk consumption in Uganda is still very low, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) standards.

"Our (Uganda) estimated domestic milk per capita consumption is 62 litres compared to the WHO recommendation of 200 litres," DDA annual dairy performance report FY 2021/2022 reads in part.

The national milk production for FY 2021 stood at 3.2 billion litres, an average of 4.8 litres per cow.

Licensed milk collection centres have increased to 547 in the reviewed financial year with an estimated capacity of 2.3m litres compared to 475 in the previous year.

Uganda exported merchandise worth \$371.81 million in December 2022, indicating an increase of 10.7 percent from \$335.77 million registered the month before, helping the government to raise funds to cater for the needs of citizens.

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development said in the performance of the economy monthly report of January 2023 released on February 21 that the growth was attributed to increased receipts for maize and mineral products, among others.

The Ministry of Finance said during the month of December 2022, maize exports increased from \$4.34 million in November 2022 to \$20.48 million in December 2022.

The rise was partly due to the onset of the maize harvesting season as well as the heightened demand for Uganda's maize by the neighboring countries. However, the ministry revealed that there was a 7.2 percent decline in the value of coffee export earnings from \$64.14 million in November 2022 to \$59.54 million in December 2022.

This was mainly attributed to lower export volumes as a result of dry weather conditions from April to August 2022 in most parts of the country's coffee-producing regions, which led to lower yields.

The ministry of Finance said in comparison to December 2021, export earnings increased from \$323.96 million to \$371.81 million representing a 15.1 percent growth. This growth was on account of increased earnings from commodities such as maize, mineral products, beans among others.



Kenya's Treasury has not allocated any money to implement a presidential directive to promote the use of clean cooking gas solutions in 5,000 public boarding institutions across the country by 2025.

NAIROBI

PRESIDENT William Ruto's plan to provide cooking gas for learning institutions will take longer to be realised after the Treasury failed to allocate Sh2.5 billion in the financial year starting July 1.

The Petroleum ministry told Parliament that the Treasury has not allocated any money to implement a presidential directive to promote the use of clean cooking gas solutions in 5,000 public boarding institutions across the country by 2025.

"The target for this calendar year is 500 public boarding schools to the tune of Sh2.5 billion," Mohamed Liban, the Petroleum principal secretary told MPs.

Mr Liban told MPs that the project involves the construction of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) bullets, cook-stoves

Funding cuts hit Sh2.5bn LPG project for schools

and piping in each of the schools.

"The needed funds have not been provided," he told the National Assembly's Energy committee chaired by Mwala MP Vincent Musau.

Appearing before the committee to present the ministry's plans as contained in the 2023/24 Budget Policy Statement (BPS), Mr Liban said the project is to be funded by the Anti-Adulteration Levy.

President Ruto last week directed all public institutions including schools using biomass as primary cooking fuel to transition to LPG by 2025.

Dr Ruto issued the directive when he presided over the opening of Taifa Gas

in Mombasa. He said the adoption of clean modern cooking reduces the appetite for wood fuel, which has led to illegal logging.

"All public institutions that currently utilise biomass as their primary cooking fuel will be required to transition to LPG. In particular, public educational institutions must ensure that this transition is completed by 2025," Dr Ruto directed.

Dr Ruto said household LPG use in Kenya is greater than the African average of 3 kg per capita but falls below global practice of between 10-15 kg per capita.

He said there has been an increased

AfCFTA boosts intra-African trade by 20 percent, says UN

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) says the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) increased trade between countries in the region by 20 percent in 2022.

Antonio Pedro, Acting Executive Secretary of UNECA, spoke on the success of the AfCFTA project on the sidelines of the 9th session of the Africa

regional forum on sustainable development in Niamey, Niger Republic.

The commission, in 2018, estimated that AfCFTA would increase intra-Africa trade by 52 percent by 2022.

Speaking on whether the objective of 52 percent intra-African trade was achieved, Pedro said the level of trade had increased but not up to its target.

He said the rise in intra-African trade, however, was already

encouraging certain countries to trade amongst themselves.

"The levels of intra-African trade have gone up from 13 percent or so, before the AfCFTA agreement was adopted, to now around 20 percent but that is not good enough because other regions are trading amongst themselves. In Europe and Asia, it is above 70 percent or so. That certainly is our target. So, now it's really about scale, it is about making these movements that

cover the entire continent.

SPORT

Man Utd face Liverpool test, Arsenal back in the groove

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Eswatini FA launches Technical Development Scheme

MBABANE

THE Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) and the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has launched the Technical Development Scheme (TDS) Eswatini.

This is a project by FIFA that is aimed at creating a sustainable legacy for long-term development by maximizing each FIFA Member Association's (MAs) opportunities as per the global ecosystem analysis (ESA).

The ESA was conducted for 18 months by FIFA and it came out with two findings which are; a clear view of the global imbalance that exists in football, and the great potential of the MA's talent development program to tackle this imbalance.

As highlighted by FIFA president Gianni Infantino at the 71st FIFA Congress in May 2021, the TDS will offer a tailor-made concept for each country on how best to operate to give every talent a chance.

During the launch event that took place at the EFA's Technical Centre in Lobamba, FIFA was represented by Serame Letsoaka, who is the FIFA Technical Consultant.

Also present during this event were the EFA Executive Committee Members and some Executive Committee Members from the EFA Membership to mention but a few.

When making his address during this launch, Letsoaka highlighted the importance of implementing football development programs at the grassroots level.

"If the foundation is strong enough, everything takes care of itself, because everybody wants to sponsor a good product", Letsoaka said.

Speaking on behalf of the EFA President was the Lubombo Regional Football Association Chairperson who is also an Executive Committee Member of the EFA, Nichodemus Mashwama who acknowledged the support by FIFA towards football development in the country and for making it possible that this program is implemented in the country.

"As EFA, we would like to acknowledge FIFA for her support towards football development in the country and the implementation of the TDS in the country. We assure FIFA that this project will be perfectly executed in the country," Mashwama said.

The TDS- Eswatini will be implemented in six EFA centers with the possibility of adding more. These centers are, Mkhuzweni, Lobamba, Manzini, Matsapha, KaLanga, and Nhlanguano, and its theme is 'Consolidating Football Talent'.

The participants in this football development program are U-13, U-15, and U-17 boys and girls.

This talent was identified from the other football development programs that are implemented by the EFA. AGENCIES



Serame Letsoaka

Dar hosts open junior athletics trials

letics Championships slated to take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

The tournament, according to the association, will be used to select athletes to represent the country in this year's edition of the East and Central Africa Region (EAAR) Junior Championships.

The Open Junior Athletics Championships will be held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and more than 200 junior athletes are expected to battle it out in the showpiece.

One of AT information officers, Tullo Chambo, said today's event is an open

showdown in which all junior athletes are free to compete.

He stated regions namely Arusha, Morogoro, Tabora, and Coast Region have registered their athletes for the showdown.

"All is set for the Open Junior Championships, it will be used to select U-20 and U-18 athletes who will enter the camp to prepare for the EAAR Championships to be hosted by our country next week," he said.

He said the selected athletes will enter camp under the tutelage of Mwinga Mwanjala and Robert Kalaghe.

Tullo, however, could

not issue the number of athletes who will enter the camp and the venue of the camp.

The official disclosed all will be known after AT's executive meeting which took place in the city yesterday. By press time the meeting was in progress.

This is the second time in a row that AT is hosting the regional track and field championships and Chambo described the showdown as an opportunity for the country's junior athletes.

Initially, Rwanda was the regional championships' host but the country did not meet some of the con-

ditions.

With Tanzania having been the championships' host last year, it was, for that matter, again awarded the opportunity to host it this year.

The championships will be used as qualification for Africa Junior Athletics Championships which will be held in Zambia next month.

This will be the third time in recent years that Tanzania is hosting the EAAR Junior Championships.

The country had earlier hosted the showdown in 2017 and last year. World Athletics (WA) is the main sponsor of the event.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has said all is set for the Open Junior Ath-



Junior athletes participate in the recent East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Athletes to participate in Pugu Marathon in May

By Guardian Correspondent

THIS year's Pugu Marathon, a charity race organized by the Catholic Church, is expected to take place in Coast Region on May 27.

The race, slated to take place from Hija Pugu to Kisarawe, will involve athletes battling it out in 21km, 10km, and 5km races, and the 2km walking.

Speaking to the press at St. Joseph Church in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Archbishop of the Catholic Church Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam, Jude Thaddeus Ruwa'ichi, said preparations for the race, which will be taking place in the last week of May every year, are already on top gear.

He said the race seeks to raise funds for the development of the Pugu Pilgrimage Center and help needy patients in various hospitals.

According to him, the renovation of the house where the Father of the Nation, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, once stayed, will moreover be covered by the funds.



Archbishop of the Catholic Church Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam, Jude Thaddeus Ruwa'ichi, speaks to journalists in the city yesterday on a charity race, termed Pugu Marathon, which is set to take place in Coast Region on May 27. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT IMANI NATHANIEL

"We have organized the Pugu Marathon charity race, which will be held every year, to raise funds to develop the Pugu Pilgrimage Center, and provide aid to patients in vari-

ous hospitals," Ruwa'ichi disclosed.

"We also seek to repair the house where the Father of the Nation once lived, maintain health, and build a culture of

participation in sports," the Archbishop noted.

He asked various athletes to come forward to participate in the race which will be held for the first time this year, adding

the showdown will thereafter become an annual feature.

The Secretary of the Race Committee, Marceline Nkwere, said they are asking various stakeholders and companies to come forward to sponsor the event to ensure the hosts reach the goals they have set.

The official said they believe the race will be more competitive due to the preparations they are making. Marceline said winners of the race are expected to receive various prizes, which will be announced later, along with medals.

"The preparations are going well and we are asking various stakeholders to come forward to provide us with sponsorship to ensure we reach the goals we have set," Marceline said.

The official added that the registration will be done online, in which the participants of the 21km and 10km events will pay 30,000/- each.

The 5km and 2km races' competitors, Marceline noted, will pay 20,000/- each for the entrance fee.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

