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Z'bar Reps study bills to protect marine resources

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR has finalised drafts of three bills for strengthening the protection of marine resources and stimulating fisheries, aquaculture and research activities.

Suleiman Masoud Makame, the Blue Economy and Fisheries minister, explained the bills at a seminar for members of the House of Representatives convened to take stock on the issues.

He said the seminar would enable the representatives to understand progress reached in the making of policies and laws on the blue economy, noting that progress towards a successful blue economy depends on informed involvement. Progress in the blue economy lies on leaders' commitment, enacting better laws and pushing for sustainable development of socioeconomic activities like fisheries, aquaculture and tourism, he said.

Completion of policy designs on the blue economy and fisheries sector development is a preliminary achievement towards stimulating development in the Isles, he said.

"We need to work together to ensure that the blue economy and fisheries benefit the majority of the people engaging in marine-based activities including seaweed farming and sardine drying," mostly women, he stated.

The formulated policies and laws to be enacted soon will stimulate investment in marine resources and the promotion of the blue economy, he said, noting that the new laws will facilitate better protection of marine resources.

Related biodiversity and ecosystem necessary for a sea-based economy was being targeted, with new legislation engaging fishermen, asked to provide their views, he stated.

"The policy and draft bills have taken into account the needs of fishermen and how to support the fishermen and other producers of marine products," he further noted.

The policy outline and draft laws drew from experiences of island countries, how they tackled productivity issues to achieve intended goals in the marine sector, he elaborated.

Mgeni Hassan Juma, the House deputy speaker, commended the government for taking the right decision to promote economic growth through marine resources, affirming that efforts towards a successful blue economy need a revamping of current legislation.

Permanent Secretary Mustafa About Jumbe said that statistics show that fishing output stood at 55,000 tonnes in the outgoing year, while the ministry was working to train small-scale fishermen on best fishing practices. It was supporting them with a modern boat to enable them to reach fish sources using fish finder and GPS, he added.

The policy and draft bills have taken into account the needs of fishermen and how to support the fishermen and other ...

Form I list: No shift to boarding schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has banned transfers to boarding schools for students who are unsatisfied with their Form One placement in day schools.

Prof Riziki Shemdoe, the Regional Administration and Local Governments permanent secretary in the President's Office, said the selections considered rules and set criteria, addressing a working session of regional education officers to evaluate management and operation of education for the year 2022.

Angellah Kairuki, the minister, announced the selection of Form One students to public schools, after which the ministry is being rained with requests from parents wanting their children to be transferred to boarding schools.

"There will be no transfers of those who want to join boarding schools and parents have to accept this and start preparing their children to report to the schools they have been allocated," he said.

The selection of students has considered performance rates, competition as well as proximity of schools and students' home



There will be no transfers of those who want to join boarding schools and parents have to accept this and start preparing their children to report to the schools they have been allocated



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa speaks with Tanzania Embassy staff in Pretoria in a visit to South Africa yesterday. At right is Health permanent secretary Prof. Abel Makubi and second right is the acting high commissioner, Peter Shija. Photo: PMO

Minister demands protecting climate change user projects

By Guardian Reporter

COMMUNITIES benefitting from climate change adaptation projects implemented to protect them for sustainability, the government has appealed.

Dr Selemani Jafo, the Union

and Environment state minister in the President's Office, made this appeal in a statement yesterday, referring to projects under the ecosystem-based adaptation for rural resilience (EBARR) supervised by the World Bank.

Launching water wells, greenhouses, cattle dip and a sunflower oil extraction machine in Mpwapwa district, Dodoma region, he appealing to beneficiaries to take the projects as their own so that they remain useful for the

younger generation as well.

EBARR is a \$7.5m (over 17bn/-) project under the least developed countries fund within the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) now being undertaken in Mpwapwa,

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TCRA raises alarm on rogue TV firms

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has expressed intent to take legal actions against operators of satellite television services without valid licences and import permits for communication equipment.

It said in a statement yesterday that there are companies and individuals carrying out satellite TV business without due licences, as Canal Plus decoders and similar equipment are not the type already approved.

"Notice is hereby given to the general public and those operating



Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud exchanges greetings with Said Salim Bakhresa (L), a noted industrialist, when he went to console the family yesterday following the death of their son Salim Ahmed Bakhresa that occurred recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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Minister demands protecting climate change user projects

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Simanjiro, Mvomero and Kishapu districts, as well as the Zanzibar North A division.

The project is of great value because there is water within one kilometre of each household and productive units are supplied with electricity, including for water pumping at the well.

"This is a huge cost, so let's take care of this project for the wider interests of all villages," the statement underlined, asking water committees of Nghambi and Mbugani villages where he launched water wells to manage the project so that it is sustainable and is of great benefit to the people.

Another tank could be added in future to further expand the facility, but for the moment basic needs to help the people fight the effects of climate change have been taken care of, the minister affirmed.

He lauded efforts of Mpwapwa district leaders in managing the projects well, as they are key to helping individuals and groups to put up economic activities.

He launched a dip project at Kazania village for cleaning

livestock to prevent ticks attach to animals and cause diseases. Three well projects were launched for more than 5000 residents expecting to get clean water.

Similarly, the VPO unveiled nurseries where farming groups grow vegetables like tomatoes, as well as a sunflower milling machine project in Nghambi village. It will extract 6.5 tons per day and helps people who earlier had to take the produce to Kongwa.

Mwanahami Ally, the district executive director, ensured the people of the area that the project will be properly supervised so that they are sustainable, as the council will collaborate with the Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) to increase water supply with the wells tied to the EBARR project.

Many areas in the district face water challenges, so improved supply shall enable people to grow vegetables through nurseries or at households for better incomes.

Mpwapwa MP George Malima said that the water problem facing some villages had now been solved through the project.



Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Dr. Selemani Jafo displays sunflower oil jerry cans moments after launching crop processing plant at Nghambi village through ecosystem-based adaptation for rural resilience in Mpwapwa district, Dodoma region yesterday. Photo: VPO

TCRA raises alarm on rogue TV firms

FROM PAGE 1

satellite television services without having a valid support services (satellite) license from TCRA to immediately cease operating the said businesses (and) instead follow the procedures to obtain licenses," the statement

intoned.

TCRA will take serious legal action on anyone found in defiance of this notice, it said, underlining that "TCRA, pursuant to Section 23 (1) (b) and (c) of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 (revised edition 2022) and

Regulation 40(a) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Licensing) Regulations, 2018 requires importers and distributors of electronic communication equipment to have licence from TCRA."

Section 83(1) of the Act requires

that any equipment used for connection of any electronic communications network for the purpose of receiving, transmitting electronic communication signals has to be approved by the authority, it added.

Robots attracting girls to take up science subjects

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

WHEN a private Tanzanian company; Apps and Girls, opened offices in Uganda in 2019, their strategy was to transfer their eight years of experience of using robots to motivate Ugandan girls to embrace science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

However, like the rest of the world, their operations were affected by the two lockdowns that saw the closure of schools to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to Carolyne Ekarisiima, the company's chief executive officer, they have been using science and robots to inspire girls in Tanzania to pursue STEM.

Ekyarisiima says the project has been experimented at Mengo Senior Secondary School and has been successful.

Under the arrangement, girls are tasked to identify a problem in society and the company assembles a team of mentors to help them develop innovations and the technology to solve it.

"We have girls who have developed a technology to dispense sanitary pads for those who cannot afford the whole packet. Others have developed an automated wheel chair for people living with disabilities. Another group has developed technology to collect garbage from the environment like schools, hospitals and beaches," Ekyarisiima says.

"They (mentors) identify which innovations have the capacity to compete at the global level and prepare the teams for the competitions

so that when the members return, they have to mentor new girls into the programme," she adds. Hermon Asmeron, a Senior Three student of Mengo SSS and the captain of Uganda Robotics Team, which represented Uganda in the first global robotics challenge, says learning robotics involves coding.

"Robotics teaches you coding programming which is taught in the science world because it is connected to STEM. You will be able to solve different problems in society. You will have motors moving in different directions," Asmeron says.

"This helps them to put into practice what they learnt at school and sometimes where they get it wrong, they are challenged to go back and revise," she adds.

Oprah Nkalubo, one of the students who developed the robot for collecting garbage, said after identifying the challenge in urban areas, a team from Apps and Girls supported them to understand how science technology engineering and mathematics can be applied to robotics to get a career path.

According to Ekyarisiima, since the introduction of robotics boot camps sponsored by Rockefeller Foundation and First Global in the country, they have noted that girls have challenges and have ideas to solve them.

She says they have a positive attitude towards science subjects because within one year, they have attracted 102 students from Mary Hill, Bugema Adventist SSS, Our Lady of Good Counsel Gayaza and Mengo SSS.



Works and Transport minister Prof. Makame Mbarawa (C) inspects flyovers at the junction of Kilwa and Mandela Express Highway in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Courtesy of Ministry of Works

Investor issues operations updates for Rukwa project

By Guardian Reporter, Agencies

FOLLOWING the commencement of production at Rukwa Coal Project, Edenville Energy Plc new management team is now focusing on establishing an expanded customer base as well as increasing daily production and output of washed coal.

Whilst the former has exceeded expectations, as previously reported the latter has continued to

hinder the ultimate progress of the company in the short term.

According to a statement availed to the media, the company's members of the Board were in Tanzania for a prolonged period during November and the company has now taken action to improve the output and operational efficiency at Rukwa.

Certain former stakeholders and suppliers deemed no longer suitable have been removed. Together with the replacement of on-the-ground

senior management who the board believes were impacting progress of Rukwa, alongside new local advisers and personnel now in place, the directors believe the company's Rukwa operations are on a much improved and efficient footing.

The short-term focus of the company is to now achieve its targeted state of steady production of 3000 and then 4000 t per month of washed coal. When operational the current wash plant is achieving an output of

approximately 100 t per day of washed coal from eight-hour shifts. Therefore, the board believes 3000 rising to 4000 t per month is a realistic target from existing infrastructure, especially in light of the recent actions taken by management. As outlined below, significant demand now exists for Rukwa coal. However, it is likely that to meet this demand of over 10,000 t per month of washed coal, an additional wash plant will be required.

The company believes

upon achieving the targeted initial stabilised production rate, any additional wash plant could be funded through a finance lease, hire purchase or other such financing arrangement.

As previously reported, during 2022, the company has consistently seen increasing demand and price per tonne for Rukwa coal.

Following the Board's efforts in-country last month, the company has agreed terms to supply 2000 t of washed coal

per month at a net of transport price of US\$55/t at the mine gate and up to 1500 t per month of unwashed coal fines at US\$20 - 25/t to new customers.

These customers have already purchased their first shipments of washed coal and fines. An additional confirmed order of approximately 850 t per month of washed coal has been secured with another customer at a similar price.

More potential customers have been identified;

however, the company has refrained from entering into off take arrangements with them until such time as the stabilised production rates can service this additional demand. The Board believes the total cost to produce washed coal is likely to remain below the current level of US\$20/t, with fines produced effectively as a by-product. The company also has an existing stockpile of approximately 60 000 t of fines. The market for fines has significantly increased given the cur-

rent coal environment and the company now has orders to purchase fines at pricing of US\$20 - 25/t. Fines from the stockpile are collected by customers and, as such, are expected to make a significant contribution to the revenue of the company going forward.

While the tendering process for the appointment of a contract miner is ongoing, the company retains the benefit of the entire proceeds of sale of coal from its operations at Rukwa.



Students from Moletii secondary school in Kongwa district, Dodoma region erecting terraces on farms to improve water availability for plants and prevent soil erosion. Photo: Guardian Correspondent Valentine Oloro.

Number of tourists in Udzungwa National Park on the increase

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE number of tourists visiting Udzungwa Mountains National Park has increased from 6,000 to 10,000 in 2022, a move that contributed by the improvement of road network in the conservancy.

Richard Hayri, Udzungwa Mountains National Park Tourism Conservator said that visitors are interested to see amazing wonders such as Sanje waterfalls—one of the waterfalls in the national parks system of Tanzania having the highest waterfall about 270m high.

The road network that takes place every year for about ten years now is being implemented with money from the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF), it involves the infrastructure of tourist routes, construction of tourists' camps inside the park for tourists to get food.

Hayri said that the road infrastructure improvement has increased the number of tourists entering the park from 6,000 in the previous years to 10,000 tourists expected to visit the park in 2022. "To us, this is a very big achievement as compared to the previous years," he said.

"Tourists who enter the park at the moment are assured of getting through all tourist destinations in the conservancy easily and when they want to sleep there they can do so. Tourists get all the services there and the idea is to make them feel comfortable," said Hayri.

According to him, EAMCEF has also enabled them to conduct training for tour guides from the villages bordering the park who currently have sufficient education to guide tourists to the attractions in the park, education which despite improving services for tourists has grown to be a source of employment for the young people.

Zawadi Mafuru, Udzungwa Guide Association chairman explained that the training they got in practice in Kilimanjaro National Park (KINA-

PA) has had positive results for them by increasing the skills of guiding tourists and their work being made easier by the improvements in the ways they guide visitors.

Through EAMCEF's funding, villagers around the park have also been empowered to run various entrepreneurial projects with the aim of raising income.

The targeted group in the project are people with disabilities (PwDs) who have been empowered with a restaurant project that provides services within the park's headquarters serving employees and their families as well as visitors while the disabled are empowered with a vegetable and fruit garden project through greenhouse farming.

Sijali Menda is a woman with disability and EAMCEF funds' beneficiary lauded the fund as it has made her to run her backyard gardening that makes her meet her daily basic needs as compared to the past where she hadn't anything.

In the past, Sijali was forced to become a beggar to meet her needs, a situation she described as humiliating and depriving her dignity. "But now this remains a story of the past, as I get all I want from my garden," she said.

Rosemary Boniface, EAMCEF project officer said that the trust fund functions as a long-term and reliable funding mechanism to support Community Development, Biodiversity Conservation and Applied Research Projects, which promote the biological diversity, ecological functions and sustainable use of natural resources in the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania.

"It also catalyse resources to foster conservation of forest biodiversity in the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania through investment in sustainable community development and livelihood improvement, sustained financing for protected areas management and financial support to applied biodiversity and climate change research," she said.

Minister Mbarawa launches BRT Kilwa road interchange

By Guardian Correspondent

WORKS and Transport minister, Prof Makame Mbarawa, yesterday launched the 20.3 kilometers Kilwa Road interchange which is part of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project from city centre and goes up to Mbagala Rangitatu.

Speaking during the road inauguration in Dar es Salaam, Prof Mbarawa said that plans are to open the Bandari-Chang'ombe section of the newly constructed road in order to reduce traffic congestion.

He said as soon as the Kilwa road

project is completed, the government will start implementing a similar project to improve road infrastructures from Mbagala Mwisho to Vikindu in Coast Region, measuring 17 kilometres.

He said the new project will be implemented in the 2023/2024 financial year due increased population as well as traffic jams.

"We aim at reducing congestion on our roads especially those from city centre to Mbagala. Temeke and Mbagala residents have for a long period experienced transport challenges; these projects are going to

facilitate smooth transport services. Vehicles will today start using the Kilwa flyover to ease congestion," said the Minister.

Manager, Dar Rapid Transit (DART) project phase II, Eng Barakael Mmari said the road project has been completed by 82 percent, adding upon completion it will have a total of 27 bus stations.

He said the Dar es Salaam project along Kilwa road involves construction of four flyovers at Bandari, Kilwa, Chang'ombe and Kawawa. He said that opening of the road yesterday will allow the contractor

to continue with the remained job which is construction of side roads which is expected to take 28 days upon completion. Member of Parliament for Mbagala Constituency, Abdallah Chaurembo said residents of Temeke and Mbagala are grateful to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for providing funds to allow implementation of development projects, including the DART project.

He said the residents have been experiencing transport challenges for almost 15 years, saying completion of the road will stimulate economic activities.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
CHUO CHA USIMAMIZI WA FEDHA
THE INSTITUTE OF FINANCE MANAGEMENT
(ESTABLISHED UNDER THE ACT No. 3 OF 1972)



Press Release Appointment of a New Rector

The Minister of Finance and Planning Hon. Dr. Mwigulu Lameck Nchemba (MP) has appointed Prof. Josephat Daniel Lotto as the Rector of the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) for the period of five years with effect from 1st January, 2023.

Josephat Daniel Lotto is an Associate Professor of Finance and a renowned researcher in Corporate Governance and Financial strategies. He has authored over 50 papers in both local and internationally recognized academic journals published by highly reputable publishing houses such as Wiley&Sons, Taylor&Francis Group, Emerald and Elsevier. Professor Lotto provides advisory services in Risk Management, M&E and Policy issues to a number of clients in both public and private sector. Prior to this appointment Professor Lotto was serving as the Director of Postgraduate, Research and Consultancy at the Institute of Finance Management (IFM); a position he held from February 2017.



Prof. Josephat Daniel Lotto
Rector of the Institute of Finance Management (IFM)

He also serves as a director to various boards in both the public and private sectors.

Prof. Josephat Daniel Lotto received his Bachelor of Geology with Honors from the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) in

2002. He also obtained MBA (Finance) at the University of Dar es Salaam between 2003 and 2005. Josephat pursued a Master of Finance with Distinction from the University of Strathclyde in the UK in 2008 before receiving his PhD (Finance) from the same University in 2012. He is also a Certified Public Accountant with CPA (T).

The Chairman of the Governing Council, Management and the entire Community of The Institute of Finance Management (IFM) congratulate Prof. Josephat Daniel Lotto for a well deserved appointment. We welcome and wish him the best of luck on his new appointment at the Institute of Finance Management (IFM).

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Public Relations Unit
The Institute of Finance Management (IFM)
30th December, 2022



Motor vehicles pass on flyovers situated along Kilwa and Mandela roads in Dar es Salaam after the Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa moved to allow them to use the facility upon its completion yesterday.



Home Affairs minister Hamad Yusuf Masauni (R) speaks with the permanent secretary, Kaspar Mmuya at the VIP Lounge at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: MoHA



Katavi regional commissioner Mwanamvua Mrindoko (C-seated) leads other government officials to sit on school desks just after receiving them at Lyamba secondary school yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Neema Hussein



Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Abdallah Ulega greets Mtepera village when the cabinet committee on land conflicts visited the village yesterday.



Eljerry College of Nursing and the Msekwa Park business center director Elizabert Chigua, along the Muheza - Amani highway in Muheza district, Tanga region (R) join residents to plant trees for environmental protection yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



A fruit vendor in Muheza in Tanga region awaits customers yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



Small traders sell goods at the Morogoro Bus Stand yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika



A cross section of Mtepera villagers in Kilwa district in Lindi region listen to Lands, Housing and Human Settlement development minister Dr Angelina Mabula (not in picture) when the cabinet committee on land conflicts visited at the village yesterday.



Construction a bridge in Mpwapwa District in progress, as found yesterday, this being part of the government's strategy to improve surface transport in Dodoma Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dodoma RC urges DCs, DEDs to sensitise people to plant trees during this rain season

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Commissioner Rosemary Shenyamule has urged District Commissioners and District Executive Directors in all the districts to take advantage of the on-going rainfall to sensitize people to plant trees in their areas.

She said apart from protecting the environment, tree planting beautifies the city.

Shenyamule made the call yesterday when briefing journalists on the region's tree planting campaign which kicks-off today. She said the government in Dodoma is determined to ensure more trees are planted during this rainfall season.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan wants to see the city green; let us take advantage of the on-going rains

to plant more trees in our areas," she said. The Regional Commissioner also directed residents to plant five trees in areas surrounding their households. She said the trees should be of different varieties including fruit trees.

"We are determined to have a tree planting campaign in the city to fulfil the ambitions of making Dodoma green; the government through various stakeholders and institutions dealing with the environment will make sure trees are planted all over the region," the RC remarked.

She said following the rains, it is the right time for residents to start implementing the campaign to plant trees in their areas at household, district and regional levels.

She added: "Citizens should

make sure that all the trees that will be planted thrive and remain healthy. Trees are important for the country's development, the economy and society in general. Forests provide 45 percent of construction raw materials."

She said forests are also used to absorb carbon dioxide, provide clean air, protect and preserve water sources. She said through forests communities earn a good income, hence the need to protect them.

Shenyamule directed environment and health officers to properly supervise cleaning services across the city to avoid the outbreak of diseases especially during this rain season. Dodoma region plans to plant 1.5 million trees during the campaign which starts today.

Boat accident kills fisherman, 19 other rescued

By Guardian Correspondent,

Tanga

ONE fisherman has died while 19 others were rescued after the boat they were in collapsed and immersed when they were on their fishing activities in the Indian Ocean on the night of December 29.

This is barely five days after the group of fishermen from Moa ward in Mkinga District of Tanga Region caught a big shark weighing 195.8kg, celebrating the record which hasn't been experienced in recent years.

Mkinga District Commissioner, Maulid Surumbu said the search and rescue unit of KMKM ran fast to the scene and managed to rescue 19 people with one dying.

DC Surumbu, however said that the boat had no rescue tools such as life jackets, something which may have caused more impacts if the rescue team delayed.

He directed responsible bodies to supervise and ensure that all boats and marine vehicles have required rescue tools and that no vehicle should be allowed to operate without having the crucial equipment.

He also reminded fishermen and other ocean users to always make follow-up on weather alerts so as to avoid planning journeys when the weather is not good.

"My call to fishermen is for them to be extra careful when conducting their activities in the ocean, this includes conducting follow-ups on weather information

before commencing their plans," he added.

Narrating on the incident, one of the fishermen, Kassim Alfani said that the incident occurred on December 30, late night when the fishermen were on their daily fishing activities but suddenly water started to enter in the boat before sinking causing the tragedy.

"In a very short time, our boat was filled with water, we had no other way than scream for help

by calling other fishermen and the KMKM unit with our mobile phones, we are very grateful that they arrived on time but people were at intense situation, most of the fishermen were tired and helpless," he explained.

He said that one of the fishermen died due to lack of diving expertise.

He commended KMKM search and rescue unit of Zanzibar for the immediate support it provided which has rescued lives of the

fishermen. Early January, this year, at least 10 people died and 15 others were rescued after a boat ferrying mourners capsized on a Tuesday evening in Zanzibar.

Richard Mchomvu, the South Pemba regional police commander, said the boat ferrying mourners from Chakechake to Panza Islet to attend a funeral for their relative capsized in the Indian Ocean at around 6pm. local time.



REVISED RATES AND CHARGES EFFECTIVE FROM 1ST JANUARY 2023

| Account Opening Minimum Balance | Minimum Fee | Max Rate |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| 0-5000 | 2000 | 2000 |
| 5000-10000 | 2500 | 2500 |
| 10000-15000 | 3000 | 3000 |
| 15000-20000 | 3500 | 3500 |
| 20000-25000 | 4000 | 4000 |
| 25000-30000 | 4500 | 4500 |
| 30000-35000 | 5000 | 5000 |
| 35000-40000 | 5500 | 5500 |
| 40000-45000 | 6000 | 6000 |
| 45000-50000 | 6500 | 6500 |
| 50000-55000 | 7000 | 7000 |
| 55000-60000 | 7500 | 7500 |
| 60000-65000 | 8000 | 8000 |
| 65000-70000 | 8500 | 8500 |
| 70000-75000 | 9000 | 9000 |
| 75000-80000 | 9500 | 9500 |
| 80000-85000 | 10000 | 10000 |
| 85000-90000 | 10500 | 10500 |
| 90000-95000 | 11000 | 11000 |
| 95000-100000 | 11500 | 11500 |
| 100000-105000 | 12000 | 12000 |
| 105000-110000 | 12500 | 12500 |
| 110000-115000 | 13000 | 13000 |
| 115000-120000 | 13500 | 13500 |
| 120000-125000 | 14000 | 14000 |
| 125000-130000 | 14500 | 14500 |
| 130000-135000 | 15000 | 15000 |
| 135000-140000 | 15500 | 15500 |
| 140000-145000 | 16000 | 16000 |
| 145000-150000 | 16500 | 16500 |
| 150000-155000 | 17000 | 17000 |
| 155000-160000 | 17500 | 17500 |
| 160000-165000 | 18000 | 18000 |
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| 175000-180000 | 19500 | 19500 |
| 180000-185000 | 20000 | 20000 |
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| 190000-195000 | 21000 | 21000 |
| 195000-200000 | 21500 | 21500 |
| 200000-205000 | 22000 | 22000 |
| 205000-210000 | 22500 | 22500 |
| 210000-215000 | 23000 | 23000 |
| 215000-220000 | 23500 | 23500 |
| 220000-225000 | 24000 | 24000 |
| 225000-230000 | 24500 | 24500 |
| 230000-235000 | 25000 | 25000 |
| 235000-240000 | 25500 | 25500 |
| 240000-245000 | 26000 | 26000 |
| 245000-250000 | 26500 | 26500 |
| 250000-255000 | 27000 | 27000 |
| 255000-260000 | 27500 | 27500 |
| 260000-265000 | 28000 | 28000 |
| 265000-270000 | 28500 | 28500 |
| 270000-275000 | 29000 | 29000 |
| 275000-280000 | 29500 | 29500 |
| 280000-285000 | 30000 | 30000 |
| 285000-290000 | 30500 | 30500 |
| 290000-295000 | 31000 | 31000 |
| 295000-300000 | 31500 | 31500 |
| 300000-305000 | 32000 | 32000 |
| 305000-310000 | 32500 | 32500 |
| 310000-315000 | 33000 | 33000 |
| 315000-320000 | 33500 | 33500 |
| 320000-325000 | 34000 | 34000 |
| 325000-330000 | 34500 | 34500 |
| 330000-335000 | 35000 | 35000 |
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| 340000-345000 | 36000 | 36000 |
| 345000-350000 | 36500 | 36500 |
| 350000-355000 | 37000 | 37000 |
| 355000-360000 | 37500 | 37500 |
| 360000-365000 | 38000 | 38000 |
| 365000-370000 | 38500 | 38500 |
| 370000-375000 | 39000 | 39000 |
| 375000-380000 | 39500 | 39500 |
| 380000-385000 | 40000 | 40000 |
| 385000-390000 | 40500 | 40500 |
| 390000-395000 | 41000 | 41000 |
| 395000-400000 | 41500 | 41500 |
| 400000-405000 | 42000 | 42000 |
| 405000-410000 | 42500 | 42500 |
| 410000-415000 | 43000 | 43000 |
| 415000-420000 | 43500 | 43500 |
| 420000-425000 | 44000 | 44000 |
| 425000-430000 | 44500 | 44500 |
| 430000-435000 | 45000 | 45000 |
| 435000-440000 | 45500 | 45500 |
| 440000-445000 | 46000 | 46000 |
| 445000-450000 | 46500 | 46500 |
| 450000-455000 | 47000 | 47000 |
| 455000-460000 | 47500 | 47500 |
| 460000-465000 | 48000 | 48000 |
| 465000-470000 | 48500 | 48500 |
| 470000-475000 | 49000 | 49000 |
| 475000-480000 | 49500 | 49500 |
| 480000-485000 | 50000 | 50000 |
| 485000-490000 | 50500 | 50500 |
| 490000-495000 | 51000 | 51000 |
| 495000-500000 | 51500 | 51500 |
| 500000-505000 | 52000 | 52000 |
| 505000-510000 | 52500 | 52500 |
| 510000-515000 | 53000 | 53000 |
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SATURDAY 31 DECEMBER 2022

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, in effect, concerns education, images

ARCHIVISTS in broadcasting have a world day to mark on October 27 of each year, as it is devoted to the world's audiovisual heritage.

Part of the reason is that, while documents can survive for decades or centuries and some have a millennium on their carbon prints, the same isn't true of audiovisual heritage. Instead, we usually have it for a generation, and for some massive events, several generations.

A United Nations chronicler profiling this international day, says that audiovisual archives tell us stories about the lives and cultures of people from all over the world, as they represent a priceless heritage affirming humankind's collective memory.

The archives are a valuable source of knowledge since they reflect the cultural, social and linguistic diversity of our communities. But while all that is true, a rapid glance shows that it is at the national level that this memory is real and continuous, though it then spreads elsewhere.

This year we had a unique opportunity in Tanzania in looking at this heritage and what it means for national life - in marking 23 years of the death of founder president Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and the centenary of his life.

All manner of events tied up with this rich legacy, the singular threat of collective experience that governs the rhythm of our presence as a nation, were entirely audiovisual.

Recorded and stored voices and images are irreplaceable for national memories, and entirely relied upon to maintain the tempo and character of awareness.

The chronicler says that audiovisual heritage help us grow and comprehend the world we all share such that conserving this heritage and ensuring that it remains accessible to the public and to future generations is a vital goal for all memory institutions.

The chronicler holds that this is

true for the public at large but, as a matter of fact, the wider public knows only vaguely the breadth and character of such heritage.

The good news is that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has an archives wing that has launched a full digitisation project that it identifies with the UN agency.

But we know that the agency has given its name to a lengthy series of conservation sites around the world, and Tanzania boasts quite a few as well. We can develop a similar project at the local level to gradually digitise what we wish preserve of our cultural heritage.

With the sort of digital equipment currently accessible, it only needs funding to empower those who will seek such pursuits, especially if it is educational institutions seeking to make profiles of where they are located, first as regions and then as districts.

There is a fair amount of literature in that regard already, mainly stories from veterans of the colonial period who could recount what there was before colonialism came around.

It is known as oral tradition, but often it is a single researcher who visits a place for interviews as oral data, not exactly heritage.

The UN chronicler similarly shows that there are special areas where UNESCO focuses its work in the building of digitised archives, for instance in its associated schools project network launched in 1953.

It links some 8,500 schools and other educational institutions in 178 countries. There is plenty that a UNESCO-inspired effort of the sort can achieve at the local level, an actual national network, not just a world network sharing vastly scattered images.

The whole idea of marking this particular Day is to raise awareness of the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audiovisual documents. Its relevance is still unquestionably intact - and hence the need for its continued observance globally.

Value chains vital in LNG plant uplifting GDP by \$7bn annually

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in southeastern Tanzania projected to grow into Africa's largest energy project is seen holding immense socio-economic promise for the government, the country and the nation.

Experts say the project stands to increase the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by over US\$7bn per year and add upwards of US\$2bn in revenues.

This is according to a macroeconomic study on the project by a leading stakeholder, Stanbic Bank (T) Ltd, which has projected intensive benefits to the economy even as its summary fell short of referring to the resource curse threat entailed.

It is true that the government has a track record of some resilience in that direction, as there is a stark warning as to what happened in 2013 as the much smaller projects were being developed, for pumping natural gas to the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam.

That is perhaps history better forgotten for now, but links to local demands remain not far from corporate social responsibility generally, or being favoured in making use of the jobs multiplier, etc.

This time the numbers are different and they will attract attention at all levels of the public sector bureaucracy for unmitigated gain, and it would to move with extreme care.

Admittedly, there was a kind of value chain analysis in the Stanbic Bank consultancy presentation,

but it focused very narrowly at the job opportunities profile, not the earnings as such.

This sort of problem was raised in 2013 and a law even came up to create a 'sovereign fund' from natural resources, outside the usual budget framework.

Why wouldn't Treasury pay off much of the national debt with the money and lower taxes significantly - by filling up with the LNG revenues?

When the Treasury or the Bank of Tanzania releases such funds in a situation of belt tightening, all will be well as no one will be seen to be improperly benefiting from the cash.

The issue isn't just to use windfall gains to restructure the budgeting so that the one-third of revenues that goes to paying the foreign debt is transferred to LNG accounts until the debt dries out.

Rather, it becomes talk about extensive involvement of land-based transactions in pursuing such investments, so that the public gets a chunk of the cash in a non-preferential manner.

That means that the government avoids the usual way of setting aside land for this or that industry and instead encourages investors - not just those tied the LNG project - to properly acquire land from local residents.

Having large amounts of cash entering the economy, supplemented by vastly lower taxes would help make Tanzania grow into a regional industrial hub, ensuring that the proverbial resource curse is nipped in the bud - thus leading to the realisation of a big dream.

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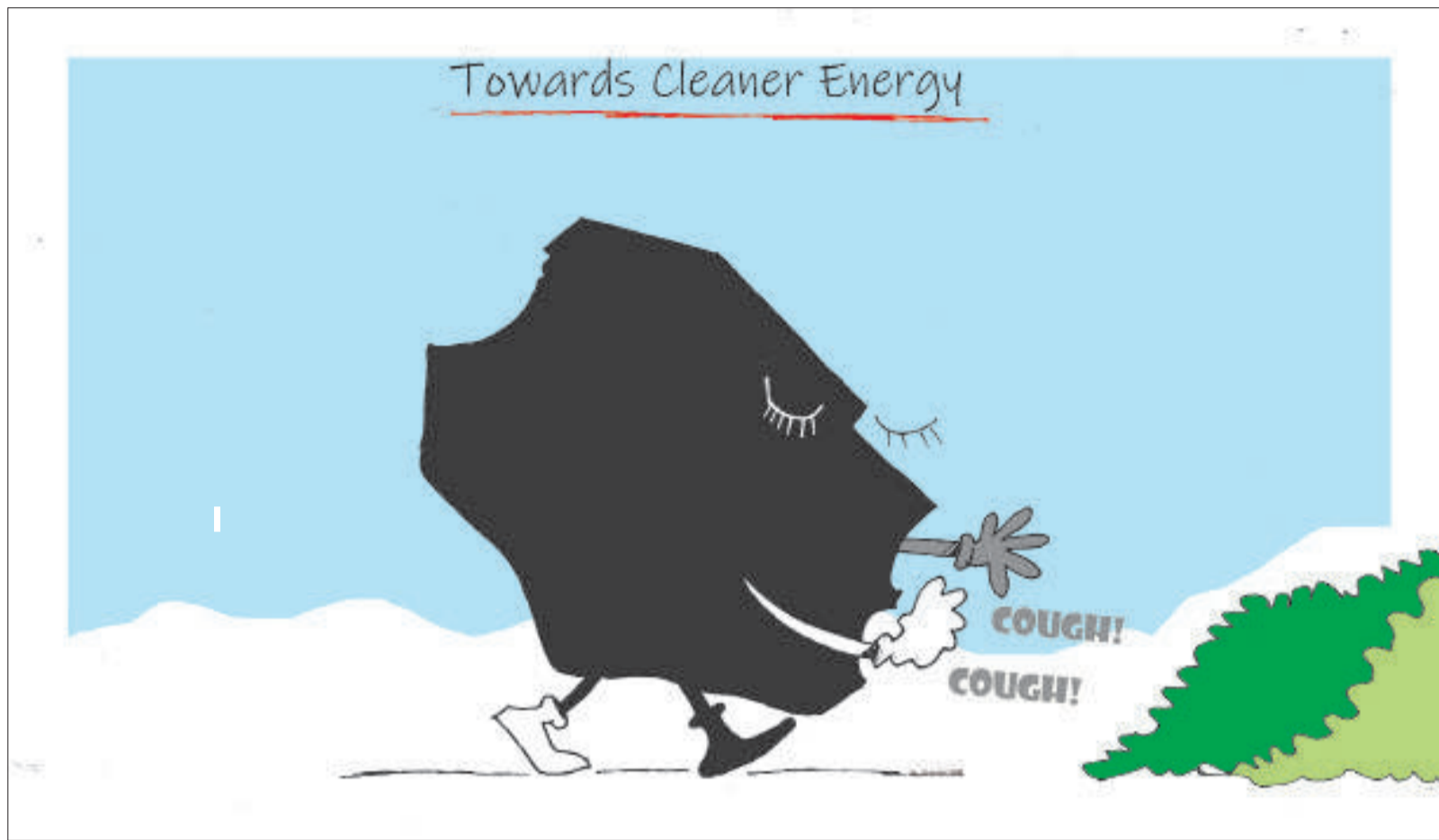
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Interview

McKinsey Global Publishing's Lucia Rahilly chats with McKinsey senior partner Asutosh Padhi and co-authors Gaurav Batra and Nick Santhanam about their forthcoming book, The Titanium Economy: How Industrial Technology Can Create a Better, Faster, Stronger America (Public Aff-fairs, October 2022). She reveals 35 cutting-edge companies in the industrial tech sector, highlighting a robust "titanium economy" that creates American jobs and fuels innovation through sustainable, inclusive growth. You've probably never heard of the companies they cover - under-the-radar makers of a range of industrial products. But these companies make up a burgeoning sector that the co-authors say is just beginning its best years, and that has the potential to reinvigorate American manufacturing - sustainably and inclusively - in the process. An edited version of the conversation follows. Excerpts from the interview:

Why haven't industrial companies invested more in storytelling about their successes?

Asutosh Padhi: The titanium economy companies are under the radar because they are, in some sense, everywhere - so you can't find them at a single place. They are private, so you don't find them listed on the stock market.

They don't have business-to-consumer brands, so they don't have the need to advertise. Because they tend to be smaller from the standpoint of revenues, they don't make headlines in the news media.

Titanium economy companies have been going about doing what they're actually good at - which is delivering great returns for their shareholders, taking care of customers, taking care of employees, doing the job around communities, and cleaning the environment. However, they have

Industrial technology is progressively creating a more inclusive economy (3)



never really found an opportunity to pull it all together and tell the story.

Gaurav Batra: Industrial companies haven't invested more in storytelling for the same reason we are excited about this sector: because it's not on a technology treadmill. You don't see an industrial company coming up and then disappearing in three or six years.

On the flip side, this also brings a sense of complacency. You may think: "I'm making a 10 per cent margin, or a 15 per cent margin. That's not bad. It's not great, but it's not bad either." There's limited reason to complain.

The urgency to change, the need to change, the burning platform don't necessarily exist. This is where I think we get to the crux of the problem: the narrative, the mindset about the sector overall, has to change.

It should be less about "are we comfortable?" because we are comfortable. I think it's a very healthy sector today in the US, but it can be a lot healthier. So, we find the true potential of the sector for the country and frame all our discussions through that lens.

I think it's a very healthy sector today in the US, but it can be a lot healthier. So, we find the true potential of the sector for the country and frame all our discussions through that lens.

Nick Santhanam: Industrial sector players work hard for their money. Every time they've gotten an improvement, it's because they have driven a true performance improvement, versus just getting valued more - which is, as we call it, the multiples. The analogy is that, if you're buying a house, you buy it for

a dollar per square foot. Three years later, you would pay more for the same house because you would pay more dollars per square foot.

The industrial sector is where you continue to pay the same, so you only get more if you build more houses or make more earnings. I think that's because the sector has not been good at storytelling. It hasn't gotten its message around about how great it is, and I think fixing that is going to solve a trillion-dollar question: which is creating their trillions of dollars in valuation.

What has been the experience of industrial companies during this period of profound disruption, including Covid-19 and the energy transition?

Asutosh Padhi: One of the things that struck me is that we've been having a lot of discussion about the energy transition, and I think there is widespread concern about the fact that companies are doing a lot of greenwashing. [Now, this is the making of unsubstantiated claims to deceive consumers into believing that a company's products are environmentally friendly or have a greater positive environmental impact than what is true. - Editor]. I was skeptical too, but then I started to look at what these companies are doing. They're inventing technologies that will actually help with carbon capture and sequestration.

Take a company like Trex: they are recycling plastics to make outdoor wooden decks that are 97 per cent recycled. There are waste management companies which we talk about in the book that are using advanced analytics.

Normally, when you throw out the garbage in your house, if you're

like me, you are not particularly good at figuring out what is garbage and what should be recycled.

Companies are now using artificial intelligence to sort through trash and figure out how to optimise waste management. They're not talking much about it, but they're making it happen.

Nick Santhanam: The industrial sector is extremely resilient. It's probably one of the very few sectors that follow the "live and let live" maxim. Unlike other sectors - retail or tech, for example - where companies have a meteoric rise and a meteoric fall, you don't have that here, which is a greatness of the industrial sector: it's very resilient.

Industrial companies make great products. They make great margins. They've been wanted. Yes, they've gone through rough spots, but even through the rough spots, they end up coming out all right. They're very resilient.

What are the top lessons that you would like readers to take away from reading this book?

Asutosh Padhi: The most important lessons are around the importance of recognizing innovation and technology. We have a very strong foundation in the United States to build from; we have a set of about 5,000 companies that have been driving the titanium economy's growth, not just for the past five to ten years but for the past 100 years.

I think we are still early on that journey to the full potential of the titanium economy. Over time it could perhaps be two or three times the scale of what it is today. It could help us create a lot more jobs, and it could have the amplification effect we talked about. When it grows, it will help us create a much cleaner planet. It will help us create a most inclusive economy, and my personal hope is that it also becomes more diverse.

Lucia Rahilly is deputy publisher and global editorial director of McKinsey Global Publishing, based in the New York office. Comments and opinions expressed by interviewees are their own and do not represent or reflect the opinions, policies, or positions of McKinsey & Company or have its endorsement. This is the last of a three-part piece. We ran the first part on October 14 and the second on October 20. - Editor.

Africa should strive to maintain peace and promote patriotism

Patriotism is the feeling of love, devotion, and sense of attachment to one's country. This attachment can be a combination of many different feelings, language relating to one's own homeland, including ethnic, cultural, political or historical aspects. It encompasses a set of concepts closely related to nationalism, mostly civic nationalism and sometimes cultural nationalism.

The English word 'Patriot' derived from "Compatriot," in the 1590s, from Middle French "Patriote" in the 15th century. The French word's "Compatriote" and "Patriote" originated directly from Late Latin Patriota "fellow-countryman" in the 6th century. From Greek Patriotes "fellow countryman," from Patrios "of one's fathers," Patris "fatherland." The term Patriot was "applied to barbarians who were perceived to be either uncivilized or primitive who had only a common Patris or fatherland." The original European meaning of Patriots applied to anyone who was a fellow countryman originated from that country regardless of the social-economic status. The Enlightenment thinkers of 18th-century Europe, loyalty to the state was belief that Johnson's famous remark was a criticism of patriotism itself. And beliefs and refer to the average answer "for high income residents" of a country to the question "Are you proud to be [insert nationality]?" It ranges from 1 (not proud) to 4 (very proud).

Nationalism is an idea and movement that holds that the nation should be congruent with the state. As a movement, nationalism tends to promote the interests of a particular nation (as in a group of people), especially with the aim of gaining and maintaining the nation's sovereignty (self-governance) over its homeland to create a nation-state. Nationalism holds that each nation should govern itself, free from outside interference (self-determination), that a nation is a natural and ideal basis for a polity,[4] and that the nation is the only rightful source of politi-

cal power. It further aims to build and maintain a single national identity, based on a combination of shared social characteristics such as culture, ethnicity, geographic location, language, politics (or the government), religion, traditions and belief in a shared singular history, and to promote national unity or solidarity. Nationalism, therefore, seeks to preserve and foster a nation's traditional culture. There are various definitions of a "nation", which leads to different types of nationalism. The two main divergent forms are ethnic nationalism and civic nationalism.

Nationalism developed at the end of the 18th century, particularly with the French Revolution and the spread of the principle of popular sovereignty (the idea that "the people" should rule). Three main theories have been used to explain its emergence. Primordialism (perennialism) developed alongside nationalism during the romantic era and held that there have always been nations. This view has since been rejected by scholars, and nations are now viewed as socially constructed and historically contingent. Modernization theory, currently the most commonly accepted theory of nationalism,[12] adopts a constructivist approach and proposes that nationalism emerged due to processes of modernisation, such as industrialization, urbanisation, and mass education, which made national consciousness possible. Proponents of this theory describe nations as "imagined communities" and nationalism as an "invented tradition" in which shared sentiment provides a form of collective identity and binds individuals together in political solidarity. A third theory, ethnosymbolism explains nationalism as a product of symbols, myths, and traditions, as is associated with the work of Anthony D. Smith. Additionally, the spread of nationalist movements during decolonization has led many theorists to examine the role of elites in mobilizing communities in order to maintain their power.

Africa should fight causes, effects and solutions to continent's drought

A drought is defined as drier than normal conditions. This means that a drought is a moisture deficit relative to the average water availability at a given location and season. A drought can last for days, months or years. Drought often exerts substantial impacts on the ecosystems and agriculture of affected regions, and causes harm to the local economy. Annual dry seasons in the tropics significantly increase the chances of a drought developing and subsequent wildfires. Periods of heat can significantly worsen drought conditions by hastening evaporation of water vapour.

Drought is a recurring feature of the climate in most parts of the world, becoming more extreme and less predictable due to climate change, which dendrochronological studies date back to 1900. There are three kinds of drought effects, environmental, economic and social. Environmental effects include the drying of wetlands, more and larger wildfires, loss of biodiversity. Economic consequences include disruption of water supplies for municipal economies; lower agricultural, forest, game, and fishing outputs; higher food-production costs; and problems with water supply for the energy sector. Social and health costs include the negative effect on the health of people directly exposed to this phenomenon (excessive heat waves), high food costs, stress caused by failed harvests, water scarcity, etc.

Prolonged droughts have caused mass migrations and humanitarian crisis.

Many plant species, such as those in the family Cactaceae (or cacti), have drought tolerance adaptations like reduced leaf area and waxy cuticles to enhance their ability to tolerate drought. Some others survive dry periods as buried seeds. Semi-permanent drought produces arid biomes such as deserts and grasslands. Most arid ecosystems have inherently low productivity.

The most prolonged drought ever in the world in recorded history continues in the Atacama Desert in Chile (400 years). Throughout history, humans have usually viewed droughts as "disasters" due to the impact on food availability and the rest of society. Humans have often tried to explain droughts as either a natural disaster, caused by humans, or the result of supernatural forces.

HUGE swathes of land across Southern Ethiopia are dry, cracked and barren. Fields of crops brown, full of wilted vegetation; and on a nearby dusty road lies an animal's skull. The arid landscape is the epitome of drought - the worst the Horn of Africa has seen in generations.

The relentless dry weather and high food prices are undercutting people's ability to grow crops, raise livestock and buy food. It's led to a desperate plea from aid workers to do more to save the millions of children in the area of dying from starvation.

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Achieving zero hunger in Nigeria



By Emmanuel Osadebay

To gain the nutritional substances that provide energy for activities, growth and other functions of the body, food is essential for a human being. The United Nations global facts show that in 2020, between 720 million and 811 million persons worldwide were suffering from hunger, roughly 161 million more than in 2019. A staggering 2.4 billion people, reflecting above 30 per cent of the world's population, were moderately or severely food-insecure, lacking regular access to adequate food; and globally, 149.2 million children under the age of five or 22.0 per cent, were suffering from stunting (low height for their age) in 2020. These were some of the food and nutritional crisis that the United Nations Member States envisaged when Goal two of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was adopted, which seeks to end hunger in 2030 and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants.

In Nigeria, all the indicators of undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality combine to Nigeria's ranking of 103 out of 121 countries under the Global Hunger Index in 2022. The index indicates that 12.7 per cent of Nigeria's population is undernourished, 31.5 per cent of children under five are stunted and 6.5 per cent of under-five children wasted. With 133 million Nigerians reported to be multidimensionally

poor, without access to basic necessities like food, education, quality healthcare, sanitation, nutrition, among others, it means 63 per cent of Nigerians are living within the extreme line of poverty. What then is Nigeria's Zero Hunger policy and what strategies do we intend to create a Nigeria free of hunger in 2030 or at least in 2060 when Nigeria will be hundred years as a sovereign country? How is Nigeria navigating the effects of multiple global crisis such as conflicts, COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and growing inequalities converging to undermine global food security? These are not questions that demand answers from the federal government alone, these are questions that urgently demand sustainable commitments from all stakeholders in the zero hunger ecosystem - governments, private sector led commitment to access to food, and nonprofits engagement in both holding leaders accountable on Zero Hunger Policies and providing food assistances to vulnerable communities.

To ensure that the 133 million multidimensionally poor Nigerians do not continue to go to bed hungry each day, the government must swiftly reduce the causes and main drivers of hunger crisis such as insecurity and herder farmers conflicts in rural areas in Nigeria; and launch a national Zero Hunger policy and food security strategy at all levels of government - federal, state and local governments. No doubt, Nigeria has adopted a wide

range of policy instruments and measures since the early 1970s but such food policies have not been as effective as intended. Take the School Feeding programme for instance. Though the sound bite of the federal government's free school meals is theoretically good, the implementation can only be effectively felt by the intended beneficiaries when it is corruption-free and expanded to benefit more Nigerians within the poverty belt. Such policy plan must be specific on how to reduce the number of households experiencing hunger and cut diet-related diseases by increasing access to healthy food by 2030. There is so much individuals and corporations can do but the government has the key to ending structural poverty and inequality, particularly at the subnational.

More importantly, the tool to achieving sustainable solution to end hunger is to educate, empower and expand opportunities for everyone. When one person, particularly the girl-child at the rural area is educated, it has a ripple effect that catalyzes to a far-reaching impact on communities. Unless Nigeria gives those living in hunger unhindered access to quality education, it will be difficult to pull them out of worsening poverty indexes. Education, improved and mechanized agriculture, healthcare and access to finance at the rural areas are crucial resources that every nation needs to break her poverty cycle. To achieve a sustainable result in this

drive, Nigeria needs a disciplined deliberateness in accountable, inclusive, humane, people-driven and transformational leadership at all levels and spheres of our society, including in traditional and religious spaces.

Collectively, we must make food an instrument of social solution both for the individual and society. Since we cannot have food security without physical and environmental security, everyone must take responsibility to ensure that poor and vulnerable Nigerians have access to quality food. It is in line with this reasoning that the T200 Foundation brings life-saving food and nutrition assistance to people affected by social conflicts and people who are in need of food.

We understand that to make change happen, we must invest in people, invest in their stomach and invest in their smiles. T200 Foundation's food intervention is helping to bring smiles on the faces of hungry Nigerians. The Feed the Hungry initiative of T200 is focused on feeding vulnerable groups across the 36 States of the Federation and the FCT. The programme which started on December 16, 2022 at the Area 1 IDP camp, has identified 7000 people at the EYA CAN Centre Camp in Maiduguri to be fed in January 2023. But even as we drive our commitment to achieving zero hunger in Nigeria, we are aware that everyone must be involved in prioritizing initiatives that creatively drive hunger out of our communities.

Human cost and legal implications of recklessnes, dangerous driving

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week we briefly reflected on how much the legal provisions we have cited (covered) throughout the year in this column have helped us as laypersons to be law-abiding and responsible citizens or simply have helped us to conduct ourselves better than we were before.

Or are we among those who are talked about that 'if you want to be sure that they know about something, hide it in a book (newspaper)?' The bottom line is that if a person doesn't know what the law he or she is subject to says and happens to do what it prohibits, then not knowing what it says (ignorance of it) cannot be a valid defence of his or her civil or criminal liability.

What the law says may fall under any of the following: it may command: 'Every person shall...' or may permit: 'A person may...' or may prohibit: 'No person shall...' So, it is always safe to make some effort to know what the law says for knowing it doesn't make any person lose anything.

Today, I invite you to look at road accidents. As you might be aware, towards the end of the year or at the beginning of the year some people are involved in road accidents and usually these accidents are fatal or cause severe injuries to survivors and damage to property and infrastructure. Some severely injured survivors may recover after some time, but the majority of them are turned into dependents for the rest of their lives. What a misfortune!

Some survivors of road accidents



From this, it is clear that careless, reckless or dangerous driving is responsible for most of road accidents and if each road user takes great care, we will surely prevent many road accidents and save many lives and be blessed for it.

have been amputated and can no longer earn a living normally as they used to do before they were involved in the road accident. But for sure the most of the accidents are caused by human factors, especially careless, reckless or dangerous driving or riding, which could have been prevented if drivers drove carefully and other road users too were careful.

A few years ago, I attended driving lessons and one day my instructor told me: "Drive only when it is safe, legal and convenient and before driving ask yourself: Is it safe? Is it legal? Is it convenient? If the answer for all three questions is yes, drive, but if one of the answers is no, don't."

He continued: "When you drive, try to think that it is only you who is of sound mind, but not other road users. If you do that, you will always drive with great

The Law and you



care so that you don't cause any accident."

How many of us can ask such questions and have the patience to wait until it is safe, legal and convenient to drive? How many of us would try to think that when driving it is only them who are of sound mind, but not other road users so that we may drive with great care not to cause any road accident to ourselves or to others? The other day I was on a

commuter bus and was seated near the driver and another vehicle happened to overtake us and caused our driver to swerve. He got angry with the other driver and other passengers near him were telling him to "push him off the road." Hearing that, our driver sped, trying to push the other vehicle off the road. I was not happy with that because he could cause an accident for nothing. So, I told him to stop it. "Don't listen to these people because when you cause an accident, none will be with you to help you," I told him. Fortunately, he stopped it.

It is strange that many drivers don't abide by the Road Traffic Act (as amended until 2021) and its Regulations when they drive. Putting it as my instructor did 'they don't drive when it is safe, legal and convenient' for them. Sometimes you may hear a

commuter driver say: "It is better you knock to death a pedestrian than injure them because you will get into trouble... But if the pedestrian dies, then there is no trouble for you..." Could this be one of the reasons for careless, reckless or dangerous driving or riding?

From this, it is clear that careless, reckless or dangerous driving is responsible for most of road accidents and if each road user takes great care, we will surely prevent many road accidents and save many lives and be blessed for it.

Section 40 of the Road Traffic Act prohibits causing bodily injury through dangerous driving. Section 41 prohibits causing bodily injury or death through careless driving. Section 42 prohibits reckless or dangerous driving and Section 42A prohibits careless, reckless or dangerous riding.

It suffices to say that all road users are responsible for the safety of others and their property. If each person conducts himself or herself in a manner that does not cause any danger to others and to their property then we will prevent road accidents to a considerable extent. So, let us drive or use public roads only when it is safe, legal and convenient for us. Be blessed and happy New Year 2023.

Today's proverb: "Many find fault without an end, and yet do nothing at all to mend."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

More newlyweds sustain environmental love by opting for new eco-nuptials and here's how

By Jamie Venter

GREEN practices and sustainable materials are becoming more popular at weddings as couples plan their big day without compromising on price or vision.

In 2020, more than 89,000 couples said "I do". Whether that was in a grand church, barefoot on the beach, in their back yard or at Home Affairs, when asked whether they know how the average wedding affects the environment, many would probably say: "I don't."

The average wedding produces about 180kg of waste and emits 63 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This is according to Kate Harrison, author of The Green Bride Guide.

More than love in the air

There are a number of ways that weddings negatively affect the environment, from travel, electrical demands and the production of once-off clothing and decor that emit CO2 into the atmosphere, to wasted food and litter strewn in the environment.

But, sustainable practices at weddings can make an impact without compromising the couple's vision.

"There are numerous adjustments that can ultimately lower the carbon footprint a wedding can produce and instil motivations in wedding guests to bring these practices into everyday life," says a weddings and sustainability case study.

Here come the eco-brides

"One thing about me is that I hate wasting," says Reinata van den Berg, who is currently planning her wedding to her fiancé, Niel-John Lord.

"I work in the hospitality industry and I witness a lot of waste," says Van den Berg, "so that was really the main focus of the wedding."



Couples are opting for more sustainable wedding practices and going green for their wedding day. Alexandra Mitchell and Devon Mitchell recently said 'I do' at their very own eco-wedding. (Photo: Unsplash)

There are a number of sustainable practices that can reduce waste and environmental impact when planning a wedding. Sending invites electronically, reducing or removing meat from the menu, avoiding single-use items or skipping wedding favours are all options for the eco-conscious bride or groom.

There are so many areas where sustainability can be incorporated into wedding day plans and it might feel overwhelming to consider them all, but South African brides are choosing to go green in these ways:

Floral focus

Using locally sourced flowers for the bouquet and reception decor are a great way to reduce waste and the impact of wedding day

festivities on the environment. Local flowers are cheaper, don't emit as much CO2 for transport and will not introduce invasive species to the local biome.

Van den Berg has taken her local flowers a step further by also incorporating them into her confetti. Flower petals are hand-picked and dried to be used as confetti because they are biodegradable and won't take much time to pick up, she explains.

While beautiful, drying flowers for confetti takes time and it is not the only sustainable alternative. Some brides opt for rice, bird seeds or freshly picked local leaves.

Some florists reuse flowers for two weddings in one weekend and drop flowers off at a retirement

home on Sundays, says Shannon Lavender, a wedding planner and founder of Lavender Creations.

Dress for the occasion

As of 2020, fast fashion is responsible for 10% of global CO2 emissions. So cutting down on clothing that is worn once and discarded to the back of the cupboard is high on the agenda.

While some wedding parties choose to buy second-hand or use what they already have in their cupboard, some brides are going green in other ways.

"One thing that's super important to me is that the bridesmaids had to choose a dress that they will wear again in the future," says Van den Berg, who set the colour but allowed her bridal party to choose the style of

their dress.

But this goes for decor as well, as many decorative items are used once and then thrown away. Opting for organic decor or using what you already have can be far less costly – for you and the environment.

"Ditch the packaging and plastic," says Lavender, who suggests opting to donate the money you would have spent to charity or a local community.

Food for thought

Roughly a tenth of all food at a wedding is never eaten and gets discarded as waste.

Van den Berg aims to reduce food waste at her wedding through careful planning and portioning of locally sourced food. "I hate when people overcater and waste

food," she explains.

Guests are encouraged to take home the food that is left so that it does not go to waste, says Van den Berg.

Another way to reduce your carbon output would be opting out of meat for the occasion. A vegetarian menu can decrease food-related emissions at events by as much as 75%, while the vegan option would cut 90% of emissions. This is according to the Environmental Working Group.

Value in the venue

Travel has detrimental impacts on the environment through the emission of carbon, so choosing a local venue can help reduce its footprint.

The venue Van den Berg has chosen is a short 10- to 15-minute drive away for most of her guests, is easily accessible by public transport and does not require an overnight stay.

But not choosing local is not the only sustainable option when it comes to choosing a venue. Wedding venues are now catering for environmentally conscious couples.

"Many venues are moving towards solar as well," says Lavender. "Load shedding is unpredictable, and makes your wedding look disorganised," she adds.

One venue catering for eco-weddings is the Cederkloof Botanical Retreat, which specialises in eco-weddings. The venue incorporates a number of sustainable practices in its ceremonies, from locally sourced flowers to recycling waste and organic confetti.

Couples also plant a tree or sponsor a tree to be planted as part of their ceremony, in order to offset their carbon emissions and really let love grow.

Families and friends of victims of gas tanker explosion share the heartache



By Michelle Banda and Victoria

O'Regan

THE families of some of the victims of the Boksburg explosion on 24 December, which has so far claimed 27 lives and injured eight people, with two still missing, have spoken out about their loss. Meanwhile, the driver of the truck that exploded after it crashed into a bridge is now a free man after being released from custody on Tuesday because, the police say, there was no 'case against him'.

"Everything still feels like a bad dream that one can't wake up from. To see and hear that I lost four of my friends to this horrific incident is bad. Even more, because I have to see their families who are in immense pain breaks my heart because I have never seen them in this state.

"I don't know how to help and be there for them. I'm not coping but I am trying to be strong for the people around me and my family members. This is just not about my friends but we had a major loss in the community."

These were the words of Boksburg resident Marcus Peterson about the explosion that claimed 27 lives, with eight injured people receiving medical attention and two still missing, according to the Gauteng Department of Health's latest count.

On 24 December, a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanker travelling to Botswana exploded in Boksburg after sustaining damage when passing under a low bridge. The vehicle's release valve caught on the bridge and a fire started, according to Ekurhuleni Emergency Services, killing 10 people and seriously injuring 26. However, since then, the death toll has risen to 27.

The explosion also caused damage to the nearby Tambo Memorial Hospital, leading to its temporary closure.

On Thursday, Daily Maverick interviewed some of the victims of the explosion.

The mood was sombre in Hospital Street where the tragedy occurred. Flowers, candles and messages had been placed on the pavement near where the burn victims lay after the explosion. Family members stopped to pay their respects at the scene.

'The pain is deep'

Geraldo Geduld lost his wife, Elise, and their 19-year-old son, Janil, in the disaster.



"I can't even put in words the trauma I feel losing a wife of 20 years, my best friend and my partner. On the other hand, a son who was just starting his life," said Geduld.

"It's so difficult for a parent to have to bury their child because you always reminisce about the potential they had. We had a vision with my son and wife for our life – now it's all gone. The pain is deep and I will get over that, but it's the future that hurts me and a path I have to walk with my daughter."

The Geduld family had come from Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape to visit relatives in Boksburg for the festive season.

A video of the incident, which has gone viral on social media platforms, shows Janil Geduld asking for help from bystanders, only to be directed to the hospital, where he was later taken and died from his injuries.

Elise Geduld is said to have died on the scene, but her family found her body in the Germiston morgue only on Tuesday after a long search at morgues and hospitals.

"My son Janil Geduld is the young boy in the video in circulation asking for help. What is saddening is on the video he is asking for help, humbly so, but no one was helping [because] they were too busy taking videos," said Geraldo Geduld.



Family and friends pay their last respects at the scene of a deadly gas tanker explosion in Boksburg. (Photo: Leon Sadiki)

"If only maybe someone offered help in time he could have survived. It was very traumatic seeing my son the way he was and my wife too.

It took me a while to confirm my wife's body at the morgue. The look on her face, her hair was deurmekaar [messy] ... with a broken arm and

skin peeling off. I knew she had tattoos of our children's names and that's how I could identify her. A part of me has been ripped out and I am try-

ing to find myself again."

House damaged by explosion

The home of 83-year-old Hendrika Zwanziger in Hospital Street was badly damaged by the explosion, with most of the windows and much of the roofing broken and walls cracked, making it unsafe for human habitation, according to Zwanziger's helper, Felicia Mvenya.

Mvenya said they worry that the house could soon collapse. She said she is grateful not to have not been harmed as she was not home at the time of the explosion. However, their gardener, Joseph Nyachalle, sustained burn injuries on his neck and left leg in the explosion, and her friend Zoleka Nqayimbana was still missing.

Nyachalle told Daily Maverick: "It was a beautiful morning on Saturday. I was doing the garden as usual. Everything happened so fast. One minute I heard a huge explosion and the next second, flames were up in the air. Before I knew it, I was on fire and trying to [get] it off and run before I could be hurt more. I'm glad to have survived.

"At this point, I am in so much pain but I have been sent back home from the hospital, bandaged, with just packets of Panado and Brufen tablets. Nothing further was done to make sure I am okay.

"When I went back to Vosloorus Hospital yesterday because I was not feeling well I was [sent] home with nothing and told not to come back again. I fear I might get an infection from the burn injuries if not monitored but there is nothing I can do other than hope for the best."

None of the interviewed families indicated how they are being assisted by the government, except for being given trauma counselling.

NPOs step in

Non-profit organisations including Gift of the Givers and Hope SA Foundation have been providing necessities such as food and blankets to affected families.

Hope SA Foundation CEO Namritha Sivsanker told Daily Maverick: "When we arrived on the first day we did not know what to expect and hoped there was a lot of ground support from various organisations and the government, but to our surprise, there was no one helping the victims.

"So we decided to go door to door, offering support and assistance. Many of them have been excited with just our presence. I am quite disappointed with the lack of compassion from government officials who seem not to be offering the much-needed support to families."

The Gauteng provincial government and the Ekurhuleni metro intends hosting a joint memorial service for the victims on Friday.

Fuzzy details on the case of the driver

On Wednesday, the National Prosecuting Authority told the media that the police had on Tuesday released the driver of the LPG tanker because of a lack of evidence.

Gauteng police spokesperson Brigadier Brenda Muridili said the 32-year-old suspect had been interviewed and released on a warning by the police, pending further investigations.

Police had arrested the 32-year-old truck driver on Saturday evening at a private hospital where he was receiving treatment for minor injuries. He was charged with "multiple counts of culpable homicide, negligent causing of an explosion resulting in death ... and malicious property damage".

On Wednesday, Muridili confirmed that the charges had not been dropped.

"After the conclusion of investigations, the docket will be taken to court for a decision," she said.

DM

More efforts needed to entice the people for second COVID-19 shot

By Getrude Mbago

IN efforts meant to fight and prevent spread of COVID-19 infections, a number of vaccines were approved for use, where some of them require a person to take two or even three doses. Experts have always been emphasising people to take all the required doses of a vaccine so as to build full immunity.

However there are some few people who end up taking a single dose and leaving the second one due to several reasons including distance, traditional myths, side effects and many other factors.

"I real wanted to get the second shot of COVID-19 vaccine but the date which I was supposed to come back for it, I was far away busy with my duties, but I am sure that with the one shot gave me needed immunity for body," says Joana Mkana, a resident of Bunju B, outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

According to her, after receiving the first dose, she thought that the body had received the needed immunity and there was no need to get another shot.

"I travelled out of the region soon after I got the first dose, and when I came back it was already late and I thought that the first dose is enough, so I was in dilemma because the date which I was supposed to get the second shot was passed," Jaona said in an interview with this paper.

Peter Joseph, a resident of Mbezi juu in Kinondoni district, Dar es Salaam commended the ongoing government's efforts to ensure that more people are reached with COVID-19 vaccines but more need to be done to ensure that those who get the first dose come back for the second one.

According to him, this will not only protect him/her but also the whole community.

"I got the first dose in July and was required to come back for the second shot in August, so I arranged my plans well to ensure that I get the jab, it is very important to get the two doses as advised by our experts," he said.

Joana and Peter represent thousands of Tanzanians who are not going back to get a second dose of Covid-19 vaccine due to several reasons which include myths, low awareness, long distance and other challenges. Experts say that the Pfizer or Sinopharm vaccines are two-dose vaccines and persons who received a first dose of either vaccine must ensure that they also receive a second dose.

But some people are certainly missing their second dose. Fear of the side effects of the second dose which are reportedly more severe than after the first dose for some people along with trouble getting an appointment and finding the time for it are among the reasons people have given for missing second doses.

The second shot for the Pfizer vaccine is supposed to be administered 21 days after the first. For the Moderna, the second dose is 28 days later.

The government had also said that some people who are required to come back for a second dose of Covid-19 vaccine are not doing so, something which needs more efforts to ensure that they complete the full dose.

According to the available data, over 1 million people who were required to complete their second dose of Pfizer and Sinopharm vaccines in July and August, 2022 didn't do so.

Speaking during the media training on Covid-19 vaccines in Dodoma in mid-August, this year, health promotion specialist from Ministry of Health, Juliana Mshama said by getting two doses help the body to get the required protection.

"By getting the jabs in full dose will help the body to get strong immune, so it is better for those who are yet to take the second shot to ensure that they attend a health facility to get it," she said.

"We have been taking a number of measures to ensure that people come back for the second dose, and this includes educating and counselling them well during their first intake; we also use community health providers especially at grassroots level to sensitise people on vaccination," she said.

She however said the government cannot achieve this vital task alone, hence the need to work together with stakeholders such as the media, the civil society, religious institutions and the private sector in order to make this possible. She said the government is also struggling to dispel criticism and misinformation about coronavirus vaccines so as to ensure that more people get the doses.

In June 2021, Tanzania joined COVAX, a global partnership dedicated to establishing fair and equal access to Covid-19 vaccines for every country in the world. The first 1 million Covid-19 vaccine doses - donated by the U. S. government and delivered by COVAX - arrived in Tanzania on July 24, 2021. Four days later, President Samia Suluhu Hassan got her first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, kicking off the country's first vaccination campaign.

Statistics issued by the Ministry of Health, show that until December 2, this year a total of 29,123,387 people were vaccinated of Covid-19 which is 94 per cent of the target of vaccinating 30,740,928 people.

UNHCR, AfDB and Mozambique help refugees at Maratane camp



MAPUTO

IN Mozambique's Nampula province, UNHCR has partnered with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the government to provide electricity to refugees and displaced people living at the Maratane refugee settlement.

Charlotte Fatuma and Neema Cenga are refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) living in Mozambique.

Charlotte is a successful businesswoman, running a small shop

in Maratane refugee settlement, and Neema is a mother trying to raise and educate her children.

"When you don't put on electricity, everything is dark. The customers can't enter here to buy when you don't have electricity", said Charlotte Fatuma, Congolese Refugee living in Mozambique.

"I am happy about the electricity because I don't need to buy kerosene anymore.

It helps me a lot. My children are happy because the young ones used to be afraid of the night, because it was dark", added Neema Cenga, a

Mozambican Internally Displaced Person.

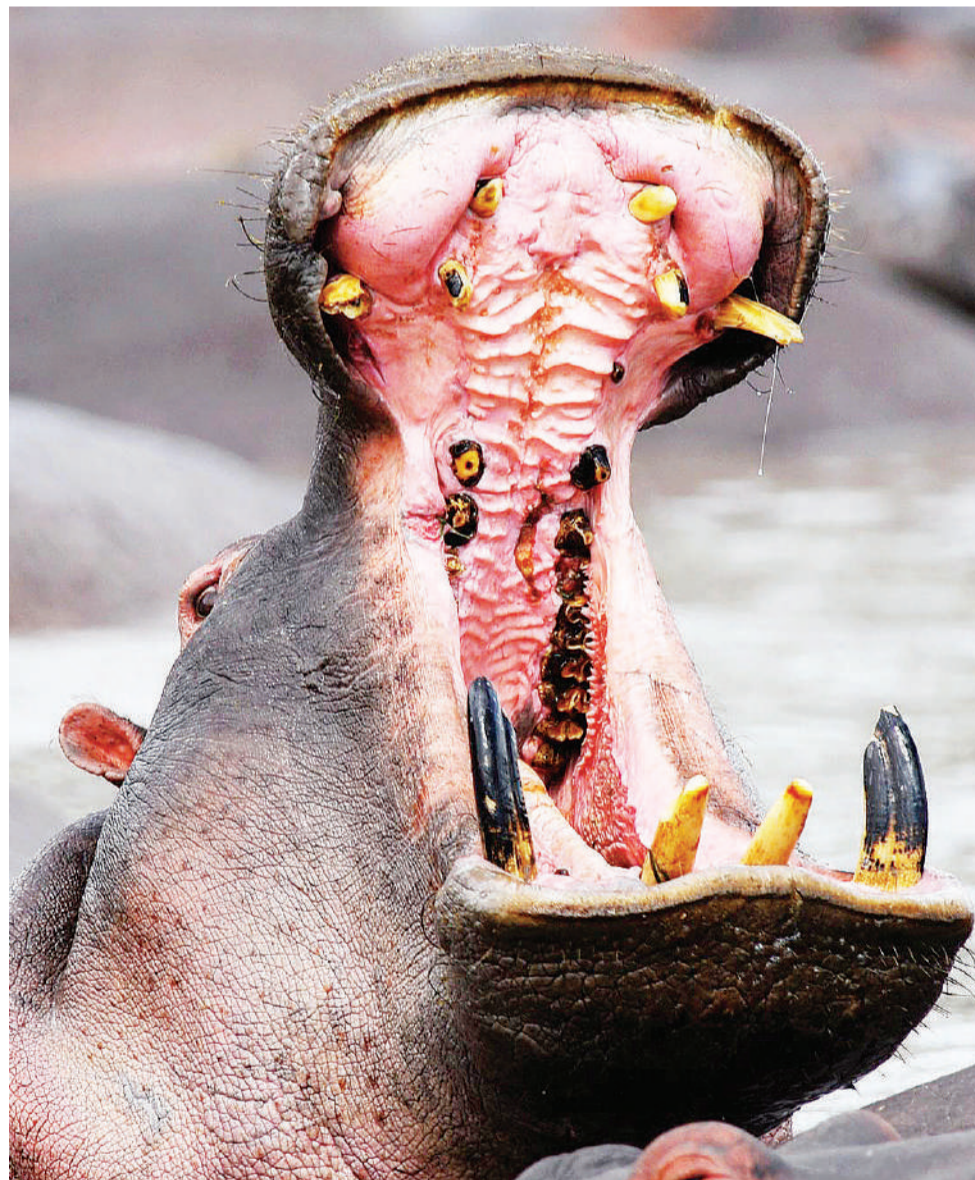
The Energy for All project has several components and contributes to the government's ambition to provide every Mozambican, including refugees and displaced people in Nampula province with electricity by 2030.

"Nampula province's exposure to extreme events makes it one of the most vulnerable provinces, because it has a long coastline, which is cyclically affected by natural extreme events. UNHCR is doing its best in benefiting the communities mainly

in the approach of integrating the internally displaced. The province has defined as a priority, when we benefit the internally displaced, we also look at the host communities. These kinds of actions are taking place with more impact", explained Alberto Armando, from Mozambique's National Disasters Management Institute.

In December 2022 Mozambique counted over one million internally displaced people due to violence in Cabo Delgado province and as a result of climate change.

The country also hosts around 29,000 refugees.



Wildlife campaigners raise alarm over rise in trade of hippo ivory

By Special Correspondent

THE international wildlife and conservation charity Born Free has warned that hippo numbers in Africa are continuing to decline as legislation, partly due to the tightening of the illegal ivory trade.

The giant teeth of hippos which, like the tusks of warthogs, are also classified as ivory, have become much cheaper and easier to obtain than ivory from elephants. And they're increasingly used in decorative carvings just like other ivory.

In its report "A Tooth for a Tooth?" the charity warns that the success of the hippo ivory trade is worrying for a species that's already listed as "vulnerable to extinction".

The report states that this pattern was evident as far back as 1989 when the worldwide ban on the trade in ivory was first agreed upon.

The introduction of the

Ivory Act in the UK in June 2022 placed the country at the forefront of elephant conservation efforts, with one of the toughest domestic bans on ivory in the world. But crucially, the charity said, it failed to include hippo ivory.

The lead author of the report Frankie Osuch said there was an "increase in the hippo ivory trade in the UK within a month after the near total ban of elephant ivory was introduced."

The charity tracked websites such as Barneby's, a popular auctioneer and antique dealer search engine; eBay UK and specialist online marketplace, Antiques Atlas for sales of ivory.

Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe were the source of three-quarters of the estimated 13,900 hippos whose parts and products were traded between 2009 and 2018, Born Free states.

There's also been a sharp decline in hippo populations in ten countries in West and Central Africa due to both poaching and land degradation.

Z'bar to start using new curriculums for primary schools early next year

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR's new curriculums for primary schools are set to commence operation early next year with the government calling upon stakeholders to get prepared with the new changes in the sector.

Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Lela Muhamed Mussa said the commencement of the curriculums is aimed to promote quality learning and fulfilment of children's

rights in education.

Speaking to reporters at her office yesterday here, the minister said the government has conducted a major reform in curriculum that also aims to equip pupils with a solid academic base enabling them to achieve their full potential.

He said the new curricula that will commence next year have considered pupils educational needs in different areas where practical education has been given more priority.

He said that the reforms have been made after experiencing several challenges including poor performance of students in national examinations.

"So, with these changes, we remind our stakeholders including private schools to get ready for the new curriculums which will boost Zanzibar's performance and stimulate development in the education sector by producing competent graduates," he explained.

Dr Mwanakheri Adam Ameir, the

ministry's permanent secretary said that the new curriculum has included all the crucial needs including teaching and learning tools so as to facilitate smooth provision of education.

"We are well prepared to ensure that we strengthen our workforce by producing enough and competent graduates to work in various fields. The new changes also aim to strengthen investment in inclusive education," she said.

Court deals major blow to Eskom's efforts to recover billions in municipal electricity debt



By Ray Mahlaka

The Constitutional court has dealt major blow to Eskom's efforts to recover billions in municipal electricity debt

THE Constitutional Court has found that Eskom erred in 2020 when it reduced the electricity it supplied to the Ngwathe Local Municipality in the Free State and the Lekwa Local Municipality in Mpumalanga. The power utility erred because it failed to consult with or inform affected residents and businesses in the municipalities before cutting the power.

Eskom's efforts to recover outstanding electricity payments from heavily indebted municipalities have been dealt a blow by the Constitutional Court.

SA's top court trashed Eskom's tough practice of unilaterally switching off the lights at the Ngwathe Local Municipality in the Free State and the Lekwa Local Municipality in Mpumalanga, which each owe the power utility more than R1-billion in unpaid electricity bills. At last count, the Ngwathe municipality owed Eskom R1.467-billion and the Lekwa municipality owed R1.536-billion.

The Constitutional Court found that Eskom erred when it reduced the electricity it supplied to the municipalities in 2020 and effectively threw them into the dark, without informing or consulting with affected residents and businesses.

It's a victory for residents and ratepayers of the Ngwathe and Lekwa municipalities as the court ruled that Eskom's decision to reduce their bulk electricity infringed on their human rights, as set out in the Bill of Rights.

"Eskom's decision to reduce electricity supply has adversely affected the residents' right to dignity, their right of access to healthcare services, their right to an environment that is not harmful to health or well-being, the right to basic education and the right to life," wrote Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga in a majority ruling supported by justices Mathopo, Mhlantla, Theron and Tshiqi.

Ratepayers of the Ngwathe and Lekwa municipalities initially took Eskom to the Pretoria High Court, where they successfully secured an interdict that blocked the power utility from reducing their electricity. Eskom, which has long-standing electricity supply agreements with the municipalities in arrears, was also ordered to provide the municipalities with "full power".

The interdict was granted on an interim basis and would remain in place until the ratepayers pursued a separate court application, which relates to whether Eskom's decision to throttle the amount of bulk electricity it supplied to the municipalities should be reviewed and set aside.



Luyanda Makhathini uses a paraffin light while cooking during load shedding at her home in Soweto. (Photo: REUTERS / Siphwe Sibeko)

Eskom then took the matter on appeal to the Constitutional Court. The power utility lost the appeal as the Constitutional Court upheld a ruling by the Pretoria High Court and ordered the power utility to "restore electricity supply to what it was before the reduction" until the separate court application is heard by the lower court.

Eskom struggles to recover municipal debt

The case at the Constitutional Court was a litmus test for Eskom's ability to recover unpaid debt from municipalities, which increased by R9.5-billion to R44.8-billion during the year to March 2022. Of the R44.8-billion debt, Free State municipalities owed 35.2%, Mpumalanga municipalities owed 29.6% and Gauteng municipalities (mainly Soweto) owed 12.9%.

Since he was appointed as Eskom CEO two years ago, André de Ruyter has intensified collection efforts, going to the extent of dragging municipalities to court to have their bank accounts and assets (such as furniture) attached to recover outstanding payments. De Ruyter has also taken a less adversarial approach, opting to stay out of court by entering into payment agreements with municipalities.

But Eskom is losing the battle of recovering municipal debt. In 2022, Eskom entered into payment agreements with 34 defaulting municipalities, but only 10 of the agreements are being fully honoured. Other municipalities simply ignored De Ruyter's approach.

Without collecting debt from municipalities, which forms a crucial part of its revenue, Eskom cannot service its smothering debt load of R396.3-billion. And the power utility will be pushed to ask the government for more bailouts.

The plight of ratepayers in Ngwathe and Lekwa municipalities

About its loss at the Constitutional Court, Eskom said it would "abide by the Constitutional Court decision while exploring measures to safeguard its best interests in the matter".

The Constitutional Court was sympathetic to the fact that ratepayers in Ngwathe and Lekwa municipalities were thrown into the dark by Eskom through no fault of their own.

The Ngwathe and Lekwa municipalities are deeply dysfunctional as they haven't paid for the electricity they have received, even though their customers/residents pay electricity bills on time. So, residents pay electricity fees on time via pay-as-you-go meters or monthly post-paid arrangements, but the municipalities are not handing over these payments to Eskom.

Ratepayers in the municipalities argued at the Constitutional Court that Eskom's "irrational and unreasonable" decision to disconnect their power, without informing them, had caused "human and environmental catastrophes", even though they were not at fault.

The power disruptions have affected essential services such as water

supply and the functioning of sewage works, throwing the economies of the municipalities into a tailspin. In Lekwa (Standerton), large employers are threatening to withdraw from the town because of power disruptions. The short supply of water owing to Eskom power disruptions (also affecting the functioning of water pumps) has forced Lekwa residents to extract water from the raw sewage-filled Vaal River, which is the main water source for the whole of Gauteng.

The rights of ratepayers

In his ruling, Justice Madlanga said the matter was about correcting Eskom's flawed action of reducing ratepayers' bulk electricity without allowing them to make representations to the power utility.

"In the present matter, it is the sudden substantial reduction of electricity that resulted in the rights violations. The logical corrective measure to address the rights violations is the reversal of the causative act. That is, the restoration of the usual electricity supply. How else do you halt the rights violations? Do you do nothing and throw up your hands in complete despair whilst the violations continue unabated? If that were the case, the law would really be the proverbial ass," wrote Madlanga.

He said section 7(2) of the Constitution placed an obligation on the state (which includes Eskom as an organ of the state) to respect, promote, protect and fulfil the rights in the Bill

of Rights.

"The section 7(2) obligation to respect the rights in the Bill of Rights entails that the state must refrain from unreasonable conduct that results in the infringement of rights in the Bill of Rights."

A minority judgment, written by Acting Justice David Unterhalter (concurring with by justices Kollapen, Majiedt and Mlambo), had a different view about the rights of ratepayers in Ngwathe and Lekwa municipalities.

Unterhalter found that the ratepayers had failed to prove that they had a constitutional right to directly receive electricity from Eskom, rather than from their municipalities. This is because the regulatory framework for electricity supply (mainly under the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act) places the responsibility on the municipalities and their managers, not Eskom, to supply bulk electricity to ratepayers.

"Municipalities ... have constitutional and statutory duties to procure and pay for bulk electricity and then to supply electricity to residents. That must be done by the provision of a system of reticulation that serves the residents, makes provision for the poor, within the resources available to a municipality, and implements a budget to collect revenue so that the municipality can procure electricity to supply to its residents."

In essence, the ratepayers could have fought against the municipalities and not Eskom. **DM/BM**

BUSINESS

Indian mining firm targets investment worth over billion

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

INDIAN based Ajay Mehta Company plans to invest 364.1bn/(\$156m) in the country's mining sector with effect from January next year.

The company's owner Ajay Mehta told this paper during an interview held on Thursday in Dar es Salaam, that plans are underway for business to business meetings with key local players in the sector especially those working in coal and gold mining.

According to him, the company is arranging a business tour to Dar es Salaam to learn a number of issues related to the business.

"We have invested in several African countries such as Ethiopia, Togo and Uganda when it comes to the coal and gold business and now it's time to invest in Tanzania following the welcoming regulatory business reforms undertaken by the government recently," he said.

The company also plans to invest in the agriculture sector particularly on food grains and spices underlying that the investment plan will depend much on what the government is interested in hence urging the government support.

"Interest to invest in Tanzania follows regulatory business reforms observed by the government so

far. The infrastructure in place is promising for more investments," he said.

The company's business coordinator to Tanzania Riyaz Akhtar Khan, said a number of Indian firms are lining up for investment destinations in the country.

According to him, Deepak Karani is one of the firms that eyes on investing in Sugarcane farming in Morogoro and Dodoma regions.

He said the UAE based Ziba Precious Metals had in June this year announced its plans of investing \$50 million in a gold refinery in Geita region as part of the company's expansion plan.

Khan said the company had already begun early-stage investment talks with relevant government authorities adding that construction of the refinery will begin as soon as the negotiations are finalized.

He noted that the proposed plant will process initially 120 tons per day adding that once operations commence additional tailing resources will be identified so that the plant will be able to operate on a continuous basis.

He asserted that the company seeks to capitalize on the large number of small-scale miners in the area to get gold for its plant.



Riyaz Akhtar Khan, a business partner with Ajay Mehta Company clarifies a point on the proposed \$156m investment during an interview with the Guardian on Thursday in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Miraj Masala.

Kenya start-ups cut over Sh29bn deals with US based investors



M-Kopa Solar kit and a digital solar-powered TV.

NAIROBI

KENYA has cut deals of more than Sh29.2 billion at the recently concluded US-Africa leaders' summit that saw American investors commit to financing African firms to the tune of Sh1.93 trillion.

This continues the warm relations between Nairobi and Washington that the administration of President William Ruto seems to have rekindled.

Major beneficiaries of these deals are start-ups in sectors such as power, healthcare, agriculture, and waste management.

The largest commitment of \$97 million (Sh11.95 billion), will see New York-based Symbion Power build and operate 35 megawatts geothermal power plant in the Menengai Volcanic Crater in Great Rift Valley under a 25-year power purchase agreement signed with Kenya Power and a steam supply agreement signed with the Geothermal Development Company.

Kenya-based agribusiness Hello Tractor also partnered with US tractor manufacturer John Deere to scale its pay-as-you-go programme to finance tractors for more than 623,000 smallscale farmers who use the platform on more than 1.7 million acres through a new \$5 million (Sh616 million) funding.

Kenya will also be among the five sub-Saharan countries that will benefit from a \$40 million equity investment in the private equity Africa Renewable Energy Fund II (AREF II) committed by the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

Managed by Berkeley Partners LLP, AREF II is focused on developing, building and operating clean energy assets across the region.

Other countries that will benefit from the fund include Angola, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, and Malawi.

"The fund will dedicate capital to mid-sized renewable energy projects across sub-Saharan Africa, increasing access to clean electricity. The fund will invest in projects at both the development and construction stages, with a geographic focus on Angola, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, and Malawi," reads part of the Commitments Book which features a selection of new partnerships and deals announced during the US-Africa Business Forum.

The forum, which showcased investments and partnerships valued at \$15.7 billion (Sh1.93 trillion), was held on the second day of the Summit that ran from December 13 to 15 in Washington DC. This investment advances several DFC priorities, including increasing access to reliable and clean energy and creating jobs in low- and lower-middle-income countries.

Kenya has also been included in another \$80 million (Sh9.86 billion) kitty by Standard Bank and GE Healthcare that is aimed at helping the customers of the South African lender in five countries get financing to purchase medical equipment in the next five years.

Dow, a US material sciences company, also announced scaling its partnership with Kenyan recycling company, Mr Green.

This partnership targets diverting 90 kilotons of plastic waste from illegal dumpsites and landfills.

The US committed to invest some \$55 billion (Sh6.8 trillion) in the continent in the next three years, with much of the money going to the private sector players.

James Mwangi, the CEO of Equity, told Devex, a social enterprise and media platform, that even if the government is slow to move, the private sector can deliver deals quickly.

Kenyan start-ups were the second most attractive to funders in 2022 in Africa after 63 small and medium enterprises raised Sh62.4 billion in the year, a new survey shows.

Disrupt Africa also found in the survey that 242 firms secured investment between January 2015 and mid-November 2022.

"Those start-ups secured a combined \$1,281,918,200 (Sh158 billion) between them, a figure bettered in that time only by Nigeria," says the firm.

The Kenyan Startup Ecosystem Report 2022 shows that 63 firms had raised a combined \$506,686,000 (Sh62.4 billion) in seed capital funding as of November 2022, compared to \$291,983,000 (Sh35.8 billion) raised in 2021 and \$47,365,000 (Sh5.7 billion) in 2015 when Disrupt Africa records began.

This year is already record-breaking for Kenya at a time companies are gradually recovering from the tough economic situation that led to a number of businesses ceasing operations. At least 308 tech start-

ups were in operation across Kenya as of November 2022, employing more than 11,000 people between them.

Fintech is the most populated sub-sector of the Kenyan start-up space in terms of levels of activity with 93 firms, making up 30.2 percent of the country's ventures cementing its ability to solve fundamental problems at a time tech solutions are received well and quickly adopted.

The improved ranking of Kenya owes to the Capital Markets Authority's friendly fintech regulations that allow fintechs to test innovations in an environment where the regulator helps them to notice flaws in innovations at the early stages.

This places Kenya among the high-interest hubs for venture capitalists on the continent, with the local start-up ecosystem moving from fourth position last year to second in 2022, after Nigeria.

"Kenya's growing economy is home to the most resilient and innovative start-ups in Africa. These start-ups, solving problems common to Africa as they are in Kenya, cannot scale if making and receiving payments is an arduous task. Our payment rails enable global and local businesses to accept and make payments easily, paving the way for their growth," said Akshay Grover, Group CEO at Cellulant.

M-Kopa Solar has bagged the largest funding so far of Sh8.5 billion (\$75 million), compared to the \$85 million raised by Gro Intelligence in 2021.

Year banks lost billions in fresh court battles

NAIROBI

SEVERAL banks have been dealt a blow this year over court cases brought by their former employees or customers.

National Bank of Kenya (NBK) was the hardest hit after the lender was ordered to pay a former MP more than Sh2.3billion or auctioning his property.

The money is almost half of the bank's net income of Sh5.4 billion recorded in the year ended September, underlining the impact of the judgment.

NBK was acquired by KCB Group, which pumped billions of shillings to recapitalize the medium-sized lender.

The Court of Appeal sealed the bank's fate in April by ordering it to pay former Taveta MP Basil Criticos the billions.

NBK tried to escalate the dispute to the Supreme Court but the application was rejected by a bench of three judges early this month.

The lender argued that the Sh2.28 billion award is astronomical, which might affect its cur-

rent and future lending and other banking obligations.

Justices Hannah Okwengu, Ali Aroni and John Mativo said the amount to be paid is huge but does not necessarily qualify the matter as one of great public importance.

"The dispute between the parties was a commercial loan between a lender, borrower and guarantor. The applicant has not shown how a private commercial agreement between the parties and failure to repay a loan is a matter of general public importance," the judges said.

The court had found that the auction of the 15,994.5 acres in Taita Taveta in September 2007 was undervalued. The land had buildings, sisal, quarry, and road network but it was sold for Sh55 million.

The land was sold to the Settlement Fund Trustees (SFT) to recover a loan of Sh20 million advanced to Agro Development Company Ltd, a company in which Mr Criticos was a director and a shareholder. The former Taveta MP acted as a guarantor

and the bank sold the land after he defaulted on repayment.

The bank told the court that the judgment directly and substantially affects all players within the banking and financial sector be they depositors, borrowers, lenders and the public, who rely on the terms of the charges or personal guarantees as security for loans.

"From the excerpts cited above and the court's reasoning, we are convinced that there is no conflicting jurisprudence and uncertainty in law that has arisen regarding whether a guarantee for a specific sum is discharged by payment only of the specific sum, notwithstanding the express provisions therein for the payment of interest, costs and other charges," the judges said.

The court had earlier said it was morally wrong that the bank raised the interest rate from 19 percent per annum to 35 percent per month, amounting to 420 percent per annum.

The bank was faulted by the court for keeping casuals on contract terms for more than three



years and paying them less than their permanent colleagues.

The former employees whose jobs were terminated in December last year sued KCB, accusing the lender of discrimination for

paying them less compared to those hired permanently, yet they perform the same jobs.

Justice Monicah Mbaru said where an employer engages in unfair labour practices such as

discrimination, they should be redressed by damages.

"General damages are due to the claimants for loss and damage suffered for being placed under terms and conditions of employment less favourable contrary to negotiated terms and conditions to unionisable employees of the respondent (KCB)," the judge said.

The decision is likely to have far-reaching ramifications as the court stated that there is no justification for subjecting employees to performing the same roles on different terms and conditions.

"The restrictive wages as against the privilege accorded to permanent employees based on the CBA terms and conditions means an unfair treatment and denial of normal privileges on account of the nature or employment relationship of the fixed term contract.

In another court case pitting banks, Equity Bank Kenya and NCBA Bank Kenya are embroiled in a court battle over a building in Nairobi that the two lenders claimed to have financed at a cost of Sh160 million each.

Zambia gov't looks into strengthen bond between Fintechs and MNOs

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA's government looks to strengthen the bond between Fintech firms and MNOs, and has focused on the phasing out of manual/scratch card airtime purchase in favour of automated digital transactions.

The Ministry of Science and Technology and the Global System for Mobile Association of Zambia (GSMAZ) have engaged with Airtel Networks Zambia, MTN Zambia and Zamtel to follow this process.

Authorities want to enhance the supply of airtime machines to vendors and on bulk-buying of airtime for machines.

Minister of Science and Technology Felix Mutati said the Ministry wants to promote the digital economy and also address related environmental concerns.

Mutati said, "Digitised distribution channels reduce the costs incurred by mobile phone operators to produce and distribute scratch cards



throughout the country. Digital recharge platforms also contribute to reduction of fraud and make it easier for the Zambia Revenue

Authority to collect taxes as it becomes easier to determine the actual airtime sold by MNOs."

A secondary benefit is the con-

tribution to environmental protection as scratch card litter is removed.

GSMAZ chairperson and MTN

Zambia CEO Bart Hofker added: "The use of electronic methods is a direct top-up which is quick, safe and easy since the agent sends the

top-up value directly to the phone and the customers will not have to type the twelve digit numbers anymore.

Kigali flower vase vendors seek new deadline after relocation ultimatum



KIGALI

SOME flower vase vendors across the City of Kigali are requesting an extended deadline to move after facing a relocation ultimatum.

The ultimatum came after the relocation deadline expired last week, city officials said.

According to a survey by the local outlet to different places where flower vase vendors were operating and found that some had not yet relocated. They are requesting a three-month grace period to afford the relocation.

"Some are relocating to Giticyinyoni towards River Nyabarongo and others are relocating to Sahara in Kicukiro District. But we need an extended deadline to relocate. This is because it is costly. It requires Rwf50, 000 per car to relocate the business yet we need at least 10 cars," one vendor said.

"Last week we were given three more days to relocate but we are failing because it is expensive to move flowers. The transport is costly," added another.

Another vendor said that there should be an assessment of places where sellers were relocated such as Giticyinyoni to River Nyabarongo since the place is usually flooded.

"We need at least two or three months to relocate. We can earn money during these months for transport costs," she said.

Meanwhile some vendors who have already relocated said that it will take time to get clients.

"This is because we were operating at strategic places

on major roads where we were easily getting clients who are financially capable. Now we are being relocated to a rural part of the city in Kinyinya sector where roads are not even tarmacked;

It has been a while without selling because we are still setting up facilities that we use to make vases and flowers," said Marie Goretti Ntawangiryayo, a vase vendor who spent 12 years operating on the road to Gacuriro near the Golf course.

While some were still appealing for support to ease transport costs on relocation, those relocated to Kinyinya, for instance, confirmed that they were facilitated to transport their goods and facilities.

"We are using a state land that was idle. We are currently building hangars for our operations. Retailers who used to purchase from us have also been evicted and, therefore, it will take months to start earning again," Ntawangiryayo said, adding they were expecting compensation on some facilities such as nurseries.

Martine Urujeni, Vice Mayor in charge of Socio-Economic Affairs in the City of Kigali, said the relocation seeks to ensure cleanliness and security on the city's roads and help street vendors to operate in a well-organised way.

"The disarray of the flower vases on many roads in the city has to be eliminated quickly. They have been operating in disorder and even in wetlands. We were not able to monitor well how they are operating," she said.

Urujeni said the producers

of flowers and vases had been informed about the decision to relocate, adding that the deadline was not respected.

"We are relocating them to other places to ensure the cleanliness and security of the capital. This is because even those coming to buy such vases and flowers have no car parking places. So, they have to be relocated to wider and safe places," she said.

Urujeni said those who will be reluctant to relocate will be forcibly moved. City of Kigali authorities reiterated that operating in a known, wide, and secure place will help to identify and monitor species of flowers and seedlings the vendors are producing and selling.

A shop that I have never known exists with very beautiful decoration items, but what made me take a step into the shop were the beautiful vases on display.

Some of these vases are so beautiful that they do not even need flowers in them, just to have them stand on their own can also create a unique feature in the house.

Decorating with vases can add elegance or charm to a room if there is enough space to adequately house the vase. Vases can fill large empty spaces or corners in a decorative manner.

They also draw attention to other items in the room, such as furniture or paintings. Vases can be filled with dried flowers that hold sentimental value or ones that complement the vase.

Vases magnify the beauty



styles and in a variety of colours. If you find a clay vase you love, you can even paint over it with acrylic latex paint and add your own personal flair to the vase.

Beaded

Beaded vases are funky vases that are made by taking a wire frame and adding intricate beading around it. Beaded vases may be a little harder to find, but you can try thrift shops, trendy décor stores or look online. Fake flowers are best for beaded vases, as they can't hold liquids. Or you could fill them with objects like artificial fruits and vegetables, coloured stones or potpourri.

Metal

Metal vases are a bit more intricate and expensive, and have more of an antique look to them. Metal vases are typically higher end because most will have some sort of detailed design engraved on them in gold or silver. You can find these at antique stores, estate sales or at some décor stores. They have an added advantage in that they are less prone to breaking should an accident occur.

It is also very important to determine where in the room a vase would add to the decor. There two types of vases; floor vase and table vase. For example floor vases can decorate empty corners, hallways, verandas, floor space next to a wall unit or near a staircase. A table vase of course is always placed on a table.

Also, when choosing a vase, always choose a vase that complements your room's decor and colour scheme. An intricate, antique vase would look out of place in a contemporary room just as a simple vase might be understated in a highly decorated Victorian room.

One can place the vase in a room or corner of your choice. Look at it from all angles of the room to make sure it has the effect you want. Vases can be decorated just as they are on their own, or one can fill the vase with dried grass or branches, then add dried flowers. The flowers should be proportionate to the size of the vase.

For example, large sunflowers would look awkward in a small, slender vase. For smaller flowers in large vases, use a larger quantity. Again, view the arrangement from all angles in the room, and adjust as necessary.

Decorating with vases puts life into your home; your visitors will love them- and with little effort your home decor and ambience will change for the better.

RRA announces deadline for tax payment

KIGALI

RWANDA Revenue Authority (RRA) has announced December 30 as the deadline for individual businesses and government institutions to pay their due taxes.

In a communique issued by the revenue body on December 28, it stated that this is due to the fact that banks normally issue service instructions to their customers in order to facilitate their year-end related activities, hence, the deadline.

Jean-Paulin Uwitonze, RRA Spokesperson, explained that normally banks' branches close a bit early or put to halt some services for them to deal with bookkeeping activities for the end of the year.

"We, therefore, urge all taxpayers to ensure the payment is done before the deadline, otherwise they may be forced to deal with inconveniences in the following month such as having to provide documents that the payment was done on time and banks delayed to report it," he said.

These include quarterly income tax prepayment, unpaid Value Added Tax, unpaid Withholding tax, and unpaid Pay As You Earn.

"We also urge them to prepare their inventories well and cross-check EBM receipts with their suppliers. We don't accept any other receipt as a deductible expense when declaring tax on profit. We also warn against falsified EBM receipts because we have technologies to detect that and it is punishable," Uwitonze noted.

In November the Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente urged businesses to use Electronic Billing Machines (EBM), and consumers to always demand EBM receipts.

He pointed out that EBM helps keep track of collected taxes that are used in national development.

Ngirente made a call on November 19, during the event that marked the end of the 20th Taxpayer Appreciation Month and awarded best taxpayers at the national level.

He pointed out that in the private sector saying that the business operating environment is favorable to practitioners as a result of improved regulatory mechanisms.

China EV makers worried of subsidies, chip crunch

GUANGZHOU

CHINESE electric vehicle makers expect to be under pressure after a bumper year with the withdrawal of friendly government subsidies and uncertainties driven by the shift to living with COVID-19.

The global shortage of semiconductors for EVs was another concern raised by industry players at the 2022 Auto Guangzhou motor show, which opened on Friday in the southern Chinese city.

Supported by years of government policies and subsidies, China's EV market is heading for record sales of 6.5 million units in 2022, nearly double 2021's 3.52 million units, according to a projection by China Passenger Car Association.

In contrast, total vehicle sales grew by just 3.3% annually to 24.3 million units in the first eleven months of the year. The association has forecast 3% growth for the overall market in 2023 and 31% growth for EVs.

"The industry is facing no small amount of risks," Feng Xingya, a general manager at state automaker



GAC Motor, told reporters in Guangzhou. "For instance, chip supply. We have yet to grasp the full picture, namely resolving the fundamental issues."

The Guangzhou-based automaker produces the Aion, a battery-powered sedan that is one of the

country's top sellers.

China, the world's largest EV market, has been hit hard by disruptions to chip supplies sparked by COVID-19 lockdowns since 2020 on top of geopolitical tensions with the U.S., prompting automakers to slow produc-

tion and adjust sales targets.

GAC Motor on Friday projected a 10% sales growth for 2023, down from the 12% estimate for this year.

"Policies surrounding EVs, such as the withdrawal of subsidies, are among the other uncertainties faced by our industry," Feng said.

Currently, EV buyers enjoy a discount of between 4,800 yuan (\$695) and 12,600 yuan but the subsidies, which have been phased out gradually since 2020, are due to end this year.

"Our Nio ET5 has been a top seller this year with a delivery waiting

period of three months," a representative of Chinese premium EV maker Nio said at the auto show, referencing its new sedan. "But our new price tag is 328,000 yuan without subsidies. Customers who bought earlier enjoyed a discount of 11,000 yuan."

Nio chief executive William Li recently said the company could face intense pressure in the first half of 2023 on weaker demand following the removal of subsidies.

The policy change comes as consumer sentiment has been hampered by massive outbreaks of COVID-19 after the government shifted to living with the virus, abandoning its zero-tolerance COVID strategy. Total retail sales of consumer goods contracted by 0.1% in the first eleven months, hurt by lockdowns that disrupted production and businesses.

The government might extend EV incentives, given the uncertainties of the pandemic and economic growth pressure, said Tu Le, founder of Beijing-based consultancy Sino Auto Insights. "The 2023 economy will need a consumption boost, not just for autos but the overall market," Le said.

We will not introduce new taxes next financial year, announces Ggoobi

KAMPALA

GOVERNMENT has ruled out introduction of new tax or increase in existing ones during the 2023/24 financial year.

The move seeks to support the private sector to sail through a difficult economic environment, characterised by high inflation and subdued demand.

However, government has also indicated that there will be no tax cuts during the 2023/24 financial year, noting that attention will be focused on supporting economic productivity, implementation of reforms and enhancing efficiency in the public sector.

Speaking in an interview last week on the side-lines of a joint news conference between the International Fund (IMF), Finance Ministry and Bank of Uganda, Mr Ramathan Ggoobi, the secretary to the Treasury, said instead of introducing new taxes, government will recruit new taxpayers to expand the tax base.

"We are not going to increase or introduce new taxes. Increasing taxes in most cases falls on the same people who are already paying. We will be expanding the tax base by enrolling more tax payers and expanding things to be included in the tax system," he said, noting that implementing reforms will be key and one of the ways through which the tax base will be expanded.

For instance, Mr Ggoobi noted, government had historically supported the private sector to invest in difficult sectors of the economy through provision of incentives or tax exemption, some of which have been abused.

"We want to know what criteria we are using and have open and clear avenues to tax incentives or exemption," he said.

Tax incentives and exemption have always been questioned by many Ugandans given that they largely benefit foreign investors. Data indicates that as much as Shs1.5 trillion is forgone annually due to tax incentives and exemptions.

Mr Ggoobi said through rationalisation of tax incentive and exemption, the Ministry Finance will seek to expand the tax base, and have in place a monitoring framework, which measures progress of beneficiaries and the benefit to government.

Through rationalising, he said, there will be questions and answers such as whether there are investments in the country, which would take place with or without incentives and how efficient exemptions are to the country, beneficiaries and citizens, as a whole. It has been estimated that gov-

ernment loses 2.1 percent of revenue due to tax incentive and exemption yet the country's tax to gross domestic product ratio remains one of the lowest in East Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.

Therefore, Mr Ggoobi said, government has put in place mechanisms to save at least 0.1 percent of the tax to gross domestic product losses with the view of achieving a tax to gross domestic product ratio of 20 percent. Tax to gross domestic product ratio currently stands at less than 12 percent.

In June, Justice Stephen Mubiru of the Commercial Division of the High Court issued a ruling that brought down the empire of businessman Habib Kagimu.

Early in June he allowed the attachment of Mr Kagimu's properties in Kololo and Bwebajja, for failure to pay a loan of Shs3.36 billion he had taken out through his Habib Oil Limited and Electro-Maax Limited. Whereas the same judge threw out an application in which Patrick Bitature's Simba Properties Investment and Simba Telecom had sought to stop the auctioning of its properties namely Elizabeth Apartments, Protea Hotel (Skyz's Hotel), Moyo Close Apartments and Kololo Gardens by the South African entity, Vantage Mezzanine Fund, which he owes \$32,064,075 (about Shs17b), the Court of appeal overturned that decision.

Mr Bitature's empire remains in the balance.

Not the first

It is not clear whether Mr Kagimu is working behind the scenes to save his property, but if his empire and that of Mr Bitature go under, they will have become the latest additions to a long list of indigenous business empires that have bitten the dust in the era of the National Resistance Movement (NRM).

Most prominent on the list of those that have buckled under the weight of debts is Sembule Group of companies, the first indigenous firm to produce steel products at their Sembule Steel Mills in Nalukolongo; own a bank (Sembule Investment Bank); own an insurance company (Pan World Insurance); open a televisions and radios assembling plant and; manufacture street lights and energy saving bulbs.

Sembule Steel Mills was taken over in September 2014.

Other individuals and firms that have either closed or been threatened with foreclosure include Fort Portal businessman, George Begumisa, Mr Hashad Damani, Capt Joseph Charles Roy, Muhammad Muyanja Mbabali, Senana Investment and Visare Uganda Limited.



| ITV | MONDAY 2 Jan | TUESDAY 3 Jan | WEDNESDAY 4 Jan | THURSDAY 5 Jan | FRIDAY 6 Jan | SATURDAY 7 Jan | SUNDAY 8 Jan |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| SATURDAY 31 Dec | 5:00 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi |
| 6:00 HABARI | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI | 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:40 Kumekucha |
| 7:00 Habari | 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:40 Kumekucha | 7:00 Habari | 7:00 Habari |
| 8:00 Al Jazeera | 7:00 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 8:00 Al Jazeera |
| 9:00 Watoto wetu | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 9:00 Watoto wetu | 9:00 Watoto wetu |
| 10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO | 9:00 DWTW Journal | 9:00 DWTW Journal | 9:00 DWTW Journal | 9:00 DWTW Journal | 9:00 DWTW Journal | 10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO | 10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO |
| 10:05 Shika Bamba 5 | 9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 10:05 Shika Bamba 5 | 10:05 Shika Bamba 5 |
| 10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt | 10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt |
| 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt | 11:00 The Base rpt | 11:00 The Base rpt | 11:00 The Base rpt | 11:00 The Base rpt | 11:00 The Base rpt | 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt | 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt |
| 12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo |
| 13:00 Usafiri wako | 12:30 Jungu Kuu | 12:30 Jungu Kuu | 12:30 Jungu Kuu | 12:30 Jungu Kuu | 12:30 Jungu Kuu | 13:00 Usafiri wako | 13:00 Usafiri wako |
| 13:30 Jagina | 13:00 Mjue Zaidi | 13:00 Mjue Zaidi | 13:00 Mjue Zaidi | 13:00 Mjue Zaidi | 13:00 Mjue Zaidi | 13:30 Jagina | 13:30 Jagina |
| 14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt | 13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt | 13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt | 13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt | 13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt | 14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt |
| 16:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 14:10 Soap rpt: Rebecca | 14:10 Soap rpt: Rebecca | 14:10 Soap rpt: Rebecca | 14:10 Soap rpt: Rebecca | 14:10 Soap rpt: Rebecca | 16:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 16:15 Igizo: Mizengwe |
| 16:30 Igizo: Rebecca | 14:40 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing | 14:40 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing | 14:40 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing | 14:40 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing | 14:40 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing | 16:30 Igizo: Rebecca | 16:30 Igizo: Rebecca |
| 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani | 15:00 Meza Huru: | 15:00 Meza Huru: | 15:00 Meza Huru: | 15:00 Meza Huru: | 15:00 Meza Huru: | 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani | 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani |
| 18:00 Jiji Letu | 16:30 Watoto Wetu | 16:30 Watoto Wetu | 16:30 Watoto Wetu | 16:30 Watoto Wetu | 16:30 Watoto Wetu | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 18:00 Jiji Letu |
| 18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt | 17:00 The Base | 17:00 The Base | 17:00 The Base | 17:00 The Base | 17:00 The Base | 18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt | 18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt |
| 19:00 Jungu Kuu | 17:00 Jiji Letu | 17:00 Jiji Letu | 17:00 Jiji Letu | 17:00 Jiji Letu | 17:00 Jiji Letu | 19:00 Jungu Kuu | 19:00 Jungu Kuu |
| 19:30 Shika Bamba | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 19:30 Shika Bamba | 19:30 Shika Bamba |
| 20:00 Habari | 18:30 DW: Afrimaxx | 18:30 DW: Afrimaxx | 18:30 DW: Afrimaxx | 18:30 DW: Afrimaxx | 18:30 DW: Afrimaxx | 20:00 Habari | 20:00 Habari |
| 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka | 19:00 Afiya ya Jamii | 19:00 Afiya ya Jamii | 19:00 Afiya ya Jamii | 19:00 Afiya ya Jamii | 19:00 Afiya ya Jamii | 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka | 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka |
| 21:15 Igizo: Rebecca | 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon | 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon | 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon | 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon | 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon | 21:15 Igizo: Rebecca | 21:15 Igizo: Rebecca |
| 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Mwisho wa Mwaka | 20:00 Habari | 20:00 Habari | 20:00 Habari | 20:00 Habari | 20:00 Habari | 21:40 Art and Lifestyle | 21:40 Art and Lifestyle |
| 22:30 ITV Top 10 | 21:05 Dakika 45 | 21:05 Dakika 45 | 21:05 Dakika 45 | 21:05 Dakika 45 | 21:05 Dakika 45 | 22:30 ITV Top 10 | 22:30 ITV Top 10 |
| 23:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 22:00 Our Earth | 22:00 Our Earth | 22:00 Our Earth | 22:00 Our Earth | 22:00 Our Earth | 23:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 23:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt |
| 01:15 DWTW | 22:30 Soap: Uzalo | 22:30 Soap: Uzalo | 22:30 Soap: Uzalo | 22:30 Soap: Uzalo | 22:30 Soap: Uzalo | 01:15 DWTW | 01:15 DWTW |
| | 23:00 The Base | 23:00 The Base | 23:00 The Base | 23:00 The Base | 23:00 The Base | | |
| | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | | |
| | 02:00 DWTW | 02:00 DWTW | 02:00 DWTW | 02:00 DWTW | 02:00 DWTW | | |
| SUNDAY 1 Jan | TUESDAY 3 Jan | TUESDAY 3 Jan | TUESDAY 3 Jan | TUESDAY 3 Jan | TUESDAY 3 Jan | SUNDAY 1 Jan | SUNDAY 1 Jan |
| 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi |
| 6:00 HABARI | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI | 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:40 Kumekucha |
| 7:00 Habari | 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:40 Kumekucha | 7:00 Habari | 7:00 Habari |
| 8:00 Al Jazeera | 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 8:00 Al Jazeera |
| 09:00 Watoto Wetu | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 09:00 Watoto Wetu | 09:00 Watoto Wetu |
| 10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 9:00 DWTW Journal | 9:00 DWTW Journal | 9:00 DWTW Journal | 9:00 DWTW Journal | 9:00 DWTW Journal | 10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt |
| 11:50 Bongo Movie rpt | 9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon | 9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon | 9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon | 9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon | 9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon | 11:50 Bongo Movie rpt | 11:50 Bongo Movie rpt |
| 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo | 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo |
| 15:30 Mwangaza | 10:25 Jagina rpt | 10:25 Jagina rpt | 10:25 Jagina rpt | 10:25 Jagina rpt | 10:25 Jagina rpt | 15:30 Mwangaza | 15:30 Mwangaza |
| 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 11:00 The Base rpt | 11:00 The Base rpt | 11:00 The Base rpt | 11:00 The Base rpt | 11:00 The Base rpt | 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt |
| 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo |
| 18:00 Jiji Letu | 12:30 Afiya ya jamii | 12:30 Afiya ya jamii | 12:30 Afiya ya jamii | 12:30 Afiya ya jamii | 12:30 Afiya ya jamii | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 18:00 Jiji Letu |
| 18:15 Mipishi | 13:00 Ripoti Maalum Shikabamba | 13:00 Ripoti Maalum Shikabamba | 13:00 Ripoti Maalum Shikabamba | 13:00 Ripoti Maalum Shikabamba | 13:00 Ripoti Maalum Shikabamba | 18:15 Mipishi | 18:15 Mipishi |
| 18:30 Matukio ya wiki | 14:05 Igizo rpt: Rebecca | 14:05 Igizo rpt: Rebecca | 14:05 Igizo rpt: Rebecca | 14:05 Igizo rpt: Rebecca | 14:05 Igizo rpt: Rebecca | 18:30 Matukio ya wiki | 18:30 Matukio ya wiki |
| 19:30 Igizo: Rebecca | 14:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt | 14:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt | 14:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt | 14:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt | 14:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt | 19:30 Igizo: Rebecca | 19:30 Igizo: Rebecca |
| 20:00 Habari | 15:00 Meza Huru | 15:00 Meza Huru | 15:00 Meza Huru | 15:00 Meza Huru | 15:00 Meza Huru | 20:00 Habari | 20:00 Habari |
| 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 16:30 Watoto wetu | 16:30 Watoto wetu | 16:30 Watoto wetu | 16:30 Watoto wetu | 16:30 Watoto wetu | 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko |
| 21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology | 17:00 The Base | 17:00 The Base | 17:00 The Base | 17:00 The Base | 17:00 The Base | 21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology | 21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology |
| 21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe |
| 21:30 Mjue Zaidi | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 21:30 Mjue Zaidi | 21:30 Mjue Zaidi |
| 22:15 Bongo movie: | 18:30 Shamba lulu | 18:30 Shamba lulu | 18:30 Shamba lulu | 18:30 Shamba lulu | 18:30 Shamba lulu | 22:15 Bongo movie: | 22:15 Bongo movie: |
| 23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 19:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon | 19:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon | 19:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon | 19:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon | 19:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon | 23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt |
| 02:05 Al Jazeera | 20:00 Habari | 20:00 Habari | 20:00 Habari | 20:00 Habari | 20:00 Habari | 02:05 Al Jazeera | 02:05 Al Jazeera |

WORLD

Netanyahu returns with cabinet set to expand settlements

JERUSALEM

BENJAMIN Netanyahu sealed a comeback as Israeli prime minister on Thursday as his hard-right cabinet was being sworn in with promises to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and to pursue other policies criticized at home and abroad.

The veteran leader, 73 and on trial for graft charges he denies, has sought to calm concerns about the fate of civil rights and diplomacy since his bloc of nationalist and religious parties secured a parliamentary majority in a Nov 1 election.

His allies include the Religious Zionism and Jewish Power parties, which oppose Palestinian statehood and whose leaders - both West Bank settlers - have in the past agitated against Israel's justice system, its Arab minority and LGBT rights.

Netanyahu has repeatedly pledged to promote tolerance and pursue peace. He told parliament that "ending the Israeli-Arab conflict" was his top priority, along with thwarting Iran's nuclear program and building up Israel's military capacity.

Opponents heckled him with chants of "Weak! Weak!". They say Netanyahu had to make costly deals to secure new partners after centrist parties boycotted him over his

legal woes.

For Palestinians, Netanyahu's line-up has darkened an already bleak outlook, with violence surging and Jewish settlements set to expand in the West Bank - among territories where they hope to build a future state.

Netanyahu's conservative Likud party said in its guidelines for the government that it would "promote and develop settlement" on lands to which "the Jewish people has an exclusive and unassailable right".

Most world powers deem settlements built on land captured in war illegal.

"These guidelines constitute a dangerous escalation and will have repercussions for the region," said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesperson for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, said.

Flare-up worries

This year has already seen some of the worst West Bank violence since 2015 as Israeli forces have cracked down on Palestinian unrest and militant attacks.

Abbas has criticized the new government saying its "motto is extremism and apartheid".

Such sentiments have been echoed within Israel, 21 percent of whose population are Arab and often identify with the Palestinians.



Rwanda's government spokesperson Yolande Makolo addresses a news conference on the transfer of asylum seekers from Britain ahead of their arrival in Kigali, Rwanda Jun 14, 2022. REUTERS

Palestinian economic growth, a more modest aim endorsed by Netanyahu, could also suffer should the conflict flare up anew.

"The political horizon influences the economy and all indications tell us the political situation will be bad," Ibrahim Barham, a Palestinian businessman, told Reuters.

In parliamentary speeches before the swearing in, one of the Arab lawmakers, who have no representatives in the new cabinet, accused members of the incoming coalition of "fascism".

Netanyahu, now entering his sixth term, says he will serve all Israelis. He also appears to have stopped short of seeking West Bank annexations - a policy he had previously championed and which would have pleased his settler base while putting Israel on a collision course with Washington and Arab states.

Netanyahu, who was prime

minister for three years in the 1990s and from 2009 to 2021, has said he seeks a breakthrough in forming diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia as he did in 2020 with other Gulf states that share Israel's concerns about Iran.

Riyadh has signaled no change in its position that any progress with Israel was contingent on Palestinian statehood.

Netanyahu's appointments include Itamar Ben-Gvir, who was convicted in 2007 of incitement against Arabs and support for a Jewish militant group, as minister for police. Ben-Gvir, a lawyer, says his views have become more moderate.

Israel's president, Isaac Herzog, whose role is largely ceremonial, warned on Sunday against causing potential harm to individuals' rights. Businesses have decried calls to revise Israel's anti-discrimination law.

Agencies

Poll reveals Russian public's confidence in Putin

MOSCOW

THE level of Russian citizens' confidence in President Vladimir Putin has moved up by 0.4 percentage points to 78.5% in the past week, according to the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center.

"When asked about trust in Putin, 78.5% of the respondents answered positively (0.4 p.p. over the week)," the pollster noted as it published the results of a survey conducted from December 19 to December 25 among 1,600 Russian respondents aged over 18.

The poll's figures for the Russian government and Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin were positive, standing at 49.7% (+1.1 p.p.) and 52.4% (+1.3 p.p.), respectively, the report said. Mishustin was trusted by 61.3% of respondents (+1.7 p.p. over the week).

Those surveyed also expressed their confidence in the heads of various parliamentary factions. Russia's Communist Party (CPRF) leader Gennady Zyuganov earned the trust of 34.2% of the respondents (+2.1 p.p.), Sergey Mironov, who chairs A Just Russia - For Truth, enjoyed the support of 31.1% of those surveyed (+2.4 p.p.), the leader of The New People party, Alexey Nechayev, garnered 8.4% (-0.4 p.p.) and leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) Leonid Slutsky got 15% (-2.0 p.p.). **Agencies**



US path to hegemony leads to dead end

BEIJING

THE United States earlier this month gathered 49 African heads of state and the head of the African Union in Washington for its ambitious U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit after an eight-year hiatus, to demonstrate its "unchanging" commitment to the developing continent.

However, the White House has not been met with the expected response, but with growing skepticism and criticism, as with so much on the international stage so far this year. U.S. website Politico commented on the summit that African leaders "feel like they've already been fooled once - when former President Barack Obama used the first such summit in 2014 to signal growing commitment to the continent."

Instead, Obama cut funding to combat AIDs in Africa and reduced foreign aid to the region." Such reaction of African leaders is understandable. The overbearing role of the United States backfires - it frequently and unscrupulously bullies other countries, and breaches trust on bilateral and multilateral diplomatic occasions. The United States, for long, has blatantly invaded many countries under various pretexts, causing lasting disasters to the victims.

The country has invaded 84 out of the 194 countries recognized by the United Nations and has been militarily involved with 191 of those, according to "America Invades: How We've Invaded or Been Militarily Involved with Almost Every Country on Earth," co-authored by Christopher Kelly and Stuart Laycock. Besides the invasions, Washington, labeling itself a "beacon of democracy," has also intensified its bullying practices under the guise of "democracy" and "human rights," including coercing others to take sides, imposing unilateral sanctions on non-compliant countries, provoking conflicts in many regions and profiting from the chaos.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame refused a U.S. attempt that would force his country to choose between strengthening economic ties either with the United States or others. "I don't think we need to be bullied into making choices" to take sides, Kagame said on the sidelines of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit.

The true colors of the United States that it will do anything to benefit itself at the expense of others have become increasingly clear, and its path to hegemony will eventually lead to a dead end. With a rising trend of negative coping and non-cooperation by the rest of the world in response to U.S. calls, the United States is hardly winning any real friends when courting others.

At the ninth Summit of the Americas in June, Latin American leaders resisted the U.S. ideological exclusion of the leaders of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela, showing that U.S. hypocrisy has been punctured and less popular at the international stage.

When it comes to countries in Southeast Asia, the United States plays the same tactics of forcing the countries to take sides in a patronizing manner, stirring up conflicts and making empty promises. However, the majority of regional countries have expressed their deep suspicion on the White House's "Indo-Pacific strategy" with ulterior motives. "Americans are still seen as neocolonialist powers" and not all countries believe that the Americans should be the watchdog of democracy and human rights. Zeenat Adam, former director of the Horn of Africa section of South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation, was quoted by Politico as saying.

Xinhua

UN aid chief to visit Afghanistan over female aid worker ban

UNITED NATIONS

UN aid chief Martin Griffiths will visit Afghanistan in the coming weeks and seek to meet the highest possible officials within the Taliban-led administration after it banned female aid workers, a senior UN official said on Thursday.

"We regret to see that there is already an impact of this decision on our programs," Ramiz Alakbarov, UN aid coordinator in Afghanistan, told reporters in New York after the United Nations said that some "time-critical" programs had temporarily stopped and other activities will also likely be paused.

He said women made up roughly 30 percent of aid workers and that they would not be replaced with men. Alakbarov also said the "humanitarian needs of the people are absolutely enormous and it's important that we continue to stay and deliver."

The United Nations has said that 97 percent of Afghans live in poverty, two-thirds of the population need aid to survive and 20 million people face acute hunger.

Alakbarov said UN officials

were meeting with ministries to discuss the impact on aid programs and that a meeting with the health minister about the delivery of services for women and girls by female aid workers had been "rather constructive."

"We already had an agreement with the minister that in that sector there should not be a barrier and the service providers may return to work. Now let's see how this is going to play out," Alakbarov said. "The discussions with other line ministers have not yielded the same results yet, but they are ongoing."

He said he would be focused on talking with the Taliban-led administration to try and get the ban reversed because they responded better to dialogue instead of pressure, adding: "This movement have not responded well to the pressure in the past."

Alakbarov said that 70 percent of UN programs were implemented in partnership with other aid organizations.

Four major global groups said on Sunday that they were suspending operations be-



Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

cause they were unable to run their programs without female staff. Others have since followed suit.

The ban on female aid workers was announced by the Islamist Taliban-led administration on Saturday. It follows a ban imposed last week on women attending universities. Girls were stopped from attending high school in March.

Alakbarov said most of the decrees came from the Shura, or leadership council, in the southern city of Kandahar - the birthplace of the Taliban - and if a decree was signed by a minister in the capital Kabul it referenced the Kandahar Shura.

He said there were divisions within the Taliban over the bans on women, adding: "It's also generational. The older

generation of Taliban is more conservative.

The Taliban seized power in August last year. They largely banned education of girls when last in power two decades ago but had said their policies had changed. The Taliban-led administration has not been recognized internationally.

Xinhua

Artificial intelligence charts course for educational reforms

THE 2022 International Forum on AI (artificial intelligence) and Education was recently held online. Joined by government officials, scholars, teachers, and enterprise representatives from dozens of countries, the forum mapped out a blueprint for educational development in the era of AI.

As an important force driving a new round of technological and industrial revolution, AI has nurtured large batches of new products, technologies, business forms and models, bringing more possibilities to modern education.

An AI development plan issued by China's State Council said the country will accelerate the reform of talent training models and teaching methods with intelligent technologies.

The Ministry of Education launched an action plan on AI innovation for universities and colleges and kicked off two batches of pilot programs of AI-enabled faculty construction. The Ministry of Science and Technolo-



Students have a class in a virtual reality classroom in an elementary school in Bishan district, southwest China's Chongqing municipality, September 2021. (Photo by Hu Yuejian/People's Daily Online)

gy, together with the other five departments, jointly issued a notice requesting that smart education be included in the country's first batch of demonstration scenarios of AI application, so as to gain replicable experiences.

The combination of AI and education is injecting strong impetus into the reforms and innovations of Chinese education.

With such a combination, students from different schools can have a music class to-

gether with a shared virtual teacher, and their performance in gym classes can be shown in real time on smart devices. Besides, virtual reality technology will enable students to enjoy spacewalk simulations. More and more schools have started employing or are preparing for AI education.

Such a combination will bring a complete change to the educational ecology. Teachers are expected to have better performance with the assistance of AI, which helps with their teaching, testing, and management. The mix of physical and virtual scenarios puts students in a better learning environment. Massive online data and the increasingly stronger hashrate will make schools' management more targeted.

In addition, with the support of AI, quality digital educational resources will be shared by more, making education fairer and more open.

For instance, thanks to the application of multimedia teaching aids and online classes,

the enrollment rate for elementary school education in Medog county, southwest China's Tibet autonomous region has reached 100 percent.

China enjoys a solid foundation and unique advantages in developing AI education. The country is a leading player in voice and visual recognition technologies. Its national smart education platform gathers massive educational resources and well satisfies the demands of its 291 million students and 18.44 million teachers.

All middle schools and elementary schools across the country have access to the internet, and 99.5 percent of them have multimedia classrooms.

The ecology of AI education shall be of higher quality and made more considerate. How to make human-machine collaboration more intelligent and how to make human-machine dialogue more friendly are topics that deserve constant attention in the field of AI education. **People's Daily**

Fruitful cooperation in 2022 as China, Uganda celebrate six-decade ties

KAMPALA

THE year 2022 has been fruitful for China-Uganda cooperation as the two countries celebrated 60 years of diplomatic ties.

A month into 2022, the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), together with France's TotalEnergies, announced the long-awaited 10-billion-U.S.-dollar Final Investment Decision, a blueprint plan to start commercial production of Uganda's oil.

This was a signal of the deepening ties between Uganda and China, dating back to Oct. 18, 1962, just nine days after the east African country attained political independence from the United Kingdom.

At an event held at the national ceremonial ground, Kololo Independence Ground, Kampala, the capital of Uganda, in Feb. 1, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni told the country and the world that once the first oil starts flowing in 2025, the revenues would be used to fast-track the country's economic development, especially in the transport and energy infrastructure sectors.

Economic experts from entities including Uganda's central bank, the Bank of Uganda, have argued that proper utilization of Uganda's oil revenue will fast-track its economic development, pulling millions out of poverty.

Months into 2022, drilling activities have started in the oil wells in the western part of the country on the shores of Lake Albert, shared with the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Chinese drilling experts together with their Ugandan experts are already at Kingfisher oilfield, which is owned by CNOOC. Works are also



ongoing at Tilenga oil fields which are owned by TotalEnergies.

A 1,445-km crude oil pipeline, estimated to cost 3.55 billion dollars, will be constructed to transport the oil to the international market through the Tanzanian seaport of Tanga. Uganda's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development estimates that the oil project will generate about 160,000 jobs besides provisions of goods and services.

The Chinese Embassy in Uganda this year also announced that as a follow-up of the nine cooperation programs announced at last year's Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), it has together with the Ugandan government developed a pool of projects aimed at increasing household income.

These projects include mushroom and bamboo growing at a commercial level, according to Zhang Lizhong, Chinese ambassador to Uganda. Also as a follow-up on the eighth ministerial FOCAC meeting, China this year extended up to 98 percent of Ugandan goods to access the Chinese market at zero tariffs, starting Dec. 1.

China pledged to increase the scope of products enjoying zero tariff treatment for the least developed countries that have diplomatic ties with it in a bid to reach 300 billion U.S. dollars in total imports

from Africa in the next three years.

Uganda's Minister for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives Francis Mwebesa, while speaking at the public unveiling of the Special Preferential Tariff Treatment of Ugandan Exports to China held in Kampala on Nov. 18, urged the business community to take advantage of the Chinese market access.

"To export to China, it is the best market we can access, the private sector especially those in coffee should access the Chinese market," Mwebesa said. China has since 2010 been increasing the number of Ugandan goods that can access its market tariff-free.

According to Uganda's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperative, China in 2013 increased the zero tariff line to 95 percent from 60 percent in 2010. In 2015, the zero tariff line was further increased to 97 percent.

The trade volume between the two countries in 2021 amounted to 1.07 billion dollars, registering a 28.5 percent increase, against the shock waves of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By the end of 2020, China's direct investment in Uganda reached 710 million dollars and the investment is mainly focused on manufacturing, agriculture, mining, and logistics.

This year, China and Uganda also commemo-

rated their 60th anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic ties. At a webinar held in September, organized by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), the Chinese Embassy in Uganda, and the Ugandan Embassy in China, speakers on both sides hailed the bilateral ties on international affairs.

Vice President of CPAFFC Jiang Jiang said China supported African countries to fight imperialism and colonialism. Africa also supported China's restoration of the lawful seat at the United Nations in 1971, signaling deep ties between the two sides. "African brothers have withstood tremendous pressure, carried China to the United Nations, and always firmly supported China in safeguarding its legitimate rights and interests and core interests on international occasions," Jiang said.

Uganda's Ambassador to China Oliver Wonekha said China has been playing a central role in building transport and energy infrastructure in Uganda. China is financing the expansion of the country's Entebbe International Airport, the main gateway to the world. China also financed the construction of the Kampala-Entebbe expressway linking the national capital of Kampala to the airport. In the energy sector, China financed the construction of the Karuma Hydro Power Plant and Isimba Hydro Power Plant which helped address Uganda's energy deficit, a major bottleneck to the country's development, the ambassador said.

A report issued this month titled "Chinese Enterprises Social Responsibility Report 2022" showed that Chinese enterprises in Uganda are deepening the people-to-people ties between local and Chinese communities through their corporate social responsibility work. The report, which sampled 21 out of 129 member enterprises of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Uganda, showed that the enterprises have supported local communities by providing medical camps, scholarships, knowledge and skills training, and renovation of schools, among others.

Xinhua

Egypt approves policy to limit state's businesses, boost private sector's role

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi approved a state ownership policy that defines the government's economic presence with an aim to increase the private sector's role in the economy, the cabinet said in a statement on Thursday.

The president's approval of the State Ownership Policy Document "confirms the state's keenness to allow more room for the private sector to participate in generating economic growth," Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly was quoted as saying at the cabinet meeting.

The move is among the key demands of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has recently approved a loan of 3 billion U.S. dollars to Egypt to support the Arab country's economic and structural reforms.

The IMF's support package includes measures to be implemented by Egypt to "reduce the state's footprint" and "facilitate private-sector-led growth," in addition to adopting a permanent shift to a durable exchange rate regime.

Madbouly said that the new policy seeks to implement the state's gradual exit from some economic activities to allow the private sector to increase its presence in those sectors.

He added that the approved document mainly aims to raise the investment rate to 25-30 percent, thus contributing to boosting the economic growth rate to 7-9 percent. Egypt has been facing increasing inflation in the past year, driven by rising food and energy prices.

Italy's rightist govt tightens rules for migrant rescues

ROME

ITALY'S rightist government has approved measures to fine charities who rescue migrants at sea and impound their ships if they break a new, tougher set of rules - a move that one campaign group said could threaten lives.

A cabinet decree approved late on Wednesday, seen by Reuters, said these ships should request a port and sail to it "without delay" after a rescue, rather than remain at sea looking for other migrant boats in distress.

Currently the missions of charities, or non-governmental organizations, in the central Mediterranean usually last several days, with charity boats completing different rescue operations and often taking hundreds of people onboard.

The NGOs' ships must also inform those onboard that they can ask for international protection anywhere in the European Union, the decree said.

Captains breaching these rules risk fines of up to 50,000 euros (\$53,175), and repeated violations can result in the impoundment of the vessel, it added.

Since taking office in October, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government has targeted the activities of sea rescue charities,



Migrants look on as they arrive aboard the rescue vessel Sea-Eye 4 in the port of Pozzallo, southern Sicily, on Dec 24, 2021. AFP

accusing them of facilitating the work of people traffickers amid a surge in arrivals.

The charities dismiss the allegations. Riccardo Gatti, who is in charge of a rescue ship run by the Doctors Without Borders Charity, told daily la Repubblica on Thursday that the decree was part of a strategy that "increases the risk of death for thousands of people."

The rules making it more difficult to carry out multiple rescues may flout international conventions and were "ethically unacceptable," he said.

Almost 104,000 migrants have disembarked in Italy so far in 2022, interior ministry data shows, compared with around 67,000 in the same period last year, 34,000 in 2020 and a peak of more than 181,000 in 2016.

A document from the office of Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi said only

around 10 percent of those who arrived in Italy in 2022 were brought ashore by NGO boats.

However, it also said these boats acted as a "pull factor" for those making the perilous voyage across the Mediterranean from Libya. The NGOs say data shows their presence at sea does not encourage migrants to depart.

The question of how to handle immigration in the largely border-free European Union has been a source of tensions for years. Italy and Spain, where most boats arrive, have long said EU allies must take on more migrants arriving on their shores.

The issue triggered a diplomatic row in November between Italy and France, after Rome refused to let a charity boat carrying around 200 people dock in its ports, and the vessel eventually sailed to France.

Agencies

Indonesia issues emergency regulation to replace job creation law

JAKARTA

INDONESIA'S President Joko Widodo has signed an emergency regulation to replace a controversial job creation law, his ministers said yesterday, legislation that a court had ruled was flawed.

Some legal experts criticised the move as a government attempt to bypass proper debate in parliament, but chief economics minister Airlangga Hartarto said the regulation was to ensure legal certainty and achieve the government's investment target amid global geopolitical uncertainty.

The Constitutional Court last year ruled that the passage of the president's vaunted Jobs Creation Law was flawed due to inadequate public consultations and ordered lawmakers to restart the process within two years. The law would otherwise be deemed unconstitutional.

Passed in 2020, Indonesia's so-called "omnibus" law revised more than 70 other laws and was lauded by foreign investors for streamlining business rules in Southeast Asia's largest economy, which is notorious for its onerous bureaucracy.

But it also sparked nationwide protests from workers, students and green groups, who said it eroded labour and environmental protections.

Noting the court's ruling, Airlangga said, "Constitutionally, the emergency regulation will replace the Jobs Creation Law".

Chief security minister Mahfud MD said the government opted for an emergency regulation because the routine procedure to comply with the ruling would take too long.

The government needed to decide "strategic measures" in anticipation of the impact of a global economic downturn and potential food crisis next year, he said.

Lawmakers told Reuters earlier this year

they had planned to redo the deliberation of the legislation to comply.

Bivitri Susanti, a constitutional law expert from the Indonesia Jentera School of Law, criticised the move as "ridiculous" and "inappropriate" as it would reduce the time for proper debate in parliament.

"Everyone can see there is no emergency. It's holiday time," she said.

"This emergency regulation is really a fait accompli from the president."

An emergency regulation is usually effective immediately, but must receive parliament's endorsement by the end of its next session to become permanent legislation.

Parliament is due to return from recess on Jan 10 for what is typically a four-month session.

Among the biggest controversies in the job creation law were relaxed rules on severance pay, changes to the minimum wage formula, contract labour and outsourcing, and a stipulation that environmental studies be only required for high-risk investments.

The emergency regulation introduces some changes to that law to reflect trade unions' demand, Airlangga said, including limiting outsourcing to certain sectors and adding a component for the formula used to set the minimum wage so that it would consider purchasing power.

He also stressed the government had conducted more public consultations about the law since the court ruling.



Passed in 2020, Indonesia's so-called "omnibus" law revised more than 70 other laws and was lauded

In a mine 500 meters underground owned by Jinneng Holding Coal Industry Group in Datong, north China's Shanxi province, the cutting head of a road header rotated at full speed, and blocks of coal dropped on a conveyer belt and were then loaded into containers after being washed and screened.

Such downhole operation was remotely completed by operators on a computer.

The traditional mining industry, employing 5G, industrial internet and artificial intelligence technologies, has significantly improved its quality and efficiency, and further lifted production safety.

The digitalization of the mining industry is an epitome of how digital economy and real economy are closely integrated and have achieved sound development together in China.

Over the past decade, China has constantly consolidated the foundation for the integration of digital economy and real economy. The number of industrial equipment connected to key platforms exceeds 79 million, and they

China strives to make digital economy stronger, better, larger

serve over 1.6 million industrial enterprises. The country's smart manufacturing equipment sector boasts a value of close to 3 trillion yuan (about \$420 billion) and meets more than 50 percent of the market demand.

Digital economy concerns the overall development of the country. Over the recent years, China has worked to make digital economy stronger, better, and larger. According to an official with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), the Chinese digital economy has ranked second in the world for consecutive years, becoming a key driver of the country's economic and social development.

China's capacity in building

new digital infrastructure has significantly improved. The country is home to the world's largest optical fiber and mobile broadband networks, and its fixed broadband has been upgraded from 100 megabits per second to 1,000 megabits per second.

China has turned from a country that once could merely keep pace with the world in terms of 4G communication technology to one that is now leading the pack in 5G.

It has built 2.22 million 5G base stations and covered all administrative villages with broadband services, which helps advance the development of new applications, business forms and models in the internet sector.

China has pushed for the in-depth integration of digital economy and real economy. As of September 2022, the penetration rate of digital R&D and design tools in the country reached 76 percent, and the digital control rate of key processes in industrial enterprises reached 57.2 percent. New scenarios, business forms and models of smart manufacturing kept emerging, which significantly stimulated economic development.

Key digital industries kept expanding. New technologies, business forms and platforms, such as big data, cloud computing, block chain and artificial intelligence sprang up, and the development of "contactless

economy" represented by online shopping, online education and telemedicine accelerated, injecting strong impetus into the overall economic development.

According to statistics, the revenue of the electronic information manufacturing industry had hit 12.45 trillion yuan as of October 2022, and that of software businesses 8.42 trillion yuan.

On the whole, China's manufacturing sector is still bothered by overcapacity of low-end products and undersupply of high-end products. It is in urgent need of structural upgrading. The accelerated digital economy has charted the course for improving the quality of the supply system in the manufacturing sector.

Through new technologies, management methods and models, digital economy is conducive to the innovation of application scenarios and business models, and will promote high-quality development of the manufacturing sector.

In a smart factory of Lenovo in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, which boasts an automation rate of 60 percent, a laptop rolls off the production line every 14 seconds. The production line employs 268 robotic arms and automated guided vehicles, and is able to produce 1.2 million laptops on an annual basis.

Ramaxel, a supplier of memory products 20 kilometers away from the Lenovo plant, is also stepping up efforts in digital transformation. The company's on-time delivery rate and production efficiency both increased 30 percent. Its revenue in 2021 surged 140 percent year on year, and still maintained rapid growth in the first three quarters of 2022.

People's Daily



Pelé is carried off the field by his teammates after Brazil won the 1970 World Cup in Mexico City. The Brazilian soccer legend died Thursday at age 82. (AP)

Pelé, who rose from a Brazilian slum to become the world's greatest soccer player, dies at 82

By Kevin Baxter

GROWING up in Brazil, Edson Arantes do Nascimento so hated the nonsensical nickname his grade school playmates used to tease him that he would fight anyone who dared call him "Pelé."

Before he had become an adult, however, the boy had turned the taunt into a word that came to define soccer greatness, embarking on a career that would produce more goals, more World Cup titles and more breathtaking moments than any other.

"People said, 'Pelé! Pelé! Pelé!' all over the world," the boy once lamented long after he had become a man. "But no one remembers Edson. Edson is the person who has the feelings, who has the family, who works hard. Pelé is the idol."

The soccer player who rose from an impoverished slum to become the most famous – and, for a time, the best-paid – athlete in the world died Thursday at age 82. Never far from the game he so loved, Pelé succumbed to multiple organ failure as a result of colon cancer, according to the São Paulo medical center where he had been hospitalized since late November.

"All that we are is thanks to you," his daughter Kely Nascimento wrote on Instagram. "We love you endlessly. Rest in peace."

His agent, Joe Fraga, confirmed his death: "The King has passed."

With his sharp passing, daring runs and blistering shots on goal, which he could take with either foot, Pelé utterly transformed soccer during a 21-year career in which he scored an unprecedented 1,281 goals, although more than 500 of those came in "unofficial" matches on barnstorming tours popular during his early playing days. As a result, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo's 819 goals are considered the all-time record, ahead of Pelé's 757.

But numbers alone couldn't define Pelé's magic, which was so special that armies on both sides of a bloody civil war in Nigeria agreed to a two-day truce so that soldiers could watch him play. The shah of Iran once waited three hours at an airport just to speak with him, the Secret Service let him bounce a ball off President Ford's head, and a survey in the waning days of his playing career showed that Coca-Cola was the only brand more popular than Pelé in Europe.

"Pelé is the greatest player in football history," Ronaldo said.

"And there will only be one Pelé."

"Pelé," said the late Dutch star Johan Cruyff, a legend in his own right, "was the only footballer who surpassed the boundaries of logic."

Pelé wasted little time building his legacy, scoring in his debut with the Brazilian national team to become, at 16 years and 9 months, the youngest player in history to score an international goal. Two years later he would become the youngest man to play – and score – in a World Cup.

But it was the elegance and joy with which he played that gave birth to the Brazilian style known as *jogo bonito*, or the beautiful game, which relies on speed, improvisation and creativity more than brute strength.

"His great secret was improvisation," said Tostão, a former World Cup teammate. "Those things he did were in one moment. He had an extraordinary perception of the game. Pelé was the greatest. He was simply flawless."

Edson Arantes do Nascimento was born on Oct. 23, 1940 – his birth certificate reads Oct. 21, a date Pelé insisted was incorrect – in the southern Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, his name inspired by the inventor Thomas Edison.

He was known as Dico by his family, but the neighborhood kids called him Pelé, mimicking his mispronunciation of the name of his favorite player, a Brazilian goalkeeper known as Bile. In time the taunt would become the most famous name in sports.

He was the eldest of three children born to Celeste Arantes and Joao Ramos do Nascimento, a minor league soccer player whose career was cut short by a knee injury. Nevertheless, he would leave an indelible mark on soccer by teaching the game to his son, who would be declared a national treasure by Brazil's president before he had turned 21 and be voted international soccer's player of the century and the International Olympic Committee's athlete of the century more than 20 years after he retired.

The family, which included an uncle and grandmother, was poor and lived in a two-room house made of salvaged brick and washed plaster and with a roof that leaked. The children wore secondhand clothes, often went without shoes and sometimes had no more to eat than one daily meal of bread and a

slice of banana.

The family's situation improved only slightly when it moved to the crossroads city of Bauru, about 180 miles west of São Paulo. But in the fourth grade Pelé quit his studies after being expelled for playing soccer during the school day. He soon took a job repairing shoes for \$2 a day to help his family.

Because he couldn't afford a soccer ball, he learned to play on the streets using grapefruits or cloth stuffed with newspapers and bound with string.

"The leather ball was very expensive," Pelé told *The Times* in a 2014 interview. "We used to get my father's old socks, my mother's, then we'd fill them up with paper and play."

His first memory of soccer's vital place in Brazilian culture came in 1950 when the national team, heavily favored to win the World Cup final in Rio de Janeiro, was upset by Uruguay. At the final whistle one fan died by suicide and three others suffered fatal heart attacks.

Pelé's father, who had followed the game on radio, burst into tears.

"It was the first time I saw my father cry," Pelé remembered years later. "Then I made a joke and told him, 'Don't cry, don't cry, I'm going to win the World Cup for you.'"

Eight years later the joke became a prophecy when a 17-year-old Pelé scored six goals – including two in the final game – to carry Brazil to the first of its record five World Cup triumphs. Pelé was also part of championship teams in 1962 and 1970, making him the only person in history to win three World Cups.

"I told myself before the game: He's made of skin and bones just like everyone else," said Italian defender Tarcisio Burgnich, who had the unenviable task of marking Pelé in the 1970 final. "But I was wrong."

The boast to his father wasn't the only one Pelé's talent made good on. When he was only 15, his youth-team coach urged the directors of the formidable Brazilian club Santos to sign Pelé, insisting he would soon be "the greatest football player in the world."

The directors listened and over the next 18 years Pelé led the team to six national championships and victories in six international tournaments before his retirement at 33. Pelé earned nearly \$1 million in his final season in Brazil in 1974 – the equivalent of more than \$6.3 million today – and donated it all to

children's charities.

But a series of bad investments left him near financial ruin a couple of years later, so Pelé returned to soccer, signing a three-year, \$4.5-million contract with the New York Cosmos of the struggling North American Soccer League. He went on to score 31 goals and win another league title while captivating even the most jaded U.S. sports fans.

A then-record 10 million TV viewers watched the live broadcast of his 1975 Cosmos debut. With Pelé, the league's average attendance jumped nearly 80%, driving the Cosmos out of tiny Downing Stadium on Randall's Island to Yankee Stadium, where they often played before larger crowds than the baseball team.

By the end of Pelé's final season in 1977, the team had moved to Giants Stadium, where it drew 77,691 for a playoff game, at the time the largest crowd to attend a soccer match in the United States.

He played his final official game – and scored his final goal – later that year, playing one half for the Cosmos and one half for Santos at Giants Stadium on a day that was so bittersweet that a Brazilian newspaper, noting the rainy conditions, said "even the sky was crying."

After Pelé left, the crowds evaporated, falling to an average of less than 13,000 by the time the NASL folded in 1984. But the legacy he left behind was credited by many with paving the way for the U.S. to play host to the 1994 World Cup, still the most financially successful and best-attended soccer tournament in history.

If retirement kept Pelé off the field, save for occasional charity matches and exhibitions, it didn't keep him away from soccer or out of the public eye. Nor could his celebrity be confined to one country or even one genre.

He was the personal guest of at least three popes, six emperors, eight presidents, 15 kings and more than four dozen other heads of state. He was a United Nations ambassador for ecology and the environment, a UNESCO goodwill ambassador, and in

his role as Brazil's minister of sports he proposed legislation to reduce corruption in soccer, a bill that became known as "Pelé's Law."

He wrote several autobiographies, acted in at least a dozen films and a TV series, composed the soundtrack for the 1977 film "Pelé" and was honored with knighthood in England, a postage stamp in North Korea and in the song "Ghetto Supastar" by the American rapper Pras.

There seemed to be nothing he couldn't do and no product he wouldn't pitch while also spending time as a broadcaster and sports columnist. Even in his 70s, Pelé kept up a punishing promotional schedule, often visiting three or four continents a week. Estimates of his annual earnings approached \$30 million.

Asked during his travels if his fame compared to that of Jesus Christ, Pelé answered with characteristic hubris and humor, saying "there are parts of the world where Jesus Christ is not so well known."

But there were controversies as well.

Pelé long denied claims made by a woman who said she was his daughter. Sandra Arantes do Nascimento eventually sued him, and a Brazilian court backed her claim, citing DNA evidence.

The case caused a national scandal, and she would go on to write an autobiography, "The Daughter the King Didn't Want," before winning a seat on the Santos City Council. She died of breast cancer in 2006 at 42.

Pelé, who married twice, had five other children, two from his first marriage, two from his second and another from an extramarital affair.

Pelé's reputation was also rocked by allegations that his management company stole \$700,000 it accepted from UNICEF to fund a 1995 charity soccer game that was never played. Pelé responded by shutting down Pelé Sports & Marketing and suing longtime business partner Helio Viana, who he claimed had siphoned off up to \$10 million over two decades.

One of Pelé's greatest

nonplaying moments was supposed to come in 2014, when the World Cup returned to Brazil for the first time since the 1950 upset that had reduced his father to tears. But that too ended in controversy.

Although his face was omnipresent on billboards and in TV commercials, and a \$22-million museum dedicated to his career opened in Santos during the monthlong tournament, Pelé the man was virtually invisible during the World Cup, his absence apparently stemming from a spectacular misreading of the national mood in Brazil.

When millions took to the streets to protest the cost of staging the World Cup, Pelé released an awkward YouTube clip in which he urged people to forget the commotion and support the national team.

Realizing his mistake, Pelé quickly reversed course and accused officials of stealing, which angered tournament organizers. Then, days before the tournament began, his son Edson Cholbi do Nascimento, a former Santos goalkeeper and coach known as Edinho, was found guilty of laundering money obtained through drug trafficking and sentenced to 33 years in prison.

Yet for all his personal troubles, those who saw him play insist Pelé was flawless.

"Pelé is the greatest player of all time," said German World Cup winner Franz Beckenbauer. "All the others – Diego Maradona, Johan Cruyff, Michel Platini – rank beneath him. There's no one to compare with Pelé."

Few understood Pelé's uniqueness more than Edson Arantes do Nascimento, who frequently credited good timing and good genes for the transformative career of the man known simply as Pelé. Asked whether there would ever be another player to match his brilliance and dominance, he shook his head and again credited his parents.

"Better than me? No," he said with a chuckle. "You know why? Because my mother and my father closed the machine."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

This story originally appeared in *Los Angeles Times*.

Pele: Key dates in life of a football legend

LONDON

AFTER the death of Pele at age 82 in Sao Paulo on Thursday, AFP Sport looks at key dates in the life of the football great:

23rd October 1940:

Pele was born Edson Arantes do Nascimento into a modest family in Minas Gerais to the north of Rio de Janeiro. His father was a keen amateur footballer.

1943:

The name Pele came about when the three-year-old was supporting a footballing friend of his father by the name of Bile. Unable to pronounce the name Pele came out instead and the name then stuck for the rest of his life.

7th September 1956:

Pele played his first match for Brazilian club Santos, where he would stay for 18 years.

7th July 1957:

At just 16 years and 9 months, Pele turned out for Brazil in a Copa America match against Argentina at the Maracana stadium where he would score the first of his 77 goals in his international career.

29th June 1958:

Pele shoots to global fame, scoring twice in the World Cup final in a 5-2 win for Brazil over hosts Sweden. To this day he remains the youngest man to play in a final, and of course the youngest man to score in one.

1962:

After four seasons of triumph with Santos he played at a second World Cup in Chile. Injury saw him watch much of the tournament from the bench while his compatriot Garrincha provided the fireworks in another title triumph.

1966:

A third World Cup but Pele was victim of severe fouling from opposition teams as Brazil fall at the first round.

19th November 1969:

Pele scores his 1000th goal converting a spot-kick for Santos against Vasco de Gama. The game was held up for 20 minutes as he ran a lap of honour around the stadium.

21st June 1970:

Pele leads Brazil to his third World Cup and he remains the only player to have won three. His game and his goals were those of a man at the peak of his powers with his header in the 4-1 win over Italy in the final one of football's most iconic moments.

18th July 1971:

Pele plays his final game for Brazil aged just 30 in a 2-2 draw with Yugoslavia at the Maracana stadium.

10th June 1975:

The 34-year-old Pele joins New York Cosmos and helps launch the 'soccer' revolution in the United States.

1st October 1977:

In the final game of his career Pele played the first half for Cosmos and the second half for Santos at the Giants stadium in New York. The FIFA statistics say it all -- 1,363 games and 1,281 goals.

1994-1998:

Pele was appointed Minister of Sports for Brazil, a post that at that time had never been occupied by a black man.

1999: He was honoured as the Athlete of the Century by the International Olympic Committee. A year later FIFA honoured him with the Footballer of the Century award.

29th December 2022:

Pele dies aged 82.

AFP



Appreciation: Pelé was the greatest soccer player. Was that good or bad for Brazil and for soccer?

By Reed Johnson

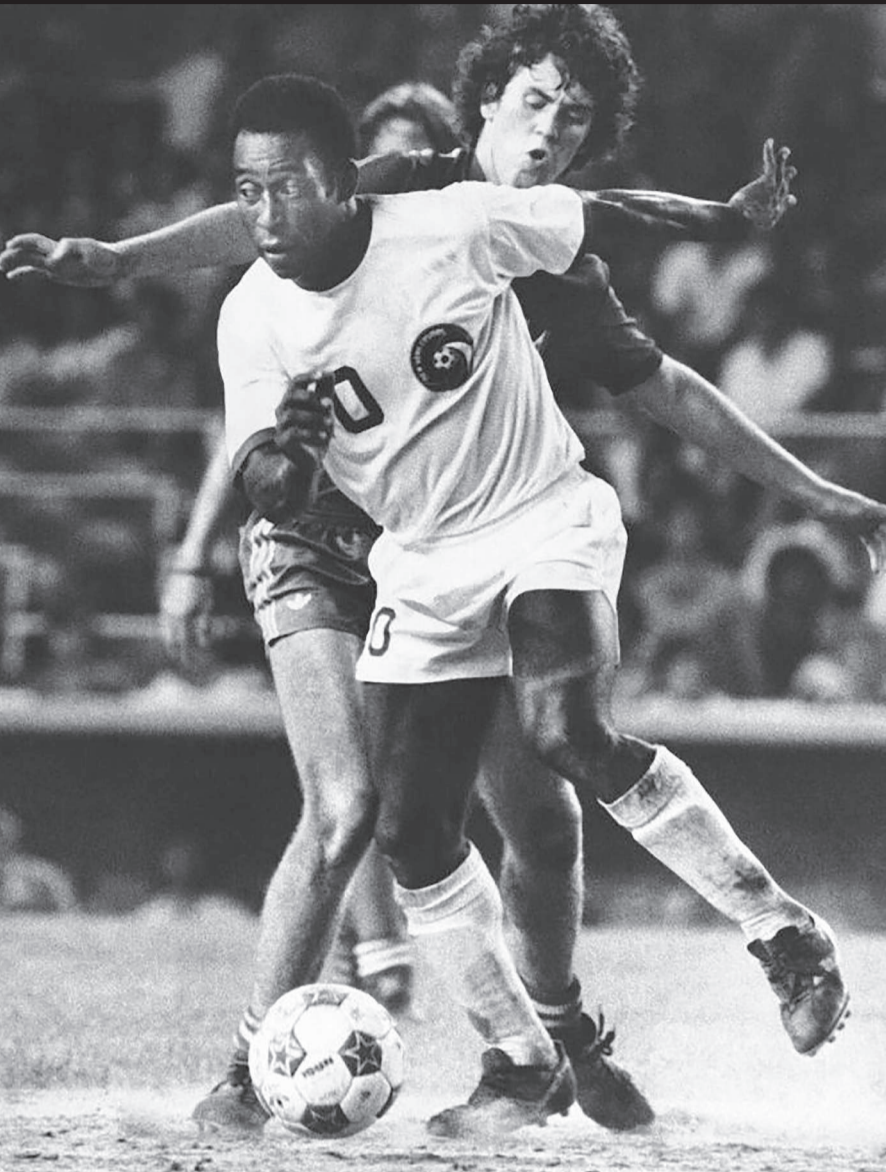
I SAW the Brazilian soccer demigod Pelé play in person a few times and have watched innumerable clips of his greatest hits. Two of my most indelible memories are of goals that he didn't even score.

Both occurred at the 1970 World Cup in Mexico City, where Brazil's formidable Seleção was bidding for its third World Cup championship in a dozen years. No. 10 was in superlative form, as witnessed by two incidents of his wizardly audacity, his improvisational genius, his poly-rhythmic joy.

In the semifinal against Uruguay, after snagging a breakaway pass from Tostão, Pelé drew out the Uruguayan keeper, then let the ball run to the goalie's left while Pelé sped past on the right, retrieved the ball in a flash, looped back and just missed with a shot to the far post.

In Brazil's 4-1 thrashing of a cynical and unimaginative Italian side in the final, seven Brazilians played keep away around midfield until the ball reached Pelé, who casually pushed it off to his right for a sprinting Carlos Alberto to apply the coup de grâce.

In Brazil, where my wife and I lived for a few years, those dramatic moments (among others) have coalesced into a kind of secular



New York Cosmos forward Pele controls the ball as Miami Toros midfielder Tommy Mulroy defends during the second half of an NASL soccer game at New York's Yankee Stadium on Aug. 10, 1976. Pele, the Brazilian king of soccer who won a record three World Cups and became one of the most commanding sports figures of the last century, died Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022. He was 82. (AP Photo)

catechism surrounding a sport that for Brazilians — and Argentines, Mexicans and their Latin American neighbors — is far, far more than simply a national religion. Ever since fútbol was imported to this hemisphere more than a century ago, Latin America has not only

radically reimagined the game and produced many of its brightest luminaries, but also has turned soccer into an escape hatch from poverty, racism and despair — in fantasy, if not often in truth.

This was the legend, the promise, that Pelé personified, and the

dream of it dies hard in the slums of Buenos Aires, the dirt fields of Jalisco, the favelas of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. Never mind that the contemporary sporting-industrial complex has converted promising young kids — especially Brazilian kids — into fungible units to be bar-

tered and sold to high bidders in London, Paris and Barcelona. Even a tragedy like the 2019 fire that killed 10 young players at the Flamengo club's training ground in Rio won't stop the frenzy to "discover" the next Pelé, the next Maradona, the next Messi.

Pelé remains an aspirational figure for those young players. Yet he was no rebel like the other global superstars of his era. No Muhammad Ali, brandishing a fist at the Pentagon when it wanted to ship him off to Vietnam. No Jim Brown, the scourge of defensive backs and Black Power avatar bestride a motorcycle. No Billie Jean King, paddling the backside of male chauvinist piggery.

Pelé and his teammates had too much symbolic value for the brutal military junta that ruled Brazil from 1964 to 1985 to let them be turned into counter-culture heroes. That task fell to a later generation of Brazilians, including the great midfielder Sócrates, who helped lead the charge to return Brazil to democracy.

Pelé's fate was to become a brand ambassador. I got to see him in person (though past his prime) on at least three occasions. In a 1970s exhibition game between his Brazilian club, Santos, and my benighted hometown Rochester Lancers of the benighted North American Soccer League, Pelé scored the only goal on a late

penalty. A few seasons later, he and his new team, the New York Cosmos, set down the Lancers once more in the regular season and again in the playoffs.

Ostensibly, Pelé's job was to soften up the world's richest market, the United States, to embrace soccer. He succeeded at both.

I saw him one more time, as a pitchman for the 2014 World Cup, which Brazil hosted and got knocked out of in humiliating fashion. Soccer remains Brazil's blessing and its curse, a glorious distraction from its daunting challenges and its dazzling potential.

Pelé was a disrupter in the way that mattered most to him and to soccer: He expanded the limits of the possible. One wonders what he really thought about the pampered, preening, multimillionaire playboys of the contemporary global game, who change hairstyles weekly and win world championships sparingly. Pelé won two and easily could've won four in a row if not for an injury early in the 1962 World Cup in Chile (though Brazil still won) and a succession of ugly hackings during the 1966 World Cup in England (won by the host nation).

He was brilliant. He was unique. He was the best.

This story originally appeared in Los Angeles Times.

Pelé was a sports star and cultural icon

SAO PAULO

PELE will be famous for 15 centuries.

The Brazilian soccer star said Andy Warhol told him that. It was a twist on something else the American artist is widely credited with saying, that "in the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes." Warhol made the soccer star's portrait in 1977, and Pele took great pride in turning his sports fame into decades of global affection and renown.

For most Brazilians Pele was a cultural and social phenomenon. He was the country's statesman without an office, a role he played since age 17. He usually took quiet political positions, if any.

Born poor in a small city in Brazil's southeast, the South American nation's first millionaire soccer player appeared in ads for gasoline, toothpaste, sugar-cane liquor, bicycles, soda, soccer shoes and Viagra, among other products.

"Pele always knew his place," his former assistant Pepito Fornos said. "If it was a meeting with Queen Elizabeth, Pope John Paul II, Bono Vox or just a kid he met on the street, everyone treated him with reverence. He was the same boy from the countryside, but when he shared a table with people he was quickly the center."

Edson Arantes do Nascimento, globally known as Pele, died Thursday

at a Sao Paulo hospital. Throughout his career and afterward, he walked a fine line between his fame and taking on social problems.

He founded a charity carrying his name and dedicated to helping children. He became a United Nations goodwill ambassador. He did not publicly dedicate much time to activism for any particular cause, however. Brazil's first modern Black national hero, Pele rarely spoke about racism in a country where the rich and powerful tend to hail from the white minority.

Opposing fans taunted Pele with monkey chants at home and all over the world.

"He said that he would never play if he had to stop every time he heard those chants," said Angelica Basthi, one of Pele's biographers. "He is key for Black people's pride in Brazil, but never wanted to be a flag-bearer."

The country's military dictatorship (1964-1985) tortured and killed its Brazilian opponents. Pele posed for pictures with government leaders and said they knew what was best. When Pele scored the goal he counts as the 1,000th of his career in 1969, he pleaded with authorities "to care for the little children." He did not assign blame for their misfortune.

Pele said in a 2021 documentary that he felt pressure from President

Emilio Medici to play in the World Cup in Mexico in 1970 and did so even though he had wanted to quit the national team after a poor Brazilian performance in 1966.

Still, the star marveled the world one last time on the sport's biggest stage. Brazil's and Pele's third World Cup title came when Medici was torturing adversaries, had closed congress and had put a gag on the nation's top court.

Pele and every other Brazil player received a Volkswagen from an ally of the dictator upon arrival from Mexico. None of the footballers refused the gift, but the star player was most vehemently critiqued due to his hero status.

"At that moment I did not want to be Pele," he said. "We knew a lot of things that were going on in the country."

Pele retired from the national team in 1971,

left his boyhood club Santos three years later and moved to the United States to play for the New York Cosmos after being lured by then-U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. During those years, he spoke about love, caring for children and stopping wars.

The Brazilian finished his professional soccer career in 1977 and returned to his country soon after, as democracy was returning.

Pele's six-year relationship with popular TV host Xuxa Meneghel also boosted his post-soccer fame nationwide in the early 1980s. She was 17 when they started dating, one year short of legal age in Brazil. The former footballer, 20 years older than Meneghel, had to ask her father's permission to date.

Pele became more politically vocal in retirement. He criticized Ricardo Teixeira, then

head of the Brazilian soccer confederation and son-in-law of then-FIFA President Joao Havelange (1916-2016). He was banned from the draw for the 1994 World Cup, attending it as a pundit for TV Globo.

In 1995, Pele became sports minister in the center-right administration of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso but spent seven years in the job maintaining a relatively low public profile.

For decades, Pele's meeting and greeting leaders around the world landed great results for him and his allies. He was one of the key figures of Rio de Janeiro's winning bid team to host the 2016 Olympics, when he was center stage again at an International Olympic Committee meeting in 2009. Pele's old foe Havelange was in his team again.

"Everyone came to see Pele and then the others

had a chance to speak to them too," former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said in an interview after Rio's victory over Chicago, Tokyo and Madrid. "And who could blame the delegates? I would have wanted the same."

Pele later struggled with mobility problems he blamed on failed hip surgery, and made his final major appearance on a wheelchair at the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Argentina's Diego Maradona kissed his head in front of the cameras. Russian President Vladimir Putin — who this year received a letter from Pele asking him to stop the invasion of Ukraine — helped carry him around.

"Years ago, I promised to myself that, as long as I can, I will always raise my voice in favor of peace," Pele said in the letter dated June 1st.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Dar female cricketers hold sway in 2022 Kenya Quadrangular Women's Series

SPORT

Appreciation: Pelé was the greatest soccer player. Was that good or bad for Brazil and for soccer?

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Edson Arantes do Nascimento, popularly known as Pelé.

Tanzania soccer mourns Brazilian legend Pele

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIANS have joined the footballing world in mourning the loss of one of the all-time greats, Brazilian legend Edson Arantes do Nascimento, popularly known as Pele, who passed away on Thursday at the age of 82.

Pele, known to many as the King of the 'beautiful game', has left behind a series of World Cup records that, without doubt, will take a long time to be broken, and this is what makes him exceptional.

NBC Premier League leaders Young Africans said on their tweet account: "Rest in peace, Pele. Thank you for the joy you brought to football fans around the world."

Simba Sports Club also mourned him through their Instagram platform, where they have posted his picture and captioned it: "Your legacy will live on forever. Rest in Peace, Pele".

Taifa Stars skipper Mbwana Samatta is also among several football stars in the country who have expressed their shock over the death of Pele.

He has taken it to his Instagram account, where he has posted Pele's photo with the caption: "Bye bye, legend of the game. Rest in Peace."

Likewise, Young Africans midfielder Feisal Salum has also revealed his feelings about the death of Pele on his Instagram page, writing: "Rest in Peace King of Soccer Pele."

In 1958, Pele won his first World Cup for Brazil at 17 years old, becoming the youngest winner ever.

He went on to win another two World Cups in 1962 and 1970, making him the only player in the world to win three World Cup trophies.

He is credited with scoring a world record 1,281 goals in 1,363 appearances during a 21-year career, including 77 goals in 92 matches for his country.

Pele was named Fifa's Player of the Century in 2000.

He had been suffering from kidney and prostate problems in recent years.

Meanwhile, according to international news agencies, Pele's body will be moved to Santos' stadium, the place where he made his name, ahead of a public wake on Monday.

The Brazilian football legend will be taken from the Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo to the Estadio Urbano Caldeira at dawn on New Year's Day.

His coffin will then be placed on the pitch with the public ceremony, where fans will be given the chance to pay their respects to the three-time World Cup winner, expected to start at 10am.

The wake will last for 24 hours before a parade through the streets of Santos, a satellite town of Sao Paulo, on Tuesday. Millions are expected to descend onto the streets of cities around Brazil to honour the former Santos striker, who died of colon cancer on Thursday.

Preparations for the ceremony have already begun, with pictures appearing to show stands being erected at the stadium, in the suburb of Vila Belmiro.

performance, the cricketer ended her spell with unbeaten 101 runs when Tanzania came up against Qatar on December 18.

The opening batter was in great form in the clash, cracking 13 fours in the spell which witnessed the performer notching the century at a strike rate of 162.90.

Fatuma's compatriot, Saum, came second in the showdown's list having scored 173 runs in seven innings.

Saum did not have not out spell, she nevertheless had significant contribution given the performer cracked 17 boundaries and four sixes.

In her best batting display, Saum made her way back with 57 runs when Tanzania locked horns with Qatar on December 18. Qatar's Saachi Dhadwal ended third in the list given she scored 135 runs in seven innings. She posted unbeaten 51 runs in her best batting performance.

Saachi's compatriot Aysa came fourth as she scored 124 runs in seven innings. Aysa scored 36 runs in the player's best batting showing.

Hudaa Mrisho of Tanzania took the fifth spot having posted 124 runs in seven innings.

In Hudaa's best batting showing, the player made her way back with 29 runs when Tanzania locked horns with Uganda on December 17.



Tanzania's national women's cricket team's skipper Fatuma Omary.

December 17.

The duel saw the towering batter grab her 29 runs off 30 balls at a strike rate of

96.66. The spell moreover had the cricketer nailing two fours.

Uganda's duo of Janet

Mbabazi and Proscovia Alako ended sixth and seventh respectively in the showdown's best batters' list.

Janet posted 116 runs in seven innings, followed by Proscovia with 105 runs in seven innings.

Three Kenyan cricketers, Veronica Abuga, Venasa Ooko, and Mary Mwangi settled for eighth, ninth, and 10th spots respectively.

Veronica scored 94 runs in five innings, Venasa recorded 94 runs in seven innings, and Mary scored 84 runs in seven innings.

Tanzanian cricketer Perice Zakayo completed the top 20 list of the showdown's best batters given the performer scored 45 runs in seven innings.

Perice was sitting three places below compatriot Shufaa Mohamed, as the latter posted 57 runs in five innings to end 17th.

It was apparently not the only achievement for Perice because the cricketer was the tournament's performer with the most wickets.

Perice topped this season's Kenya Quadrangular Women's Series wicket takers' list given she took 10 wickets in her squad's spell.

The performer gave away 120 runs in 26.4 overs she bowled, she moreover ended with one maiden over.

She had an impressive bowling figure when Tanzania took on Kenya on December 19, the tie had Perice finishing with 3/16 in 3.4 overs.



Pele helped Brazil win the World Cup in 1958, 1962 and 1970. (Agencies)

Pele 'immortal', says football's ruling body

ZURICH

FIFA said Pele was simply "immortal" after the Brazil legend, named by world football's governing body as the greatest player of the 20th century, died on Thursday aged 82.

"For everyone who loves the beautiful game, this is the day we never wanted to come. The day we lost Pele," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said in a statement.

"Today, we all mourn the loss of the physical presence of our dear Pele, but he achieved immortality a long time ago and therefore he will be with us for eternity."

Pele is the only footballer to have won three FIFA World Cups.

He was just 17 when he won with Brazil in Sweden in 1958. Pele won the World Cup again in Chile in 1962, despite being forced out of much of the tournament due to injury. He lifted the Jules Rimet Trophy for the third and final time in Mexico in 1970.

"Pele: immortal -- forever with us," FIFA said on its website.

Infantino said Pele was unique, as he sent his condolences to his family, Brazil and all football fans.

"His skill and imagination were incomparable. Pele did things that no other player would even dream of," Infantino said.

"Most importantly, 'The King' rose the throne with a smile on his face. Football could be brutal in those days, and Pele was often on the receiving end of some rough treatment.

"But, while he knew how to stand up for himself, he was always an exemplary sportsman, with genuine respect for his opponents."

Infantino added: "Pele had a magnetic presence and, when you were with him, the rest of the world stopped. His life is about more than football. He changed perceptions for the better in Brazil, in South America and across the world."

FIFA noted that he was the youngest-ever world champion -- not to mention the youngest scorer, youngest hat-trick scorer, youngest finalist and youngest player to score in a final in World Cup history.

Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who led world football's governing body from 1998 to 2015, called Pele the greatest player ever.

"The world mourns the greatest footballer in history and a wonderful personality. He celebrated the game like no other," Blatter said on Twitter.

"Dear Pele, I am immensely sad and honour you and your life's work. My sincere condolences to your family and friends."

Meanwhile European football's governing body UEFA praised Pele for his part in football's popularity.

"He was the first global superstar of the game. Rest in peace, Pele."

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Flexibles by David Chikoko

