



National Pg 3 Horticulture new hope for Zanzibar



National Pg 4 President Samia signs 3 bills into laws



National Pg 4 Govt warns REA projects of sluggish work



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Dr Stergomena Tax (L) has a word with the French Ambassador to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui, during the official opening of the French Embassy complex in Dodoma city's Kilimani suburb yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Samia tasks commission on criminal justice ethics

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has launched a commission to conduct an intensive assessment and recommend how to improve the delivery of criminal justice in the country.

Mohamed Othman Chande, a retired chief justice, chairs the special panel of experts that will work for four months (from February 1 to

May 30) evaluating ethical conduct systems in various institutions involved in criminal justice procedures.

The police force, the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), the National Prosecutions Service, the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) and prisons are key institutions to be evaluated by the commission, the president

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VP to grace African strategy meeting on AIDS at infancy

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HEALTH ministers of 12 African countries are slated to meet in Dar es Salaam today to discuss commitments and strategies tied to the global alliance to end AIDS in children by 2030.

Dr Seif Shekalaghe, the deputy permanent secretary, said in a press briefing yesterday that Tanzania is host to the meeting for the Africa zone, which will be graced by Vice President Dr Philip Mpango.

A preliminary series of meetings to finalise each country's commitments would be held with senior officials, with ministers expected at the launching of the

strategies, he stated.

Delegations are expected from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, Angola, Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Africa, Mozambique and its host Tanzania, he said.

He asserted that children cannot speak for themselves, so the strategy is important for the next generation to be raised well, emphasising that the issue is absolutely vital.

Dr Catherine Joachim, the head of programme and health systems strengthening, said that the technical preliminary meeting finalised commitments

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Food prices: MPs query real impact of subsidies

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

PARLIAMENT is demanding that the Treasury show how government subsidies placed on various services and commodities have contributed to the easing of food prices.

Dr Tulia Ackson, the speaker of the National Assembly, made a ruling on the issue after sharp parliamentary debate, directing the Ministry of Finance and Planning to bring a substantiated report on the issue.

Arusha Urban MP Mrisho Gambo

challenged the government on what he called light excuses, demanding intense explanations on serious issues like spiralling food prices.

The MP made his remarks after the standing committee on agriculture, livestock and water presented its report covering for the past twelve months, where the MP qualified explanations like the outbreak of Covid-19, the Ukraine-Russia war and climate change as light excuses, "while people are struggling to have food on the table."

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the minister,

intervened to say that the government had taken a series of measures to bring food prices down by introducing the fuel subsidy, abolished levies and placed a subsidy on farm inputs.

Cutting in, the leader of the chamber said the public would like to know what the situation would be if such subsidies were not in place. "They want to see the difference in figures. Bring us detailed information on how these subsidies have helped in easing food prices," she stated.

The MP accused the government of a

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East Africa absent from Africa's top billionaires

Mo now ranked number 13

By Guardian Reporter

ENTREPRENEUR Mohamed Dewji (popular as Mo Dewji) is the only billionaire from the East African region making the list of 19 African billionaires, moving from number 15 last year to number 13 this year.

The local industrialist has an estimated worth of \$1.5bn on the basis of an update by the US personal wealth periodical, Forbes Magazine, in the list dominated by Egypt, followed by South Africa and Nigeria, despite that cement mogul Aliko Dangote of Nigeria remained the richest

businessman on the continent.

Apart from farming and manufacturing, the relatively youthful billionaire (aged 47) is known for his sports patronage while the family business activity is conducted mainly by the MeTL Group where he is CEO.

He has charitable works administered by the Mo Dewji Foundation that supports education, healthcare systems and community development.

A notable event last year was a 100m/- donation to support the treatment of children suffering from cancer at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH).

In his investment projects, Mo Dewji has increased job openings from 28,000 a year ago to 35,000 people at present, a write up indicated.

Forbes Magazine noted a decrease in the wealth of African billionaires by \$3.1bn in the past year, as the 19 billionaires attained \$81.5bn in total, from \$84.9bn a year ago. This decline ignored the fact that there is a new entrant to billionaire ranks this year, it said.

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These are some of the 400-plus youths engaged in various tourism-related small businesses who turned up at the Asilia Safaris Company offices in Arusha city yesterday waiting for their turns for employment interviews. They were out to try their luck landing the 20 positions advertised. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi





President Samia Suluhu Hassan has a word with former Chief Justice Mohamed Chande Othman (L), now chairman of a national commission detailed to explore ways to strengthen criminal justice institutions in the country, and deputy chairman former Chief Secretary Ombeni Yohana Sefue. This was shortly after she launched the commission at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

Samia tasks commission on criminal justice ethics

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stated in announcing the decision to form a probe team.

Launching the commission at the Chamwino State House yesterday, the president said that criminal justice delivery has vast deficiencies, thus greatly affecting access to justice.

Institutions handling criminal justice ignore set ethical systems, so the government saw it better to come up with a commission to assess the situation, she said.

"Let us go and conduct intensive assessment in those institutions to ascertain why there is a rapid fall of ethics and provide recommendations on improvements to legal provisions to improve justice delivery," she told the panel.

She alluded to allegations that some of the pre-bargaining agreement pay-outs were embezzled by dishonest officials, insisting that all these issues need to be probed "for the country to go

well."

She said that plenty of reforms had been conducted in the judiciary set up, by human resource and infrastructure improvement "but things are still bad in some legal bodies," where the commission is going to conduct assessment and come up with recommendations.

She pointed at the police force as the butt of complaints over violation of individual rights, especially over detaining suspects, noting that here the commission is going to put time to assess and come up with recommendations.

"We need to invest in information and communication technology (ICT) so as to ensure that systems in criminal justice institutions are connected, facilitating easy communication.

"This will remove various challenges where officials use force on suspects or put statements for suspects to sign instead of taking down what was said by the suspect," she stated.

Samia castigated the fear of courts or police stations suspecting that they may be victimised in one way or another, which hinders the wish for people to access the provision of justice.

Institutions which will be assessed must provide the needed cooperation for the commission to achieve its intended objectives, she said.

The commission which consists of 11 members will work hard for the next four months to conduct intensive assessment of the criminal justice system.

Chief Secretary Moses Kusiluka listed the commission chaired by the retired CJ Chande as ex-chief secretary Ambassador Ombeni Sefue (vice chairman), Dr Edward Hosea- current president of the Tanganyika Law Society, Ambassador Ernest Mangu (also a former Inspector General of Police), Omar Issa (a veteran corporate executive), Saada Ibrahim Makundu, Yahaya Hamis Hamad, Baraka

Leonard, Judge Eliezer Feleshi, Dr Laurean Ndumbaro (permanent secretary at the President's Office) and Said Mwema (ex-IGP).

A five member secretariat was named, headed by Dr Ramadhani Kailima (a former director of elections), Benjamin Mwakisongole, Evacha Mushi, James Kilabuko and Ally Miza.

Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango said at the ceremony that the country's criminal justice system has a number of gaps and that the commission will help provide a perspective on how to address the challenges.

"There are many people who are struggling to access justice and the institutions which are required to provide support are not doing so.

"All this is because of the current system which has challenges. We thank you (the president) for forming the commission to help address challenges and improve delivery of justice in the country," he added.

Food prices: MPs query real impact of subsidies

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relaxed attitude, leaving traders to do whatever they like, especially in hiking food prices. A kilogram of rice is sold at 2,800/- in some regions and in some other regions the price is 4,000/-, he stated, demanding proper regulation of trade in staple food products.

In another direction, the committee has advised the government to review the Railways Act to enable the private sector to take part in rail services investment.

Nominated MP Dr Bashiru Kakurwa seconded Gambo in the view that lifting the ban on food exports has helped to push up grain prices.

"We need to know how waiving of the lockdown has helped in bringing down food inflation," he said, demanding to know if the subsidies help to reduce prices.

Dr Christine Ishengoma, the committee chairperson, advised the government to invest in mitigation and adaptation measures to contain the biting effects of drought. More

investment in environmental projects is of critical importance, she stated.

Miraji Mtaturu (Singida East), had earlier presented a report for the parliamentary standing committee on infrastructure, noting that the government has received a concessional loan pegged at \$346.7m from the Korean Exim Bank intended for procuring wagons and engines.

He appealed to the government to amend the Railways Act so that the private sector can be involved in offering services and in the development of rail infrastructure.

The committee has purchased meter gauge railway (MGR) facilities like 22 passenger wagons and 600 cargo wagons, he said.

Luhaga Mpina (Kisesa) advised that the contract for construction of the SGR section from Tabora to Kigoma should be presented to the parliamentary committee for deliberations. If things are left where they are at present, the country will incur a 1.7trn/- loss, he declared.

VP to grace African strategy meeting on AIDS at infancy

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and identified strategic gaps.

Delegates also focused on the work plan to carry out the action plan, drawing up the needed resources and potential partners, she stated, suggesting that despite successes by African countries, implementing the various strategies was still very slow.

Fatma Taufiq, the chairperson of the standing committee on HIV/AIDS, TB and non-communicable diseases in the National Assembly said the committee has constantly emphasised on the government to increase budgetary allocations to attain the goal of ending AIDS in children.

Dr Martin Odiit, the country director for the United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) said that the agency will complement national efforts to ensure children are protected from infection.

UNAIDS will collaborate with partners to draw up strategies for

complementing global initiatives to end immunological deterioration leading to mother to child transmission.

Dr Christine Musanhu, the WHO medical officer for HIV/AIDS treatment and care, said that collaborative ways with countries and other stakeholders took the land-marking step ahead.

She encouraged participants to think of prioritizing key strategies, putting the community at the centre to achieve the set objectives.

Dr Anatha Rwebembera, the manager for the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), said that currently mother to child transmission stands at 11 percent. The plan is to reduce the rate to below 4 percent or attain zero percent, she stated.

Launched last August, the new global alliance for ending AIDS in children by 2030 is constituted by UN agencies, civil society groups, governments and international partners.

East Africa absent from Africa's top billionaires

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The four percent decrease in total estimated wealth was attributed to changes in stock prices on various markets in African where their main operating firms are listed, the chronicle noted.

Despite that Dangote's wealth decreased by \$400m to \$13.5bn billion dollars, the Lagos-based construction sector entrepreneur maintained his solid position in the continent's fortune list by far, for 12 years in a row.

The list of billionaires was given as Aliko Dangote (\$13.5bn), Johann

Rupert & family (\$10.7bn), Nicky Oppenheimer & family (\$8.4bn), Abdulsamad Rabiu (\$7.6bn), Nassef Sawiris (\$7.3bn), Mike Adenuga (\$6.3bn), Issad Rebrab & family (\$4.6bn), Naguib Sawiris (\$3.3bn), Patrice Motsepe (\$3.2bn), Mohamed Mansour (\$2.9bn), Koos Bekker (\$2.6bn), Strive Masiyiwa (\$1.9bn), Aziz Akhannouch & family (\$1.5bn), Mohammed Dewji (\$1.5bn), Youssef Mansour (\$1.5bn), Othman Benjelloun & family (\$1.3bn), Michiel Le Roux (\$1.2bn), Yasseen Mansour (\$1.1bn) and Christoffel Wiese (\$1.1bn)

Minister calls upon institutions to finance agricultural development

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, Minister for Finance and Planning, yesterday suggested that banks and other financial institutions should extend loans to players in the agriculture sector at an interest rate that don't exceed nine per cent.

The minister was responding to a question posed by Halima Mdee Special Seats who wanted to know what the criteria are for small holder farmers in securing loans and was the proper interest rate that borrowers are liable to.

"Other criteria require the central banks to lend commercial banks at an interest rate that don't exceed three per cent for such banks to lend individuals and companies taking part in the agriculture value chain," said Nchemba.

The minister said that as of

December last year 165bn/- was issued to commercial banks and other financial institutions to be offered as soft loans to farmers. About 5,385 smallholder and mid-sized farmers and 21 AMCOS have benefited from the scheme.

According to him, the central bank has taken several measures towards financing the agriculture sector and farmers that involved establishment of a special loan window that injected over 1trn/- in commercial banks and other financial instructions for players to secure affordable loans.

The funds were intended to stimulate the private sector liquidity. Other criteria for the loan are to stimulate the agricultural value chain, irrigation infrastructure, livestock, fisheries and processing of crops from small scale and middle-sized farmers.



Japan's Ambassador to Tanzania, Yasushi Misawa (3rd-R), and his aides have an on-location feel of Maasai culture during a visit at Oldonyosambu in Arumeru District, Arusha Region, at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

NALA, M-Pesa bring affordable payments to Africans worldwide

By Guardian Correspondent

VODACOM M-Pesa and Nala, a global payments company born in Tanzania, have announced a partnership that will see International Money Transfer (IMT) services available to customers in the European Union able to seamlessly send money at a cheaper rate.

Nala, a Tanzanian fintech company, said in a press statement yesterday that has expanded in Europe by adding 19 new Eurozone nations to its list of send markets after expanding from the UK to the US earlier this year.

It said it has a mission to connect Africans globally by enabling members of the diaspora across

Europe to send money to Tanzania and other African countries.

Together with Vodacom M-Pesa, the expansion opens the potential for significant impact by providing better and cheaper money transfer options to send money home.

Nala's recent expansion and its partnership with Vodacom M-Pesa help advance the positive impact of both firms on the African payment infrastructure.

Despite the many options for sending money to Africa from abroad, the continent continues to be the most expensive place to send money.

Existing options include hidden fees that make it hard to discern the true cost of sending money, and Nala has said it is working towards

changing the paradigm of financial tools for Africans by providing fair and transparent services to empower people with control over their finances.

Nala's founder and CEO, Benjamin Fernandes, said: "As a Tanzanian, it brings me great pleasure to be able to reach the quarter of African migrants living in Europe with affordable and reliable payments.

"With Vodacom M-Pesa, we connect our global infrastructure to bridge the gap in payments from the UK, US and EU to our home in Tanzania. "Nala has grown rapidly via geographic expansion, product differentiation and improvement on existing infrastructure. Together with Vodacom M-Pesa we can advance our mission to increase

economic opportunity for Africans worldwide."

Epimack Mbeteni, Vodacom's Director of M-Commerce, meanwhile said the partnership aligns well with the company's plans to growing its International Mobile Money Transfer portfolio.

"We have leveraged on innovation and partnership to facilitate international money transfers across Africa and the world making remittance easy and facilitating cross border trade," he said.

He added: "We continue to broaden our portfolio of partnerships and countries and we are glad to partner with Nala, a homegrown start-up that is transforming money transfers worldwide."



Far from deterred by especially harsh weather, including snow and ice all along the way, these tourists from various countries continue with their climb of Mount Kilimanjaro to the highest peak - Uhuru - at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Dr Mwinyi for unleashing of potential awaiting tapping in Zanzibar's horticulture sector

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has vowed to redouble efforts as he seeks to unlock the full potential of the horticulture industry in the Isles.

Unveiling the horticultural knowledge hub, the first of its kind in Zanzibar constructed by TAHA through the European Union and Finland's Food and Forest Development (FFD) financial support, Dr Mwinyi identified measures to be taken to spur horticulture in the Isles.

He mentioned improvement of business enabling environment, enhancement of productivity, facilitation of access to markets, construction of key infrastructures for irrigation and markets, ease of information access, research and improvement of extension services provision as the government's priorities to stimulate horticulture growth.

Dr Mwinyi said that plans are underway to create a horticulture logistic centre with an ultra-modern cold storage facility for perishables destined for global markets at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport.

"Horticulture is one of the priority industries, owing to its great importance to our economy. We have several measures in store to spur the industry to meet the domestic market and the surplus for export" he underlined.

Creation of green belt in order to have a special window for perishable export handling at key Zanzibar ports to fast track the clearance of fresh products, is among the steps to be taken soon, he noted.

He instructed the Ministry responsible for agriculture to finalize the Zanzibar horticulture development strategy to spearhead the mission of transforming the industry in the Isles.

Dr Mwinyi said that 90 percent of the horticulture crops are actually consumed locally by the 1.9 million population and 600 hotels that serve 0.5 million tourists visiting Zanzibar annually, thus offering the huge opportunity market for horticulture industry growth.

"The demand for vegetables and fruits per annum in Zanzibar stands at 276,000 metric tonnes for each resident to consume 146kg

as per the World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s recommendation per year," he said.

He poured a lot of praise to TAHA for its critical role it has been playing in developing the horticulture industry in Zanzibar for over a decade.

"The government recognizes the TAHA's efforts to develop horticulture in Zanzibar. Your contribution in women and youth employment, improved income for small-scale farmers, nutrition and the economy at large deserve appreciation," Dr Mwinyi said, recommending the development partners—EU, FFD and TRIAS Belgium, saying their support will leave behind a significant footprint into Zanzibar horticulture industry.

TAHA board chairman, Engineer Zebadiah Moshi was grateful to the Zanzibar government for his organization's health cooperation since its inception in 2012, making it easier to unleash the horticulture potential.

"Its our commitment to cherish our valued partnership with the Zanzibar government in order to realize huge horticulture development in Zanzibar together" Eng. Moshi said.

He also thanked TAHA development partners such as USAID, United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP), United Nations Women (UN-WOMEN), Trade Mark East Africa, SIDA, EU and FFD, among others.

TAHA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, told the Zanzibar President, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, shortly before the Head of State officiated at the launching of the hub in Zanzibar yesterday that the building would also accommodate market infrastructure, particularly horticultural crops collection centres.

Dr Mkindi said TAHA offices would also be housed at the hub to, among other things, disseminate information and impart horticultural knowledge and skills on members of the public.

"Its our commitment to cherish our valued partnership with the Zanzibar government in order to realize huge horticulture development in Zanzibar together"

Tanzania withdrawal from Comesa no relationship with trade barriers - govt

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

EXISTING trade barriers between Tanzania and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have no relationship with the country's withdrawal of its membership from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the National Assembly heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, ambassador Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk informed the National Assembly that the various customs challenges between Tanzania

and other countries have continued to acquire solutions day after day.

"The government has taken concrete measures to ensure traders from Tanzania do not experience challenges while trading with neighbouring DR Congo," said Mbarouk.

According to him, the initiatives include establishment of the Tanzania-DR-Congo Joint Permanent Commission, indicating that the commission met in September last year to deliberate on the various trade matters.

The deputy minister asserted that

already the country is part of the regional blocs such as the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which most of the COMESA member states are within the blocs.

He was responding to a question posed by Momba legislator, Condester Sichwale (CCM) who wanted to know the country's plan of reinstating its membership in the COMESA taking into account the challenges facing Tanzania traders who want to grasp market opportunities in other countries citing an example of the market in DRC.

In her primary question, Sichwale wanted to know if the government has any plan of joining the trade union which it refrained from back in 2000.



Invitation for BID

BID No. GIZ-E4D-91167246-2023

As an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations, the federally owned Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports the Tanzania Government on behalf of the Germany in achieving its development-policy objectives.

The E4D (Employment and Skills for Development in Africa) programme is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. It is co-funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the European Union (EU), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) as well as private sector partners.

Projects are in the area of skills development, enterprise development and agricultural value chain development. In the current phase (2020 - 2023), the focus period of this contract, E4D Tanzania has currently nine projects running. Additional projects will be added to the portfolio during the contract period.

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We will answer your request during office hours from 8:00 to 15:00 hours local time, Monday to Friday, except public holidays.

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We would like to invite applications from suitably qualified candidates for the position of Operational Controller. We are looking for a person to welcome to our team that has good ability to collaborate and build trusting relationships with colleagues and external partners. You also need to have the ability to lead yourself by self-sustaining, taking initiatives and pushing issues forward. To succeed in this role, you should have the ability to communicate effectively. Finally, it is important to be flexible; solution-oriented and capable of handling the unpredictable

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- Academic degree in the field of financial management and control
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- Ability and willingness to share information, competence and knowledge with others.

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President Samia signs three bills

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has signed three bills which were passed during the ninth session of the Parliament into new laws.

The new laws are the Tanzania Investment Act No. 10 of 2022, the Personal Data Protection Act No. 11 of 2022 and the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 3) Act No. 12, 2022.

Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson announced in Parliament yesterday, noting that the bills include the Investment Bill of 2022, the Personal Data Protection Bill 2022 and the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 3) Bill, 2022.

"The endorsement by the president who is part of the

Parliament makes the bills become official laws," said Dr Tulia.

In another development, the Speaker has administered an oath to the nominated Member of Parliament of Amani Constituency in Zanzibar Abdul Yussuf Maalim -CCM who is filling the vacancy in the National Assembly.

The sworn in legislator is filling the post following the passing on of the previous legislator Mussa Hassan Mussa -CCM who passed away last year in October.

The laws are meant at attracting more investors to the country thus sustaining the country's economic status currently at lower middle income. However, the laws are expected to strengthen people's involvement in socio-economic activities.

Three people alleged to be Malawians in Dar court charged with illegal entry

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

THREE people alleged to be Malawian citizens appeared before the Kisutu Resident Magistrate Court facing illegal migration charges.

The accused are Winston Kaunda (24), John Phiri (22) and William Chitenji (25), who appeared before the Principal Resident Magistrate, Ramadhani Rugemalila.

Reading the charges, State Attorney from Immigration department, Hadija Masoud told the court that on the first count on 25 January this year in the Morocco area in Kinondoni municipality, the accused entered the country without proper documents.

On the second count, it was alleged that the accused were staying in the country without any legal documents which is against the law.

However, the accused denied charges and the prosecution side claimed that the investigation was complete and requested another date for preliminary hearings.

Rugemalila gave the accused bail terms which are that each accused must present two guarantors with an introduction letter who will be signing one million bond each.

Govt warns firms implementing REA's projects of sluggish work

By Guardian Correspondent,

Shinyanga

THE government has warned firms contracted by the Rural Energy Agency (REA) who are sluggish in implementing rural power distribution projects Phase III in Shinyanga Region that they face revocation of their contracts.

So far some of the firms have not switched on power even to a single village since they signed the contracts last year.

The warning was given by Acting Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, Joseph Mkude at a meeting attended by REA contractors and representatives of Members of Parliament in the Region.

"We have convened this meeting to assess the projects implementation and to stress their completion within the contracts' agreed time, but up to now you have not switched on power even to a single village while the contracts ends July this year.

"Fortunately, Energy Minister January Makamba had given one and half months for him to see the projects' implementation, had it been us, we could have given you two weeks only," said Mkude.

He called upon the contractors to once a week report about work progress to District Commissioners' and TANESCO's offices for them to make follow ups.

Meanwhile, REA Director of Marketing and Technology development, Advera Mwijage said in Shinyanga Region REA contractors were implementing power projects below standard and since they signed their contracts in

February last year power has not been switched even to one single village while the contracts end in July this year.

She named one contractor - Tontan Project Technology Co. Ltd in Kahama region with 146 villages and projects implementation stands at 25 per cent but they were supposed to have attained 44 per cent as of now, hence, he said his work progress was not satisfactory at all.

She named another REA contractor - SUMA JKT in Shinyanga and Kishapu districts contracted to connect power to 101 villages who so far was supposed to have attained 55 per cent of work progress, but the work is only 28 per cent complete.

She said these contractors were engaged via competitive bids and their CVs were good as well as professional and financial capacities for the job, but added that they are dismayed to witness poor performance.

Mwijage said they will abide by the procedure of reporting to the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) and other authorities including PPRA all contractors who are sluggish and cannot complete the projects in time, and for foreign contractors they will be reported to their embassies.

In the same vein, Major James Mhame, SUMA JKT Project Supervisor for REA projects in Shinyanga and Kishapu Districts said they are being hampered by rains that have been slowing down transportation of construction materials, but pledged to increase work pace saying by July this year, power will be switched to all 101 villages in the two districts.



Ntele Benjamin (standing), the opposition Chadema's mobilisation "commander" in Dar es Salaam's Kibamba constituency, sensitises the party's followers at King'azi in Kwembe ward yesterday on the importance of going for the biometric registration of membership and the election of leaders at the branch level. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Three dead and as many hurt as lightning strikes

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

THREE people of one family, including a pregnant woman, died after being struck by lightning in Biharamulo district, Kagera Region, while three others were hospitalized from injuries they sustained.

The incident happened on Sunday at Kiruruma Village, Bisibo Ward in Biharamulo district that involved six members of one family while the father escaped death.

Speaking to this paper, Bisibo ward Councillor, Festo Mtatemba said the deceased met their fate as they were sheltering themselves under a tree from rain as they were planting rice in their farm in Nyarwambu area, in Nyabiondo homestead.

He named the deceased as the mother of the family, Esther Nyanda, Elisha Mustapha (son) and Semen Seleman Mustapha, the pregnant woman.

The injured included Fabian Mustapha (son), Jenifer Mustapha (daughter) while the father of the family, Tusabe Mahame was unscathed.

Mtatemba said when it started raining, the father of the family, Tusabe Mahame moved away from the others to seek shelter under another tree due to traditional belief that he cannot be near the wife of his son, the move that saw him escape unscathed.

Nyakirurtuma Village Chairman, Elizeus Nestory confirmed the deaths and that they informed the police in Biharamulo town who on Monday visited the village and allowed the burial of the deceased.

He said the incident was the first one to happen in the village and it had brought untold grief among the villagers.

Doctor in Charge of Biharamulo District Hospital, Dr Grasmus Sebuyoya confirmed to have received three injured villagers who were discharged after treatment.

Kagera Regional Police Commander, William Mwampaghale was not available for comment as his mobile phone went unanswered.



Tanga regional commissioner Omary Mgumba (C) engaged in talks with Dr Zainab Chaula, Permanent Secretary in the Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups ministry, in Tanga city yesterday. Third right is deputy permanent secretary Amon Mpanju. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Tanzania loses over 19bn/- every year in taming pork tapeworm infection impact

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA is losing over 19bn/- annually due to the impacts brought to the society by pork tapeworm infections (cysticercosis) which include treatment costs as well as disposal of infected meat.

Director of the CYSTINET Africa project, Prof Helena Ngowi said this late last week in Dodoma during the meeting to discuss research findings on how to fight pig tapeworm in the country.

She said that a number of studies have confirmed that pig tapeworm is among the dangerous infections causing foodborne diseases affecting both animals and people as well as the economy.

She noted that the World Health Organisation (WHO) confirmed that pork tapeworm infection is among leading causes of epilepsy worldwide.

"In Tanzania there are approximately 212 epilepsy patients where most of them are due to pork tapeworm thus costing the society a total of 12bn/- to treat them as well 7bn/- loss caused due to the disposal of infected meat," she explained.

She said that according to an annual report by the WHO of 2014 and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) cited pork tapeworm as a major threat among foodborne diseases that continue to bring negative impacts to the society.

She said that the team has conducted research on Pork Tapeworm (Taeniasolium) infections in human and pigs in several districts of Tanzania, including Kongwa, Chunya, Mbozi, Rungwe, Iringa, Songwe, Mbulu, Babati and Njombe.

She called for more research so as to determine the extent of the

challenge and thus come up with a national approach to address the same.

"We have also assessed a total of 78 studies conducted from 1995 to 2021 on pork tapeworm including those related to the level of infection in humans, the collision of other diseases, triggers of the infection, economic effects, control of the infection in humans as well as pigs and strategies on community education," she asserted.

Dr Benard James, a researcher and lecturer from the University of Dar es Salaam Mbeya College of Health and Allied Sciences (UDSM-MCHAS) said the results are visible to humans in two situations where the first is that of a human being with a complete worm in the intestine and the second is the stage of the larva in the muscles and brain.

"These larvae in the muscles are

seen as white things in the meat but when they are in the brain, they cause a person to have epilepsy, but when they are just worms in the intestine, they cause a person to get symptoms that are not specific to the disease, such as loss of appetite," he said.

Dr James said that it is then essential to have stronger coordination between public and animal health, food, agriculture, and water, sanitation and hygiene sectors to advance food production, processing and hygiene practices, to treat or vaccinate animals, and to improve sanitation to prevent contamination of the environment and infection of animal reservoirs to control diseases.

Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of Germany, the CYSTINET Africa project is coordinated by Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in collaboration with the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Zambia University and Eduardo Mondlane University-Mozambique.



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

UPGRADED ELECTRONIC TAX SYSTEMS FOR RETURN FILING AND OTHER MODULES

1.0 Introduction

The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) wishes to inform taxpayers and the general public that it has made significant improvements to its information systems by upgrading the software, hardware and system infrastructure. This move comes amid a challenge of its current information systems mainly being result of, among others, the existing technology being inadequate to serve growing needs of taxpayers. For a considerable period of time, TRA's information systems supporting tax administration services have been adversely impacted particularly during due dates of filing returns and payment of taxes.

Resolving this challenge has been one of the highest priorities for TRA and for the whole period, we have been working tirelessly focusing on improving the quality of the systems in terms of, among others, availability and processing speed. The initiative involved significant investment in terms of key infrastructure and development of software. Among the key changes is the implementation of the High Availability Data Centre (HADDC) initiative to ensure that the systems remain operational seamlessly at all times.

The initiatives to improve the system is guided by an inspiring vision of becoming "A Trusted Revenue Administration for Socio-Economic Development" which aims at improving the organizations' ability to raise more revenue for economic development by forming coalitions with stakeholders. This blends well with our mission "We Make It Easy to Pay Tax and Enhance Compliance for Sustainable Development". The initiatives are continuous and shall involve taxpayers and all stakeholders through their feedback, ideas and suggestions for improvements. TRA is highly committed to this vital aspect of continual improvement.

2.0 Period of Release of the Upgraded Systems

3.0 Coverage of the February 2023 Release

The information systems modules that have been upgraded and therefore due for roll out in February 2023 include the following:

- i) Taxpayers' Portal - a gateway for all TRA electronic services,
- ii) Electronic Filing of returns (E-Filing) for the following taxes:
 - Value Added Tax (VAT)
 - Withholding Tax for Employees' Income (PAYE)
 - Skills Development Levy (SDL)

- Statement of Estimated Tax Payable by Instalments (SETPI)
- Return of Income (ROI)

- i) Withholding Tax Management System,
- ii) EFD Error Management - a module for cancellation of erroneously issued fiscal receipts/invoices,
- iii) Taxpayer Registration System for Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and VAT Registration Number (VRN) System,
- iv) Payments Registration System (RGS).

4.0 Training and Public Sensitization

TRA has organized and started implementation of an extensive sensitization and training program using varied means such as face to face seminars, workshops, virtual trainings, Television and Radio Programs. The objective is to reach taxpayers and other stakeholders within a short period of time and impart skillset necessary to use the upgraded tax systems. Therefore, TRA urges all taxpayers and the public in general to attend the sessions in order to achieve the intended benefits of the upgraded systems. Information on the scheduled sessions shall be shared through various means and channels including, among others, radio, televisions, newspapers TRA Website and social media accounts.

5.0 Role of Taxpayers and the General Public

TRA recognizes taxpayers and the general public as crucial stakeholders in everything we do. It is the taxpayers' feedback and suggestions that provides TRA with inputs for continual improvement. In the same spirit, TRA invites taxpayers and the general public to provide timely and constructive feedback, ideas and suggestions to make more improvements to our systems. This group of users play a vital role since they are the front-end users of the systems and therefore their experience with our systems is an important input for further improvements.

6.0 Conclusion

TRA would like to extend its utmost gratitude to all taxpayers and the general public for your continued commitment, dedication and relentless efforts towards voluntary compliance with the requirements of the law especially on the aspects of filing returns and payment of taxes notwithstanding the challenges posed by the information system being used for this purpose.

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Commissioner General

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Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) CEO Cyprian Luhemeja (standing) updates Morogoro regional commissioner Fatma Mwasa (8th-R) at the weekend on the ongoing implementation of the Kidunda Dam project in Morogoro Rural District. The idea is, among other things, to vastly improve water supply - including to Dar es Salaam city and its environs. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Speaker to govt: Give us number of adults convicted for making schoolgirls pregnant

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson yesterday directed the Ministry of Education to come up with an accurate figure that tells how many adults are being convicted in the court of law with impregnating girls in schools and the legal action taken against them.

The Speaker issued the directive after special seat legislator, Hawa Mchafu-CCM had questioned how many girls got back to school in 2021/22 after they had quit studies due to pregnancy.

Ackson further directed the education ministry to collaborate with other ministries such as the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups to bring up the figures so that the government knows if the current laws are really protecting the girls or they need further reforms for such purposes.

"The public needs to know how many are being found guilty in the court of law. The record will enable the government to know whether the present measures in place are working or otherwise," said Dr Ackson.

Responding to the primary question, deputy minister for education Omari Kipanga said that during the financial years 2021/22 a total of 1,554 primary school girls were impregnated while in secondary schools there were 7,457 girls.

He said as of January this year, there were 1,692 students who resumed studies in secondary schools after quitting studies due to pregnancy in 2021/22.

According to him, the government continues with the collection of information on the exact number of students who resumed studies at primary school level after dropping out of school due to pregnancy.

The order to allow pregnant girls to continue with their studies after giving birth is being observed

under the Education Circular No 2, 2021, challenging the government to enact a specific law that will protect such a decision so that in the future there wouldn't be another sanction on the same issues.

"There might come another top leader of the state who will have all it takes to place the same restriction on young girls who are willing to continue with their studies as we have experienced in the past few years. In this case, a specific law is needed to protect girls' interest," said Mchafu.

In her supplementary question Mchafu argued that among reasons that leads to the majority of girls being impregnated is gender based violence issues at school, home and on the way to school and

extreme poverty.

In this case, she questioned the government's willingness in construction of enough dormitories so that the girls can be protected.

The deputy minister responded that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has approved the project for construction of 26 regional schools for girls. The project is being implemented in phases and so far construction of ten schools is ongoing as part of phase one. The schools are built with enough dormitory rooms to accommodate girls.

"The ministry during 2023/24 has plans of constructing hostels in most troubled areas especially those with a high record of schools having girls dropping out of school due to pregnancy," he said.



An Roinn Gnóthai Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Tender Notices PROVISION FOR AUDIT SERVICES

The Embassy of Ireland under the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Ireland, is responsible for promoting Ireland's interests and values abroad. The Department has over 90 Embassies and Permanent Missions around the world including 14 Embassies in Africa. Most of the Embassies in Africa have overall local responsibility for the management of an Overseas Aid Budget. A division of the Department - Development Co-operation and Africa Division (DCAD) has overall responsibility for management of the €605 million (2022) aid budget.

The Embassy of Ireland Tanzania implements the Department's foreign policy in a number of areas which include consular services, trade, political and development, all of which are guided by the 'Global Island, Ireland's Foreign Policy for a Changing World' and other relevant policies. The Embassy of Ireland Tanzania is responsible for delivering the objectives of the 2022-26 Mission Strategy and annual Business Plan. The mission strategy includes all Embassy activities - political engagement, trade facilitation, community engagement, provision of consular services, promoting Ireland, managing Ireland's development co-operation grants in Tanzania and engaging in five secondary accreditations (Burundi, Comoros, DRC, Seychelles and the East African Community).

SPECIFICATION/REQUIREMENTS

The objective of the audit is to enable the auditor to express a professional opinion on whether the financial statements prepared by the Embassy are in compliance with the Sun System records, any applicable supporting documentation and whether the financial systems and internal controls comply with the Department's Financial Policy and Procedures Manual and the Procurement Procedures. All the Embassy grants undergo separate external audit and are not covered under this audit service contract.

The Embassy wishes to invite qualified audit firms to send their Technical and Financial proposals for the provision of audit services for a period of 3 years (2022 - 2024). The RFT is open to all Audit firms legally authorized to operate in Tanzania. Affiliations to international firms is an asset.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

Applicants must submit both a Technical and Financial proposal including:

1. A Company profile and proof of legal certificates and affiliations;
2. Cover letter expressing interest;
3. Audited Financial Statements for the past three years.

Eligible firms can request tender documents by emailing Daressalaamembassy@dfa.ie. Tenders should be addressed to the Ambassador, Embassy of Ireland and submitted by email to Daressalaamembassy@dfa.ie not later than 18.00 on 22nd February 2023. Late bids will not be accepted.

The Embassy of Ireland reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

Canvassing will result in automatic disqualification of the tender

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271295/501



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

No. HPI/2023/02/01/01 -CONSULTANT TO ORGANIZE COMPETITION FOR YOUTH TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION PRIZE.

Background

Heifer International is a global development organization on a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way. Working with farmers and their communities to identify and invest in business opportunities that deliver living incomes, Heifer International creates solutions to local challenges designed to build inclusive, resilient economies. Since launching in 1944, Heifer International has assisted more than 39 million households, with millions more now on a pathway to Sustainable Living Income. Heifer's development journey in Tanzania started in 1974 as an outcome of the Tanzania and USA bilateral relationship. Since its establishment, Heifer has managed to transform the lives of more than 1 million smallholder farm families through the distribution of livestock to pro-poor farming families, strengthening access to the local market through business, market structures and infrastructural development, and public and private sector engagement for sustainable project development. The focus is on pro-poor wealth by creating value chains that exploit the social capital of communities to stimulate market development for ending poverty and hunger in Tanzania.

In Tanzania, the youths provide an opportunity for increased economic development through their involvement in agriculture, which is the main activity in rural areas. Youth engagement in agricultural activities is essential due to their innovative behavior, greater physical strength, and fast rate of learning new agricultural technologies. However, youth participation in agricultural activities is found to be constrained by several factors such as lack of capital, lack of knowledge, poor inputs supply, the expensive price of inputs, lack of crop markets, poor selling units, and low price of crops, lacking agricultural infrastructures, lack of land, and poor farm working tools. To address this challenge, Heifer International Tanzania is organizing a grant competition for the youth namely Heifer's AYUte Africa Challenge, which is an agribusiness innovation competition designed to: Catalyze ground-up innovation from young Africans, create social businesses that address challenges faced by smallholder farmers at scale, Elevate agriculture as a desirable occupation. The AYUte Challenge aims to be one of the most ambitious agriculture competitions on the continent. We envision combining the power of African youth with the many possibilities of emerging technologies to support smallholder farmers across Africa to grow their businesses and incomes - a transformative force we call AYUte. The winners will receive financial and technological (innovative digital solutions for agriculture) support for them to dwell in commercial agriculture. Heifer International (Tanzania) is determined to support youth through technology innovation and mechanization in agriculture (through AyuTe competition) to create a sustainable agriculture ecosystem that benefits farmers.

Specifically, between February and June 2023, Heifer Tanzania is planning is planning to undertake the following activities: - Create public (including youth) awareness on the importance of Youth Engagement in Innovative Agriculture in Tanzania

- Conduct press conference and engage social media to create awareness on youth engagement in innovative agriculture (in collaboration with line ministries and agencies)
 - Develop Information Education & Communications (IEC) and promotional material
 - Develop and/or promote youth relevant Television/Radio media program
 - Support facilitation of partnership meetings to build synergies in promoting youth engagement in Agriculture
- Promoting Youth Engagement in Innovative Agriculture through AyuTe Challenge (Award)
 - Coaching the best 5 selected youth agri-businesses
 - Award (prize) to the best 3 winners
 - Facilitating Award Event/ Meeting
 - Support / awardees' projects to accelerate growth through facilitated access to Business development services and key service providers, financing, technologies and market
 - Facilitate further coaching and mentorship of the awardee businesses
 - Facilitate business linkages/ better access of the awardee businesses to Business development services and key service providers, financing, technologies and market
 - Monitoring, evaluation and report writing

To ensure swift implementation of this project, Heifer Tanzania is seeking a solid and relevant experienced firm to organize a Country-level AyuTe Challenge for 3 months with following Terms of Reference and deliverables: -

Sn	TOR	Deliverable	Timelines
1	Organize press conference and engage social media platform to create awareness on youth engagement in innovative agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press conference (including Gov and HPI leadership) Press release Social media engaged 	Feb 2023
2	Advertise Youth Competition and screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertisement Submit 1st batch of the best 10 ideas and share with Heifer Submit 2nd batch of the best first 5 ideas 	Feb - March 2023
3	Coach the best 5 selected youth agri-businesses (ideas) for the last round pitching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaching report 	March 2023
4	Facilitate last round pitching (along with judges selected by Heifer) and award the best 3 ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitching report 	April 2023
5	Develop comprehensive assignment report	Assignment Report	May 2023

Required Expertise

Required expertise, skills, and knowledge are as follows:

- A minimum of 10 years' experience with a proven professional record working in organizing the competition.
- The consultant should have a relevant educational background in Agribusiness and Journalism or Mass Communication or Marketing or Public Relation and an ability to work with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Excellent spoken and written English and Swahili
- Experience building positioning strategies for organizations/events, engaging youth, expert, and donor audiences.
- Proven record delivering highly visible competitions/events, securing local, national, and regional coverage.
- Good understanding of the issues relating to Youth Innovation and Agriculture.
- Fast, accurate, creative, and versatile writing skills, including for digital media.
- Strong ability to see newsworthy stories quickly and easily.
- Experience in creating and engaging social media assets and image editing
- Strong national and regional media contacts and demonstrable experience getting stories picked up by print and broadcast.

Application process

Heifer International Tanzania invites qualified firms to apply by submitting a comprehensive proposal with both technical and financial sections. The submission should precisely explain how the competition will be organized and executed. The submission should explicitly demonstrate the steps, implementation approach (methodology) and strategy, detailed competition plan and budget. The bidder should submit this proposal by **10th February 2023 at 05:00 pm** through procurement-tz@heifer.org. All inquiries in response to the request for proposal must be submitted in writing through electronic mail to: procurement-tz@heifer.org and must be received by **4th February 2023**.

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Were the task force on ethics to go deep, we would see reforms

MIXED impressions have been created by the top level release and stakeholder discussion of a report by the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) on the state of ethical observance in the public service. In the past such reports used to be prepared annually by Transparency International, ranking countries on the basis of a corruption perception index, as to how far public and private institutions in that country are sensitive to, or solicit bribes. The PCCB report for last year was tailored in the same direction, on actual ethical sensitivity.

While during the Transparency International reports period there were gestures of disapproval from upper levels of government when such reports came out, this time (since this decade started at least) it is a powerful government agency which is listing the difficult areas. And the one making note of what the report contains or chiefly observes is the minister charged with Public Service Management and Good Governance, seeking that an experts' team take note of what the report says. In reality public officials wish that the report remains a scholars' statistical curiosity.

It is hard to think of them coming up with any real answers to the issues, as the problems being reported or examined aren't new, if one is talking about the police, courts, public procurement, land allocation and titling, plus complaints on various agreements and contracts entered by public firms. This is really the sort of thing that enlivens scores of career expectations or income expansion among those employed in such

agencies, and hopes of scores of others seeking them out to get their work done. Indeed, the massive demand for a new constitution is in large measure to diminish executive interference with bureaucratic prerogatives or bribes.

There is little that the taskforce can suggest to repair ethics in these institutions as it can't achieve anything by the standard methods that bureaucracy prefers when the painful issue of corruption is raised. Their first venture is education, and PCCB is on record demanding that courses or at least lessons on the civic negativism of being corrupt is taught in schools, as if this way the younger generation will be freed from the vice.

It however will not take long for a youth obtaining A in Civics to learn why it is absolutely vital that he or she finds ways to earn 100,000/- more in a month, and once he or she is so decided, trying to change his mind is useless.

The crucial issue here is that on the basis of reports by Transparency International earlier and even on the basis of the PCCB report, transactions based on pure private sector interactions are least prone to corrupt acts or deviation by cash inducement.

So the predominance of the public sector is the basic anchor of a culture of bribes as 'everyone is doing it' is taken for granted, falsely or otherwise. When the size of the public sector - where clear business ethics as such isn't paramount - is sharply reduced, interactions as a whole, including the civil service, start being remodelled on a predominant private sector model. That was the case until 1967; alteration of standards in commerce or business would then creep into politics and civil service.

Crop output could change quickly with 36bn/- farm credit guarantees

NEW initiatives are coming up in the wake of disquiet building up among the public on rising prices of staples like grain, roots, tubers, as well as fish, meat and vegetables. For one thing, the key issue is less the quantity of grain produced or its availability in shops or markets but its price, that is why finding solutions can't just be directed at how more crops can be grown but by producers seeking out the local market and at low prices. If not, it implies that other factors of production are made available in the market, where cash will then flow to those who can't afford grain.

There is a new suggestion on the table that basically seeks to add to the quantity of grain available on the market, by finding out which water basins can be used for what crops. Knowing that land use surveys have been conducted by academic institutions since the University of Dar es Salaam came up in 1964, it is possible to piece together disjointed pieces of research to find out such answers. At any rate there are native growers in each of the zones, who know what crops yield the most.

Conducting research on 22 water basins on what crops they can hold well and then releasing such results for agro-sector entrepreneurs to use such results is one thing. Seeking out agencies to take up portions of farmland to produce staples like wheat, barley, maize, sorghum and direct it firstly to the local market with interest free loans based on a 36bn/- underwriting by the government to banks can change things rapidly. It is like subsidising agriculture but with a vocation to the local market, as the nearby markets claim substantial amounts of current local yields.

Producers of the sort would also

be able to beef up the National Food Reserve Agency and those concerned with food relief, instead of procuring grains and other needs at market prices as it is the case now. It is to make grain production a key sphere of expenditure and not just to create a better pricing environment for farmers and entrepreneurs to do the job. It isn't quite the proposal that is on the table but it has what it takes to alter what is there, for instance procuring portions of such produce for delivery to poor households, areas facing drought, with little pay.

Looking at things sharply in the eye, some of these ideas are coming up due to the changed atmosphere as an opposition leader has lately taken up this issue of food prices as battle horse in preparing for local government elections late next year and the general election the following year. Given that this prospect matters in high places, a few clever ideas may come up which look like they may alleviate the situation, but are heavily inclined towards some other vocation. The issue here, especially in as far as making a difference in food supply is concerned, is to look for a method that alters the supply picture, even at government expense if need be.

Looking at how the matter is being discussed in the media, certain sectors hanker after traditional solutions, of banning exports, regretting that the government says the 'food' belongs to the farmer, etc. Without actually changing the supply thrust and remove the public complaints as new supplies will pull down prices somewhat (as in the petrol/diesel atmosphere) this complaint will be somewhat costly later. Thus the idea of guaranteeing credits for lower price agencies is usable, or handy.



By Bibbi Abruzzini

Digital Politics: Disconnected citizens effectively held off from opportunities

IN 2022, Saudi Arabia "quietly" sentenced Salma al-Shehab to 34 years in prison over her Twitter activity, marking the longest Saudi sentence ever for a peaceful activist. Fast forward and award-winning Ugandan author Kakwenza Rukirabashajja was charged with two counts of "offensive communication" after making unflattering remarks about the president and his son on Twitter. The message is clear: your well-crafted 280 characters can land you in jail.

But what if, not only your online expressions could put you behind bars, but that the internet, today's window to the rest of the world shuts down? No internet connection at all, 100% offline. It is not a plot from a sci-fi movie gone wrong, this is happening today. Access Now and the #KeepItOn coalition documented in 2021 for instance, at least 182 internet shutdowns in 34 countries as a tactic to suppress dissent and quell unrest.

In a survey collecting the views of 7,500+ civil society organisations that together serve 190 million people, 95 percent said the internet is critical to their ability to do their work, but 78 per cent said that a lack of internet access, tools, or skills limits their ability to serve their communities effectively.

The data, based on the largest survey of civil society regarding the barriers they face in a digitalising world, was published today in a report by Connect Humanity: "State of Digital Inequity: Civil Society Perspectives on Barriers to Progress in our Digitising World".

The survey finds that while civil society sees the internet as critical, a lack of access to technology limits their impact.

To understand some of today's challenges and solutions when it comes to rights-based digitalisation, we reached out to civil society networks across Africa grappling with this issue.

Technology advances have brought increased surveillance and new risks for civic space - for example, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, access to internet and text messages services were limited during election periods. All of a sudden you couldn't write a message on WhatsApp, whatever its nature.

"African countries that went to the polls in recent years have developed an affinity to restrict internet access before, during and after elections especially in countries where there are disputes," explains Leah Mitaba of the Zambia Council for Social Development.

Zambia held elections in 2021 amidst unprecedented political and legal volatility. The elections presented immense risks not only for voters and political activists, but also for civil society organisations working on anti-corruption and

environmental rights. But sadly, other examples abound: in 2021 only, governments shut down the internet in Chad, Zambia, Niger and Uganda ahead of and on the days of national elections.

"We have seen in the last five years, a close link between internet cuts and Chad's important moments of political dispute," says Abdoulaye Diarra, Amnesty International's Central Africa researcher. Chad has experienced over 2.5 years in total of internet cuts or disruptions since 2016 amid increased repression of civil society and human rights activists, including a "bloodshed" in October that killed at least 50 protesters and injured dozens of others.

There are extreme cases of "digital darkness" in the region as well. Since the conflict began in Tigray, Ethiopia, in November 2020, authorities have used internet shutdowns as a weapon of information control and censorship. November 4, 2022 marks two years of deliberate internet blackouts affecting the lives of approximately six million people in Tigray and indirectly millions more.

"The shutdown is having an immense impact on my life, and I doubt if words can really express it. It felt like my worst nightmare," says Mulu, a PhD student in Tigray.

In the words of Felicia Anthonio, #KeepItOn campaign manager and fighter of internet shutdowns with Access Now, "for too long, internet shutdowns have been too easy a decision for governments to make, and too easy an action for them to implement". It's almost as if you had a switch you could strategically turn on and off at your will.

Restrictions on the space of African civil society organisations have become more severe in the dual context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the insecurity affecting countries in the region, explains Comlan Julien Agbessi, Regional Coordinator of the Network of West African NGO Platforms (REPAOC). NGOs and associations are being accused of having "hidden agendas" or benefiting from important funds from "occult networks".

"Some entities or umbrella organisations are considered by the government as counter-powers or related to the opposition because of their legitimate role in alerting, questioning, raising awareness and denouncing abuses and human rights violations".

Defenders continue to be subjected to intimidation, judicial harassment and arrests for their online activities in Nigeria, Ethiopia, Togo and Burkina Faso. Fortunately, citizens and activists are also rising to the occasion. There are a lot more cases of citizens actually going

to court to challenge government decisions around internet issues. There is the example of Togo, where Togolese citizens and civil society organisations went to court to challenge the government shutdown of the internet and they won the case.

"Disconnected citizens are actually citizens that are kept away from opportunities," in the words of Gbenga Sesan of the Paradigm Initiative, a pan-African organisation which offers digital opportunities to young people.

In 2021 Nigerians started using Virtual Private Networks to bypass the government ban on Twitter. The government had ordered internet providers to block the micro-blogging site, alleging it was being used to undermine "Nigeria's corporate existence" through the spreading of fake news that could potentially have "violent consequences". Once again, voicing your opinions online, could put you behind bars.

Fake news and the continued sustained critique of civil society online, is also warping perceptions and boosting polarisation in an already fragile context.

"There are a lot of myths on the work of nonprofits in Nigeria, that need to be dispelled, and the digital space is key to this, and very important for this kind of work," according to Oyejibi Oluseyi, Coordinator at the Nigeria Network of NGOs.

In the words of the civil society platform of Cape Verde, PLATONG, digitalisation has been "both a blessing and a curse". The COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, galvanized many African civil society organisations to embrace virtual platforms to carry out many of their activities.

With the emergence of the pandemic digital tools have turned into "a resilience tool" that allowed confined actors or those with limited movement to continue to function, explains civil society leader Comlan Julien Agbessi. "If they did not exist, they would have had to be invented, otherwise all human activity outside the biological and physiological functions of individuals would have come to a halt."

But the high cost of internet access remains a challenge. And the situation is worse for rural based communities whose access is either non-existent or very limited because of poor connectivity and unsustainable costs. Those served by civil society often lack internet access, limiting the potential impact of organizations. Just 12 per cent of respondents to the Connect Humanity survey strongly agreed that the communities they serve have internet connectivity. A lack of digital skills is also a major barrier

and organizations struggle to pay for core technologies. 43 percent of organizations said internet access was too expensive, with 64 percent struggling to pay for computers. 67 percent said the cost of internet access is too high for their communities.

Internet access is a basic right: if we have common problems, we also have common solutions.

Communities are building their own internet infrastructure to connect, and protect, the unconnected. Decentralised networks - where internet or communication services are localised rather than monopolised by governments or corporate giants - are rising and giving users more control and protection in countries where censorship and internet shutdowns pose an increasing risk of "digital authoritarianism".

"When we close digital divides, we expand educational opportunities, improve public health, boost economies and create new opportunities for work. We have the knowledge and tools to get this done - now we need governments, investors, and philanthropic funders to do what the corporate sector has been unable to do - work with communities and commit the finances to make digital equity a reality for all," said Chris Worman, Head of Strategy at Connect Humanity.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, internet access was a lifeline for many - and must today be understood as an essential public good for individuals and for organizations who provide services. This was reflected in the survey run by Connect Humanity and TechSoup, with additional distribution from CIVICUS, FORUS, NTEEN, and WINGS, which showed that 91 percent of respondents believe internet access is a basic right.

We heard the promises that the digital space was going to expand, rather than restrict, our rights, while witnessing with our own eyes how this promise has been distorted and twisted. The gap or should we say - the crater - that characterises those who have access to the digital space and those who don't, will narrow down over the years, so they say, but this doesn't mean that our collective rights are going to be upheld. What is access without protection? What is democratic about the digital space if most of the world's population doesn't have a say in how it's being constructed and how it's going to evolve? Are we building an ally or our worst enemy? And lastly, do we feel part of the digital process, or are we just passive consumers, or even worse, as activists we have a target on our back?

Let's be more cautious on our roads to avoid premature deaths and injuries

THE year 2022 saw many Tanzanians die prematurely due to road crashes that could have been avoided if road users, especially drivers, were more cautious. Many more who survived accidents ended up with permanent disabilities.

In most of the crashes, regional police commanders blamed human error, especially speeding. There were head-on crashes involving private cars and lorries, others involved passenger buses and trucks as well as other types of vehicles. And then there are bodaboda riders who are always on a hurry even when the destination is one hundred metres.

It is estimated that nearly 1.3 million people die in road crashes each year globally, on average 3,287 deaths a day. More than half of all road traffic deaths occur among young adults ages between 15 and 44. Economists will tell you that this age bracket is the most energetic and productive.

I have seen terrible experiences of accidents that shattered lives of my friends who lost their loved ones and sustained injuries which forced them into early retirement as they could not continue working due to amputated body parts. Many blame these crashes on bad luck but scientists say it is mostly drivers.

For me it is easier to be a good driver than a bad driver. But many drive badly and dangerously by speeding, overtaking where it is not permitted and violating many other road traffic rules.

If you are a bit disciplined and sympathetic who cares for even a dog or cat on the road, care for others' lives as much as yours and always focus during driving, then you can easily be a good driver. And a good driver always takes the responsibility for their own precious lives as well as others'.

It is very much impossible to give up the idea of driving because of the panic of the accident that happened to you. But accidents can be avoided by driving carefully and following few simple rules, not by quitting driving. Accidents per se don't kill; it is dangerous driving that causes fatal accidents.

Road accidents lead to many problems and need to be solved through driving disciplines, weather awareness and government assistance by providing awareness about safe driving. Yes, anyone can agree that accidents can happen not due to experience, experienced drivers also cause accidents, and learners sometimes drive more cautiously and safely than experienced driver.

I would like to draw attention of yours about using mobile phones during driving. Yes, it's now a big headache and common cause of road accidents. As a motorist, it is advised not to divert yourself from your focus by using your phone while behind the wheels. It has been established that this kind of distraction has caused many unnecessary accidents.

Passengers are also a problem; instead of discouraging drivers from speeding, they encourage them to do the same so that they arrive early. Sadly, many are lowered into graves prematurely, thanks to this



senseless hurry.

It's a reminder for motorists that a mobile call on the road may be the last call of your life. Yes, nowadays mobile calls are more important than our precious lives. And I forgot to mention that do not use headphones or ear phones during driving too.

I don't know why people love bodaboda but hate helmets! Have you noticed that daladala drivers only fasten their seat belts when they see a traffic police? I have personal experience of

a car accident where seat belts saved lives. Strive to know traffic signs, lights and their meanings as well as safety rules before you hit the road. Driving is not only about knowing how to on, off and drive the car to your destination. Road safety rules are the best rules to avoid accidents.

As for speeding, this is mainly due to poor planning. To get it right, plan nicely to avoid hurrying. If you get late by chance, also don't hurry, otherwise you will put yourself and others in

danger of accident.

Safe driving requires patience and discipline. Drive in the prescribed speed limits when the camera is on or off, traffic police is watching you or not, you must be honest in your driving to keep yourself and others safe. Always remember, speed thrills but kills. And here comes the most preached and least implemented: Don't drink and drive. It amazes me that good bars must have spacious parking lots which get full of cars during weekends and public holidays. Do the patrons call sober drivers to drive them home after drinking? Your guess is as good as mine.

Drivers are always reminded not to drive for long hours in a stretch. It is advised to have a proper break after hours of continuous driving but some think that driving for many hours is a proof of competence. Good driving coaches say that a human is a human and not a machine.

Sometimes the best way to prevent road accidents is simply to apply com-

mon sense. Take responsibility, be courteous, take your time and drive. Having your car regularly serviced ensures it is in good mechanical order. This will help you a lot to prevent accidents by detecting major faults.

When you drive a car, it is really important around schools and residential areas where children and animals have a habit of running out into the road from nowhere. Look, listen and slow down. Many of us rely on cameras and sensors when reversing cars but is it that much reliable technology?

Drivers are cautioned to be extra careful when there is heavy rain or fog. Make sure you slow down, switch on your dipped beam headlights and increase the distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you.

Sometimes you are not at fault at all for the accident to occur but you can avoid the impact or fatality. Just take responsibility of yours and not others. Basically, everyone should be attentive during driving and follow rules to avoid accidents. Remember, rules are not only for traffic police to enforce, they are for us road users to follow without coercion.

Last but not least is concentration. Most of us get distracted by passengers, music phones or food that make us remove our hands from the steering wheel. If hands are not on the wheel, unexpected events or accidents can happen. As a driver, keep your focus on the road, avoid letting anything distract you from driving.

Driving is really a very important part of our lives. So, if you drive in any parts of the world, you have to follow that country's traffic rules, signs and signals. If you get driving licence, then drive safely and save yours and other's lives. That's the very minimum responsibility you can do for the licence you get.

Driving cannot be a multitasking job. It is better to be safe than to be sorry. Prevent accidents by taking all the precautions you can to become a good driver to avoid accidents. Be a responsible human being by being cautious on the road. That vehicle should take you and others to your destination, not grave.



Pressing Issues
With
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Browsing from 'the roof of Africa' now reality after internet installation

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

TOUR operators and mountaineers are a happy lot here now that hikers can communicate with the rest of the world from the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in real time, thanks to recent internet installation.

This has become a reality after the Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited (TTCL) made the installation, bringing the world to the iconic mountain which attracts thousands of tourists every year.

On December 9 last year, the government officially launched high-speed internet services at Mount Kilimanjaro's highest point Uhuru Peak which has been nicknames of Africa. Nape Nnauye, Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology, launched the service at the 5,895 metres peak.

However, internet service on Mt Kilimanjaro was installed for the first time in August this year at Horombo area at 3,720 metres above sea level. According to the minister, a total of 146mn/- had been spent in Horombo alone.

But this time the service was installed on the roof of Africa with the slogan 'Data Kileleni' (data at hand) which aims to further promote tourism at and around Mt Kilimanjaro which is one of the leading tourist destinations in Tanzania, attracting thousands of mountain climbers from abroad and within the country every year.

Recently, while inaugurating service at Marangu gate while en route to the peak, Nnauye said benefits of installing internet services have started to be realised as it has simplified work, eased tourist communication and increased internet users at the park.

Speaking during the launch of the special project, TTCL Director General Peter Ulanga said that the project will be extended to other major tourist sites in the country.

"This is part of our country's drive



to boost digital economy. In the long run, other remote tourism sites will also have internet access," he said.

Commenting on the installation of the internet on Mt Kilimanjaro, Tanzania Goodwill Ambassador for Tourism in the United States Macon Dunning who has climbed the mountain 47 times said that installation of internet on the mountain will help promote our country's tourism worldwide.

"Apart from promoting the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro, the installation of internet will also increase the number of tourists who can now watch live the beauty of the mountain through various social media," he said.

Zainab Ansell, founder and managing director of one of ZARA Tanzania Adventures which trades as ZARA Tours said that the project is likely to create more awareness about the location of Mount Kilimanjaro many people abroad think is in Kenya because they receive SMS welcoming them to Kenya while at the mountain's Rongai route in Tanzania, noting that tourists now enjoy internet services from the mountain's buffer zone to Uhuru peak.

"By connecting Uhuru peak to the inter-

net, our customers are now able to communicate with the rest of the world on top of Mount Kilimanjaro, this will further promote it all over the world," she said.

Fastine Chombo, one of the experienced professional mountain guides said that apart from promoting tourism, the installation of internet on Mount Kiliman-

jaro will also help them in rescue matters as now communication is very easy at a touch of a button.

"Apart from selling our mountain to our clients, we are now able to communicate easily with our rescue teams in case of any emergency," he said.

Minister Nnauye commended TTCL for bringing a new look at the Africa's highest peak, saying the company succeeded in building internet communication infrastructure from Marangu to Mandara (9.5 kilometres), Marangu to Horombo (13 kilometres), Horombo to Kibo (14 kilometres), Kibo to Uhuru (5.2 kilometres) and Kibo to Barafu (3 kilometres), bringing the total to 44.7 kilometres. "We broke the world record by speaking to the world from the highest peak," he said.

"After establishing the first phase of internet services on Mount Kilimanjaro on August 16 last year, there has been an increase in the number of internet users, including tourists, porters and other stakeholders who enjoy the services while on the mountain by communicating with relatives and friends."

Director of Information Services and Chief Government Spokesperson, Gerson Msigwa said the goal is to pro-

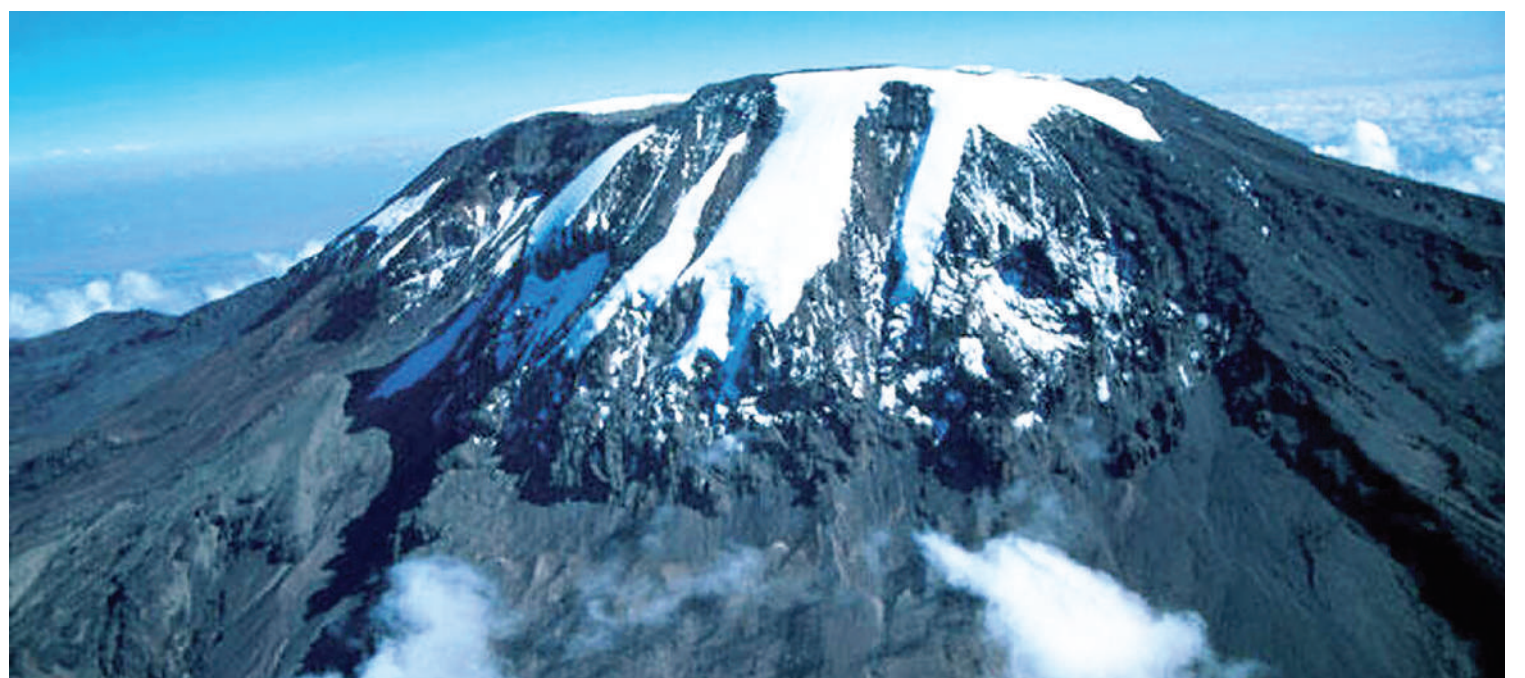
mote the use of information technology where the government is implementing a strategy to ensure 80 per cent of citizens are digitally connected by 2025.

"The digital revolution that occurred today has resulted from the strategic communication infrastructure, the national communication backbone that led to speed and quality of communication," he said.

Meanwhile, in a move that aims at providing helicopter search and rescue operations for safety of hikers and guides on Mount Kilimanjaro and Meru, the Tanzanian-owned KILIMEDAIR Aviation Company has launched rescue and high altitude mountain sickness service to tourists and guides.

Speaking in an interview with The Guardian recently, Medical Services Director of the firm, Dr. Hussein Abradha, said that the services for the mountaineers includes helicopter evacuation from high altitudes as well as high altitude mountain sickness treatment.

"We also provide scenic flights where by any tourist can be taken to any tourist destination of their preference like Lake Natron, Kilimanjaro and Meru views, Zanzibar beaches and Serengeti wildebeest migration," he said.



Management of protected areas is Latin America's priority for 2023



Deforestation, along with fires, reduces the region's forests, expands the agricultural frontier, shrinks the habitat of indigenous peoples and wildlife, destroys water sources, and brings more diseases to populated areas. CREDIT: Serfor Peru

By Humberto Márquez

THE environmental priority for South America in 2023 can be summed up in the management of its terrestrial and marine protected areas, together with the challenges of the extractivist economy and the transition to a green economy with priority attention to the most vulnerable populations.

This management "must be effective, participatory, and based on environmental and climate justice, with protection for the environment and environmental and indigenous activists," biologist Vilisa Morón, president of the Venezuelan Ecology Society, told IPS.

Latin America and the Caribbean is home to almost half of the world's biodiversity and 60 percent of terrestrial life, and has more than 8.8 million square kilometers of protected areas, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

It is thus the most protected region in the world, with the combined protected area greater than the total area of Brazil or the sum of the territories of Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and Paraguay, from largest to smallest. The leaders in percentage of protected territory are the French overseas departments and Venezuela.

The second great environmental challenge in the region for 2023 and the following years lies in the extractivist economies, which run counter to the region's responsibility to the planet as a major reserve of biodiversity.

THE extractivist economy involves the mining of metals in the Andes region, the Guyanese massif and the Amazon rainforest, and the exploitation of fossil fuels in most South American countries and Mexico.

Extractivism, plus the pollution in urban areas and in rivers and other sources of fresh water, weighs like a stone

on the region's transition towards a green economy that would rethink the management of these areas as a challenge, says Morón.

Other difficulties for the defense of the environment in the region are the destruction of the habitat, livelihoods and cultures of indigenous peoples, and the murders of environmental leaders and activists.

Deforestation, a key issue

A major problem in Latin America, and particularly in South America, is deforestation of land for agriculture and livestock, or as a consequence of mining.

According to the report "Amazonia Viva 2022" by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), 18 percent of the Amazon rainforest has been completely lost, another 17 percent is degraded, and in the first half of 2022 the damage continued to grow.

The loss of the Amazon jungle can directly affect the livelihoods of 47 million people who live in that ecosystem which forms part of eight nations, including 511 different indigenous groups (totalling more than one million individuals), as well as 10 percent of the biodiversity of the planet, said the WWF.

At the fifth Amazon Summit of Indigenous Peoples, held in September 2022 in Lima, the Amazon Network of Georeferenced Socio-environmental Information (RAISG) presented "Amazonia against the clock: A Regional Assessment on Where and How to Protect 80% by 2025".

Brazil is the main focus of the deforestation, because 62 percent of the Amazon is located in that country, where the jungle is rapidly being cleared for agriculture and livestock, as well as the devastation caused by fires.

For this reason, environmentalists around the world breathed a sigh of relief on Jan. 1, when moderate leftist Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva took over as president from the

far-right Jair Bolsonaro, who turned a deaf ear to calls to curb deforestation and favored the expansion of the agricultural frontier.

Brazil "has shown that it is possible to reduce deforestation by implementing clear policies," said researcher Paulo Barreto, co-founder of the Amazon Institute of Man and the Environment (IMAZON), based in the northern city of Belém do Pará, from which he spoke to IPS.

Barreto has faith in the environment minister appointed by Lula, Marina Silva, who already held that position when Lula was president, between 2003 and 2008.

Among the necessary policies that challenge the environmental agenda, according to Barreto, is the application of protective laws and, at the same time, addressing the social and economic issue represented by half a million smallholders in the Amazon and the Cerrado ecosystem.

The Cerrado is a more open forest, extending over 1.9 million square kilometers to the east of the Amazon basin.

According to the expert, policies aimed at reforestation and forest recovery "can be part of the solution in generating jobs and income, if, for example, payment is made for avoiding deforestation," an initiative that he sees as positive in terms of bringing in foreign aid.

Barreto welcomed Colombian President Gustavo Petro's launch of a new fund and new cooperation programs in the region to save the Amazon rainforest, based on extensive accumulated experience.

Words and mining

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) says the restoration of 20 million hectares of degraded ecosystems in the region could generate 23 billion dollars in benefits over 50 years.

Peruvian biologist Constantino Auca said that "In our countries and in general in the world there is a lack of political will to protect and recover our natural areas. More action is needed and fewer words," he told IPS from New York, where he is staying temporarily.

In November Auca received the Champions of the Earth award, the highest environmental honor given by the United Nations, in recognition of 35 years of work to restore the high Andean forests in 15 nature reserves in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru.

The Association of Andean Ecosystems that he heads has led the planting of three million trees in Peru and as many in neighboring countries, but Auca insists that "much more is needed. Climate change is coming hard and fast and the Andes are already facing severe problems."

"Enough egos, we need honest leaders who do not allow their heads to be turned by power. In some countries in our region a mining permit is granted in three weeks while studies for a protected natural area take five years," he complained.

Unregulated illegal gold mining in southern Venezuela, eastern Colombia and northern Brazil is another major environmental challenge in the region, which combines the destruction of the natural environment - the habitat of native peoples - with the contamination of water and soil, Morón said.

Another problem is the presence of irregular armed actors, such as groups of garimpeiros (illegal miners) from Brazil, criminal "sindicatos" from Venezuela or remnants of the guerrillas and other illegal armed groups from Colombia.

Morón stressed that illegal mining, bolstered by weak institutions in the region, as well as the oil industry that is active in most South American nations, is a constant source of environmental and social liabilities.

Drought, crime and indigenous people

In Argentina, three years of drought in most of the country have severely hit the indebted economy and public accounts, along with more than 6,700 fires that affected some 2.3 million hectares in the same period.

It is an urgent issue for Argentina, a global agricultural powerhouse whose economy depends on food exports to its clients, mainly Brazil, the United States and East Asia.

In addition, a serious regional problem is the murder of human rights defenders, including activists for the environment and the rights of indigenous peoples.

Of the 1,733 murders of environmental activists documented between 2012 and 2021 around the world, 68 percent were committed in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Colombia was the most dangerous country for them between 2020 and 2021, accounting for 33 of the 200 murders documented in that period by the Global Witness organization.

In this sense, the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Escazú Agreement because it was adopted in that Costa Rican city in March 2018, has a key role to play.

The agreement, signed by 25 countries and ratified by 14, seeks to ensure "adequate and effective measures to recognize, protect and promote all the rights of human rights defenders in environmental matters, including their right to life, personal integrity, freedom of opinion and expression."

The sources interviewed also agreed on the need to give priority to indigenous peoples and local communities in all pending environmental management in the region, since their habitat is directly at stake in the short term.

The Escazú Agreement also provides an effective way of taking care of the territory and paying attention to the social debt that has accompanied the many decades of environmental degradation.

Three years on, Britain still waits for Brexit dividend

LONDON

THREE years after its departure from the European Union, Britain is yet to benefit from the Brexit dividend that was promised for its economy as it lags its peers on multiple fronts, including trade and investment.

Britain exited the EU on Jan 31, 2020, though remained in the bloc's single market and customs union for 11 more months.

On that day, then prime minister Boris Johnson said the country could finally fulfill its potential and that he hoped it would grow in confidence with each passing month.

So far, the opposite has happened, with a range of indicators showing under-performance compared with other economies.

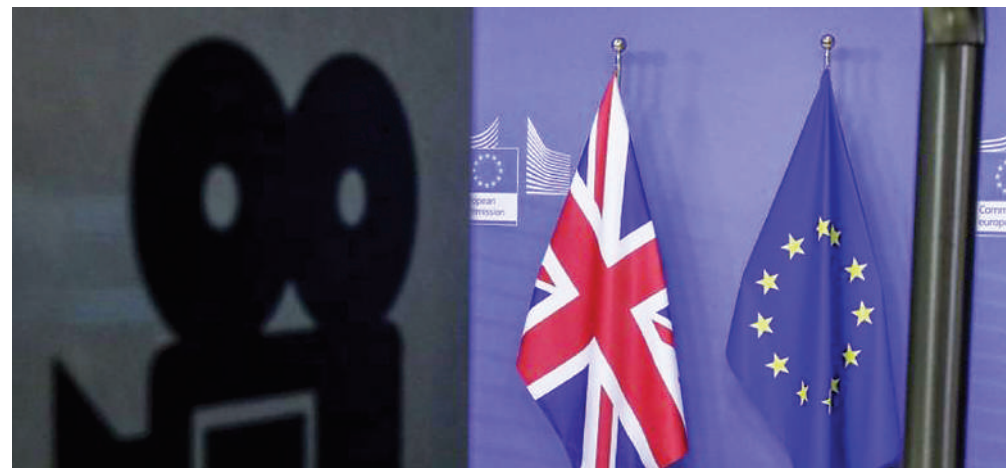
Opinion polls show Britons who regret leaving the EU increasingly outnumber those who do not. A survey published on Monday by news website UnHerd showed this was now the case in all but three of 632 parliamentary constituencies analyzed.

The government, led by Brexit-supporting Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, says Britain is prospering with new-found freedoms.

Last week, finance minister Jeremy Hunt challenged the talk of decline and said Brexit offered a brighter future with room for measures that will attract investment in areas such

as the green economy and tech.

Many economists say leaving the EU is not the sole cause



This photo dated Dec 9, 2020 shows flags of the Union Jack and the EU ahead of Britain's prime minister's meeting on post Brexit trade deal with European Commission president, in Brussels. AFP

of Britain's woes - the country was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic and the surge in gas prices after Russia's

special military operation in Ukraine - but it is a factor that can help explain recent under-performance.

On Tuesday the International Monetary Fund said it expected Britain's economy to shrink by 0.6 percent this year, in contrast to predictions of growth across the rest of the G7.

Springford estimated that Brexit reduced Britain's economic output - compared with what it would have been without leaving the EU - by around 5.5 percent as of mid-2022, based on a "doppelganger" model in which an algorithm selects countries whose economic performance closely matched pre-Brexit Britain.

The government's own forecasting organization, the Office for Budget Responsibility, and the Bank of England also judge there to be a long-running net cost to leaving the EU.

It's been more than a slow burn. It's been a serious reduction in economic performance," said John Springford, deputy director at the Centre for European Reform think tank.

"If you impose barriers to trade, investment and migration with your biggest trading partner (EU), then you're going to have quite a big hit to trade volumes, and to investment and to GDP," he said, pointing to a string of dismal economic data.

Britain was the only Group of Seven advanced economy yet to regain its pre-pandemic size of late 2019 at the end of September last year, the most recent period covered by data.

On Tuesday the Interna-

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On Tuesday the Interna-

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF WOMEN FUND TANZANIA (WFT TRUST)

CALL FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S, GIRLS' AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN TANZANIA FOR 2023

The Registered Trustees of Women Fund Tanzania (WFT Trust) is the first national feminist Fund in the country and the only funding support mechanism, started by women, for women, girls and children. The Fund seeks to achieve lasting feminist gains by addressing the root causes of unequal power relations, including gender-based inequalities, and other oppressive systems, attitudes, and social norms in various fields. We do this through funding women rights organisations, women's, girls', children's rights organisations and movement(s), and other social justice movements to be able to amplify voices and organise for collective transformative action to achieve progressive social change with agency.

Our main focus is to resource grassroots Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and movements, especially at the local level, because we believe that they are the experts of their own realities and have incredible organising power, voice, innovative leadership, and agency to transform the disempowering contexts they live in to realise their full potential and rights as human beings.

WFT Trust believes and invests in harnessing the immense power of the feminist women's movement(s) that arises from combining engagement platforms, experiences, and collaborative strategies and processes that harness the insights, knowledge, skills, and ingenuity of organisations, groups, individuals and activists working in Tanzania.

Who can apply

WFT Trust is accepting applications from Women's, girls' and children's, rights organisations and initiatives led by and for women, community-based organisations, groups, institutions, legal entities and transformative/progressive men-led organisations working on a feminist agenda) that are based and operating in Tanzania. For more information kindly visit our website: www.wft.or.tz

Key thematic areas for funding in 2023 are:

- 1. Violence against women, girls, and children** -- with a focus on addressing sexual corruption/sexortion, femicide (killing of women and girls based on gender), online gender-based violence (Cyber bullying), mental health related violence on women, girls, children and other marginalised social groups and those affected by constraining cultural violence and discourses in rural and urban communities. This also includes educational justice and rights - disrupting cultural and institutional inequalities that prevent girls from equal and full participation in education including rape culture, teen pregnancies, child marriage, and initiatives to support girls' re-entry into formal school systems.
- 2. Women's Political Participation and Leadership** - addressing existing and emerging issues that prevent women and girls to fully participate in leadership and electoral cycle(s) processes including challenging systems and structures, norms and traditions as well as negative perceptions and the power dynamics that prevent women and girls from assuming leadership roles in decision making positions in their communities, corporates, and other public spaces of service.
- 3. Economic Justice and sustainability** - breaking policy and cultural barriers that limit women and girls' effective economic participation and prevent them from benefiting from broader economic sectors such as oil, gas, and extractives. This also includes engagement in broader policy strategies aimed at promoting women and girls voice and participation in gender budgeting initiatives, financial inclusion services, provision of feminist support such as Women and Money education, and others.
- 4. Environmental justice and gender** - addressing policies, laws, and cultural challenges facing women and young girls in exercising their voice and agency, including addressing adverse effects of environmental degradation with a particular focus on climate change and land rights for women, girls and other socially marginalised populations.
- 5. Feminist Research and Documenting** - Using feminist approaches and strategies to strengthen feminist research, on current and relevant areas of interest such as women peace and security women's role in preventing conflict and participating in peace making processes, document and capture women's lived realities in the form of literature, pictures and videos; questioning the existing gender inequalities and systems of oppression. Through documenting and publicising these lived experiences amplify women's voices in critical spaces. (Applicants can focus on sub themes such as improving visibility and popularising women and girls' contributions through Herstories, to change discourses through the innovative use of multimedia platforms and tools, animation and community radio programming).
- 6. Sports, popular art, and culture** - Challenging gender based exclusionary and exploitative practices, biases including degrading language for transforming policies, laws, social norms in sports, popular art, culture and related others.
- 7. Promotion of Reproductive Health Rights** - Applications are open for interventions that promote rights based and feminist focused approaches that address reproductive rights and for social movement(s) building that enhance the capacity of key actors to advocate for issues denying women and adolescent girls' access to relevant and gender sensitive information, reproductive health rights including but not limited to services, informed decision making, agency, participation and enabling them to implement strategies to enhance access to marginalised groups including disability and select others.
- 8. Movement Building and Strengthening** - Interventions that promote growth and deepening of feminist based movements which adopts intersectional, intergenerational and inclusive approaches in accelerating transformative and feminist changes within the women's, girls' and children movement(s), and between these movements and other social movements including those working on advancing disability rights, children's rights, reproductive health rights, migrant rights, gender rights for minority groups, and environmental justice for collective interventions and actions towards advancing feminist outcomes in transforming negative cultural attitudes, social norms, and public discourses as well as policy and legal frameworks which perpetuates these ills at different levels.

Grant Application Windows:

1. SMALL SCALE WINDOW

The Small Window funding is the core of WFT Trust's focus as it targets community-based women rights groups, feminist WROs and WOs as well as individuals that are looking for funding to ignite initiative with potential within communities through transformative and empowering approaches and/or ideas. The Grant can be used for capacity building, awareness raising, and for galvanising social action in their communities and others.

- The duration of the intervention/project to be implemented is between 0 and 3 months
- The intervention is aimed at giving voice and visibility to women's and girls' issues, particularly marginalised women, special groups, and vulnerable populations in local communities
- Mainly for first time applicants from community-based levels

2. MEDIUM SCALE WINDOW

Projects under this Window should focus on initiatives for supporting women's, girls' and children's rights organisations to build/strengthen relevant conceptual and organisational capacities, and expertise for networking and knowledge sharing with the women's and girls' movements.

- The grant period should be between 6 months and 1 year
- Must aim at giving voice and visibility to marginalised women, girls and children on marginalised issues as stipulated in the call for a proposal
- The window is open to women and girls' initiatives at the local and national levels, which need funds for organisational strengthening including transitioning or are building on an initial grant to strengthen strategic alliances and networks in the women's movement at different levels.

3. STRATEGIC WINDOW

The Strategic Window is meant for funding longer term projects/interventions of up to 2 years in duration and for activities that target feminist movement/platform/coalition building efforts. The window can also be used to support WROs that are growing and that need support with core funding to building institutional and organisational capacity. In particular graduating middle window recipients and National level WROs (National level Women's Rights Organizations, Women Organizations with a potential for movement building that includes reach, agenda setting and constituent base - building interventions) are more suited to this window because of their relative growth and mandate in movement or coalition/platform building work.

The grant in this window can also be sought to support cross movement work within the various women, girls and children's movements. Feminist WROs possessing relevant institutional capacity, expertise, networking, and local knowledge to work with other partners (both local and national) to strengthen women's movement building strategies across sectors are encouraged to apply. Within this frame, we are accepting proposals aimed at initiating and scaling up interventions that promote collective/joint advocacy actions, cross border platforms, collective networking and learning within the various sectors of women and girls' and children's movement/s in the country.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Applicants should strive to reflect in their proposals key guiding principles outlined below:

I. MISSION ALIGNED

Partners who share our aspiration of contributing towards the elimination of gender inequalities, discriminatory, practices, and processes through capacity enhancement and women's movement building, and whose work fits within our identified thematic areas.

II. CLARITY ON THE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE PROJECT

- The proposal should ensure a strong link between the problem to be addressed and the strategies and measurable results anticipated from the project
- The proposal should reflect multi-stakeholder participation (within the women's movements and across other movements) in formulation and implementation of forming/strengthening functional networks, coalitions, and platforms (especially for windows 2&3)
- The proposal should use models that demonstrate sustainability, innovation, replicability, and scaling up potential
- Your proposals should include strategic use of local, regional, and international days as opportunities and platforms to amplify your projects like the International Day of the African Child, International Day of Rural Women, and 16 Days of Activism etc.

Specific Requirements:

Application for these Grants will follow this process:

Visit WFT Trust's website (www.wft.or.tz) to download the proposal form

Fill in the proposal form (12 pages max) describing the proposed idea or initiative

Attach a copy of the organization's registration and constitution to the proposal then send them via email to grants@wfttrust.or.tz

OR

Complete the application then either submit it in person at the office or mail it to the following address:

The Executive Director

Women Fund Tanzania Trust,

P.O. Box 79235, Dar es Salaam

Any enquiries should be made through mobile phone: +255 753 912 130

Please note:

No offer, payment, gift, consideration, or benefits of any kind, which constitutes or could be construed as an illegal or fraudulent practice, will be made, either directly or indirectly, as an inducement or reward for the success of an application.

The deadline for submission shall be on **Monday, March 1st, 2023 at 14hrs00 local time.**

Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified before 3rd June, 2023.

Govt considering declaring SA's rolling blackouts national state of disaster, says Ramaphosa

By Nonkululeko Njilo

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa has seemingly agreed to heed calls for the load shedding crisis to be declared a national disaster in a bid to end it "within a much shorter time frame than what has been projected".

At present, 2023 is set to be worse than 2022 in terms of rolling blackouts. Experts have warned that the recovery of Eskom's coal-fired power stations cannot be achieved in the short term and it will take at least two years to improve the energy availability factor (EAF) from the current 58 per cent to 70 per cent.

The crisis is so dire that Eskom considered implementing permanent Stage 2 and Stage 3 rolling blackouts to give the public more predictability, a statement it has since backtracked on.

Closing the ANC's four-day lekgotla at Esselen Park in Ekurhuleni, Ramaphosa said the issue of possibly declaring the energy emergency a

National State of Disaster was receiving urgent attention.

Calls for the crisis to be declared a National State of Disaster were made by a number of roleplayers, including traditional leaders, community-based organisations and trade unions. The call was further aired at the party's lekgotla held over the weekend.

"It was observed that it would be necessary to have a National State of Disaster because that would enable us to have the instruments that would be necessary to fully address the challenge that our nation faces," Ramaphosa said.

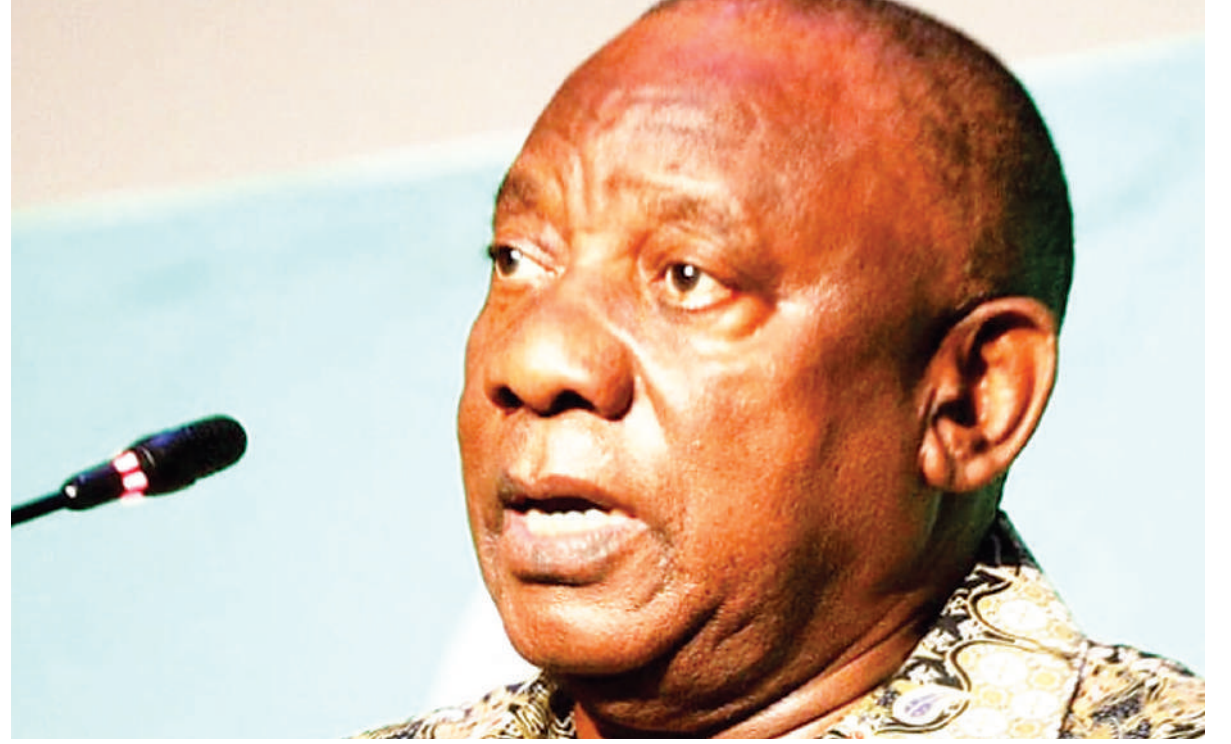
"Work is already under way within the government to establish whether the legal requirements for the declaration of a National State of Disaster are met and what specific actions we would be empowered to undertake to urgently resolve load shedding within the framework of a National State of Disaster," he said, as those in attendance cheered in agreement.

Ramaphosa's remarks came after the party received presentations from representatives who shared the devastating impact of rolling blackouts on communities, small businesses and the farming sector.

"The lekgotla agreed that energy security is very central to our country's national interest, our country's national sovereignty and national security. Without energy security, we will not be able to achieve our other developmental priorities such as building a transformed, inclusive, growing and job-creating economy," Ramaphosa said.

The remarks came after several politicians and businesspeople instructed a legal team from seven law firms to demand that the government stop cutting SA's power. The group also wants fair compensation for the damage caused by rolling blackouts and for the government to play open cards about South Africa's energy crisis.

Meanwhile, the leader of the opposi-



President Cyril Ramaphosa

tion, John Steenhuisen, announced that he had instructed lawyers to immediately apply to the high court for an interdict to stop the tariff increase and Stage 6 rolling blackouts amid the government's poor response to "the biggest crisis our country has

faced in three decades of our democracy". He said the time "for writing letters and for government talk shops" and for "begging" was over - "it's now time to take this government head-on".

The lekgotla took place ahead of an

expected Cabinet reshuffle.

On Tuesday, the office of the ANC's secretary-general, Fikile Mbalula, is expected to brief members of the media at its headquarters, Luthuli House, on the outcomes of the lekgotla. **DM**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGES TO OUR TARIFF GUIDE

Dear customer, NBC Bank management would like to inform you that there will be some changes to the tariff guide for the below listed services effective from 03rd March 2023. All other charges not shown below will remain the same.

SERVICE NAME	NEW CHARGES			
	TZS	USD	EUR	GBP
Alternative Channels Bill Payment Mobile Channels	Free			N/A
Alternative Channels Mobile Banking Fund Transfer - NBC to NBC	1000	1		N/A
Alternative Channels * BIR Funds Transfer to Mobile Wallets	0 - 9,999 = 1,000 10,000 - 49,999 = 3,500 50,000 - 99,999 = 4,800 100,000 - 299,999 = 6,300 300,000 - 1,500,000 = 10,800			N/A
Alternative Channels * Mobile Banking Fund Transfer - NBC to Non-NBC	11,800	5		N/A
Mobile Banking only Balance Enquiry	500			N/A
NBC ATM Cash withdrawal for Shambani Individual	1,000			N/A
NBC ATM Balance enquiry for Shambani Individual	400			N/A
International ATM Shambani Individual - Balance enquiry	1,500			N/A
Quarterly Debit Card Fee Private Banking / La Riba Private Banking / Privilege Banking	12,500	6		N/A
Quarterly Debit Card Fee Kua Nasi, Shambani, Student	3,000			N/A
Quarterly Debit Card Fee Corporate Card	20,000			N/A
Quarterly Debit Card Fee All other products	5,000	6		N/A
Card Replacement / Re-issuance Lost Platinum card (Privilege / Private / La Riba/Corporate)	30,000	15		N/A
Agency Banking Debit card linkage fee via POS	4,000			N/A
Opening Account Balance Privilege Banking /La Riba privilege Banking	10,000		5	
Cash Withdrawal Fee over the counter - Kua Nasi product	Below 1M = 2,000 Above 1M = 4,000			N/A
Maintenance Fee Fasta Akauti	800			N/A

All charges are VAT inclusive. All items marked with * are subject to Government levy charges.
Contact us via 0800 711 177 (FREE) or contact.centre@nbc.co.za

How years-long delays on renewables plunged SA into darkness

By Julia Evans and Onke Ngcuka

A HALTED renewable energy programme, the pursuit of nuclear, and an enlarged appetite for coal are among some of the reasons South Africa's Independent Power Producers (IPPs) have been delayed in coming online, resulting in elongated bouts of national rolling blackouts.

In 2011 (four years after the first encounter of load shedding), the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPP) was introduced as a means for the country to diversify its energy mix, fulfil the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), as well as attract investment from the private sector to introduce renewable energy to the grid, while increasing its capacity.

To date, renewables (most of which built under the REIPPP) make up about 10% of the country's electricity capacity, at about 6,200 megawatts out of a total of about 58 gigawatts of installed capacity in the country.

But there's a difference between capacity and energy - as many coal lobbyists say.

Capacity is the maximum output an electricity generator can physically produce, whereas energy is the electricity that is actually being produced from the generator over a period of time.

And as the sun doesn't always shine and the wind doesn't always blow (i.e. intermittency), if we are considering energy (how much electricity is actually being produced), the sum of wind and solar makes up just 5% of the electricity actually produced in a year, according to the International Energy Agency.

This is far below where we should be, and far below the main player coal, contributing a whopping 88% of the electricity generated per year.

About 12 years later after the REIPPP was initiated, the programme signed its fifth round of IPPs in December 2022 under Bid Window 5 - this date meant to be when the projects were added to the grid, contributing an additional 2,583MW. But as they were only signed at the end of last year, they are only expected to be added to the grid in 2025.

The 19 projects under Bid Window 5 attracted R34.3-billion investment and are expected to contribute almost 8,000 jobs.

This adds to the R209.6-billion investment (equity and debt) for energy infrastructure attracted from Bid Windows 1-4.

Physics professor at the University of Johannesburg Hartmut Winkler, whose research interests include solar energy, told DMI68 that the REIPPP is two to three years behind schedule.

"As far as I am concerned, it is all because Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Gwede Mantashe (deliberately?) dragged his feet in the first years of his ministerial term. Given the schedule in the last IRP, he should have known that he would only keep up with the plan if he initiated Round 5 immediately after assuming office. There has also not been much of an effort to catch up. Bid Round 6 was still two years behind schedule," Winkler said.

He added that between 2019 and 2020, Mantashe did nothing to propel the REIPPP and instead pursued a nuclear initiative even though the IRP wasn't scheduled for such an energy source until at least 2030, where he pushed for the notorious 2,000MW "emergency" round, which saw the embattled Karpowership win the tender.

The REIPPP was also delayed due to the programme being halted between 2015 and 2019. Then Eskom group CEO Brian Molefe strongly opposed the development of renewable energy projects, stating the technology was poor, and pledged that he would not be supporting the REIPPP beyond Bid Window 4.

According to the latest available IPP quarterly report, as of December 2021 at least 85 out of the 92 contracted projects from Bid Windows 1-4 are operational, with a generation capacity of 5,661MW (which is 90% of the contracted capacity), contributing 71,073 gigawatts-hours to the national grid.

Historically, South Africa's power generation has come from Mpumalanga and Limpopo, which is where most of the grid networks are, but most renewable energy projects are located in the Northern Cape, where 48 projects are situated (although only 45 are operational), due to the area's vast wind and solar resources.

The concentration of renewable projects has seen the province's transmission grid run out of capacity to connect new renewable energy projects, the Eskom Transmission Network report shows. At the signing ceremony of three projects under Bid Window 5 in September last year, Eskom attributed the delay (meant to be signed in April) to grid constraints.

On the other hand, provinces such as KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Gauteng and North West have the capacity to accommodate 4GW to 7GW of generation each. KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Mpumalanga each have one operational project, while North West has five.

Segomoco Scheppers, the group executive for transmission at Eskom, said at the signing ceremony, "the reality is that where we find the best renewable resources in the Northern, Eastern and Western Cape, the network is not adequately developed".

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKRA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:25 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:15 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 11:30 HRS DJ SHOW 12:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 13:00 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 13:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 14:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS CHAGU LA DJ 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI (24 HRS) 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKRA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:25 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 07:40 AM HABARI 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

Manufactured goods exports record strong growth in 2022

By Guardian Reporter

THE exports of manufactured goods in both mainland and Zanzibar recorded strong growth last year, compared with 2021, signaling increasing industrialization progress.

Provisional data from Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) computations shows the value of exported manufactured goods grew by nearly 16 percent in Tanzania mainland and 36.6 percent in Zanzibar.

In Tanzania mainland, data show the value of manufactured goods in 2022 amounted to US\$1.43 billion (3.3trn/-), which is half of the value of exported gold, compared with US\$1.2 billion (2.7trn/-) in 2021.

This is also pushing Tanzanian manufacturers to expand production of goods for exports as many economies are passing through post-pandemic recovery.

"The increase in exports of manufactured goods largely emanated from fertilizers, textiles as well as iron and steel, owing to rising demand from neighbouring countries, particularly the Democratic Republic of the Congo," BoT says.

DRC is also the major market for Tanzanian manufactured ceramic products and pharmaceuticals.

Data shows the exports of cement increased to US\$69.6 million last year

from US\$51.5 million in 2021 while exports of fertilizers nearly doubled to US\$89.1 million from US\$48.6 million respectively.

The value of iron and steel exports went up to US\$107.3 million last year from US\$87.4 million in 2021, while exports of textile fetched US\$121.1 million last year compared with US\$93.7 million in 2021.

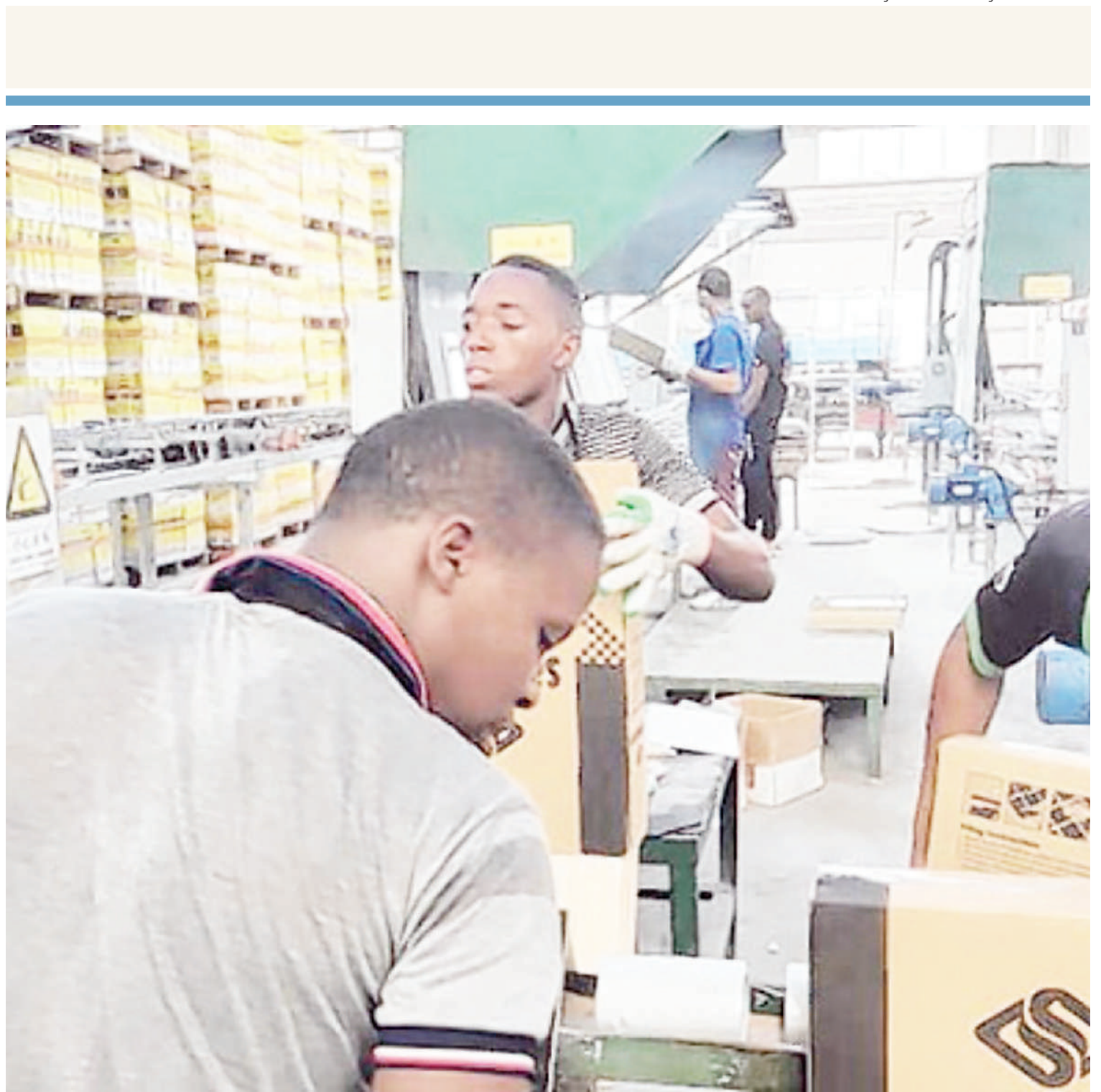
The value of exported ceramic products increased to US\$49.5 million from US\$46.2 million respectively, while the value of exported edible oil slightly increased to US\$18.1 million, last year compared with US\$17.1 million in 2021.

According to TRA data, the value of exported glassware amounted to US\$50.8 million in 2022, compared with US\$44.2 million recorded during the previous year.

In Zanzibar, TRA data show the value of exported manufactured goods increased by 36.6 percent to US\$10.6 million last year compared with US\$7.8 million recorded during the previous year.

Panduka Yonazi, investment promotion manager at Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) said East Africa region is becoming the largest market for Tanzanian manufactured goods.

"For example, Tanzania was mostly importing manufactured goods from Kenya, but now, the value of exports of



The value of exported ceramic products increased to US\$49.5 million in 2022 from US\$46.2 million in 2021 File photo

manufactured goods to Kenya is higher than what we import," he said.

He said the expanding EAC market, especially DRC, has triggered many Tanzanian invest-

mentors to increase production capacity.

According to Yonazi, there has also been an improved logistics, including smoothed cargo clearance procedures for cross border

trade between Tanzania and neighbouring countries.

IMF raises growth outlook, sees inflation gone past peak

WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund inched up its outlook for global growth this year, reflecting greater-than-expected resilience in economies across the world while striking a more optimistic tone than in reports last year.

The IMF now sees global growth for 2023 reaching 2.9 percent, 0.2 percent higher than its previous forecast published in October.

"We've seen a lot of resilience in a number of economies throughout 2022, despite the really severe shocks, the cost of living crisis, the energy crisis, that has happened as a consequence of the pandemic, and then the Russian invasion of Ukraine," IMF Chief Economist, Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, told Yahoo Finance.

"Around the world, you see labor markets that have been quite resilient; household consumption that has been stronger than expected and business investment. You put all this together, and you have a slightly more resilient global economy. We're expecting things to bottom out."



IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas

The IMF is not expecting a global recession this year, but cautions the balance of risks for the global outlook remain to the downside with the possibility of lower

growth and higher inflation.

The IMF's latest forecast would also still mark a slowdown from the 3.4 percent growth seen in 2022, as higher interest rates and Russia's war in Ukraine continue to weigh on the world economy.

The international body said global headline inflation appears to have peaked in the third quarter last year. Still, underlying core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, has not yet peaked in most economies and remains well above pre-pandemic levels.

Global inflation is set to fall from 8.8 percent in 2022 to 6.6 percent this year and 4.3 percent in 2024; pre-pandemic inflation averaged closer to 3.5 percent globally.

"What we're seeing right now is relatively encouraging on inflation dynamics," said Gourinchas. "[In] 2023, growth could be bottoming out, inflation could be coming down. This could be a turning point."

But while Gourinchas said inflation may be on the right trajectory, he cautions rising input costs from energy prices or wage growth could again push up inflation. And with core inflation still higher than most central banks' target, the IMF doesn't think global central banks are done raising interest rates.

"We've had a few good [inflation] prints, but it's too early to really declare victory," Gourinchas said, noting the battle against inflation is "not yet won." Gourinchas also said the Fed's expectation to raise rates above 5 percent this year seems appropriate.

The IMF is more optimistic about the outlook for the US economy than the Fed in its latest forecast.

The IMF is forecasting GDP growth of 1.4 percent this year, while the Fed sees growth coming in at just 0.5 percent.

Gourinchas said despite starting to see layoffs outside of the technology sector, the U.S. job market is still tight right now. With the Fed raising rates to cool off the economy this year and into 2024, the IMF expects the unemployment rate to rise to slightly above 5 percent in 2024 from 3.5 percent as of December 2022.

Rising unemployment, however, won't necessarily coincide with a recession, in the IMF's view, and Gourinchas said a soft landing is possible for the US economy this year.

"We still believe there is a narrow path to avoid a recession this year, but it is a narrow path and there could well be a recession if more tightening is needed or if there are some more adverse shocks," said Gourinchas.

EPZA expects increased goods export to Asian markets in 2023

By Guardian Reporter

EXPORT processing Zone Authority (EPZA) investments promotion manager Panduka Yonazi has said they expect further expansion of markets for Tanzanian goods in Asian countries this year.

This follows the recent trip by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who also signed various bi-lateral agreements to consolidate economic diplomacy, which is vital for making it easier for Tanzanian goods to penetrate into Asian markets.

"President Samia foreign trips, particularly within

Asia, have helped not only to strengthen diplomatic relationships, but also increase markets access for Tanzanian goods," he said.

He said eased cargo clearance procedures at the Dar es Salaam port and increased market awareness among Tanzanian producers also continue to stimulate increased Tanzanian goods exports to Asian markets.

Speaking with The Guardian yesterday, Yonazi mentioned countries such as China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and other Middle East countries, as potential markets for Tanzanian

products, mostly agricultural goods (agro-processed) and minerals.

He said 2023 is good year for Tanzanian exports and farmers should work hard to ensure they produce as much as they can, to meet the increasing market demands, while helping the country to increase foreign exchange earnings.

According to Yonazi, there has been an increased demand for Tanzanian sesame, pea, green gram, and cassava in Asian markets, giving more income opportunities for farmers.

"The demands for these

products are endless, especially in China, as importers say we can export as much as we can," he said.

"Asian markets are easily accessible by Tanzanian products compared with other markets such as Europe or America." Other exports product triggering Tanzanian exports is processed minerals from various refinery plants operating under EPZA.

"These refineries are not only sourcing raw minerals, mainly gold from Tanzania, but also other neighbouring countries," he noted.

According to data by Bank



of Tanzania (BoT) gold exports, which accounted for 46.8 percent of goods exports, rebounded to

US\$2,836.7 million from US\$2,743.1 million on account of volume effect. Exports of Tanzanian

goods increased by 6.9 percent to US\$7.2 billion last year, compared with US\$6.7 billion in 2021.

India's 2022 gold consumption drops 3 per cent

MUMBAI

INDIA'S gold consumption in 2022 fell 3 percent from a year earlier, as a rally in local prices to near-record highs curtailed bullion demand during the key December quarter, the

World Gold Council (WGC) said on Tuesday.

Lower consumption in the world's second-biggest gold buyer could weigh on global prices, but help in bringing down India's trade deficit and support the ailing rupee.

India's gold consumption declined to 774 tonnes last year as demand dropped 20 percent to 276.1 tonnes in the December quarter, the WGC said in a report.

In the March 2023 quarter, gold consumption could improve on the back

of a pick-up in rural demand amid elevated prices of summer-sown crops and a higher number of auspicious days for weddings, the council said.

Two-thirds of India's gold demand usually comes from rural areas,

where jewellery is a traditional store of wealth.

Gold is an essential part of the bride's dowry in India and also a popular gift from family and guests at weddings.

"Demand will, however, continue to face head-

winds from the higher domestic gold price and persistently high rural inflation," the WGC said.

Local gold prices hit an all-time high of 57,149 rupees (\$699.63) per 10 grams in January. The rally in gold prices

prompted some investors to sell gold, while some consumers exchanged old gold jewellery for new, which lifted gold recycling in India by 30 percent to 97.6 tonnes in 2022, the WGC said.

Dubai launches ten years' \$8.7 trillion economic agenda

DUBAI

VICE President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has launched the Dubai Economic Agenda 2033 (D33) with the ambitious goals of doubling the size of Dubai's economy over the next decade, and consolidating its position among the top three global cities.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said: "In line with our long-standing tradition of launching key new initiatives on 4 January, today we approved the Dubai Economic Agenda 'D33' that aims to double the size of Dubai's economy in the next decade and consolidate its position among the top three global cities".

HH Sheikh Mohammed noted that the Dubai Economic Agenda 'D33' includes 100 transformative projects, with economic targets of US\$8.7 trillion over the next 10 years, doubling Dubai's foreign trade to reach US\$6.9 trillion and

adding 400 cities as key trading partners over the next decade".

The Agenda aims to position Dubai as one of the top four global financial centres by increasing FDI to over US\$176 billion over the next decade and an annual US\$27.2 billion contribution from digital transformation.

Sheikh Mohammed added: "2033 will mark 200 years since the foundation of Dubai: the year in which Dubai will be the most important global business centre, and by then we would have completed the D33 Agenda. We know our economic path over the next decade. The world makes way for those who know what they want."

An ideal environment for investment

The 'D33' Agenda includes the launch of innovative projects that will help achieve HH Sheikh Mohammed's vision to make Dubai the world's best city to live and work in. The



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid

value of the total targets set by the Dubai Economic Agenda 'D33' is US\$ 8.7 trillion by 2033. The Agenda will drive sustainable economic growth through innovative approaches.

The Dubai Economic Agenda 'D33' aims to accelerate growth by investing in human development, skillsets and advanced technology and consolidating Dubai's global competitiveness, innovation and knowledge-based economy. The Agenda will invest in enhancing the advantages gained from Dubai's strategic location and its advanced infrastructure to raise the city's status as a preferred destination for major international companies and investments.

Ambitious goals

The Dubai Economic Agenda 'D33' sets ambitious goals including raising the total value of foreign trade in goods and services from US\$3.8 trillion in the past 10 years to US\$6.9 trillion in the next decade.

The 'D33' Agenda also aims to raise the contribution of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Dubai's economy from an average of US\$8.7 billion annually in the past decade, to an average of US\$16.3 billion annually in the next decade to reach a total of US\$176.9 billion over the next 10 years.

The 'D33' Agenda will see a growth in government expenditures

from US\$139.3 billion in the past decade to US\$190.5 billion in the next decade, with increased investment in future growth sectors and further development of traditional trade and economic sectors.

One of the pivotal goals of the 'D33' Agenda is to raise the competitiveness of the city's thriving business sector, which will enable the increase of private sector investment from USD 215 billion in the past decade to US\$ 272.2 billion by 2033.

The 'D33' Agenda also aims to increase the value of domestic demand of goods and services from USD 598.9 billion in the past decade to US\$816.7 billion in the coming decade, in line with Dubai's vision for enhancing its vibrant trading sector and diversified economy.

Other objectives of the 'D33' Agenda include generating new economic value from digital transformation, at an average of US\$27 billion annually. The digital economy is a major pillar in the Agenda, with Dubai embarking on a new phase in which it seeks to pioneer and sustain the growth of an economy based on knowledge, innovation and future technologies.

Major priorities for the next decade

The Dubai Economic Agenda 2033 focuses on a set of key priorities for the next decade, including raising the value added of the industrial sector and promoting export growth, contributing to sustainable economic growth, and achieving self-sufficiency in a number of key sectors and industries, including manufacturing. Other key priorities include making Dubai one of the five leading logistic hubs in the world, and one of the top four global financial centres. The Agenda also seeks to increase the productivity of Dubai's economy by 50% through innovation and digital solutions.

Moreover, the Agenda aims to integrate new generations of Emiratis into the private sector, making Dubai a hub for skilled workers, the fastest growing and most attractive global business centre, and an international hub for global

multinational companies (MNCs) and national SMEs.

Another key priority of the 'D33' Agenda is to make Dubai one of the top three international destinations for tourism and business by providing a globally competitive environment for business sustainability and driving down the cost of doing business across a number of sectors. The 'D33' agenda aims to enhance the city's position as a fast growing and attractive business hub with world-class quality of life and ensure the highest levels of security and safety for Dubai's citizens and residents.

First set of projects

The Dubai Economic Agenda 'D33' seeks to add 400 cities as key trade partners and launch the Dubai Economic Corridors 2033 initiative, which will enhance existing foreign trade relations with Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia.

The Agenda will include a programme to support the growth of 30 companies in new sectors to become global unicorns, and integrate 65,000 young Emiratis into the workforce and the private sector. The Dubai Traders Project (DT33) will empower a new generation of Dubai traders in various major growth sectors, driving growth in the city's vibrant trading hub.

The first set of projects of the Agenda also include the Dubai Unified License that will provide a unique commercial identity for all companies across economic zones, and 'Sandbox Dubai', which aims to make Dubai a major hub for incubating business innovation by enabling the testing and marketing of new products and technologies.

Agenda 'D33' also includes the launch of the Dubai Project to attract the world's best universities, as part of the broader aim of making Dubai a leading global hub for higher education, and a programme to promote the growth of SMEs by identifying 400 high-potential companies and supporting their capacity-building and global expansion.

Norway's wealth fund loses 14pc over inflation, war

OSLO

NORWAY'S \$1.3 trillion sovereign wealth fund reported its biggest loss since the 2008 financial crisis after markets were pummeled by faster inflation, higher credit costs and the fallout from the war in Ukraine.

The fund that manages Norway's fossil wealth lost 14.1 percent in 2022, equivalent to about \$164 billion, according to a statement on Tuesday. It's the world's biggest single owner of equities, and its returns highly dependent on market movements. Chief Executive Officer

Nicolai Tangen has spent the past year warning that the fund's growth over the past 25 years isn't likely to continue in an environment of rising borrowing costs and soaring inflation that have brought equities down from all-time highs.

Generating excess return in falling markets is key, he has said. The fund managed that last year, outperforming the benchmark against which it measures itself.

"The market was impacted by war in Europe, high inflation, and rising interest rates," Tangen said in the statement.

"This negatively impacted both the equity market and bond market at the same time, which is very unusual. All the sectors in the equity market had negative returns, with the exception of energy."

Established in the 1990s to invest Norway's oil riches, the fund has achieved an average return of 6% over the quarter of a century during which it existed.

Last year, Norges Bank Investment Management lost 15.3 percent on stocks and 12.1 percent on its fixed-income investments. Its unlisted real estate

holdings edged up 0.1 percent, while the return on unlisted renewable-energy infrastructure was 5.1 percent.

The fund is largely an index-tracker, investing according to a strict mandate from the Finance Ministry. It seeks to make the most of its limited leeway to try to beat the benchmark it is measured against, something it has managed in eight of the last 10 years.

After forecasting in 2021 that inflation would become the biggest threat to capital markets, NBIM deployed under-weighting equities, bond

duration and credit, and over-weighting of integrated energy and mining companies in its stock portfolio.

That bet helped it beat its benchmark by 0.74 percentage points in 2021 and by 0.88 percentage points in 2022.

Tangen has beefed up the fund's stocks team in preparation for a prolonged downturn and in December unveiled a three-year plan to stem its losses. The key to beating the benchmark will be to "drive the fund to become more long-term, more contrarian and more active on the negative

selection," he said then.

Looking to spend Norway's oil and gas proceeds to fuel a green transition, the fund is considering investments in renewable energy storage and transmission going forward, expanding the range of renewable infrastructure it is willing to hold. It has acknowledged that's a competitive space.

Last year, NBIM cut its holdings in the world's biggest oil and gas companies, taking profits after a run up in energy prices in 2022. It bought big technology companies and pharmaceuticals, and added

to the stakes in the four property companies where it has the biggest absolute positions among real estate stocks as the markets fell.

The fund has also recommended looking at adding unlisted equities in the longer term to boost returns.

While the fund isn't currently permitted to make such investments, "we're seeing more and more indications that a larger share of value creation is taking place in the unlisted market," it said in a letter to the Finance Ministry that was made public earlier this year.

Euro zone economy unexpectedly expands in Q4

FRANKFURT

THE euro zone eked out growth in the final three months of 2022, avoiding a recession even as sky-high energy costs, waning confidence and rising interest rates took a toll on the currency bloc's economy, data from Eurostat showed on Tuesday.

Gross domestic product in the euro zone expanded by 0.1 percent in the fourth quarter, outperforming expectations in a Reuters poll for a 0.1 percent drop. Compared to a year earlier, growth was 1.9 percent, above expectations of 1.8 percent.

Among the bloc's biggest countries, Germany and Italy recorded negative growth rates for the quarter but France and Spain expanded, Eurostat added, based on a flash estimate that is subject to revisions.

Russia's nearly year-old war in Ukraine has proved costly for the euro zone, which now spans 350 million people in 20 countries, given some members' heavy reliance on cheap energy.

Surging oil and gas prices have depleted savings and held back investment while forcing the European Central

Bank into unprecedented rate hikes to arrest inflation.

But the economy has displayed some unexpected resilience, too, much like during the COVID-19 pandemic, when growth outperformed expectations as businesses adjusted faster to changed circumstances than policymakers had predicted.

More recent figures like a crucial confidence indicator or the latest PMI data suggest that growth has hit bottom already and a slow recovery is underway, helped by a mild winter that has limited energy spending.

With market based energy prices hovering at pre-war levels, the International Monetary Fund upgraded its growth projection for the bloc on Monday, citing unexpected resilience, helped by generous government support.

The IMF now sees growth at 0.7 percent for the full year, above its 0.5 percent forecast of October and the 0.5 percent predicted by the European Central Bank in December.

But even if the bloc is doing better than feared, growth in 2023 will be among the weakest on record due to a large drop in real incomes and surging interest rates.



Heritage Insurance chief finance officer Thecia Magashi (R) presents a the recognition award to Profound Insurance Agency agent Marryce Pallangyo for best performance in customer service delivery. Right is Heritage Insurance managing director Manasseh Kawoloka. Photo by Miraji Msala

Central banks told to keep interest rate rising

LONDON

GLOBAL central banks mustn't let up on raising interest rates until it's absolutely clear that inflation is durably retreating, according to a senior International Monetary Fund official.

While headline consumer-price growth has receded in many countries after a drop in energy costs, underlying pres-

ures may not yet have peaked, Tobias Adrian, director of its monetary and capital markets department, said in an interview.

That means the risks of not doing enough are still higher than raising too much, he added.

"Central banks' first order of business remains to get inflation back to target," Adrian said. "Staying the course and

continuing with tightening is certainly what we want to see."

Decisions are looming this week from the Federal Reserve, the Bank of England and the European Central Bank, and officials from all three have stressed that they're not yet done raising rates, even if the pace of increases may slow. Economists expect a quarter-point hike in the US and half-point steps in the UK and the

euro zone.

"We're very comfortable with what central banks are saying and doing, and worry a bit about market optimism and the easing of financial conditions," said Adrian. "Markets have taken a fairly optimistic view on inflation going forward."

Bond yields from the US to Europe have dropped since late last year, signaling confi-

dence that policymakers are getting closer to achieving their goals. A slowdown in the economy is feeding that sentiment.

"What's priced in is that inflation will be close to target in a year – of course there's a lot of upside risk to that," said Adrian, who is a former official at the New York Fed. "Optimism that a small slowdown will be accompanied by

a significant fall in inflation is a conundrum for central banks. The risk that inflation will be higher for longer is there."

The IMF lifted its outlook for global inflation on Tuesday and now predicts it will slow from 8.8% in 2022 to 6.6% this year and 4.3% in 2024 – rates that are still above levels recorded before the pandemic. It didn't offer

an update for price trends in individual economies.

The Washington-based lender said signs are emerging that policy tightening is starting to cool demand and inflation, though the full impact is unlikely to be seen until next year.

"Until inflation has come down in a durable, lasting manner, central banks still need to tighten," Adrian said.

Foreigners now return to Chinese equity market

BEIJING

FOREIGNERS are returning to China's stock market with a vengeance, snapping up more shares in January alone than they did for the whole of 2022.

Offshore funds have added a net 141.2 billion yuan (\$20.9 billion) worth of stocks listed in Shanghai and Shenzhen through trading links with Hong Kong this month, even with a week-long holiday trading break. That's more than 50 percent above the previous monthly record, according to Bloomberg-compiled data going back to 2017.

The fervor has helped drive the CSI 300 Index, a benchmark for mainland stocks, to the brink of a bull market as traders returned from the Lunar New Year holiday this week. Analysts expect foreign buying to propel an outperformance in mainland shares in the coming months, a catch-up to the massive rally seen in overseas Chinese stocks since the start of November.

Solid holiday spending data will "continue to be a theme offering a shot in the arm throughout the first quarter and enhance investor confidence toward a recovery," Kaiyuan Securities analyst Zhang Chi wrote in a note.

The buying streak continued into Tuesday, even as the CSI 300 fell 1.1 percent. The benchmark has risen 18 percent over the past three months as sentiment improved following Beijing's Covid policy pivot and moves to support growth.

While a world-beating feat by itself, the gains have still trailed the 49 percent surge in the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index, which tracks Chinese firms traded in Hong Kong.

The months-long rally has led to some investors booking in gains – as illustrated Monday and again on Tuesday when the CSI 300 pulled back from the verge of a bull market.

However, few doubt that Chinese stocks will shine this year. There's been a flurry of forecast upgrades for the nation's economy, with Goldman Sachs Group Inc. seeing a 5.5 percent expansion, even as most developed economies grapple with the fear of a recession.

There's still room for further purchases. Hedge fund investors have boosted holdings of Chinese stocks for three straight months but positioning hasn't yet caught up with the improving investment, Goldman strategists wrote Jan. 29. A research by Morgan Stanley earlier this month also showed US funds remain underweight Chinese stocks.

And as the economy recovers, earnings growth will likely follow and add impetus to the stock market.

"China's earnings-per-share forecasts have not incorporated any of the upside in revisions," Jefferies Financial Group Inc. strategists including Sean Darby wrote in a Jan. 30 note. "There will be a slew of upgrades that will force investors to chase the market."



Gautam Adani's share sale now gets fully subscribed

MUMBAI

THE record \$2.5 billion share sale by Gautam Adani's flagship company was fully subscribed on the final day, offering Asia's richest man a reprieve after his empire was rocked by allegations of fraud by short seller Hindenburg Research.

Investors had placed orders for about 100% of the total shares on sale in the follow-on offering by Adani Enterprises Ltd. shortly before the close of the equity market in Mumbai on Tuesday.

The stakes were high for Adani, who has already suffered one of the world's biggest-ever declines in personal wealth. A successful deal would show he still has the ability to attract investors with bold expansion plans in industries ranging from green energy to ports and e-commerce. Failure would be a major blow to the tycoon's prestige and heighten concerns about the conglomerate's debt load.

"Now that Adani's FPO is out of the way, investors' focus may start shifting back to India growth story," said Sumeet Rohra, a fund manager at Smartsun Capital Pte. in Singapore.

Adani group's stocks have tumbled after the Jan. 24 report from US-based Hindenburg Research which flagged concerns about high debt levels and the use of tax havens, with cumulative losses now at \$65 billion. Adani has called the report baseless.

The share sale was critical for Adani, not just because it is India's largest follow-on offering and will help cut debt, but also because its success was seen as a stamp of confidence by investors at a time the tycoon faces one of his biggest business and reputational challenges of recent times.

The group had in recent days repeatedly said investors were standing by its side and the share offering would go through, amid rising concerns that may not happen. Bankers at one point had considered tweaking the pricing of the issue, or extending the sale, Reuters had reported.

The support for Adani's share sale came even as the flagship's shares were trading at 3,002 rupees, up nearly 4 percent but below the lower end of the share sale price band of 3,112 rupees.

"It looks down to the wire with just a few hours remaining on the last day, but the offering should go through. Institutions seem to be subscribing to capitalise on opportunity to buy in bulk quantities outside the open market," said Dipan Mehta, founder director of Elixir Equities.

Over the weekend and through Monday, Adani's firm held extensive discussions with investment bankers and institutional investors to attract subscriptions, according to two sources with direct knowledge of the talks.

Demand from retail investors remained muted, garnering bids only worth around 9% of the shares on offer for that segment. On Tuesday, demand came from foreign institutional investors, as well as corporates who bid in excess of 1 million rupees each, data showed.

Abu Dhabi conglomerate International Holding Company has said it will invest \$400 million in the issue.

"The follow-on public offering has to go through to restore investor confidence," said V. K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

The Hindenburg report and its fallout have drawn global attention. Adani is now the world's eighth richest person, down from third ranking on Forbes' rich list last week.

UZALO

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

WEDNESDAY 1 Feb		FRIDAY 3 Feb		SUNDAY 5 Feb		THURSDAY 2 Feb		SATURDAY 4 Feb	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Our Earth rpt	10:25	Our Earth rpt	10:25	Our Earth rpt	10:25	Our Earth rpt	10:25	Our Earth rpt
10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Music: The Base rpt	11:00	Music: The Base rpt	11:00	Music: The Base rpt	11:00	Music: The Base rpt	11:00	Music: The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	AI Jazeera	12:00	AI Jazeera	12:00	AI Jazeera	12:00	AI Jazeera	12:00	AI Jazeera
12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt
12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt
14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Igizo: Mizungwe rpt	18:15	Igizo: Mizungwe rpt	18:15	Igizo: Mizungwe rpt	18:15	Igizo: Mizungwe rpt	18:15	Igizo: Mizungwe rpt
18:30	Jarida la wanawake	18:30	Jarida la wanawake	18:30	Jarida la wanawake	18:30	Jarida la wanawake	18:30	Jarida la wanawake
19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT
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
20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari
21:05	Albu Yako	21:05	Albu Yako	21:05	Albu Yako	21:05	Albu Yako	21:05	Albu Yako
21:10	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:10	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:10	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:10	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:10	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
21:40	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta	21:40	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta	21:40	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta	21:40	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta	21:40	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta
22:00	Ripoti maalum	22:00	Ripoti maalum	22:00	Ripoti maalum	22:00	Ripoti maalum	22:00	Ripoti maalum
22:30	Shamba lulu	22:30	Shamba lulu	22:30	Shamba lulu	22:30	Shamba lulu	22:30	Shamba lulu
23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari
23:30	Music: The Base rpt	23:30	Music: The Base rpt	23:30	Music: The Base rpt	23:30	Music: The Base rpt	23:30	Music: The Base rpt
00:30	AI Jazeera	00:30	AI Jazeera	00:30	AI Jazeera	00:30	AI Jazeera	00:30	AI Jazeera
02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV
5:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi

CAPITAL

Wed 01 Feb	Thurs 02 Feb	Fri 03 Feb
06:00 AI Jazeera	06:00 AI Jazeera	06:00 AI Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Club 101 rpt	09:00 Club 101 rpt	09:00 Club 101 rpt
11:00 AI Jazeera	11:00 AI Jazeera	11:00 AI Jazeera
11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt	11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt	11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt
12:00 Dw News Africa rpt	12:00 Dw News Africa rpt	12:00 Dw News Africa rpt
12:30 Our Earth	12:30 Our Earth	12:30 Our Earth
13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
15:00 Business Edition Rpt	15:00 Business Edition Rpt	15:00 Business Edition Rpt
16:30 Culinary delight rpt	16:30 Culinary delight rpt	16:30 Culinary delight rpt
17:00 Innovation rpt	17:00 Innovation rpt	17:00 Innovation rpt
17:30 Meza huru	17:30 Meza huru	17:30 Meza huru
18:00 Sports Gazette	18:00 Sports Gazette	18:00 Sports Gazette
19:30 Chetu ni chetu	19:30 Chetu ni chetu	19:30 Chetu ni chetu
20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt	20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt	20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt
20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana	20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana	20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana
21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Dakika 45	22:00 Dakika 45	22:00 Dakika 45
22:45 The Decor	22:45 The Decor	22:45 The Decor
23:15 AI Jazeera	23:15 AI Jazeera	23:15 AI Jazeera

Tribunal: UK govt 'unlawfully' issued warrants for nearly 5 years

LONDON

BRITISH spies unlawfully retained people's intercepted data over almost five years, a tribunal said on Monday in a ruling that blamed "widespread corporate failure" at the domestic intelligence agency MI5 and the interior ministry.

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal, which did not mention specific cases or intelligence targets in its written judgment, said there had been "serious failings in compliance" by MI5 from late 2014 to April 2019.

Judge Andrew Edis also said the Home Office had failed to make "adequate enquiries" while approving the bulk surveillance warrants from 2016

until April 2019.

Human rights groups Liberty and Privacy International, which brought the legal action, said the ruling showed there had been years of rule-breaking by MI5, which was "overlooked" by the Home Office.

The case related to data obtained in "bulk" under the Investigatory Powers Act and previous legislation, which govern the interception of data for national security purposes.

Britain has been at the forefront of a battle between privacy and security since former US security agency contractor Edward Snowden leaked details of mass monitoring tactics used by US and British agents in 2013.

The Investigatory Powers Act pro-

The Union Flag flaps in the wind outside the Houses of Parliament in London, Oct 24, 2022. File photo

vides vital tools to protect the public from criminals and terrorism, government and security officials say. But critics argue it grants police and spies some of the most extensive snooping capabilities in the West.

On Monday, Home Secretary Suella Braverman said the ruling related to "widespread corporate failings between the Home Office and MI5", which were "historic".

In a written statement to parliament, she added that the tribunal found that "it was not the case that

MI5 should never have held the material at all, only that some small part of it had been retained for too long".

The tribunal also dismissed Liberty and Privacy International's wider challenge to the effectiveness of safeguards under the Investigatory Powers Act and its predecessor.

It also refused to quash any warrants that might have been unlawfully issued or direct MI5 to delete any unlawfully retained data as it "would be very damaging to national security".



France empowers military-run Algeria

PARIS

FRANCE and Algeria have signed a military and security cooperation deal during the visit by the figurehead of the ruling military junta in the oil and gas rich country Saïd Chengriha.

The deal came after a series of visits including a visit by Emmanuel Macron in which French and Algerian officials talked about the past more than the future.

Chengriha is also said to have met with Macron but the media was not allowed to film.

The visit by Algerian chief of staff is said to be preparatory for an upcoming visit to France by the civilian façade of the Algerian regime President Tebboune.

The cooperation deals are expected to have a negative impact on worsening Moroccan-French relations. Giving a warmongering regime a cover of legitimacy and cooperation promises would only be at the expense of Morocco.

It also shows the extent to which France is willing to compromise to maintain ties with an Algerian regime that has ironically made of anti-French sentiment a basis to win popular legitimacy.

Macron and his administration are however myopic to the warnings by former diplomats who have served in Algeria including former ambassador Xavier Driencourt.

In an op-ed on Le Figaro, Driencourt warned that Algeria is economically and socially collapsing and that it will drag France with it.

This romance between Macron and the Kingmaker of Algeria's military dictatorship is taking place at a context Morocco endures repeated attacks instigated by French members of the European Parliament.

The same parliament chose to zoom on three Moroccan journalists indicted on rape and sexual assault charges while ignoring the cases of thousands of Algerian pro-democracy activists, journalists and Kabyle activists held arbitrarily in Algerian jails.

The Moroccan parliament has reacted strongly to the double standards of the European Parliament and deplored the active role played by MEPs from an ironically friendly state, hinting at the anti-Morocco activism of French representatives.

For the sake of gas, France and Europe are willing to put hand in hand with a regime that is stoking instability in the southern Mediterranean due to its failing social and economic policies and its unwillingness to cooperate to curb illegal migration.

Military cooperation between France and Algeria at a context where Chengriha and Tebboune are describing Morocco as an enemy and threatening to wage a war against Rabat is an act that shows a French disregard for its partnership with Morocco.

France seems to be more concerned with taking a chunk of Algeria's colossal defense budget of 23 billion dollars than contributing to regional stability in the EU's southern neighborhood.

Iran slams Blinken's 'threatening' remarks

TEHRAN

IRAN warned the United States on Monday that it will not tolerate any aggression against its territory and interests and will react "decisively," in response to what it calls "threatening" remarks by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken.

The warning by Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani comes a day after Blinken (pictured) told the Arabic news channel Al Arabiya that "all options are available on the table" should the talks on the revival of a 2015 nuclear deal fail to come to fruition, according to a statement published on the ministry's website.

Kanaani also warned the US government about the "legal and international responsibilities" of its "threatening" remarks against Iran and the political consequences of such "provocative" comments.

He reaffirmed that nuclear arms have no place in Iran's national security doctrine but the country will not stop its scientific, technical and technological progress in the nuclear field in line with the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Iran signed the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with world powers in July 2015, agreeing to put some curbs on its nuclear program in return for the removal of sanctions on the country.

The United States, however, pulled out of the deal in May 2018 and reimposed its unilateral sanctions on Iran, prompting the latter to reduce some of its nuclear commitments under the deal.

The talks on the JCPOA's revival began in April 2021 in Vienna. No breakthrough has been achieved after the latest round of talks in August 2022.



Current wave of COVID-19 infections in China nearing end

BEIJING

CHINA'S current wave of the COVID-19 epidemic is nearing an end, with rural and remote areas getting through the Spring Festival holiday without spikes in infections and no new virus mutations detected, officials and experts said.

Mi Feng, a spokesman for the National Health Commission, said at a news briefing on Monday that the epidemic is at a low level nationwide and in steady decline.

China ended the requirement for mass testing on Dec 8 and downgraded its management of the disease from Class A to Class B on Jan 8.

Following the optimization of the antivirus strategy, the epidemic peaked in late December and then declined. The number of severe cases and deaths at hospitals has continued to trend downward, according to a report released recently by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The number of COVID-19 deaths at hospitals peaked at around 4,270 on Jan 4, and fell consistently to reach less than 900 fatalities on Jan 23.

"By late January, the overall epidemic had waned, easing the strain on the nation's medical systems," the report said.

No significant rebound occurred during the Spring Festival holiday from Jan 21 to Friday, and no new viral mutation was detected. "This wave of the epidemic is drawing to a conclusion," the report showed.

Before the weeklong holiday,



An elderly resident receives a shot of COVID-19 vaccine at home during a medical service for senior citizens in Dongcheng district of Beijing May 10, 2022. XINHUA

concerns over the impact of COVID centered on rural areas as millions of migrant workers traveled home.

According to the Ministry of Transport, 226 million trips were made during the holiday, a year-on-year increase of 71.2 percent, but lower than the same period in 2019.

Mao Dezhi, deputy head of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs' rural cooperative economy bureau, said rural areas saw no major increase in new infections during the holiday thanks to concerted efforts in protecting vulnerable groups and supplying key medical equip-

ment and oral medications to grassroots clinics.

Fu Wei, an official with the National Health Commission's department of primary health, said rural clinics and community healthcare centers made nearly 9.9 million visits to people age 65 and older throughout the holiday. About 40,000 infected patients at risk of becoming seriously ill were transferred to higher-level hospitals.

"Monitoring data shows that over 94 percent of grassroots clinics have been supplied with sufficient traditional Chinese medicine and pills to reduce fever and coughing pills to last at least

one week, and some have stocked up on COVID-19 oral medications," she said.

Despite the waning epidemic, officials said rural areas remain the priority for disease control work. With increasing cross-border travel, regular surveillance to access the trajectory of the epidemic as well as virus mutations will also be ramped up. Chen Cao, a researcher at the China CDC said the dominant strains driving the latest wave were BF.7 and BA.5.2, and no other novel coronavirus strains are circulating widely.

"During the holiday, we received 1,421 genome sequenc-

es submitted by local authorities," he said. "They consisted of 11 types of lineages ... and no new mutation was identified."

Chen added that China will continue regular surveillance of outpatients, emergency room visits, severe COVID-19 cases and deaths, as well as inbound travelers, to keep a close watch on viral mutations and take precautions.

According to National Immigration Administration data, 2.87 million cross-border trips were made during the holiday, including 1.43 million inbound trips and 1.44 million outbound trips, a 120.5 percent year-on-year increase.

The World Health Organization said in a statement on Monday that COVID-19 continues to constitute a public health emergency of international concern – its highest alert level.

However, the pandemic may be approaching a turning point, the statement said. While expanding vaccination programs can limit the disease's threat, the WHO said it is almost certain that the virus will remain "a permanently established pathogen in humans and animals in the foreseeable future."

Careful and long-term public health plans should be made to mitigate the disease's devastating consequences on people's lives, it added.

Sudan reiterates commitment to basic human rights standards

KHARTOUM

SUDAN on Monday reiterated its commitment to basic standards of human rights, according to a statement from the country's foreign ministry.

During his meeting with Rad-

houane Nouicer, the visiting UN expert on the situation of human rights in Sudan, acting Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Al-Sadiq reiterated Sudan's cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in enhancing human rights in the country.

For his part, Nouicer commended Sudan's cooperation with international organizations to improve human rights in the country, the statement said.

He stressed the need for the Sudanese authorities to work to remove Sudan's name from the

agenda of the UN Human Rights Council by moving forward in the implementation of the national plan for human rights.

The UN human rights expert arrived in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, on Saturday for a seven-day visit to follow up on the

human rights developments in the country. Nouicer, a Tunisian diplomat, was designated as expert on the situation of human rights in Sudan in December 2022, replacing Adama Dieng from Senegal who resigned from the post in October.

Express delivery services extended to 95 percent of China's administrative villages

CHINA has maintained the world's largest handler of express delivery parcels for nine consecutive years, collecting and delivering a total of 110.58 billion parcels last year, up 2.1 percent from 2021.

In other words, on average, nearly 80 parcels were collected from and shipped to each Chinese in 2022.

In 2022, the express delivery sector's revenue increased 2.3 percent from a year ago to reach 1.06 trillion yuan (\$156.26 billion), with a capability to manage as many as 700 million parcels on a daily basis.

The sector reported outstanding per-

formance in the rural market. As of the end of 2022, a total of 430,000 express service stations had been set up across the country, including 990 county-level delivery centers and 278,000 village-level courier stations.

Last year, the courier industry vigorously promoted integrated development of passenger, cargo, and mail transportation. Nearly 20,000 delivery vehicles were put into use in the rural market, and 1,888 routes opened to traffic to support passenger and mail transportation.

As of the end of 2022, 95 percent of all administrative villages across the coun-

try had been connected to express delivery services.

Xiangshi is a township located nearly 20 kilometers away from downtown Neijiang city, southwest China's Sichuan province. It administers three communities and 11 administrative villages.

As a mountainous and sparsely populated township, Xiangshi was once express delivery-isolated. Besides, the emerging online car-hailing services brought fierce competition to the township's traditional passenger transportation business.

To connect the township to courier services and tackle the challenges faced by

the traditional passenger transportation business, local authorities came up with an idea of having the transportation and postal sectors share their personnel and equipment with each other.

"My van is multipurpose now. It carries both parcels and passengers. I can send 6,300 pieces of express delivery parcels every month with the van," said Li Jun, a bus driver in Xiangshi township.

In 2022, around 100 million parcels were shipped to and from rural areas across China on a daily basis. Such remarkable performance couldn't have been achieved without using intelligent

systems and upgrading automation devices, which improved sorting efficiency.

At a rural express delivery service center owned by Cainiao Network, the logistics arm of China's Alibaba Group, in Yunmeng county, Heze, east China's Shandong province, there is an automatic sorting system that comes with 242 exits. It is able to sort tens of thousands of parcels shipped by different courier companies based on their shipping addresses.

People's Daily

Death toll from Pakistan's mosque suicide blast rises to 88

ISLAMABAD

THE death toll from a suicide bomb blast that hit a mosque on Monday in Pakistan's northwest provincial capital of Peshawar rose to 88, an official told Xinhua yesterday.

Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar Shafiullah Khan said that the death toll rose after some injured succumbed to their injuries and more bodies were recovered from the debris of the mosque which collapsed following the blast.

The official added that 150 people were injured in the attack, of which 67 were still under treatment in different hospitals while the remaining have been discharged after medical treatment. The deputy commissioner said that the death toll might rise further because around 10 people are still in critical condition, and some are still buried under the debris.

Spokesperson of Lady Reading Hospital Muhammad Asim said on early Tuesday morning that the death toll rose after some injured succumbed to their injuries and more bodies were recovered from the debris of the mosque that collapsed following the blast.

The spokesperson added that at least 157 injured were still under treatment, out of which 12 to 15 were in critical condition at the hospital, fearing that the death toll might further rise.

The deceased included three police officers and other police personnel, civilians, the prayer leader and a woman who was residing in a house near the mosque. At least three of the victims have not been identified yet.

Spokesperson of Rescue-1122 Bilal Faizi told Xinhua that some people were still trapped under the rubble and were being traced and rescued carefully with the help of modern technology.

The rescue official added that they had already reached more trapped people and started providing them with medical aid, including oxygen.

Muhammad Ijaz Khan, capital city police officer of Peshawar in the northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, told Xinhua that over 300 people were praying in the mosque of the Police Lines area of the city when the blast happened, killing and wounding people including police officers. He added that a big part of the mosque building collapsed after the powerful blast, trapping several worshippers.

The Police Lines area is located in Peshawar's high-security zone where a large number of law enforcement agencies, including Frontier Corps and the counter-terrorism department of police, are situated. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan said that the target of the suicide bomber was the police personnel whose department has been fighting terrorism.

The capital city police has termed the attack as a security lapse, adding that an inquiry had been initiated to find out how the bomber managed to sneak into the highly secured area. Security forces had cordoned off the area and launched a full-fledged investigation into the incident.

Local reports said that the police had found the head of the suicide bomber who detonated his explosive-laden vest while standing amid the worshippers.



Security officials and rescue workers search bodies at the site of suicide bombing, in Peshawar, Pakistan, Monday. A suicide bomber struck Monday inside a mosque in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, killing multiple people and wounding scores of worshippers, officials said. AP

Sub-inspector of police Mushtaq Khan, who was wounded in the attack, told media that he was in the second prayer hall of the mosque and was preparing to enter the main hall when the blast occurred and he fell unconscious.

Following the explosion, the provincial health department declared an emergency in hospitals in Peshawar and appealed to the public for blood donation.

People from all walks of life condemned the attack and urged the government to take decisive measures against terrorists, including equipping police force with modern weapons to combat the growing threat of terrorism.

On Monday, Muhammad Ijaz Khan, a capital city police officer of Peshawar in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, told Xinhua that around 300 people were praying in the mosque of the Police Lines area of the city when the blast happened.

The Police Lines is located in Peshawar's high-security zone where many law enforcement agencies, including Frontier Corps, the

counter-terrorism department of police, are situated.

Condemnation from all walks of life poured in after the attack, with a call to take decisive measures against terrorists. Pakistani President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif condemned the attack, expressed deep grief over the martyrdom of the worshippers, and termed the attacker as the enemy of humanity.

The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad also strongly condemned the attack and said, "We feel deeply grieved and pay our deepest condolences to the families of victims and injured of the tragedy." Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is observing a day of mourning yesterday with the national flag hoisting at half-mast across the province.

The UN Security Council on Monday condemned in the strongest terms the suicide terrorist attack at a mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan, which left at least 88 people dead and 150 others injured. In a press statement, the members of the Security Council expressed

their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the government of Pakistan, and wished a speedy and full recovery to those injured.

The council members underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice.

They urged all states to cooperate actively with the government of Pakistan as well as all other relevant authorities in this regard. They reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and stressed the need for all states to combat, by all means, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

Xinhua

France hit by second nationwide strike against pension reform

PARIS

A second nationwide strike disrupted French electricity production, public transport and schools yesterday, as workers protested against the government's plans to make people work longer before retirement.

Only a third of high-speed TGV trains were operating and even fewer local and regional trains. The Paris metro was also seriously disrupted, with platforms packed as commuters jostled to catch the few trains available.

At the Concorde metro station, in central Paris, 59-year-old Catherine, a lawyers' assistant, said she did not mind having to wait for a train, or walk instead.

"I support them," she said. "I'll soon be 60, so I'm really not happy with having (to work) two more years."

Not all agreed: "There's no point in going on strike. This bill will be adopted in any case," said 34-year-old Matthieu Jacquot, who works in the luxury sector.

Half of primary school teachers walked off the job, as did oil refinery staff and public broadcasters, which played music instead of news programmes.

Students blocked Turgot high school in central Paris, holding placard reading "Support to the workers" and "Angry youth."

Unions, which have organized rallies across France throughout the day, want to keep up the pressure on the government and are likely to announce yet more industrial action for the coming weeks.

"When there is such a massive opposition, it would be dangerous for the government not to listen," Mylene Jacquot, the secretary general of the CFDT union's civil servants branch, told Reuters.

Opinion polls show most French people, already angry with a cost-of-living crisis fuelled by high inflation, oppose the reform, but President Emmanuel Macron intends to stand his ground. The reform is "vital" to ensure the viability of the pension system, he said on Monday.

Agencies

China's economic diplomacy pursues mutual benefit, win-win results

CHINA is the world's second-largest economy, largest trader in goods and top recipient of foreign investment. The Chinese economy is deeply integrated with the global economy, and the country's economic diplomacy has become an important part of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

China's economic diplomacy not only serves the development of China, but also safeguards the common interests of the international community. It pursues mutual benefit and win-win results.

"Opening up" is a keyword of China's economic diplomacy. In the past more than 20 years after China's accession into the WTO, China's overall tariff level has dropped to below 7.4 percent from 15.3 percent, much lower than what the country promised when entering the organization.

Last year, China's annual foreign trade value, seeing improvement in its scale, quality and efficiency, for the first time exceeded 40 trillion yuan (about \$5.94 trillion). The country has maintained the world's top trading nation in goods for six years in a row.

Amid mounting global protectionism, China has made important contributions to building an open world economy with concrete actions.

In the next step, the country will steadily expand institutional opening-up with regard to rules, regulations, management and standards, further widen market access, reasonably shorten the negative lists for foreign investment access, and improve the system of pre-establishment national treatment plus a negative list for foreign investment, so as to foster a market-oriented and world-class business environment governed by a sound legal framework.



A fully loaded freight train arrives at a logistics park in the Qingdao area of China (Shandong) Pilot Free Trade Zone, July 17, 2022. (Photo by Xue Bing/People's Daily Online)

China has worked to build a globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas and to promote the negotiation and conclusion of high-standard free trade agreements.

Since establishing the first pilot free trade zone (FTZ) in 2013, the country has so far set up 21 pilot FTZs and the Hainan Free Trade Port.

China will advance its free trade agreement strategy to effectively connect domestic and foreign markets and relevant resources, in terms of "expanding scope, improving quality and raising efficiency," aiming to provide institutional support for its high-level opening-up and to serve the building of a new development paradigm.

The country has signed 19 free trade agreements with 26 countries and regions. The volume of trade between China and its free trade partners accounts for about 35 percent of the country's total foreign

trade. China has made joint efforts with relevant parties on the full and high-quality implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, so as to make the world's biggest free trade agreement release more dividends.

At present, China is actively advancing its accession to high-standard economic and trade agreements such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement, which fully demonstrates the confidence of China's economic diplomacy.

China is also joining hands with relevant parties to advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

So far, China has signed over 200 BRI cooperation documents with 151 countries and 32 international organizations. A large batch of flagship projects have been put into use or

are under construction, such as China-Laos Railway, Piraeus Port, Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway, Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, Belgrade-Budapest Railway, China-Belarus Industrial Park and Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway.

China is to consider holding the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation this year, so as to inject new impetus into global development and prosperity.

China is actively pushing for closer international cooperation in development.

In 2021, the country proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI). Aiming at building a global community of development, the GDI puts development first and the people at the center. It advances practical cooperation in key areas including poverty alleviation, food security, COVID-19 response and vaccines, development financing, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy and connectivity. *People's Daily*

US-led West's tank supplies to Kiev regime may spark WW3, warns DeGaulle's grandson

MOSCOW

WESTERN tank supplies to the Zelensky regime in Ukraine could lead to World War 3, so it is time to talk some sense into the Americans and conclude a sustainable peace deal with Russia, French economist Pierre de Gaulle, grandson of France's esteemed ex-president, General Charles de Gaulle, has said.

Speaking at the round table conference devoted to the memory of the Second World War in Russia and France, and in the run-up to the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Battle of Stalingrad, de Gaulle noted that the West's decision to supply Ukraine with heavy tanks raised the risk of unleashing World War 3 since it would provoke the supply of "ever more powerful weapons, and weapons of ever greater range."

"This is the abyss on the edge of which we are standing," he added.

"I would like to say this: the time is ripe to make peace, to reason with the Americans and to reach a stable, firm and lasting peace with Russia. It is time for France, its president [Emmanuel Macron] to recall that they are a great independent nation, and their mission is to play a worthy role. Also, it is necessary to provide Russia with serious guarantees," de Gaulle believes.

He also noted that France had become unfriendly to Russia because of the short-sighted policies and erroneous decisions by its establishment.

"France blindly follows US policies. The French no longer trust their politicians, who have discredited themselves. They oppose consensus," he continued. "I am outraged to hear the French President say that the beginning of a war is a test for the EU. We know that there is a tremendous number of people who are suffering," he maintained.

According to de Gaulle, the supply of new Western weapons to Ukraine won't be able to have a decisive impact on the course of the conflict. Nor will the Ukrainian army (which, as de Gaulle noted, "is not qualified enough"), be able to influence the development of the situation, either.

"These Western policies need to be reined in. Unfortunately, Western politicians do not realize this. They are trying to make us think that they are in control of the situation. This is a lie. They do not understand either the history or the consequences," he concluded.

Chairman of the Russian Historical Society, Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Sergey Naryshkin, handed de Gaulle a copy of a photograph of General Charles de Gaulle made during a visit to the Soviet Union in 1966.

"Thank you very much, dear Mr. de Gaulle, for your open, honest and, I should say, courageous statement and for your firm and highly principled position.

Let me present you with one historical photograph in memory of our meeting today. This is a copy of the photograph that is kept at the Museum of Modern History of Russia. The photograph highlights the memorable, already historic visit that your esteemed grandfather, President [Charles] de Gaulle, paid to the Soviet Union in 1966," Naryshkin said.



I would like to say this: the time is ripe to make peace, to reason with the Americans and to reach a stable, firm and lasting peace with Russia

SPORT



Dar es Salaam's Vijana basketball outfit's players take part in training at the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's courts recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Lady In Red fashion show celebrates 20th anniversary

By Guardian Correspondent

FOR over 20 years, a popular fashion show, termed 'Lady In Red', has served as a platform for fashion's next generation in Tanzania.

The show, founded by veteran fashion designer Asya Idarous Khamsin in 2003, has exposed and highlighted well-known and established fashion mavens such as Ally Rhemtula, Miriam Odemba, Khadija Mwanamboka, Mustafa Hassanali, Martin Kadinda, Flaviana Matata, Ria Fernandes, Victoria Martin and so many more.

The Lady In Red Fashion Show has showcased a native and local assortment of both men's and women's collections by innovative and creative designers.

The fashion show has moreover effortlessly become inclusive by producing runways series that celebrate inclusion and highlight designers and models with disabilities.

The move has, in turn, empowered people with disabilities by giving them a platform that instills confidence and provides opportunities and visibility.

In recent years Asya passed on the torch to Hugo Domingo Limited, an established Set Design and Decor Events company based in Dar es Salaam with a presence in Arusha, Dodoma, Mwanza, Zanzibar, and many more affiliates in Central, Southern, and East Africa.

Mario Fernandes, Hugo Domingo's CEO, disclosed: "Hugo Domingo has received this entity with open arms and, having fully organized our first Lady In Red fashion show last year, we had such positive feedback, the fashion show had a line of really creative designers who embraced the richness of Tanzanians' arts and culture."

"To add value to our guests, we had a line of activities including live DJ sets, live performances, and a thrilling after party at Elements," Mario revealed.

He added: "This year, we are excited about the show as it has created more opportunities for the local business and designers."

"We held a pre-activation event in partnership with Neekofoods- Food Meets Fashion event during the model casting event, the event had local food and fashion vendors, upcoming DJs, and artists performing live," Mario disclosed.

The Hugo Domingo boss noted: "It was vibrant and a great initiative, adding more zeal to this legendary upcoming fashion event happening on February 11, 2023, at Warehouse (the old club next door) at Masaki."

Lady In Red Fashion Show's Project Manager, Harith Juma, revealed: "This year we have so many exciting new designers and plenty in store this time around, including fresh and talented

12 designers that were scouted and vetted by Fashion Association Tanzania."

The Project Manager pointed out: "Fashion lovers should expect the best from Joyce Kibaja, Nally Boutiques, BK Brands, Volla Attire, QB Atelier, Fiderines House of Catwalks & Fashion, MK Nuru Designs, Kasikana, Joe Designs, Culture, 3 in 1 Attire, and Diana Komba Designs. We are thrilled and excited to have them all grace the runway."

Creative Director of the show, Osbert Fernandes, stated: "The show sets up an ambience which will be one of a kind, and first in Tanzania."

The official noted: "We only hope to produce an excellent show for our guests, and looking forward to seeing so many people come to celebrate the 20 years of the Lady In Red fashion show at Warehouse from 7 pm, so make sure to secure your tickets early this year and we promise you a great show ahead."

Osbert said: "We need people to come to support the show, as it not only is going to be an amazing night celebrating fashion, and a great night out with family and friends, but our show also gives back to the community."

Osbert stated: "A percentage of the profits will be allocated to the Tushikamane Home to help and assist with the senior home. Tickets are available for normal seats which cost 50,000/- each, and VIP seats that cost 100,000/- each, all interested can purchase through Nilipe, Warehouse Lounge & Bar, Ally Rhemtula Store at Masaki, Hugo Domingo Offices, and Black Fox offices."

The official noted: "Hugo Domingo CEO extends his gratitude to all the sponsors and partners including CRDB Bank Plc, Revolution Events, Wasafi Media, Asya Khamsin, Image Masters Limited, Aquasoundstz, Event Masters Tanzania, MMI Tanzania, Niya Beauty, Tridea Cosmetics, Blackfox Models, 361 Tanzania, Martin Kadinda, Ally Rhemtulla, LAS Consultancy, Rhythm Africa, Neekofoods, Elite Tanzania, African Star, Istudio, Dar Life, Infocus Studio, Warehouse Tanzania, BASATA, Kavs Group, and Fashion Association Tanzania, we appreciate all support over the years."

Osbert added: "Lady In Red Fashion show happening on February 11, 2023, at Warehouse from 7 pm is an epitome of local brands supporting local talent and brands. It highlights and showcases the most talented designers, embraces inclusivity, and gives back to the community."

Mario noted: "This year, the event is an evocative show that will captivate its audience and will leave a lasting memory to everyone."

“

Mario Fernandes, Hugo Domingo's CEO, disclosed: "Hugo Domingo has received this entity with open arms and, having fully organized our first Lady In Red fashion show last year, we had such positive feedback, the fashion show had a line of really creative designers who embraced the richness of Tanzanians' arts and culture"

SPORTS

Aruti Aces Cricket Club lifts Gymkhana Shield tournament's silverware



Cricketers making Aruti Aces outfit in a group picture shortly after lifting this season's Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield showdown title with a 23-run win over Aga Khan SC in the final which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GYMKHANA CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

ARUTI Aces Cricket Club has clinched this season's Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield showdown silverware with a 23-run drubbing of Aga Khan SC in a pulsating final which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The final's eventual winners' resoluteness with both bat and ball was instrumental in their triumph, given the cricketers gave their all in their innings and thereafter contained Aga Khan SC with ferocious bowling to come out victoriously.

After having won the toss, Aruti Aces Cricket Club elected to bat, notching 154/8 in the allotted 20 overs, with the top-order batsmen's solid batting ensuring the outfit is in control.

Openers Aisah Chibanda and Asif Butt gave a boost early on, pushing the side's total to 66 runs after seven overs.

Aisah, was the top run-getter, having notched 42 runs whilst blasting three boundaries and four sixes.

The Zimbabwean all-rounder's innings were brought to an end in the sixth over, making his way back to the pavilion when he was caught by Aga Khan SC's Riziki Kisetu from Laksh Snehal's bowling.

He was followed by the fellow opener Butt that was stumped by Aga Khan SC's wicketkeeper Sadiki Iddi from Kisetu's delivery in the seventh over, having brought Aruti Aces Cricket Club's total to 66 runs.

Ejaz Aziz, batting at number three, had Aruti Aces Cricket Club still hunting for an imposing score with his 34 runs, cracking three boundaries and a six.

The batting side had to do with a little setback in the form of a brief spell that top-order batsman Jaffary Kanyita had experienced, chipping in with 11 runs.

With Aruti Aces Cricket Club having reached 98 runs after the youthful batsman's dismissal in the 12th over, Aziz

kept on piling runs and significantly improved his side's score, pushing it to 120 runs with five overs remaining.

Salum Jumbe ensured Aruti Aces Cricket Club is still in pursuit of a challenging target for Aga Khan SC, making his way back with 31 runs which included two boundaries and two sixes.

The side dropped two wickets in the 19th over, as experienced players Ally Mpeka and Bhavesh Govind succumbed to Aga Khan SC's pace attack orchestrated by Vipin Abraham but the batting team had already set up a challenging target of 155 runs for the opponents.

Needing 155 runs to get down to a successful chase, Aga Khan SC found the going tough, settling for 131/9 in 20 overs.

The chase experienced a setback early on as opener Vishal Patel succumbed to an early exit, managing to notch mere five runs.

The side was dealt another blow following an early exit of promising cricketer Dhrumit Mehta that ended four runs short of a two-digit figure.

The other opener Abhik Patwa somewhat made his presence felt with his 28 runs which included two boundaries.

Except for Kisetu, Vipin, and Harshdeep Chohan who chipped in with 24 runs, 21 runs, and 16 runs respectively, the remaining Aga Khan SC batsmen could not withstand Aruti Aces Cricket Club's ferocious bowling attack.

Medium pacer Jumbe had impressive four wickets for 19 runs in four overs for Aruti Aces Cricket Club and was ably assisted by Jeremiah Makanya and Aisah that took three wickets and two wickets respectively.

Aruti Aces Cricket Club had booked a place in the final following the club's four-wicket drubbing of Pak Stars in the semi-final, whereas Aga Khan SC stunned Caravans Cricket Club with a six-wicket victory in the last four's other tie to secure progression to the final.

Aga Khan SC's Patwa won the showdown's Best Batsman award, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC)'s spinner Athuman Siwa laid his hands on the showdown's Best Bowler prize, and the Best Player prize went to Aruti Aces Cricket Club's Salum Jumbe that was as well the Man of the Match in the final.

The outfits which took part in this season's Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield showpiece were placed in groups A and B.

Group A consisted of Caravans Cricket Club, GP, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC), Pak Stars, Union Sports Club, and Gymkhana Cricket Club.

Aruti Aces Cricket Club, Upanga Sports Club, Aga Khan SC, Annadil Burhani Club, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), and Lions Cricket Club were put in Group B.

This season's showdown was sponsored by Cello/Ruby's Magic and Co, as well as long-time sponsors, General Petroleum (GP). Other sponsors are Planet Fitness, Gem Point, ETG, and Pepsi.

Cello/Ruby's Magic and Co has moreover sponsored a special cash prize to be handed over to batsmen scoring centuries and wicket-takers posting hat-tricks in the showdown.

This season's edition of the tournament was officially launched at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club on November 6 last year.

The jerseys for clubs taking part in the showdown were handed out to the outfits' skippers in presence of various supporters and stakeholders.

The showpiece's organizers stated that exciting matchups made up of old and new rivalries were in store for cricket followers in the city that were set to attend the tournament's ties during weekends.

Students to benefit from sports projects in Kagera

By Guardian Correspondent

WINNERS of the life skills games, which involved various schools in Kagera, will benefit from development projects worth over 320m/-.

The event which climaxed at the regional level last weekend will see seven schools from the district councils of Karagwe, Kyerwa, Ngara, Misenyi, Bukoba, Bukoba Municipality, and Muleba benefit from the projects.

Kagera Regional Education Officer Khalifa Semaonge said the projects, which will be implemented by a charitable organization, Jambo for Development, in collaboration with the government and communities, are expected to benefit approximately 7,500 students in the specific schools.

Semaonge said so during a major regional sports bonanza to mark the end of the games which took place in Bukoba over the weekend.

The organization will fund 60 percent of the projects, with district councils contributing 30 percent and communities chipping in with 10 percent.

Semaonge, the games' closing ceremony's guest of honour, commended efforts made by the organization, saying it complements government efforts to create a conducive educational environment in Kagera, thus boosting students' academic performance.

"These efforts should be supported. This is a good example of how



Kagera Regional Education Officer, Khalifa Semaonge, presents a football to one of the students who participated in a regional sports bonanza organized by a Kagera-based charitable organization, Jambo for Development. The bonanza was held in Bukoba town over the weekend. Looking on (L) is the organization's Interim Executive Director, Clemens Mulokozi. PHOTO: GUARDIAN PHOTOGRAPHER

development stakeholders can make a positive impact on society. We will continue to work together for the benefit of our children," Semaonge stated.

The life skills games aimed to teach students life skills such as communication, collaboration, problem-solving skills, personal and environmental hygiene, and matters which have to do with safe menstruation.

Jambo for Development's Communications Officer, Lameck Kiula, told reporters that the seven winning schools at the district level would benefit from projects as per their respective needs.

Kiula revealed each school will receive 44m/- to 46m/- to implement different projects such as the construction of classrooms, acquisition of water tanks, toilets, special safe menstrual rooms, and girls' pads.

"Our objectives are to ensure a better learning environment as well as children's health, thus attaining gender equality," Kiula said.

The official noted that Jambo for Development is focusing on improving education, health, and gender equality in Kagera using sports to bring together different stakeholders to achieve these goals.

Messi regrets controversy against Dutch at the World Cup

BUENOS AIRES

WORLD Cup winner Lionel Messi regretted his testy exchanges with the Netherlands coach and players during their controversial quarterfinal in Qatar, he said in an interview aired on Monday.

Messi (pictured) gave his first interview since lifting the trophy in December to radio Urbana Play of Buenos Aires. The Argentina captain spoke about the feisty clash with the Dutch which the South Americans won in a penalty shootout. A record 17 yellow cards were issued, including one to Messi for dissent.

When Messi scored from the spot in regular time, he stood in front of Dutch coach Louis van Gaal and cupped both hands to his ears. After the game, he gesticulated to the Dutch bench and insulted striker Wout Weghorst, who scored twice in regulation.

"I don't like what I did, I don't like what happened afterward," Messi said. "These are moments of a lot of tension, a lot of nerves. It is very quick and people react the way they react. Nothing was planned, it just happened."

That quarterfinal was surrounded by controversy. Before the encounter, Van Gaal said his players were better prepared than their rivals for a penalty shootout. He also said "Messi did not touch the ball" in the semi-final between the teams in the 2014 World Cup; Argentina also won that tie in a penalty shootout.

Messi said his teammates told him

what Van Gaal said to stimulate him.

About his moment with Weghorst, Messi said it was "natural."

"I reacted that way. There had been many things with this player, moments of tension like these . . . I was at the mixed zone, it had just happened," Messi said. "I don't like to leave that image, but these things happen."

Messi also said Argentina "in general was better than its rivals" and picked Mexico, its second group opponent as "the toughest."

"It was the worst match we played because of all the things involved in winning it or not," Messi said. Argentina lost its opener to Saudi Arabia 2-1 in one of the biggest shocks in World Cup history, and had to beat Mexico to stay in playoffs contentions. Mexico was beaten 2-0.

Messi said he has not watched the final against France. Argentina won the final on penalties to win its first World Cup title since 1986.

"Since that day, everything changed for me," he said. "By luck, what we dreamed about so much happened. I wished that so much in my career and, at the end, it came."

Asked what he would tell Messi in his childhood if he could, the star said: "Something extraordinary awaits, you can't imagine. You will have a beautiful path, with some tough moments that you will have to overcome, but never give your dreams away because at the end you will get your most desired reward. Your film will have a happy ending."

AP



French FA chief Le Graet 'no longer has legitimacy' to stay in post, says report

PARIS

NOEL Le Graet, the scandal-hit president of the French Football Federation under investigation for sexual harassment, "no longer has the necessary legitimacy to run and represent French football", according to a report into governance failings at the body seen by AFP on Monday.

The report follows an audit of the FFF ordered by France's Sports Ministry after allegations made against the 81-year-old Le Graet, who was forced to step down earlier this month pending its outcome. "Considering his conduct towards women, his public comments and the governance failings of the FFF, Mr Le Graet no longer has the necessary legitimacy to run and represent French football," the report said, adding that the body's handling of cases of sexist and sexual violence was "neither effective nor efficient".

Le Graet is currently under investigation by Paris prosecutors for sexual and psychological harassment following accusations against him made by football agent Sonia Souid.

The report stated that his attitude towards women "can be described at the very least as sexist", and said that there was evidence his behaviour was "likely to be considered as criminal".

He denies any wrongdoing.

Despite already stepping down and being replaced on an interim basis by vice-president Philippe Di-allo, Le Graet is still officially recognised as president by world governing body FIFA.

The report also targeted the "brutal" management practices of the body's director general Florence Hardouin, who has also been suspended from her role.

The FFF's directors have been given until February 13 to respond to the conclusions of the report.

Le Graet's mandate runs until 2024 but the organisation's executive committee can decide to hold an extraordinary general assembly where it could vote to depose the standing president.

The affair has cast a cloud over French football barely a month after they reached the World Cup final in Qatar, losing on penalties to Argentina to just fall short of retaining the title they won in 2018.

Le Graet, who has been president of the FFF since 2011, had already faced calls to resign, including from Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera, after dismissive remarks in a recent radio interview about France legend Zinedine Zidane's potential interest in coaching the national team.

Didier Deschamps recently extended his contract to stay as coach through to 2026, having been in charge since 2012.

AFP

“

I am fully aware of having committed illegalities," defendant Rui Pinto told the judges at the end of the hearing of a trial which opened more than two years ago

Real Madrid expected to continue European dominance of Club World Cup

MELBOURNE, Australia

RABAT

ONE of the last Club World Cups in its current format begins on Wednesday in Morocco, where Real Madrid will be favourites to continue Europe's dominance of the much-maligned FIFA competition.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced on the sidelines of the World Cup in Qatar in December that an expanded Club World Cup is planned from 2025.

The bigger competition, which would feature 32 teams, has been a controversial pet project of Infantino's for some time. A 24-team Club World Cup, involving eight European sides, had been due to take place in China in 2021 only to be put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic.

World football's governing body is yet to reveal any further details of the plans, but global players' union FIFPro has already complained of Infantino making the announcement "unilaterally without seriously consulting...with the players".

For now, the Club World Cup limps on with just seven teams, including the six continental champions.

After five consecutive editions in the Middle East it returns to Morocco, which hosted the tournament in 2013 and 2014, and Real will be expected to become the 10th consecutive European winners.

Real, the reigning European champions, have claimed the title four times, including in Morocco in 2014.

Real will enter in the semi-finals on February 8 and will play in



Real Madrid

Rabat against either CONCACAF champions Seattle Sounders, Egyptian giants Al Ahly or New Zealand's Auckland City, the champions of Oceania.

If they win, Carlo Ancelotti's side will advance to the final on February 11.

- Moroccan hopes -

The other semi-final will see last year's Copa Libertadores winners Flamengo take on either Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia or home hopes Wydad Casablanca.

Widely dismissed as an irrelevance in Europe, the competition is considered far more prestigious in the rest of the world, a chance for their best sides to pit themselves against giants like Real.

Brazilian clubs have won the Club World Cup four times, most recently through Corinthians in 2012. Wydad will be hoping to become the first African club to triumph.

The host nation is always represented, but Wydad also won last

year's CAF Champions League, and so Al Ahly -- the team they beat in the final -- have been invited to take part as well.

Walid Regragui led Wydad to that continental title before taking Morocco on a historic run to the World Cup semi-finals in Qatar.

"It's nice for Morocco -- particularly after the World Cup we had -- for people to see that there's football here, there are fans, and there are beautiful stadiums. It's going to be fantastic for our country," Regragui told FIFA.com

The competition kicks off on Wednesday when Al Ahly -- the record 10-time African champions who have finished third at the last two Club World Cups -- play Auckland City in Tangier.

The tournament will see a refereeing first after the International Football Association Board, the sport's lawmakers, approved a trial that will allow fans in the stadium to hear officials explain decisions taken after VAR reviews.

Meanwhile, Spain's High Council for Sport (CSD) said Monday that more than 10 Real Valladolid fans who racially insulted Real Madrid star Vinicius Junior in a La Liga game last month will be punished.

Some home fans hurled abuse at the Brazilian winger during Madrid's 2-0 win at Valladolid on December 30, prompting La Liga to file a complaint to the local courts.

The CSD said in a statement that its Commission against Violence, Racism and Xenophobia in sport has "initiated proceedings for the proposed punishment of more than 10 supporters" over the incidents.

Police are collecting data before recommending punishments, which could include fines of 4,000 euros (around \$4,300) and a one-year ban from sports stadiums for any person identified, the statement added.

La Liga made a complaint about the fans to the police and said they had provided video and audio recordings they had gathered.

The commission also held an extraordinary meeting on Monday to discuss another incident involving the 22-year-old Brazilian.

A dummy dressed in a Vinicius shirt was strung up near Real Madrid's training ground before last week's Copa del Rey quarter-final against local rivals Atletico with a message reading "Madrid hates Real."

The CSD said police had begun an investigation to identify those behind the "despicable acts" using traffic cameras and images published on social media.

Earlier this season, Spanish prosecutors opened an investigation into racist abuse against Vinicius

Once Manchester City's sibling, NYC FC is now more like a distant cousin

By Graham Ruthven

BEFORE New York City FC, there was only Manchester City under the City Football Group (CFG) umbrella. The establishment of Major League Soccer's 20th franchise in 2013 marked the creation of a new global soccer entity that would soon enough stretch across five continents and count several clubs among its network, but CFG's first outpost outside the UK was in New York.

This was to NYC FC's benefit. While Manchester City has always been CFG's primary focus, a strong connection was forged between the Premier League and MLS siblings. Four City players were signed to be part of NYC FC's squad for their debut season in 2015. Over the next few years, City sent some of their prospects (including Angelino and Yangel Herrera) to the Bronx for first-team experience and NYC FC sent some of their best players in the other direction - see Frank Lampard and Jack Harrison.

Now, though, the traffic between the two clubs has slowed almost to a complete stop. In fact, CFG is increasingly funneling players away from New York. NYC FC, who haven't received a player directly from Man City in recent years, have seemingly fallen down the CFG pecking order.

Alexander Callens, for example, left NYC FC at the end of his contract to sign for Girona, the Spanish La Liga club part-owned by CFG and Pep Guardiola's brother, Pere. Callens was an integral part of Nick Cushing's team, but that didn't stop CFG from placing the defender at another one of their clubs.

This came just six months after Taty Castellanos, NYC FC's best player and top scorer, was also sent to Girona. Even more painful was that the Argentinian striker was sent to Spain on loan - Castellanos is still technically on NYC FC's books. Replacing Castellanos mid-season was impossible and Cushing has still to find a goalscorer capable of filling his boots.

Santi Rodriguez was sent back to Montevideo City Torque, a Uruguayan club acquired by CFG in



New York City FC

2017, at the end of last season while Nico Acevedo's loan spell from Bahia was also ended almost as soon as CFG bought a majority share in the Brazilian club last month.

Meanwhile, NYC FC have yet to make a single notable new signing for the 2023 MLS season, which starts in under a month - Tony Alfaro, Matt Freese, Mitja Ilenic and Gabriel Segal are all depth additions.

Even if NYC FC manage to get some new players through the door before their opening fixture against Nashville on 25 February, their squad rebuild won't be complete.

Talles Magno has the potential to become the club's new No 9

while Thiago Andrade will receive more game time now that the competition for places has been cleared out. Tayvon Gray is another youngster NYC FC fans are excited to see more of. There are, however, too many holes to plug in just one off-season.

The disintegration of the NYC FC squad is all the more remarkable because of where they were less than two years ago. 2021 saw the franchise win its first ever MLS Cup, in large part due to good scouting and recruitment, but that winning team was quickly broken apart.

Of the 11 players who started the championship game against Portland, only three - Gray, Maxime

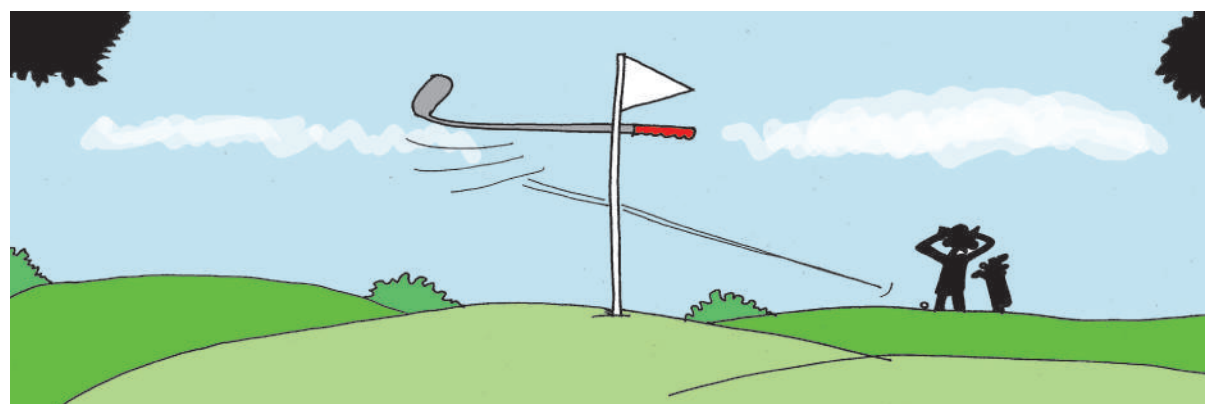
Chanot and Alfredo Morales - are still at the club (Castellanos and James Sands are out on loan). In a sense, winning MLS Cup was the worst thing to ever happen to NYC FC.

CFG may argue they are focusing on building a long-term, sustainable future for NYC FC through the construction of a new stadium. After years of playing on a baseball field at Yankee Stadium, plans for a new 25,000-capacity venue in Queens were announced in November. A permanent home will finally allow NYC FC to put roots down, but at an estimated cost of \$780m.

That outlay could affect the transfer business done by the NYC FC front office, although the club is among the best in MLS at finding talent. "We're not going to rush in to adding just any players," said Cushing. "We've seen over many years that we can spot talent ... whether that's through the academy or the transfer market." Indeed, it's entirely possible NYC FC's next cycle will bring just as much success as the last one, even if the start to the 2023 season is rough.

Initially founded as one of MLS's marquee franchises with the pulling power to attract some of the sport's biggest names, CFG has since remoulded NYC FC as a club that develops players for others. In CFG's hierarchy, NYC FC no longer hold the position they did only a few years ago, certainly when they were founded a decade ago. Once called Manchester City's sister team, they are now more like a distant cousin.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Real Madrid expected to continue European dominance of Club World Cup

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



A traditional dance troupe entertains revelers at a past Sauti za Busara festival which took place in Zanzibar.

Sauti za Busara after 20 years is the story of an era

By Guardian Correspondent

THE 20th edition of the Sauti za Busara festival is set to rock the walls of the Old Fort in Zanzibar (Ngome Kongwe) for three nights from February 10-12.

Globally acclaimed as one of Africa's leading music festivals, this year celebrates twenty years of showcasing quality African music, a milestone that few other festivals on the Continent have achieved.

Despite many challenges since its humble beginnings in 2003, Sauti za Busara has remained one of the hottest dates on the cultural calendar that revelers look forward to every year.

"During the past two decades we have been blessed with a historic and unique location and an incredible line-up of artists that left everyone in attendance with lasting memories," Yusuf Mahmoud, the festival's director, noted.

According to Mahmoud, the festival has become a career launchpad that has catapulted many up-and-coming artists from the region to international touring opportunities.

"Many artists who performed on Sauti za Busara stages have gone on to be invited to other festivals across Africa and beyond, including Siti & The Band and Tausi Women's Taarab of Zanzibar, Madalitso Band from Malawi, Sarabi from Kenya, Tanzania's Msafiri Zawose and Jagwa Music and many more," he said.

Equally, the festival always endeavoured to remain fresh and original while celebrating the rich and diverse cultures that Africa has to offer. "The theme for this edition is 'Tofauti Zetu, Utajiri Wetu: Our Diversity is Our Wealth,'" he continued.

Mahmoud stated: "When programming, we always ensure youth, women, and marginalized artists are included. With unique performers representing North, South, East, West, and Central Africa, as well as enjoying their favourite artists, we believe many attendees also share our excitement to discover more."

He added: "This milestone is a testament to our exceptional team, many great artists, all the partners and sponsors, and passionate audiences who helped sustain and fuel our growth over the past 20 years."

Performing on two stages in the Old Fort from February 10-12, well-known and upcoming musicians include Tiken Jah Fakoly from Ivory Coast, widely known as Africa's greatest reggae star. His lyrics call for African unity and its economic, political, and cultural resurgence.

People of all races feel a deep affinity with his music and the powerful messages he never fails to deliver.

The BUC from Soweto plays a different style of music 'for the people by the people with the people', with explosive energy and rhythms, as witnessed by all who saw their shows at Sauti za Busara 2019.

This year's Singeli representative is 'Mzee wa Bwax', who also promises a show people will never forget.

Other Tanzanian artists featured include the creative and charismatic singer-songwriter Damian Soul, Patricia Hillary, Zawose Reunion, Stone Town Rockerz, Culture Musical Club, Uwaridi Female Band, Zan Ubuntu, Zenji Boy na Wenzake, DCMA Young Stars, Waungwana Band, Supa Kalulu and Kikundi cha Idara ya Utamaduni.

The election whose results were announced on Monday at dawn, Kaluwa got 1,045 votes while Mangungu, who was defending his seat, got a total of 1,311 votes and retained his position.

The elected members of the Board of Directors are Seif Ramadhan Muba (1636 votes), Asha Baraka (1564 votes), Issa Masoud Iddi (1285 votes), Rodney Chiduo (1267 votes), and Seleman Harubu (1250 votes). The total number of Simba SC members who voted is 2363 but valid votes totaled 2356.

This year's edition also hosts Movers & Shakers (informal networking for professionals), Swahili Encounters (collaborations for local and visiting musicians), Busara Plus events at Fumba Town and other locations, and the prestigious Emerson Zanzibar Music Award, for upcoming local musicians.

The 20th Sauti za Busara festival, which will be held from February 10-12, is powered by Fumba Town—a project by CPS, Ignite Culture, CRDB Bank, Australian High Commission, France's Embassy in Tanzania, Institut Français, Kendwa Rocks, Mjini FM, ST Bongo TV, Zanzibar Revolutionary Government, Adventure247 Marketing Agency, Zanzibar Serena Hotel, Coconut FM, Zanlink, Emerson Zanzibar, 2Tech Security, Germany's Embassy in Tanzania, and more.

Yanga seals sponsorship agreement with firm

By Correspondent Shufaa Lyimo

MAINLAND Tanzania's NBC Premier League defending champion, Yanga, has entered into a short-term sponsorship contract with a multinational home appliances and consumer electronics company, Haier, worth 1.5bn/-.

The sponsorship agreement was signed at a hotel in Dar es Salaam on Monday. The launch of the outfit's jerseys for this season's CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage also took place on the day. The replica jerseys were on sale yesterday.

Yanga's president Hersi Said thanked the company for deciding to sponsor his club for the tournament and claimed that the sponsorship will help the outfit do well in the showdown.

"We thank this company for deciding to sponsor us for the CAF Confederation Cup's Group Stage that will be held this month. We believe that through this sponsorship our team will do well in the tournament due to the efforts made by our leaders," Said pointed out.

The president said that they recognize the contribution of their main sponsor, Sport Pesa, adding that Haier's sponsorship cannot affect the relationship between Yanga and Sport Pesa.

"This sponsorship, which is especially for the CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage, cannot affect our main sponsor, Sport Pesa, first of all, we respect the sponsor's position, and we as well thank Sport Pesa for allowing us to sign this contract," the Chairman noted.

He said Haier has decided to support Yanga after realizing that it is one of the best clubs in East Africa.

Said made it clear that every Yanga player will fight to ensure that the team moves forward, knowing that there is someone who supports them.

He appealed to Yanga's fans and members to support the company by buying its products which are expected to enter the country soon.

According to the Yanga president, Haier manufactures high-quality items and will be operating in Tanzania for the first time.

Popular Tanzanian fashion designer, Sheria Ngowi, one of the function's guests that is also Yanga's new kits designer, said he is grateful to Yanga's sponsor GSM Group for continuing to value his work and for giving him chance to design jerseys for the club.

Ngowi pointed out: "I thank Yanga's leaders for continuing to trust me, these jerseys that have been launched today show the club's quality."

"I have already designed jerseys for next season which will be of better quality than this season's," Ngowi noted.

He said the club launched three types of jerseys, a home kit in blue colour, an away jersey in yellow colour, and a third kit in green colour.

The jerseys, sold at 50,000/- each, will be available at a store located at the club's headquarters at Jangwani Street in Dar es Salaam.

African Sports vows to spring surprise on Simba SC in Federation Cup round of 16

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFRICAN Sports of Tanga have qualified for round 16 of this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) with the determination to pull a shocker against Simba SC when the two sides meet on March 3-5.

African Sports want to crawl back to the glory the club had enjoyed in the past, as well as position itself well for promotion to the next season's Premier League.

The outfit reached the ASFC round 16's stage after beating New Dundee United of Dodoma 4-2 in a penalty shootout immediately after 90 minutes of the match, held at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma, had culminated in a barren draw.

Mussa Rashid, African Sports' coach, said they are happy to garner the victory and they are now getting ready to meet Simba SC and pull a shocker.

"We want to return our honour in Tanzanian football, we have been rebuilding for many years after several of our players left but now step by step we are almost there, we are building a team and we are coming back," he said.

"The ASFC is a shocking tournament and we believe we will pull a shocker like other teams against the big teams. We are hyped for this match and we keep pushing to see how we can develop throughout February and see how we will face them in the clash," Rashid revealed.

African Sports sits 10th in this season's Championship League standings with 18 points after taking part in 16 matches, winning five, losing eight, and drawing three.

In 1988, all major football titles in Tanzania went to Tanga, as Coastal Union clinched the Premier League's silverware and African Sports triumphed in the Union League.

The Union League was the biggest in the country at the time, it was a tournament that involved both Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania teams to find the overall champion of the country and envoys for the CAF inter-club competitions.

The Mainland Tanzania Premier League champion was battling it out in the East and Central African Club Championship



African Sports Club's players are pictured taking part in training in Tanga recently to shape up for the Championship League ties and Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AFRICAN SPORTS

whilst the Union League champion was playing in the CAF Champions League.

The second-placed club in the Union League was playing in the CAF Winners Cup and, later on, the third-placed outfit was playing in the CAF Confederation Cup.

In another development, former Simba SC Chairman Ismail Aden Rage has advised that the club's constitution should be amended to bring equality of ownership between the members and the investor.

Simba SC has been in transformation, with the members being given the constitutional power to own 51% of the outfit's shares and the investor being given 49%.

Rage stated that due to the management of the shares, the constitution of Simba SC should be amended to give members with a large percentage to have a representative that will speak for them on the Board of Directors.

He noted that he would like to see the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Simba SC come from the members' side, insisting the members have every reason to have that person due to their large ownership of shares.

Rage went as far as saying the Chairman of the Board of Directors should be the president of Simba SC, so he urged the members to look at that which should be given constitutional power.

"The truth is there are areas of the constitution that must be amended, for

example, they say Simba SC members' percentage is 51% and the investor has 49%, the time has come to amend the constitution so that the Board Chairman can become the club's president because we have the largest share," the former Simba Chairman noted.

He queried: "There is a saying I don't understand at all, they say members should buy shares! why should we buy shares?"

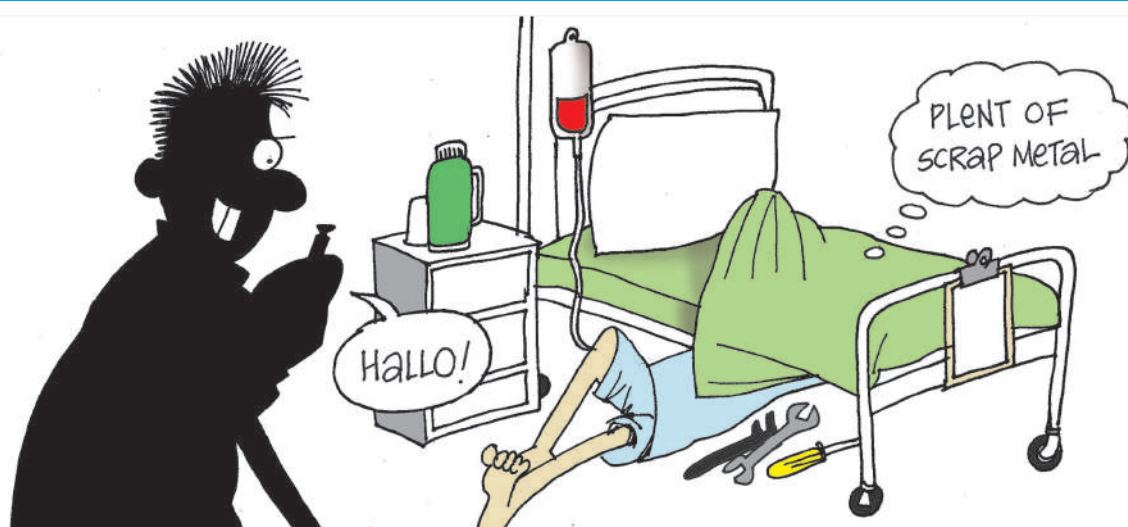
"We have built the club since 1936, that's why investors came to Simba SC... we have a big fan base and I'm happy one fan said the strength of Simba SC is the outfit's members and fans," Rage noted.

Simba SC held an election on Sunday, in which the outfit's Chairman's position was contested by Murtaza Mangungu and Moses Kaluwa, there were also 12 candidates for the position of members of the Board of Directors.

In the election whose results were announced on Monday at dawn, Kaluwa got 1,045 votes while Mangungu, who was defending his seat, got a total of 1,311 votes and retained his position.

The elected members of the Board of Directors are Seif Ramadhan Muba (1636 votes), Asha Baraka (1564 votes), Issa Masoud Iddi (1285 votes), Rodney Chiduo (1267 votes), and Seleman Harubu (1250 votes). The total number of Simba SC members who voted is 2363 but valid votes totaled 2356.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV WEDNESDAY

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (r)
13:30 Movie
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Movie
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kili Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 Club Bangers

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

eastAfrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planef Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM