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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8780 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 2023

National Pg 3

Women entrepreneurs get LPG kits



National Pg 4

Govt to improve school infrastructure



National Pg 6

Samia offers 5.9bn/- for building 257 dips



EACOP construction works to start in May

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has approved the works schedule of the contractor for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), who was yesterday handed construction approval after an extensive assessment by regulatory authorities.

Energy minister January Makamba said at the handing over event in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the project is scheduled to take three years through eight regions, and formally starts above ground installations in May at the earliest.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) had been conducted, he stated, asserting that the public and stakeholders should have nothing to worry about on that aspect.

The project will produce a number of positive social and economic impacts in the route it takes, with investment opportunities ranging from transport, construction and others stacked up, he said.

Other benefits are waste management security services, food supply, vending of various items, agro-based produce initiatives, legal consultation on some issues, freight forwarding for scores of materials to be procured during the construction period, he stated.

Still other benefits relate to insurance services, banking and related activities, for lending to initiators of projects on the sidelines of the pipeline, he pointed out.

"This handover marks the oil pipeline construction work, a new prospective era as those living in the pipeline route stand to benefit in one way or another. We need to get prepared to tap such opportunities by producing goods that meet the required standards," he urged.

The EACOP project is governed by the construction approval for the Tanzanian section and the construction licence issued by the Ugandan government in January 2023, applying on the Ugandan section, he explained.

Upwards of 9,000 eligible individuals have been paid their compensation for land being taken over for the project, accounting for more than 90 percent of those vacating houses or farms, he affirmed.

The Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) needs to deliver to regional secretariats the map of the pipeline route.

This handover marks the oil pipeline construction work, a new prospective era as those living in the pipeline route stand to benefit in one way or another. We need to get prepared to tap such opportunities

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan, the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Minister of State responsible for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at Tunguu State House in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

NDC seeks out TFS to start rubber farms

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Development Corporation (NDC) has initiated talks with the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) management to plant rubber in forest areas they hold.

Dr Nicolaus Shombe, the NDC director of operations, said in an interview yesterday that the holding corporation is seeking to raise interest among schools and institutions to take up rubber farming as its market is assured. At present the Medical Stores Department (MSD) imported large quantities of rubber from Malaysia, he said, hinting at the production of soda ash at Engaruka in Monduli District as also in the pipeline. Research shows the existence

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'Formulate clear tourist arrival increase strategy'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA Tourist Board (TTB) directors and management have 60 days to come up with a strategy of effective promotion of the country's tourism attractions, including cultural tourism.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister issued this directive yesterday during a familiarisation tour where he discussed a range of issues with TTB staff and management.

The minister, just a few days after being appointed to the docket, said there was no reason for failure on the matter. The short term target should be to reach five million tourists annually and TTB needs to ensure the promotion of

cultural tourism, as it is so far a forgotten area, he stated.

Cultural tourism eases contention between local cultural values and globalisation, making culture and tourism largely symbiotic, increasing incomes and enabling cultural resources to add to sustainability of tourism growth, he said.

Reaching the five million tourists strategy needs to give priority to Asia, in particular China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), apart from India.

The United States is another sphere where tourist arrivals can be increased by focusing on that market, he said.

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Samia, Hichilema decide on oil pipeline upgrading

By Guardian Reporter and

Agencies

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan and Zambian leader Hakainde Hichilema have agreed to fast-track the upgrading of the Tanzania Zambia oil pipeline shared between the two

countries. The Tazama pipeline, more than 1,000-kilometer (621-mile) long, has been running since 1968 and transports more than a million tons of crude oil per year from the port of Dar-es-Salaam to the city of Ndola in Zambia. President Hichilema

said in a Facebook entry that he met with his Tanzanian counterpart on the sidelines of the 36th ordinary session of the African Union summit in Addis Ababa, with the pipeline on agenda.

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Samia, Hichilema decide on oil pipeline upgrading

FROM PAGE 1

“Our meeting was centred on strengthening bilateral relations in the area of trade facilitation and energy investment between our two countries. At the top of the agenda was the TAZAMA project,” he said, noting the need to rehabilitate the pipeline and its auxiliary systems.

The pipeline remains a critical asset for Zambia as the country does not produce crude, but refined Middle East crude imported via the port of Dar-es-Salaam.

In her Facebook page, President Samia said Tanzania was keen on ensuring that the project was realised for the mutual benefit of the two nations.

Zambia’s current fuel needs hover above a million litres daily and the southern African nation has not been spared from the pressures on the global oil market, with local pump prices for the commodity now fetching around \$1.5 a litre.

Energy minister Peter Kapala said in his latest statement on the project that it would help keep petroleum costs affordable. Road transporters’ business would not be impacted as their services would be required simultaneously with the pipeline, he added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, who is legislator for Ruangwa, addresses members of the Lucas Maria Girls Secondary School community in the constituency yesterday shortly after making a follow-up of the construction of a dormitory building at the school. Photo: PMO

NDC seeks out TFS to start rubber farms

FROM PAGE 1

of mineral reserves that can last 102 years with moderate exploitation, with feasibility studies having been done. The next stage is to pay compensation to people who will have to vacate land for the project, he said.

Upwards of 60,000 people are likely to find work to do when the project starts, he said, urging residents in the area and beyond to grab other opportunities the project promises.

Other projects lined up include mining coal at Mchu-

chuma and iron ore at Liganga, where the NDC is hinging on finding willing investors to produce raw iron.

Local and foreign investors willing to put up factories in the country will be able to invest in II areas set aside for such investments, he said, pointing at manufacturing of tyres as likely to bring quick returns.

This would be taken up in tandem with rubber cultivation in NDC farms located in Tanga and Morogoro regions as the crop is in high demand in the local and foreign markets, he said.

NDC has areas for factories

producing drugs, medical devices, vaccines, fertiliser, pesticides, along with the coal and iron ore project, for which the production of tyres, motor vehicle spare parts, machinery, energy, construction of buildings and dry ports are similarly lined up, he explained.

NDC plans to revive the General Tyre factory in Arusha, he stated, asserting that the trade in tyres is massive “and it is here we want an investor fast.” The Arusha-based factory needs modern technology to start production as buildings and other infrastructure are still in good

condition, he declared.

“We want to start with the production of motorcycle and tricycle tyres. You can see that the tyre trade is a big one and any investor thereon is certain of good return on his capital in a short period,” he asserted.

He similarly lined up opportunities in the Kibaha industrial area in Coast Region as including the production of human drugs, medical devices, fertiliser, pesticides and textiles. There is an investor producing livestock vaccines plus insecticides, with a factory for lorry body building or

heavy trucks also found there, he said.

In Tanga Region NDC has 23.5 hectares of land in Hale area for establishing factories and more than 1,600 hectares for a rubber plantation, he said, underlining that rubber cultivation knows no seasons.

Such opportunities also galore in Morogoro Region where NDC has 1,543 hectares of farm land, with the revival of the General Tyre factory in Arusha providing an assurance for rubber production for small and large scale farmers, he added.

EACOP construction works to start in May

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along with opportunities available in each region. The idea is to enable entrepreneurs to tap into the demand, he explained.

Wendy Brown, the director of EACOP (T) Ltd, commended the government for its commitment to ensure that the project is implemented, affirming that construction approval marks another step forward for EACOP.

It allows the commencement of the main construction activities in Tanzania upon completion of the land access process, she said, elated that the government expedited the delivery of its application. This reflected its commitment in the Host Government Agreement (HGA) and wider support for implementation of the EACOP project, she emphasised.

The total number of those surrendering is over 13,000 straddling the entire route, where about four percent are physically displaced and 96 percent are economically impacted by surrendering portions of land they hold, she stated.

The physically displaced households had a choice between a replacement house handed by the construction firm, or cash compensation, while those losing portions of land are compensated for land, crops, trees or structures they had to abandon, she further noted.

At present, 43 out of 339 replacement houses earmarked for the physically displaced have been completed and handed over in priority areas, with an additional 15 houses ready to handover in Muleba District next week. Another 122 houses

are under construction, she said.

The company has also signed the EACOP Plan with traditional leaders of vulnerable ethnic groups otherwise identified as indigenous people, she stated, specifying that EACOP will comply with the laws of Uganda and Tanzania, along with strict observance of international standards, including the IFC performance standards, the Equator principles IV, the OECD common approaches and the voluntary principles on security and human rights (VPSHR).

Omary Mgumba, the Tanga regional commissioner praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Ugandan leader Yoweri Museveni for their commitment to the project.

The project was being assailed from various sides but the leaders have remained firm to ensure that it is implemented for the wider interest of the two countries and their people, he said.

Dr James Andilile, the Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) director general had earlier said that EACOP (T) submitted an application to get a permit at the end of last year.

“But before issuing the permit authorities need to assess all the needed requirements and all these had already been done. After the assessment, the EWURA board approved the issuance of the permit and today we are officially handing it,” he said.

The pipeline will be 1443km in length overall from Kabaale Industrial Park in western Uganda to the marine storage terminal in Tanga, with 20 percent (296km) traversing Uganda and 80 percent (1147km) traversing Tanzania through eight regions, 24 districts and 184 villages, he added.

The company has also signed the EACOP Plan with traditional leaders of vulnerable ethnic groups



Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (Ewura) director general Dr James Andilile (R) presents a certificate of approval to East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Tanzania general manager Wendy Brown for the construction of the pipeline. The pipeline is set to run from Kabaale in Uganda’s Hoima District to the Chongoleani Peninsula near Tanga Port in Tanzania.. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

‘Formulate clear tourist arrival increase strategy’

FROM PAGE 1

urging TTB to place opinion boxes at airports to know the reason most tourists departing from the country go elsewhere next time.

“We must ensure departing tourists choose Tanzania as their tourist destination and come back again,” he said,

underlining the need to place suggestion boxes at airports for departing tourists to provide hints on their inner sentiments.

TTB similarly needs to embark on sports and cultural festivals to promote tourism destinations from various quarters, especially when they are synchronized with expectations in their countries.

Damasi Mfugale, the newly appointed TTB managing director, promised to work on the directives given to the board by the minister, stating that the directives are consonant with the country’s vision of eventually attracting 10 million tourists.

Asserting that TTB welcomes the strategy formulation task with two hands, he said that himself and his team

intend to pull together and implement the directive, with a view to ensure the target of 10 million tourists is achieved.

TTB is well organized to start promoting tourism in a more advanced way by involving digital platforms and other modes that can help to convey the message about the country’s tourist attractions, he added.

Women entrepreneur groups receive free cooking gas cylinders and burner stoves

By Guardian Reporter, Tanga

HEALTH minister, Umyy Mwalimu said yesterday that the use of clean cooking energy will save Tanzanians from various health risks caused by the impact of high carbon footprint as a result of burning fossil fuels.

Mwalimu made the remarks in Tanga Region during a ceremony to handover 600 LPG starting kits to various women entrepreneur groups. They received free cooking gas cylinders and burner stoves from Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited

(OGTL) as part of the firms' commitment to discourage women from using charcoal and wood.

Tanga is among the regions in Tanzania devastated by a high number of chopped trees which are used for cooking and production of charcoal.

She said the gas cylinders and burner stoves worth 51m/- that have been given to women entrepreneurs from 27 wards in Tanga city will not only protect their health, but also the environment.

"We are thankful to OGTL

director, Araman Benoit for coming up with this crucial initiative as the world battles climate change which among other things it has been contributed with environmental destruction," asserted the minister, noting the use of charcoal and fire wood has resulted in a number of women suffering from eyes, respiratory complications and cancer.

Director, Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited, Araman Benoit said it is the company's belief that the initiative will change the wellbeing of Tanga resi-

dents, especially women who are mostly affected by smoke emanating from firewood and charcoal.

"OGTL is investing in the future by implementing carbon offset schemes through clean cooking education, donation of free LPG start-up kits to some regions, promotion of LPG usage through massive selling of gas cylinders at cheap prices and training communities on LPG safe use," he added.

He said the efforts aim to make sure the majority Tanzanians are gradually adopting

clean cooking energy solutions as per pledge by President Samia Suluhu Hassan. The President set the target of Tanzanian people using clean energy solutions, including LPG, to be at least 80 percent of the population by 2032.

The Oryx boss noted that they are also responding to the global mission to reduce carbon emissions resulting from industrial operations and human activities including the use of fossil fuels through the extensive promotion of LPG.

"We are excited to join the

government in its effort to improve the lives of Tanzanian communities and citizens by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We are proud to support implementation of the LPG agenda which is benefiting Tanzania.

Tanga City Mayor, Abdulman Shilow commended Tanga Urban legislator for promoting the use of clean cooking energy in the region.

He urged women entrepreneurs who have received the free gas cylinders and burner stoves to be good ambassa-

dors in promoting and encouraging others to opt for cleaner energy sources.

Earlier, Tanga City environmental officer, Kizito Mkwabi said the donation is going to save the lives of women entrepreneurs as they will no longer be at risk of suffering from disease caused by the use of fossil fuel.

Over 33,000 Tanzanians die annually from using firewood for cooking. Biomass accounts for almost 90 percent of the energy consumed by households across the country.



Oryx Gas Tanzania managing director Araman Benoit (L), Health minister Umyy Mwalimu (2nd-L) and Tanga district commissioner Hashim Mgandilwa present a free Oryx gas cylinder to one of 600 women entrepreneurs in Tanga Region on Monday as a way of promoting the use of clean cooking energy. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CCM in Mbarali District calls on govt to compensate villagers evicted from park area

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

CHAMA Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region, has appealed to the government to pay compensation to some residents of five villages that were removed from Ruaha National Park to be able to establish their settlements in their new areas.

The ruling party has also called on the government to find farms and livestock grazing areas for the residents who were moved as these are the main sources for their economic well being.

Member of Mbarali District CCM executive committee Christopher Uhagile made the appeal at the weekend during the visit by the member of the CCM National Executive Committee (CCM-NEC) representing Mbeya Region, Ndele Mwaselela. Mwaselela is in his visit to all districts of Mbeya region for introduction to party members after being elected by CCM Mbeya region executive committee.

Uhagile commended the government for adjusting boundaries of the Ruaha National Park saying the boundaries had taken many peoples' land thereby making it hard for them to conduct their production activities in peace in fear of eviction.

He said that earlier 39 were inside the park area and needed to be moved but after the government adjustment to the boundaries only five villages were eventually moved out.

Health workers called upon to improve community care

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

REGIONAL and district medical officers have been urged to continue embracing the improved Community Health Fund (CHF) since it has improved health services and also provides best lessons towards universal health coverage.

They have also been called on to properly manage the money generated as well as encouraging members of the public to enroll in the fund, especially those in the informal sector.

The call was made by the Director of Health, Social Welfare and Nutrition Services in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Dr Ntuli Kapologwe here yesterday.

Speaking on the sidelines of a two-day annual regional and district medical officer's general meeting, he said the fund has paid back 75 percent of its revenue to health facilities that provided treatment to members.

He added that it collected a total of 30.167 bn/- and 22.2 bn/- paid back to health facilities, equivalent to 8bn/- per month. "I urge all the RMOs and DMOs to ensure the public well understands the fund and enroll in efforts to boost provision of health services," he said.

According to the director, the contributions from the fund, 80 bn/- from cash payment, government contributions and those from

other stakeholders if well managed improve provision of health services.

CHF Coordinator at the ministry, Silvery Maganga while making a presentation about the fund at the meeting said the improved CHF has proved the efficiency in reaching households and people in the non-formal sectors.

"Through improved CHF, the less fortunate households have

been able to afford treatment at any time" he said, adding that it has also enabled all groups of people in the society to access health services.

He named some of such special groups as petty traders, workers in some private companies that have equitable access to health services. According to the coordinator, the community health fund is one of the best ways towards universal health coverage.

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The United States Agency for International Development in Tanzania (USAID/Tanzania) has issued a five-year contract entitled Feed the Future Tanzania Kilimo Tija Activity (FTFT-KTA) under the Feed the Future (FtF) initiative. The Feed the Future Tanzania Kilimo Tija activity is part of the U.S. government's (USG) Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS), which promotes global food security, resilience, and nutrition.

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FTFT-KTA is looking for Tanzanian private enterprises and non-governmental organizations to expand the outreach and impact of the activity to strategically achieve the objectives of the Kilimo Tija Activity, especially transformation and growth of Tanzanian horticulture market system, so it becomes more competitive, and inclusive. Through this grant fund, the intention is to support market-based initiatives which drive local actors to transform the horticulture market system into one that is more competitive, commercial, and inclusive, creating a vibrant horticulture market system, capable of fueling sustained growth and drawing in new market participants. To qualify, the proposed activities must be located in one or more of the following regions in the mainland: **Morogoro, Iringa, Mbeya and Njombe. For Zanzibar, initiatives / proposals for both Pemba and Unguja Islands qualify.**

Also, FTFT-KTA will provide information sessions to interested applicants on 28th February 2023 and 6th March 2023. At this stage, FTFT-KTA is requesting interested parties to submit a short concept note that will potentially align with FTFT KTA's objectives or create more innovation in the horticulture market systems. To obtain more information on application instructions, procedures and templates. Please visit the following link provided: <http://acdivoca.org/KTA-E01/>

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Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) Trust managing director Yohane Ibrahim Kaduma pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking at the launch of the firm's campaign dubbed 'Kijanisha Maisha'. The drive is meant to lead stakeholders into appreciating the importance of a concept closely linked to the Green Growth Agenda, which essentially means fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which humankind's well-being relies. Others are PASS commercial director Adam Kamanda (L), PASS monitoring and evaluation officer Haika Shayo (2nd-R) and the Agribusiness Innovation Centre director Tamim Amijee. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Majaliwa: Govt will continue to improve schools' infrastructure for children to get better education

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said the Phase VI Government will continue to work together with the people in strengthening education infrastructure to ensure Tanzanian children get better education to realise their life dreams.

Majaliwa said President Samia Suluhu Hassan continues to put strategies to ensure children get better education from primary to university level.

Majaliwa made the remarks yesterday during his visit to Lucas Malia and Mary Majaliwa Secondary schools in Ruangwa, Lindi region.

"President Samia can accomplish that because she has been a strong leader, and stressed that she is together with you," said Majaliwa. He said apart from President Samia stressing on improving education, she has also invested in girls' education by establishing laws to enable them realise their life dreams.

"In addition, we have prepared special strategies, including stern laws for those wanting to stop girls from continuing with

their education, we shall make sure they finish their education safely," he said.

"Parents, this school is ours, the children are ours, we must protect them and contribute to the school's development pace, we should visit the teachers from time to time to encourage them," Majaliwa added.

Lindi Regional Commissioner Zainab Telack said the region was implementing a strategic plan that is being reviewed annually to see where there are shortcomings in order to rectify them all aimed at boosting passes in examinations in Lindi Region.

She said through the plan they have managed to reduce Division Zero by 40 per cent and Division Four by 45 per cent in Form IV examinations.

"More than 50 per cent of those who finished Form IV last year will go to Form V and we are sure a student who completes Form VI in Lindi region will go to University."

Prime Minister Majaliwa's wife, Mary Majaliwa called upon the students to study hard and should avoid bad company and instead set their sights on their lessons to enable them realise their dreams in life.

Botswana denounces rise in rhino poaching

GABORONE

BOTSWANA'S Tourism minister, Philda Kereng, revealed on Monday that there has been a sharp rise in the poaching of rhinos.

The announcement takes place af-

ter the introduction in South Africa of tough measures against poachers.

Neighbouring South Africa, a traditional rhino poaching hotspot, has seen a steady decline in the number of animals killed in recent years due to increased patrolling of national parks,

forcing poachers to look elsewhere for horn.

According to the minister the rise in poaching is due to "increased demand for rhino horn on the international market", mainly in Asia. In Asia, rhino horns are used in traditional medicine

for their supposed therapeutic effects.

According to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Botswana has a total of 285 white rhinos and 23 black rhinos left.

Rhinos once roamed many places

throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa and were known to early Europeans who depicted them in cave paintings. At the beginning of the 20th century, 500,000 rhinos roamed Africa and Asia. By 1970, rhino numbers dropped to 70,000, and today, around 27,000

rhinos remain in the wild. Very few rhinos survive outside national parks and reserves due to persistent poaching and habitat loss over many decades. Three species of rhino—black, Javan, and Sumatran—are critically endangered.



Busega district commissioner Anna Gidarya (R) pictured in Kabita ward yesterday presenting exercise books to one of 38 students of the district's Venance Mabeyo Secondary School. Photo: Correspondent Mary Margwe

Mbarawa wants Kagera Region officials to work closely with contractor

By Guardian Correspondent, Ngara

WORKS and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa has directed Kagera region officials to work closely with China Angering Construction Company (CHICCO) contracted to build the Lusahunga-Rusumo road at tarmac level that connects Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda so as to be completed in the time agreed in the contract.

Prof Mbarawa (pictured) issued the directives here at the weekend after witnessing the signing of the contract for the road project between CHICCO and TANROADS.

"I appeal to you to collaborate with the contractor and also ask Kagera Region residents to cooperate with the contractor and desist from criminal activities including theft of construction materials.

Meanwhile, TANROADS Chief Executive Officer Rogatus Mativila, reading his road project report said the road is 92km long and will cost more than 252bn/- and is expected to be completed within two years.

Kagera Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila, speaking at the signing event said the government vows to economically open Kagera Region and Tanzania and called upon the region's residents to work hard and increase production. Some road users, including Jasper John, a long distance truck driver thanked the government by seeing the importance of building the road at tarmac level as it has been a source of accidents especially during rains due to its poor condition in some parts.



Govt reiterates pledge to support salt miners

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minerals Minister, Dr Stephen Kiruswa has reiterated the government's assistance to salt producers in the country in order to increase production by vowing to address all challenges facing the development of the mineral sector.

Dr Kiruswa made the remarks at the

weekend during his visit to Chakulu Salt Mines in Uvinza District, Kigoma Region and spoke to Kinyo Farmers and Salt Works and Twikome Salt, Kinyo Chakulu.

"I stress to end conflicts in this area in order to spur the increase of salt production in the country to enable salt producers to benefit from the essential resource," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Kiruswa called upon Uvinza District Commissioner to collaborate with Kigoma Region Resident Mining Officer to call a meeting with land owners and salt mining licence holders.

He also directed the Tanzania Mining Commission (TMC), the Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) and STAMICO to visit all areas of licence holders to identify areas

that can be drilled with wells for salt production.

Meanwhile, Kigoma Region Resident Mining Officer, Pius Lobe called upon the salt mining groups to agree among themselves to bring the conflict to an end.

TMC Licensing manager, Samuel Mayuki called upon licence owners and land owners to agree to the recommendation for the

joint agreement to avoid the suspension of salt production in case the conflict continues. Kigoma South Member of Parliament Nashoni Bidyanguze thanked deputy Minerals Minister Dr Kiruswa for coming to solve the long-time salt mining conflict that will see increased government's revenues and employment opportunities for the people in the area.

African campaigner says climate crisis worsening social injustices, conflicts

NAIROBI

THE realisation of social justice and cohesion in Africa could be a mirage as the unfolding climate crisis tears communities apart besides worsening poverty and inequality, a campaigner said on Monday during World Day of Social Justice.

Rosalid Nkirote, the executive director of the Nairobi-based African Coalition of Communities Responsive to Climate Change, said extreme weather events linked to global warming have diminished fairness, justice, and egalitarianism in the continent.

"Climate change alone is wreaking havoc on the African Union's Agenda 2063, which among others aims at improving real per-capita incomes, reducing incidences of hunger, especially among women and youth, and creating job opportunities," Nkirote said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

Marked every Feb. 20, this year's World Day of Social Justice seeks to rally communities toward collective action on threats to basic rights and human dignity, including poverty and hunger.

Nkirote noted that climate change, along with COVID-19-related disruptions, conflicts, and the global economic downturn, has worsened the fragility of Africa's poor, denying them basic items like food, clean water, shelter, and health.

In addition, Nkirote said climate emergencies have overwhelmed public coffers in the continent, pushing the rural and urban poor on the margins of survival and denying them a future of hope and dignity.

She cited the escalating drought in the East and Horn of Africa as reversing gains made in realizing social justice for all, given the magnitude of forced displacement, resource-based conflicts, and hunger.

Statistics from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) indicate that 23.4 million people in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia are grappling with acute food insecurity linked to a prolonged and climate-induced drought cycle.

Nkirote noted that as the climate crisis undermines efforts to bridge the access gap on basic services like clean water, electricity, and modern sanitation in Africa, social justice remains a pipedream.

She emphasized that a people-centered climate response will be key to achieving social justice and inclusivity in a continent that contributes least to planetary warming but has borne the brunt of this phenomenon.



A beneficiary of Tanzania Social Action Fund (Tasaf) support from Lukali village in Nyasa District, Ruvuma Region, whose name was not immediately established speaks at a meeting held at the weekend at which he complained about having been inexplicably denied payments for two consecutive rounds. Photo: Correspondent Amon Mtega

Private architects appeal to govt for employment

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

ARCHITECTURE and quantity surveyor experts have appealed to the government for employment to utilise them in its construction activities instead of only using its own experts.

The request was issued on Monday by the Registrar of Architects and Quantity Surveyors Registration Board, Edwin Nunduma dur-

ing a training seminar to empower architects and quantity surveyors held here.

Nunduma said as for now the government is implementing many projects using untrained technicians while the experts remain unemployed.

"Those given project funds do not use experts because the force account system is divided and in many areas they use it because they

do so themselves without using experts," said Nunduma.

He said the system to use untrained technicians instead of experts can affect the quality of completed projects.

He also appealed to ordinary citizens needing to build houses or other structures to utilise these jobless experts for their buildings to be robust.

He also called upon the govern-

ment to speed up the enacting of a building law that will control unplanned buildings in many areas of the country.

He said in the construction sector there are laws that need to be applied in regard to the supervision of buildings in order to make sure the structures and other buildings adhere to good urban planning.

Chunya District Commissioner, Simon Mayeka who was chief guest

at the seminar advised the experts to visit districts where there are many projects being implemented instead of remaining in the towns.

He said sometimes the experts are not involved in the projects because they do not introduce themselves, hence they are not recognized by officials.

He also called upon the youth who graduate in architecture and quantity survey to adopt self-em-

ployment by forming groups and invent various development projects, apply council loans and operate the projects.

John Gondwe, representative from Dar Ceramic Centre (Mbeya Zone) sellers of building materials said many customers of their goods have little knowledge in the use of better building materials hence they need education to avoid hazards in using poor materials.

Help vulnerable people access justice, journalists challenged

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

JOURNALISTS have been urged to be fair by supporting helpless people who are the major victims in various land conflicts so as to enable the group to access their justice.

This was said at the weekend by a legendary journalist and Radio Director at St Augustine University, Dotto Bulendu when he was speaking at a virtual meeting organised by Civic and Legal Aid Organisation.

According to him, many journalists have been ending up siding with authorities or people with power when reporting on land disputes, something which has been

leading to most of the victims being denied their right.

Themed: "Journalists position on distorting reports about land disputes in Tanzania", the meeting brought together more than fifty participants.

Bulendu said it is not fair for a journalist to go to the site of an area with land dispute, prioritizing the agenda of those in power without even taking time to listen and learn the history of the dispute.

"There has been this tendency of collecting affected persons' voices, but when we get back to our stations we analyze and take a few voices on air or print, which always are sided and pleasing the authorities, leaving behind the

true voices," Bulendu said.

He urged journalists to adhere to professional ethics and be patriotic when conducting their duties which include fairness and adherence to media laws, a matter which will keep them on the safe side while implementing their duties.

Navaya Ndaskoi, Research officer with Pingos Forum during his presentation blamed media in the country for not standing on their position in fulfilling their duties to ensure that their work brings positive impact in the society.

Odelo Odelo, chief executive officer of the Civic and Legal Aid Organisation urged the media to work independently and be the voice of the voiceless in making everyone enjoy their rights.

Madagascar, Mozambique set for 'dangerous' Cyclone Freddy

ANTANANARIVO

A CYCLONE that is intensifying as it approaches the southeastern African coast has been labeled "dangerous" by the United Nation's weather agency on Monday as nations brace for landfall.

Cyclone Freddy is projected to reach Madagascar on Tuesday evening and hurtle toward Mozambique by the end of the week. The tropical cyclone is equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane and is expected to dump heavy rain and bring turbulent winds.

A "significant deterioration in weather conditions" is underway, Meteo France's multi-hazard early warning system predicted Monday. The weather agency said the cyclone is passing around 100 kilometers (60 miles) away from the islands of Mauritius and later Reunion on Monday. Mauritius has already encountered flooding and gale-force winds.

The regional weather observation center on the island of Reunion said that Freddy is currently rushing across the ocean with average wind speeds of 205 kilometers (127 miles) per hour.

It's feared that up to 2.2 million people, mostly in Madagascar, will be impacted by storm surges and flooding, according to the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System. The Mahanoro, Mananjary and Nosy Varita communes in western Madagascar will be

first-hit on Tuesday.

Mozambique will likely be struck on Friday, according to the country's national meteorology institute. The nation has already experienced widespread flooding in recent weeks, raising fears from the U.N. humanitarian agency that the "severe humanitarian situation in the region" may escalate.

Some five other coastal nations – Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, and South Africa – are also vulnerable as Freddy looks set to tear across the Mozambican channel after Wednesday, according to the region's climate service center.

Last year, scientists were able to show that climate change worsened cyclones in southeast Africa, already a hotspot for tropical storms and cyclones.

In the last 12 months, the region has suffered a significant battering from a number of cyclones and suffered a major loss of life, and property, displacement of large populations, and costly damages to major infrastructure.

"It is hoped that accurate warnings and forecasts will help limit the damage from Tropical Cyclone Freddy," said U.N. weather agency spokesperson Clare Nullis.

First spotted and named by a monitoring center in Melbourne, Australia, on Feb. 6, Cyclone Freddy has since crossed the entire southern Indian Ocean.



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
TANZANIA FERTILIZER REGULATORY AUTHORITY



PUBLIC NOTICE

EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF IMPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BULK PROCUREMENT OF DAP AND UREA FERTILIZERS

Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) under Fertilizer Act, 2009 Cap 378 has a mandate to coordinate importation of fertilizer through the Bulk Procurement System as per the Fertilizer (Bulk Procurement) Regulations GN. 49 of 2017.

TFRA is pleased to inform all stakeholders and general public that, the deadline for submission of fertilizer requirements with bank guarantees previously set to be on or before Friday 17th February, 2023 at 4:00pm has been extended.

The deadline for submission of requirement for the Bulk Procurement of DAP and Urea Fertilizers has been extended to 17th March, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. Local Time while other terms and conditions remain the same.

TFRA upholds its commitment of partnering with all stakeholders in ensuring timely availability of quality fertilizer and fertilizer supplements to all farmers in Tanzania at affordable prices and friendly payment terms.



Belinda P. Kyesi
Ag. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For more information
Visit our office located at Plot No. 15471, 1 Kilimo Street, Kilimo I complex,
P.O. Box 46238, Dares salaam, Tanzania or call +255222861939.

Mount Kilimanjaro to undergo ten days of major clean-up operation

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE national park surrounding Africa's tallest Mountain is now hitting a milestone of 50 years since its establishment.

To mark the Golden Jubilee of Mount Kilimanjaro National Park, Tanzania is launching an ambitious cleaning exercise on and around this popular tourist feature in the country.

"More than 500 people will embark on the mountain cleaning exercise which will be conducted for ten consecutive days from March 1, to March 10, 2023," explained Herman Bathiho the Tanzania National Parks' Deputy Conservation Commissioner in charge of Conservation and Business Development.

DCC Bathiho added that the mountain cleaning endeavor will also be complemented with a tree planting venture in areas surrounding Mount Kilimanjaro, especially the Rombo District where environment degradation especially forest cover depletion has been rather high of late. Mount Kilimanjaro National Park was established five decades ago on 16 March 1973.

An average of 60,000 people from all over the world climb Kilimanjaro every year. Most

of them manage to conquer its highest peak on Uhuru Summit at about 5,895 meters above sea level. Kilimanjaro is the highest peak on the continent and also the largest free-standing mountain rise in the world.

Regarding its 50th Anniversary, Vice President, Dr Philip Mpango will lead the rest of the country in the ceremony to mark the Golden Jubilee for Kilimanjaro National Park on March 16, 2023.

Assistant Commissioner of Conservation Angela Nyaki who commands the Mount Kilimanjaro National Park, reveals that the event will be held at the Park Headquarters, which also serves as the entry gate for climbers using the Marangu route. "One of the achievements gained during the 50 years of Mount Kilimanjaro, is the fact that we now have 16 routes to reach the summit instead of just a single gate which used to operate in the late 60s," Assistant Commissioner Angela Nyaki pointed out.

The celebrations to mark Mount Kilimanjaro National Park's Golden Jubilee come five years after a similar festival was held in Mara Region for the Serengeti National Park's 50th Anniversary in 2019.



Manyara regional traffic police commander Georgina Matagi has a word with motorbike taxi riders based at Mirerani in Simanjiro District. It was at yesterday's launch of this year's edition of Road Safety Week activities. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

President Samia offers 5.9bn/- for building 257 dips in 80 councils

By Guardian Reporter

IN improving livestock services and preventing them from diseases, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has provided 5.9bn/- for the construction of 257 dips in 80 councils, of which 88 dips have been completed.

Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Abdallah Ulega said this

over the weekend when speaking in Narakauo Village, Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, while concluding a two-day working visit to the region to inspect dam construction projects.

He said that so far 169 dips are in different stages of construction, noting that in ensuring the goal and mission of President Samia to save the health of livestock in the 2022/23 financial year, the deaths of live-

stock resulting from diseases have decreased from 72 percent to 56 percent. Ulega added that five dips have already been built in Simanjiro District this fiscal year, two dips last year and seven dips will be built in the next fiscal year.

He also said that despite the construction of the cesspools, the government has given subsidized medicine to put in cesspools

52,560 liters across the country worth 2.3bn/-, while approximately 400 liters of medicine were sent to Simanjiro District to disperse them in the existing cesspools that district.

Regarding peoples' request to catch the wasps that have been bothering their areas, Ulega said that the government has taken their request and will work to find

the best way to eradicate the wasps that have been bothering the people and livestock.

Loibosiret Ward Councilor Ezekiel Lesang praised the efforts of the government and asked for two more charco dams to be added to move services closer to the people of Loibosiret Ward. Simanjiro District Council Chairman Baraka Kanunga congratulated President Samia for

bringing in water through a dam built by the government in Narakauo Village at a cost of 413m/- and handed over in May 2022, for watering livestock and other human uses.

Kanunga asked Narakauo Villagers to maintain the built dam and that they are making strategies to surround it with a fence and set up infrastructure to get the water out of the dam.

Seven people injured after hyena attack

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

SEVEN people in Tarime District, Mara Region have been hospitalized with various body injuries after they were attacked by a hyena when they were going to their farms.

The injured are Nyamisangura residents in Tarime Town Council, five of them are from two different families - Francis Siongo, Joseph Siongo, Seta Ngoncho Saro, Anna Saro, Sliha Saro and Mang'enyi Chacha

While on hospital bed, one of those injured, Seta Ngoncho Saro said:

Around 5:00 in the morning on Tuesday we were walking to our farms in the Nyandoto area, we had a cow plough and hand hoes, then all of a sudden a hyena appeared who wanted to attack our livestock. That was when we tried to protect ourselves by attacking the hyena while screaming."

He added: "People in the vicinity came up for help but the beast had already caused injuries to various parts of our bodies, as you can see our mother Anna Saro was seriously injured in the nose, hands and face.

Doctor in Charge of Tarime District Hospital, Dr Innocent Kweka confirmed to have received seven people injured, and added that they were receiving treatment and their conditions were improving.



This is Seta Ngoncho Saro of Bugosi in Nyamisangura ward, Tarime District, one of seven people admitted to the district hospital after being attacked by a rogue hyena as he and other members of his family headed for their farm on Tuesday morning last week. Photo: Correspondent Samson Chacha

290 young mothers given second chance to join VETA colleges

By Guardian Correspondent,

Kishapu

A TOTAL of 290 girls from three districts of Kishapu, Kahama in Shinyanga Region and Butiama in Mara region who gave birth at young age have been given another opportunity to join VETA colleges for free.

The training is sponsored by Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), and funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Finland.

Head of WILDAF Programme unit, Rehema Maro, said they established the "Chaguo Langu, Haki Yangu" project with the aim of assisting the girls by giving them a second opportunity to pursue their life dreams.

She said: "The project is a sustainable one and when the girls

graduate, others will come and we appeal to parents and guardians not to hide their daughters who have disabilities, because when we were looking for girls to join VETA colleges we found it hard to get those with disabilities because they also have the right to education."

Meanwhile, the official guest during the event to hand over the girls to Kishapu VETA College, Joseph Swalala who is the Kishapu district Community Development officer, called upon the girls to utilise well the opportunity they have been given, they should study hard to acquire skills for their own economic wellbeing.

Some of the girls, including Esther Jovani from Kishapu District promised to utilise the opportunity given and thanked WILDAF for the sponsorship as they had lost all hopes.



The project is a sustainable one and when the girls graduate, others will come and we appeal to parents and guardians

Mining firm, Nyang'hwale DC seal pact with technicians to execute CSR projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Nyang'hwale

BARRICK Bulyanhulu mine and Nyang'hwale District Council in Geita Region have signed a legal contract with the technicians who will implement various community projects this year worth 989m/-.

The idea is to ensure that the development projects implemented under the Corporate Social Responsibility funds (CSR) are completed within the scheduled time.

Speaking soon after the signing ceremony Nyang'hwale District Council Chairman, Isaac John called upon all the parties involved in supervising the projects to carry out their duties efficiently and diligently to ensure that the projects are up to a required standard and completed within the scheduled time framework set and technicians to ensure that they abide to the contracts they entered.

Nyang'hwale District Council executive

director, Husna Toni urged the technicians in the contract to ensure that they carry out their work efficiently.

"Make sure that government funds are properly utilized and to avoid the misuse of the CSR funds given in order to achieve success of community projects in bringing development to the people," Husna said.

Representative from Bulyanhulu Mine Manager, Zuweni Senkondo said that the mine is relieved to find that the funds provided for the implementation of the projects are being used for the intended purpose in parallel with ensuring that the intended projects are built with real value and at high standards.

"I urge all the stakeholders with whom we share together to ensure that these funds are used to complete the projects with the required standards for the development of the people."

Zuweni called upon the technicians who are running these projects to ensure that

they present the correct documents that are legally acceptable in the Mine when claiming their payment and ensure that they pay the government taxes which they are legally required to pay.

"On our part, if we receive the correct documents that meet the criteria, we will make payments promptly to ensure that we do not delay the projects in any way," she said.

Recently, during the signing of the agreement for the implementation of the projects between the Barrick Bulyanhulu Mine and the Nyang'hwale District Council, the Manager of Barrick Bulyanhulu, Cheick Sangare, said that the company will continue to cooperate with the government to ensure the projects' success of communities surrounding the mine in accordance with the country's policies through Corporate Social Responsibility funds (CSR).

Sangare, said that the Bulyanhulu Mine this year expects to produce approximately

215,000 ounces this year bringing the total CSR commitment to 2.9 billion shillings. This sum will be split between the two Districts of Msalala and Nyang'hwale.

Some of the projects that will be implemented with Barrick Bulyanhulu's CSR funds in Nyang'hwale District Council during this year are completion of private ward at Nyang'hwale hospital (97,860,500/-), completion of a Garage at Kharumwa village (40,000,000), completion of two classrooms at Ikangala primary school (11,625,000), completion of three classrooms at Samia Suluhu primary school (18,833,000), construction of toilet and incinerator at Iyenze Dispensary (14,279,250), completion of the laboratory block at Mwingiro secondary school (16,000,000), completion of administration block at Kaboha secondary school (67,602,000), completion of dining hall at Kharumwa primary school (60,000,000) completion of 5 classrooms

at Nyamikonze, Ngwasabuka, Iyenze and Kafita primary schools (62,500,000).

Other projects are completion of Nyamtukuza secondary school-administrative block, laboratory block, toilet and water system (51,169,200), bus station construction at Ikangala (170,000,000), completion of Mwingiro dispensary (74,178,450), completion of Emergency Medicine Department Block at Mwingiro hospital (69,250,000), completion of Nyijundu dispensary (45,885,000), Performance Improvement Programme (PIP) (25,000,000), procurement of 2 simtank and water gutters at Mwingiro secondary school (6,000,000), construction of an administration block at Kharumwa English medium primary school (60,086,225), completion the block at Kharumwa police station (17,931,375) and procurement of Generator and establishment of its infrastructure at Nyang'hwale district hospital (50,000,000).

Six Burundians appear in court charged with entering, living in Tanzania illegally

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

SIX Burundian citizens yesterday appeared before the Kisutu Resident Magistrate Court facing two charges including entering and living in the country illegally.

The charges were read by State Attorney, Godfrey Ngwijo before the Kisutu Principal Resident Magistrate Amir Msumi.

Ngwijo told the court that the accused committed the offence on 15th February, this year at Jangwani and Mchikichini areas in Ilala Municipality, Dar es Salaam Region.

Ngwijo told the court that on the first charge, on February 15, this year, the accused entered the country without having a valid passport or any other legal document.

On the second charge, it was alleged that on the same date and place, the accused committed the offence after they were found in the country without having a valid passport or any legal document or visa.

He mentioned the accused as Jephason Jelard, Michael Bahati, Kalenzo Kabatari, Abdallah Mambuko, Nimuboja Justin and Novatus Buzwili.

The accused agreed to have committed the offence and were given bail terms on the condition that of having two sureties to sign 1m/- bond.

However, all accused did not fulfill bail terms

therefore were taken to remand.

The case was adjourned until February 27, this year for the preliminary hearing of the 6th suspect who denied all the charges.

Meanwhile, one Congolese citizen, Paulo Mdan-gwa has appeared before the Kisutu Resident Magistrate Court facing two charges including entering and living in the country illegally.

Reading the charges before the Kisutu Principal Resident Magistrate, Amir Msumi, State Attorney Godfrey Ngwijo told the court that the accused committed the offence on February 14, this year at Mbezi Kibanda cha Mkaa within Kinondoni Municipality in Dar es Salaam Region.

Ngwijo told the court that in the first charge, the accused committed an offence by entering the country without having a valid passport or any other legal document.

On the second charge, the accused committed an offence after being found in the country without having a valid passport or any legal document or visa.

The accused admitted to have committed the offences and was given bail terms which are to have two sureties who shall sign a 1m/- bond or property equivalent to the amount or one year imprisonment.

The accused did not fulfill bail terms and he was taken to remand.



Bagamoyo district commissioner Halima Habib Okash (L, squatting) and Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania CEO and managing director Herman Kasekende plant a tree at Shukuru Kawambwa Primary School at Kiromo at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Construction of sand dam relief for Iyenge villagers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

VILLAGERS in Iyenge, Mpwapwa District, Dodoma Region can now plant and harvest vegetables all year long, improving their incomes following the construction of a sand dam in the area.

A sand dam is a reinforced rubble cement wall built across a seasonal sandy river. They are a simple, low cost, low maintenance technology that retains rainwater and recharges groundwater. Sand dams are the most cost-effective method of water conservation in dry land environments.

Through the sand, the villagers are hoping to access water a couple of feet beneath the dry surface of the season.

Dodoma region just like other semi-arid areas in the country need water for crop irrigation, not to mention drinking, but the main rivers flow only seasonally.

The project under implementation by the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT), a local non-governmental organization in the country is estimated to benefit about 11,350 villagers.

James Sumuni, Technical Agricul-

tural Component Facilitator at SAT, argues that sand dam construction is the most economical method of rehabilitating semi-arid lands whenever rain runoff includes both sand and water.

The dams' construction combined with terracing and reforestation restores degraded land within less than a generation, he told the international conference. "Sand can carry water, store it, filter it, cool it, preserve it, and prevent it from evaporation," said Sumuni.

He noted that an average sand dam can store millions of liters of water for years, and provide water for irrigation even when the rains fail.

In his explanations, it is estimated that the dam, 54feet underground would be filled with sand at least by 60 percent which in return store water by 40 percent.

He said the four year project 2022-2024, at the total cost of 70 m/- funded by the Sand Dams Worldwide and implemented by SAT, is a pilot project.

Three other villages in Mpwapwa district and one other in Chamwino district have been earmarked for similar projects. According to Su-

munu, the project also helps in environmental conservation since it is a requirement to plant at least 1000 trees at the project site.

Speaking during the tree planting activity at the project site, Village Chairperson, Sylvester Damian, noted that the project will end the long dry season struggle that villagers go through.

He said SAT saw it right to introduce the project as a result of hardship members of the Dodoma Women in Agriculture and Business Initiatives (DWABI), sponsored by the organization face.

"I thank SAT for the initiative that is likely to improve the living conditions of villagers," noted the chairperson

Village Executive Officer, Leonard Msinje, echoed similar observations, saying, "We are proud to have this project in the village as it helps solve the long struggle to get water during dry season".

Sand dams enable rural dryland farmers to transform their own lives, reducing the time and effort spent on collecting water so that communities can focus on developing sustainable futures.



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (L) has an audience yesterday with African Development Bank (AfDB) executive director Jonathan Nzayikorera, who had just jetted into Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport for a four-day official visit to Tanzania. Before his election into the post in May last year for a three-year term, the Rwandan economist and chartered banker served as senior advisor to the bank's executive director representing the Eastern Africa Constituency, which covers Tanzania, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. Photo: Finance ministry

Prosecution side into drug trafficking case to present evidence in court

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

PROSECUTION side into a drug trafficking case of 1001.17kg of heroin facing Hussein Hariri and his colleagues has told the Kisutu Resident Magistrate Court that it will present six pieces of evidence and seven witnesses that proves the crime.

State Attorney Caroline Matemu told the Court yesterday before the Kisutu Principal Resident Magistrate, Mary Mrio that

when the case is brought for hearing of witnesses and exhibits (evidence) shall be presented before the court.

She claimed that among exhibits include travel passports, two vehicles, five mobile phones, heroin, and a report from the chief government chemist laboratory as well as an arrest warrant.


However, Mrio adjourned the case until the High Court calls it for hearing, whereas the ac-

cused will remain in remand.

The accused are Benson Muro (32), a resident of Mbezi and Ramadhani Almas (46) as resident of Magomeni Mapipa in Dar es Salaam region.

It was alleged that the accused committed the offence on March 17, 2022 at Mbezi Chini area within Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region.

It was alleged that the accused were illegally trafficking heroin.



INVITATION TO BID

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| RFQ TITLE | : | Supply of Education Subsidies |
| RFQ Number | : | 2023-HUMULIZA/02/ 21 |
| Date of Solicitation | : | 22 nd February 2023 |
| Closing date and time | : | 28 th February 2023 at 11:00 am |
| Questions and Clarifications | : | Due by 27 th February 2023 |

HUMULIZA Organization is a registered Non-governmental Organization (NGO) established in 1997 to provide psychosocial support (PSS) to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). It is located in Nshamba ward, Muleba district, Kagera region of Tanzania in East Africa. The organization was created in response to a household survey conducted in 1996, which discovered that HIV/AIDS was responsible for a growing number of child-headed households (CHH) and orphans. HUMULIZA Organization was officially registered on 21 December 2005 under the Non-Governmental Organization Act No. 24 of 2002 with Registration No. 0586 and on 28th February 2022 was issued with new registration under NGO Act No. 00NGO/R1/00461. Since from its establishment has 25 years of operation with good performance and very powerful use of PSS approaches to support MVCs locally and regionally. This operates in 8 Districts of Kagera Region i.e Muleba, Bukoba MC, Bukoba Rural, Missenyi, Ngara, Biharamulo, Karagwe and Kyerwa.

ACHIEVE Project refers to Adolescents and Children HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment, and Virus Elimination (ACHIEVE) is a five-year global effort to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children.

The project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by a Pact led consortium of top global HIV/AIDS partners, including jhpiego, Palladium, No Means No Worldwide, and WI-HER.

HUMULIZA through ACHIEVE Project invites bids from eligible suppliers to supply 11,649 education subsidy kits.

Objective of the Assignment
The overall objective of this assignment is to procure 11,649 education subsidy kits with the different description as detailed in the table below:

| DREAMS Education Kits | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--|----------|
| Items | # of Items | Specifications | Quantity |
| Small School Bag | | Small Backpack - waterproof (22cm by 35cm) | 11,649 |
| Exercise books | | A4 Exercise books (80-100 pages) | 58,245 |
| Pens | | Type: - Ball Pen. Material: - Plastic. Colour: - Blue / Black. | 58,245 |
| Pencils | | 621 HB Pencil, Material: Wood Superior hb bonded lead resists breakage Clear and sharp writing | 58,245 |
| Mathematical Set | | Mathematical set (includes including the ruler, rubber, shar dividers, protractor, set square, 55. compass, ellipsograph square) | 11,649 |

Interested vendors should request the full Terms of Reference (ToR) through email with the subject line **"TOR for Procurement of Supply of education subsidies"** to procurement@humuliza.or.tz before **27th February 2023**.

All questions and requests for clarification should be directed to procurement@humuliza.or.tz with the subject line **"Request for Clarification: Supply of education subsidies"**

Eligibility
Vendors must be currently legally operating in Tanzania, and the tender document must include all the following information:

- Ability to meet or exceed the Requirements/ Specifications outlined above.
- Ability to deliver the items/services no later than the date(s) required.
- Must be legally registered in Tanzania

Evaluation Criteria:

- Price
- Financial capability
- Experience
- Quality of items to be supplied (Shortlisted applicants will be required to submit samples).

Delivery terms.
Submission Instructions:

- Draft inception report detailing the methodology for supplying and distributing education subsidies kits, including tentative work plan, for review and approval by Humuliza Organization.
- Tender validity 90 days
- Current company profile.
- Copies of office registration certificates, addresses, valid business licenses, VAT certificates, TIN certificates, and Tax clearance certificates.
- Items specifications are fully addressed in the tender document
- Current Audited financial statements for two current consecutive years
- Delivery time must be specified.
- Payment terms 100% after delivery
- Evidence of similar assignments and at least two (2) names and addresses of clients served.
- Shortlisted vendors will be required to submit samples similar to or close to the sample provided by Humuliza Organization.
- All vendors are encouraged to appear during the opening date.

Vendors interested should submit their proposal in sealed envelopes to Humuliza Organization by **28th February 2023** before 11:00 am. All sealed envelopes should be marked as Tender for Procurement of Education Subsidies

Office Address:
HUMULIZA ORGANIZATION,
P.O. BOX 46,
NSHAMBA- MULEBA, KAGERA,
TANZANIA.

HUMULIZA will open bids on **28th February 2023 at 12:00pm**. In the presence of bidders or their representatives who will choose to attend.

Price quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings and include Tax separately
Proposals submitted through emails will not be considered.

Proposals received after that time, or at a different address shall not be accepted.

The Guardian

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WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Human rights, good governance is increasingly the standard for Africa

WHILE in the early 1980s Tanzania volunteered to host the African Court on Human and People's Rights, it was a fairly daring step in foreign policy, despite that Tanzania had restrictive laws like other African countries.

The different was that it didn't have open or notorious human rights breaches, the main part of which became even more notorious during the civil wars of that decade and the next. What brought about a change was the International Criminal Court/

ACHPR covers a breadth of legal recourse not found in international judicial instances, as ICC is about criminal conduct of an individual, tried on the basis an independent UN investigation and prosecuted following ICC statutes on crimes against humanity.

The other instance, the International Court of Justice is sought out by state parties to arbitrate in disputes relating to borders or civic commitments. Its verdict is advisory, not backed by prior obligations set out in the charter of the United Nations Security Council but the General Assembly.

Over the past two decades, ingrained habits of military rule and violent civilian regimes gradually became a thing of the past, and now it rears its head here and there, and often as an auxiliary to role model social transformation.

Outright gangster government is something of the past, but resource violence arising from creeping desertification, population explosion and rival traditional claims lead to vast displacements and injustice. ACHPR serves this need, if a civil group wishes to raise an issue of fairness or human rights violations with the court.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, inaugurating the 2023 judicial year of the court laid emphasis on good governance/ It is unavoidably tied up with the realisation of "The Africa we Want," since investment and savings can take place only with good governance. The trouble is that the recurring theme of democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law do not address the roots of instability; in a circular fashion positing good governance solutions.

This is aptly noted in aspiration 3 of the African Union's Agenda for 2063, which in brief expects that by that year, 30 years from now, Africa will have the same social structures but governed democratically.

There is rising evidence that democratic government is in a way sliding backwards, in all continents by different magnitudes.

Only stable economic growth where youths have paying jobs or regular substitute income to rely upon can peace be maintained, not by huckstering and trying to make ends meet; this ignites desperation, even chaos.

The court president, at the inaugural ceremony, highlighted that during the commemoration of the court's 15th anniversary in 2021, the court set a specific objective of enhancing its visibility and engaging with stakeholders.

The focus of this engagement is enhancing their own visibility in relation to court activity and in a sense to get its prerogatives accepted in civil society and eventually by the legislature and top leadership.

It has not been easy as the government feels it is often misused by restive NGOs pushing objectives of opposition parties, etc.

Songwe River Basin bilateral entity a model for other border resources

REPORTS of Tanzania and Malawi forming a joint commission to regulate economic activity along the River Songwe Basin, straddling the two countries' border is a strong signal that things are changing between the two countries. In recent weeks there was a meeting of defence and security chiefs along with regional administration on stamping out crime on the border zone, and now they are seeking to place environment on a firm footing. A really welcome initiative.

Tanzania's borders are almost at each instance having resources that the two countries share on a daily basis, and which may definitely do with a cadre of institutions and services making the use of those resources more compatible with conservation, more assertive in relation to climate change. There are also issues of rising populations along rivers and lakes, and if not properly handled that could be a pointer to vast environmental degradation. The Songwe River Basin initiative is hence a step in the right direction for addressing such needs.

Forming a bilateral entity for enabling cooperation isn't new, but setting up a stakeholders' forum bringing together concerned parties from both countries, and then the Songwe River Basin Commission to add up, was different. Still, it has to find the right means of getting people engaged, not just laying down rules on what can't be done on river banks etc but opportunities. It calls for the formation of a special economic zone of sorts where people can open businesses on either side, as that ignites considerable interest to use the wider inland market. Seeking goods with a warehouse in a country contrasts with waiting for someone to bring such goods to the

border, unable to identify cheaper sources. The commission will be tasked with facilitating collaboration in finding solutions emanating from exploiting river resources on either side, to ensure that both sides benefit. When a reciprocal opportunity of starting business on the other side and even holding non-transferable properties is operating, there will be fewer conflict resolution and more license processing, and vice versa. When land is available to hire, lease or purchase business catches up quickly, not when individuals can't make own decisions but vilage tribunals, committees.

Reports say that the basin covers a 4,203 square km area, incorporating seven administrative districts on the border zone of the two countries, in which case extensive supervision will be needed. Such a zone is vast by any standards, and if the commission is linked with the Tanzania Investment Centre and others, for instance environmental technology agencies where people can borrow using land as collateral at low interest, they could find partners. Then they speed up things as the zone could easily create an inward looking common market, etc.

Such ideas aren't lacking in the least, as a ministerial director said at that event that the exchange of ideas between the two sets of stakeholders was tied to find ways of pooling efforts in seeking out financing for developing the river basin.

Building a dam for electricity generation and fish farming are two ideas that the two sides are starting with, the way Dubai started with an airfield and tent vacations, growing up to become a global marketplace. There is plenty of potential in this initiative especially if markets are facilitated and let to work.

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Social media and the 2023 election campaigns

By Jibrin Ibrahim

CLEARLY, we must all be careful about what we see and hear on the social media.

This makes curbing disinformation very challenging in Nigeria. But at the same time, these networks for the flow of information can also promote democracy. Civic awareness of the continuous voters' registration process and the importance of participating has largely been driven by a sustained online campaign in the run-up to 2023, while the platforms can be used to fact check and hold elected and aspiring officials to account.

The Centre for Democracy and Development has just published a major study on social media and the 2023 election campaigns, which I will summarise here. Currently, the number of active social media users in Nigeria has risen from 27 million in 2019, to 36 million ahead of the 2023 elections. Given the challenge of prevailing misinformation and disinformation on social media platforms, and the way such disinformation can permeate into the media more generally, greater access to online information does not necessarily create more informed citizens. In fact, in Nigeria, it has confused the citizenry while entrenching pre-existing divides based on ethnicity and religion, especially as malinformation, a deliberate sharing of genuine information with an intent to cause harm, thrives in this election season.

As the elections approach, we are witnessing renewed sophistication and organisation in the push for disinformation. Key players are focused on glorifying or delegitimising political candidates and undermining the credibility of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). At the same time online organisation remains largely informal, in part by design, with political parties driving disinformation behind the scenes through unofficial party accounts or hired influencers. In addition to the use of platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and WhatsApp, TikTok, with its predominantly video content that can bridge educational divides, is playing an increasingly important role. So too are Twitter Spaces, which are recorded and then shared, as podcasts, across social media platforms in ways that increase listenership.

Cross-platform posting remains critical to understanding Nigeria's digital ecosystem, as screen grabs or content from one platform can be shared across all others, broadening the reach beyond the number of direct users. Content also moves from online forums into offline spaces, with soldiers of mouth spreading online content through

streets talks, in motor parks and at newspaper stands.

This makes curbing disinformation very challenging in Nigeria. But at the same time, these networks for the flow of information can also promote democracy. Civic awareness of the continuous voters' registration process and the importance of participating has largely been driven by a sustained online campaign in the run-up to 2023, while the platforms can be used to fact check and hold elected and aspiring officials to account. Finding a balance that accentuates these positives and diminishes the negative aspects must be a priority as the elections approach.

TikTok content also reaches individuals without an account through cross-posting, meaning that it can reach Nigerians with limited literacy, when it comes to written text. It is much cheaper to send out jingles on TikTok, which previously had to be placed on radio and TV channels, and with phone sharing and cross-platform posting, the audience reached can still be significant.

In the 2019 elections, the Atikulated Youth Force, the social media team of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)'s presidential candidate, and the Buhari Media Centre (BMC), with links to the All Progressives Congress (APC), dominated the online discourse. Such groups are still present in 2023, although part of the BMC has now evolved to centre around APC presidential candidate Bola Ahmed Tinubu, with his supporters identifying as being 'BATified'. However, they have been supplanted in 2023 by Obidients - the label used by the supporters of the Labour Party (LP) presidential candidate, Peter Obi. They are the most active online actors in this election. In addition to promoting his candidacy, many have been accused of spreading disinformation. In fact, the candidate himself was compelled to call them to order in September 2022, after his presidential campaign was accused of using overzealous social media supporters to skew the narrative in his favour. Obi also distanced himself from engagements of his supporters in malicious campaigns against his opponents in a series of tweets. But such malevolent online campaigns engineered by all leading parties continue to be a prevailing feature of Nigeria's information ecosystem.

The disinformation ecosystem has created lucrative opportunities, particularly for the youth. Some of the most prominent political influencers on social media, who are hired by political parties or individual candidates, earn up to N500,000 (US\$1,200) a month, whilst those with smaller followings are likely to receive nearer N50,000

(US\$110).

In previous elections, text and pictures were dominant, but in 2023, the emphasis has been more on the real time livestreaming of audio and video content on social media platforms. One of the innovations this year is the organisation of political song challenges, such as the one coordinated by Dauda Rara, a prominent northern political musician, and it is called 'Jagaban Shine Gaba'. The challenge encouraged citizens to mime a song with creative videos and upload it on TikTok. Rara and his team of judges reviewed the entries and awarded 12 cars, 30 iPhones and selected a further 50 individuals to receive N100,000 (\$220) each. Other political actors have also been promoting challenges that favour their candidates by offering gifts or rewards to those who generate the most viral contents. Coupled with the TikTok's fairly lax community guidelines and limited enforcement, these challenges can be used to push disinformation "without those responsible being penalised" in the view of one user. TikTok content also reaches individuals without an account through cross-posting, meaning that it can reach Nigerians with limited literacy, when it comes to written text. It is much cheaper to send out jingles on TikTok, which previously had to be placed on radio and TV channels, and with phone sharing and cross-platform posting, the audience reached can still be significant.

For all social media platforms, the line between the online and offline remains blurred. For example, during this election campaign cycle, a letter on the official INEC letterhead, and purportedly signed by the INEC spokesperson, was released claiming to commence the investigation on drug related charges. However, this letter was a forgery that originated on WhatsApp, moved quickly across social media...

WhatsApp remains utilised to coordinate the organisation of elections, to circulate audio and visuals, and it has the largest reach in terms of the direct number of users. Voice notes remains critical, especially in local languages, with content regularly played and replayed to an audience that has no direct online access. Other closed network platforms like Telegram are also becoming increasingly influential. These closed spaces are also used to help organise campaign rallies and other large gatherings, both online and offline. The latter is a concern, given that separatist groups, such as the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), have Telegram channels through which they talk directly to supporters, spread disinformation, recruit adherents and plan offline

activities.

For all social media platforms, the line between the online and offline remains blurred. For example, during this election campaign cycle, a letter on the official INEC letterhead, and purportedly signed by the INEC spokesperson, was released claiming to commence the investigation of the APC presidential candidate on drug related charges. However, this letter was a forgery that originated on WhatsApp, moved quickly across social media, and was read out on national broadcast platforms such as Arise TV. There was never any investigation, nor was the statement issued by INEC, but in a rush to break the news, and possibly influenced by media partisanship, it became a mainstream story. The example given is an outlier, but social media, more regularly, serves as a source of content inspiration for mainstream media. It is common to find issues trending on Twitter being discussed on morning or evening debate shows, as this is what the audience is looking to hear. In that sense, media houses are bringing the online into the conventional media and into peoples' homes. And when they invite so-called 'political consultants' as experts into their studios, they invite disinformation specialists. These individuals are often paid to peddle half-truths, promote conspiracy theories or attempt to legitimise false information flowing online.

Disinformation is being instrumentalised to entrench pre-existing social cleavages around ethnicity and religion in the 2023 election campaign. This is accentuated by the fact that the three major ethnic groups in Nigeria are fielding presidential candidates - Peter Obi (Igbo), Bola Tinubu (Yoruba) and Atiku Abubakar (Fulani/Hausa). Often, "photoshopped scenes or old images are being recirculated or utilised to cast one ethnicity against the other and delegitimise opposition". An example was a picture of the APC vice-presidential candidate, Kashim Shettima, showing him with what was claimed to be members of the Islamist militant group, Boko Haram. The image was circulated widely on Twitter, WhatsApp and was even referred to by a television morning show producer. A fact-check eventually revealed that while Shettima was indeed sitting and having a meal with people, they were not Boko Haram members but nomadic Fulani parents whose children he had enrolled in secular schools in 2017. With the APC running a controversial Muslim-Muslim ticket, this falsehood appears to have been designed to appeal to, and prey on the fears of, Christian voters. Clearly, we must all be careful about what we see and hear on the social media.

There is a thin line between healthy and toxic parenting

PARENTS all over the world strive to give their children the best they can so that they become responsible citizens. Some are strict, no nonsense disciplinarians who can become a nightmare but truth is they mean well. There are many naughty children who only thank their parents later.

But what if you—the parent—are the problem? Yes, some parents are toxic. Toxic parents create a negative and toxic home environment. They use fear, guilt, and humiliation as tools to get what they want and ensure compliance from their children. They are often neglectful, emotionally unavailable, and abusive in some cases. They put their own needs before the needs of their children. Children who grow up in such dysfunctional families experience toxic stress on a daily basis.

First, consider how your children feel after spending time or talking with you. If they are not happy or comfortable with you, may be you are a toxic parent as some of your behaviors unknowingly hurt them. If this happens with you, then you are a toxic parent. But you can be a healthy parent by accepting your fault and changing your behaviour.


Studies show that toxic parents overall seek to completely control their child on every aspect of their life and are extremely talented at making others believe that everything they do is in the child's best interest. The godlike parents suffocate their child's independence to the point that the child can't survive on their own. This environment makes them believe that they are weak. These kinds of parents become verbal and physical abusers.

As parents, sometimes we make mistakes in raising our children. Our intention is to do good for them but unknowingly, instead of making a healthy childhood and responsible adults, we mess up things and end hurting children, causing guilt, fear, resentment or even hate. Unfortunately, these reactions don't

CONTROLLING
they're telling you constantly what to do, when to do it, and how to do it.

BLAMING
they don't take responsibility when something goes wrong, but they pin it on you.

CRITICAL
nothing you do is good enough for them, and they find fault in everything that you do.





As parents, sometimes we make mistakes in raising our children. Our intention is to do good for them but unknowingly, instead of making a healthy childhood...

suddenly appear, they become embedded in the child's head by experiencing constant aggression from their parents.

Experts say that there are many causes behind these toxic behaviours and it's hard to explain why they do this hidden child abuse but many cases are traceable to parents with history of child abuse during their own childhood, depression, anxiety or lack of parenting skills to cope with the pressures and struggles of raising a child. Family stress, domestic violence, separation or divorce and personal mental health issues are also reasons for toxic parenting.

I want to share one incident about toxic parenting. Recently, one video went viral on social media in which one young girl is seen

lying on the roof of a house on a hot afternoon with her hands and feet tied up. The video alarmed local police who sprang into action



Pressing Issues
With
Chaitra Chatterjee

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Feminism activists receive limited funds but deliver big results

By Dr Ananilea Nkya

WOMEN'S rights movement in Tanzania and worldwide ought to advocate for increased funding for their work as scientific evidence suggests that although feminism activists receive limited funds, their works bring about remarkable results.

A study conducted by Oxfam GB in 70 countries across the world which analysed gender violence laws and policies against women revealed that the works of feminist activists produce big results although they receive small scale funding to pursue their agenda.

Similarly, in Tanzania, a brief desk study by Women Fund Tanzania trust (WFT) entitled 'Shifting power to provoke change for inclusive development through feminist funding' reveals that "funding to women's rights organizations has fallen for more than half over the past 11 years today."

Yet, regardless of the scarcity of financial resources, the Oxfam study shows that women's rights activists influence changes because the most crucial and reliable factor driving positive transformation in relation to women's, girls' and children's rights is "feminism activism."

For example, in Tanzania, the Child Act of 2009 is a result of

the work of feminism activists from across the country.

"Child Act of 2009 law is good because it states that no child is allowed to marry before they reach the age of 18," says Rebecca Gyumi, Executive Director of Msichana Initiative, an organisation dedicated towards uplifting the quality of life of girls in Tanzania.

However, she said Article 14 of Marriage Law of 1971 contradicts the Child Act of 2009 because it allows a girl child of 14 years to get married with her parents' consent.

This is the reason feminism solidarity and sustainable funding is required to enable women and girls' rights organisations in Tanzania initiate joint advocacy strategy aimed at influencing the government to take action and table the bill in the parliament to remove Article 14 from the Marriage Law of 1971.

The need for women movement to carry out a consistent advocacy against Article 14 of Marriage Law of 1971 is backed by the Oxfam study which reveals that feminism activism "plays a more important role than left partners and women legislators and even national wealth."

The Oxfam study shows how effective feminism activism on women rights issues also rep-

resents the reality of women rights activists' organisations in Tanzania.

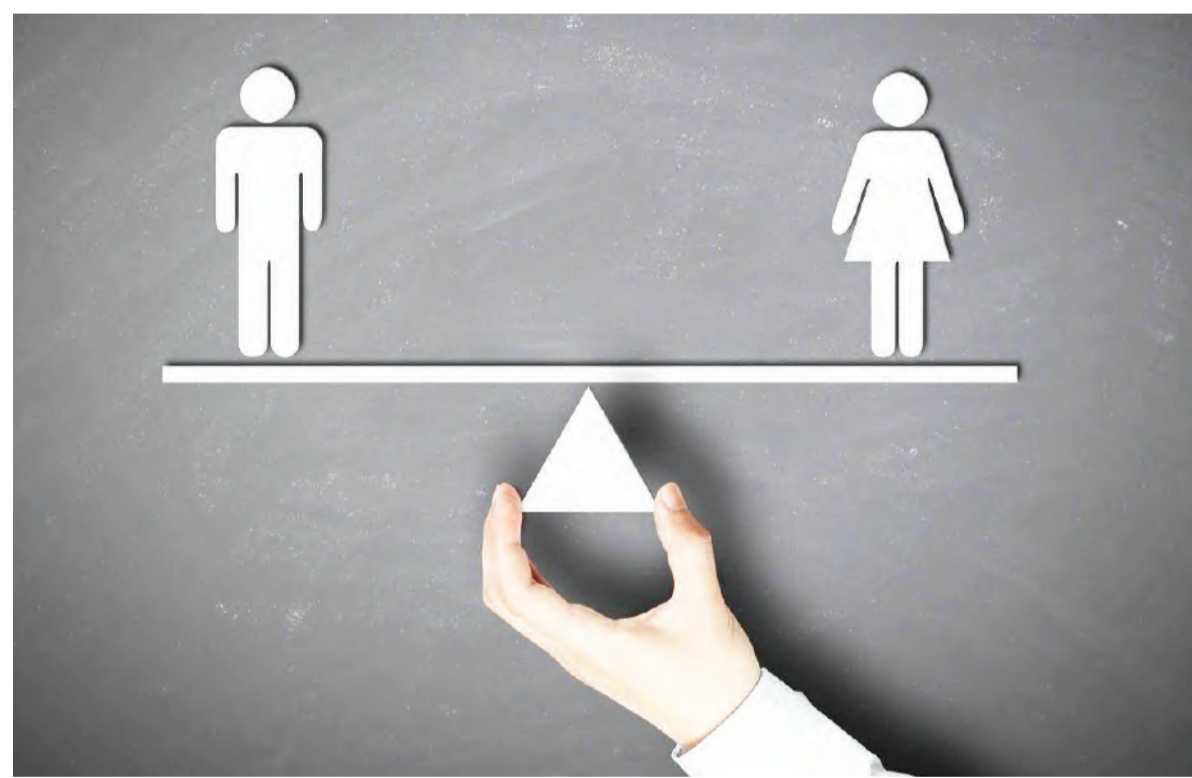
For instance, because of her passion and commitment to improving social, economic, and political status of girls, Gyumi initiated and pursued a case in court using money from her own pockets which in 2015 resulted in a ruling of the High Court against Article 14 in the Marriage Law of 1971.

The High Court ruling was a historical milestone not only to Gyumi and her organization, Msichana Initiative, but also to all feminism activists and men and women who are pro gender equality in Tanzania and beyond.

"The impact of this milestone was enormous because before the High Court ruling, the case did not receive funding but after the ruling, we got two-year support from Voice—The Netherlands foreign ministry facility—to popularize the decision and to ensure it is legislated," she said.

However, because of lack of political will, the government of the then President the late Dr John Magufuli did not implement the High Court decision. Instead, it appealed to the Court of Appeal.

Gyumi said because of the government's move, the little



grant received from Voice was invested in pursuing the case in the Court of Appeal since 2017.

The girls' rights activist said because the money from Voice was not sufficient, they engaged a panel of advocates with a rate of charity as they could not afford the Court of Appeal rates and in 2019 the Court of Appeal made decision in favor of the High Court and instructed the government to make changes on the law but to date the government has not implemented the decision.

The fact that the government of the late President Magufuli appealed against the High Court ruling in 2015 and that it is now almost five years since the Court of Appeal upheld the High Court decision against Article 14 of Marriage Law of 1971 but the government is yet to implement the decision confirms another result of the Oxford

study.

The research reveals that although some governments have adopted a wide variety of measures to address violence against women and girls including legal reforms, other governments have done little to address the problem.

Thus, it is vital for feminists in Tanzania to focus on building a strong movement whose key agenda in the future is championing changes in national and international funding ecosystems to allow enough and sustainable funding to trickle down to women and girls' rights activities.

Importantly, the presence of women's rights movement providing both thought and action leadership can eventually affect a paradigm shift that will result in transformative change in favour of availability of sustainable funding to women and

to track down the child and ensure that she was safe. It later turned out that the girl's mother had tied her up and left her on the roof as punishment for not completing homework. The mother got arrested for and arraigned assaulting the child.

The mother's horrific 'disciplinary' action was an overreaction that will likely affect the child in the future in negative ways. We as parents should not focus more of finishing studies than understanding lessons. Instead, we should focus on their behaviour, extracurricular activities and talents.

The viral video led to some form of justice but what about many incidents of parental child abuse that go undocumented? What about the children who are left to endure such cruel punishments that go undocumented or hardly any intervention?

Parents need to understand that merely getting your child to do their studies by hook or crook doesn't make any good parent. Parents should not force their child to complete their chore out of fear but a sense of happiness and excitement must be there. Every parent's duty is to give their child a happy and secure childhood which leads to healthy adulthood.

Do you think such cruel behaviours by some parents can ever discipline a child? Or do they simply leave them lifelong mental stress that affects their wellbeing as adults. It's really challenging situation for parents who mean well for their children but end up destroying their lives. And if you feel you have slipped into a toxic parent yourself, you just need to change for your own mental health and for the health of others around you.

Seeking professional help from a therapist is always the best option. Your relationship with your children will not improve unless you commit to changing your behaviour. Don't expect to be forgiven immediately. Just keep doing the good work and prove you've changed. Remember, the price is worth the effort. No parent is toxic by nature but they unknowingly act toxically.

Parenting is tough, so it is important to remember that making mistakes does not make you a toxic parent. Raising children is challenging, you may lose your cool but it is important to tell your child that you're sorry but you love them very much. Changing behaviour is the best thing you can do.

girls' rights agenda.

Women's rights movement can realise funding agenda because the Oxfam study shows that "strong, vibrant domestic feminist movements use national and international conventions and agreements as levers to influence policy-making; strong local movements bring home the value of global norms on women rights."

Therefore, because WFT is dedicated to empowering local women heroes through giving grants to among other things building a strong women's movement in Tanzania, it is important that during their celebrations this week to mark 15 years, the agenda of funding women rights activities is given priority.

Ananilea Nkya holds a PhD on Tanzanian News Media Engagement with National Development Issues.

By Thompson Chau and Guy Dinmore

NEARLY 18 million people - about one-third of Myanmar's population - need humanitarian aid this year because of civil war and the post-coup economic crisis, according to the latest United Nations estimates.

The numbers needing support continue to rise from the estimated 14 million people needing aid last year. More than 10,000 people were displaced by fighting in southern Kayah State in early January alone, joining more than 1.5 million IDPs across the country.

The UN says it recognises the urgent need to remain in Myanmar and step up humanitarian operations, but it is caught between a hostile military junta imposing restrictions on its activities and a loose network of resistance groups accusing the world body of legitimising an illegal regime.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is also facing increasing criticism for his apparent hands-off leadership in the crisis.

"Almost 18 million people - nearly one-third of the Myanmar population - are estimated to be in humanitarian need nationwide in 2023, with conflict continuing to threaten the lives of civilians in many parts of the country," said Ramanathan Balakrishnan, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar.

He told IPS that international and local humanitarian aid organisations are "using a range of approaches" in different areas and had reached over four million people in 2022 despite severe underfunding and what he called "heavy bureaucratic and access constraints".

Balakrishnan defended the importance of the UN's engagement with General Min Aung Hlaing's regime, which has ruthlessly crushed dissent since seizing power two years ago and overthrowing the elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

"Principled engagement with all sides is a must to negotiate access and also to advocate on key protection issues. Advocacy to stop the heavy fighting and airstrikes in populated areas that are threatening the safety of both civilians and aid workers is as important as reaching people in need with humanitarian aid," he said.

Aid workers accuse the junta of further restricting aid opera-



Rohingya IDPs confined to a Sittwe camp in Rakhine State wait for international intervention. More than 1.5 million people are displaced in Myanmar. Credit: Sara Perria/IPS

UN hobbled by junta and under pressure over Myanmar aid need

tions and blocking urgently needed aid from reaching millions of people. The regime admitted this month it cannot effectively administer about one-third of Myanmar's townships. But it is able to choke access to some areas controlled by resistance groups and ethnic armed organisations that have been fighting the military for decades.

The junta is seeking to impose its authority with a new law making registration compulsory for national and international non-governmental organizations and associations and introducing criminal penalties for non-registered entities with up to five years of imprisonment.

"Civic space has been decimated in the country already due to the military's actions, particularly its systematic harassment, arrest, and prosecution of anyone who opposed their coup," said James Rodehaver, chief of the UN Human Rights Office for South-East Asia (OHCHR) Myanmar Team. "These new rules could greatly diminish what operational space is left for civic organisations to deliver essential goods and services to a popula-

tion that is struggling to survive."

Many of the more than one million refugees outside Myanmar also need help. Most are stateless Rohingya Muslims forced out of Rakhine State into Bangladesh in waves of ethnic cleansing before the 2021 coup, with many held in border camps.

The UN's reputation was already battered before the coup over its handling of the long-festering Rohingya crisis in which it was accused by aid workers and activists of being too accommodating with the Myanmar military. And it has come under further fire since.

In a joint letter last September, more than 600 Burmese civil society organisations said they "condemn in the strongest terms the recent public signing of new agreements and presenting of letters of appointment to the illegitimate Myanmar military junta by UN agencies, funds, programmes and other entities working inside Myanmar."

"We call on you and all UN entities to immediately cease all forms of cooperation and engagement that lends legitimacy to the illegal, murderous junta," said the letter

addressed to the UN Secretary-General. The signatories argued that letters of appointment and agreements should be presented to what they regard as the legitimate government of Myanmar - the parallel National Unity Government established by ousted lawmakers - and "ethnic revolutionary organisations."

A Myanmar researcher specialising in civil society and international assistance highlighted the role of Burmese CSOs in delivering aid. "Local CSOs comprehend the complexity of specific local needs in the current crisis as the communities they serve struggle with security concerns and essential public services, including healthcare and education," said the researcher, who goes by the name Kyaw Swar for fear of security reprisals.

He said that donors and foreign organisations had adopted risk aversion arrangements post-coup, referring to UN and INGO's costs for capacity-building components and disproportionate country-office operations. "Local CSOs have fewer operations, and risk management options [and] have no choice but

to channel international aid to their respective communities."

UN officials reject the notion that they are legitimising the regime and insist that only by operating in the junta-controlled heartland and also through cross-border assistance can aid be delivered to a substantial part of the population in desperate need.

"The UN finds itself in an almost existential bind. It can't engage with an oppressive regime without being seen to condone its actions," commented Charles Petrie, former UN Assistant Secretary-General and former UN chief in Myanmar.

"Somehow, the UN's senior leadership needs to convince all that engaging in a dialogue with a pariah regime is not the same as supporting it and that it should be judged on the outcome of the discussions rather than being condemned for the simple fact of engaging," he said.

"But being able to do so successfully implies that it has the level of credibility that right now it still needs to rebuild," he added.

Questions have also been raised about the apparent lack of hands-

on leadership on the part of Guterres. The UN Secretary-General seems to have made little personal intervention beyond routine statements, such as the latest marking the second anniversary of the coup in which he condemned "all forms of violence" and said he "continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and to support their democratic aspirations for an inclusive, peaceful and just society and the protection of all communities, including the Rohingya."

Since the coup and despite the unfolding humanitarian crisis, Guterres is seen as having taken a back seat and delegating to two successive special envoys. This stands in contrast to his predecessor Ban Ki-moon who actively intervened during the Cyclone Nargis disaster in 2008, personally meeting then-junta leader General Than Shwe and negotiating the opening of Myanmar to aid workers.

Petrie suggested Guterres should take a page out of Ban's book and provide much more active leadership on Myanmar and be "more openly engaged and supportive of the work done by his special envoy."

While China and Russia lend military and other support to the junta, much of the rest of the diplomatic world has taken a step back from the Myanmar crisis, leaning instead on ASEAN to assume the lead.

But the 10-member bloc has been ineffective so far. It has coordinated an unprecedented shunning of the junta's leadership in regional meetings, but neighbouring countries - with their own blemished democratic records - are unwilling to penalise the regime. The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) has been charged to respond to the humanitarian crisis, but with no success.

Laetitia van den Assum, the former Dutch ambassador to Myanmar and Thailand, said the aid response would have been more effective if ASEAN had set up a partnership between AHA and experienced UN and other organisations.

"That, in fact, is what happened in the aftermath of Nargis, when under the strong leadership of Dr Surin Pitsuwan, ASEAN and UN worked in tandem. It took time to put the effort together, but ultimately it took off," van den Assum told IPS.

Role of regional economic cooperation in inclusive digital transformation in Asia

By Hsiao Chink Tang and Anne Cortez

DIGITALIZATION is a key driver of competitiveness and development. As the world takes the path to unprecedented digital advancement, Asia continues to be a powerhouse of digital transformations in a wide range of areas from microchip manufacturing to electric vehicles, from digital currency to e-commerce.

COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated digital transformations, but not all countries have benefitted equally. For example, rural farmers in the People's Republic of China (PRC) were able to take advantage of existing digital mobile network, digital payment, and logistic services to find alternative markets and sell their produce online.

Many turned to established e-commerce platforms, such as Pinduoduo, Taobao, and JD, and doing so innovatively via live-streaming.

In contrast, rural farmers in some other parts of Asia struggled to keep their livelihoods during the pandemic. Without access to face-to-face trades due to lockdowns, let alone selling online, many had to live with little or no income.

Businesses of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in many parts of Asia also suffered during the pandemic. Even in ordinary circumstances, persistent barriers such as poor and costly infrastructure, poor digital literacy, and limited government support hinder the growth of MSMEs in many developing



A farmer uses a tablet to contact customers/ iStock



Inevitably, during COVID, many MSMEs failed to capitalize on the pandemic-triggered digital transformation.

economies. Inevitably, during COVID, many MSMEs failed to capitalize on the pandemic-triggered digital transformation.

The above are some of the issues discussed in a dialogue organized by the ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiatives

(RKSI) and the Ministry of Finance, the PRC, on the topic of digital transformation and regional cooperation.

The forum acknowledged that despite the many opportunities presented by the digital economy in Asia, a great part of the region's digital potential remains un-

tapped, and key regulatory, infrastructural, financial, and capacity challenges remain.

There is also a widening digital divide among countries that are under-connected and those that are digitalized.

Prevailing digital infrastructure and non-infrastructure gaps, specifically in e-commerce across Central Asia, are highlighted in a Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC) Institute study. The study shows that e-commerce development among CAREC countries is highly varied and key gaps remain.

These gaps include those in basic digital infrastructure and regulatory policies resulting in a lack of economic opportunities, income inequality and weaknesses in the business environment. A solution to bridge this gap and drive an inclusive digital growth is regional cooperation.

In 2021, ministers from Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) member countries endorsed the Digital Strategy 2030, which identifies areas that can catalyze collaboration and digitalization in the region. Similarly, Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries are considering a proposal to promote and enhance cooperation in the digital economy, leveraging on the GMS cross-border e-commerce cooperation platform.

Region-wide cooperation allows governments and stakeholders to coordinate policies, share costs of building and maintaining infrastructure, and expand markets to advance the digital economy. Regional cooperation mechanisms

also help build trust and harmonization that are crucial for digital development among countries.

In turn, digital advancement promotes regional cooperation in trade, finance, transport, energy, and other sectors. To make inclusive digital transformation a reality, cooperation must extend beyond the public sector and encourage collaboration with partners from international organizations, private businesses, MSMEs, civil society, and other stakeholders.

Regional cooperation offers great potential to level the field and ensure that no one is left behind in the digital economy. Regional cooperation also means sharing and learning from country experiences across the region.

There are rich lessons and inspirational stories from not just digital-focused firms, but also individuals with digital skills, who have transformed their lives and that of their families and communities waiting to be heard and shared.

Regional focused platforms such as CAREC, GMS, and RKSI, play a crucial role on this front in facilitating such cross-border knowledge exchanges and partnerships to ensure inclusive and sustainable development, and improve people's wellbeing.

Hsiao Chink Tang is a Senior Economist and Anne Cortez is a Communication Specialist at the Asian Development Bank-PRC RKSI, a south-south development knowledge sharing platform that draws on the PRC's experience and facilitates knowledge exchange among ADB's developing member countries.

IPS UN Bureau

‘Walking long distances fuelling child marriage’

By Guardian Correspondent, Longido

WALKING long distances for children to school have been blamed for fuelling child marriage in pastoralists’ communities.

Peruth Daud, the coordinator of Ketumbeine AP development project implemented by World Vision Tanzania (WVT) in Longido district, Arusha region unveiled here over the weekend at Loondolwa primary school in Loondolwa village, Gilai Kerugoi Ward, Ketumbeine Division when handing over two classrooms and a teachers’ office that cost more than 74m/- funded by World Vision Germany.

He said girl students have to walk long distances to school, up to an average of 25 kms from home, which contributes to exhaustion thereby encouraging early marriage or under age sex.

“Before building this school at Gilai Merugoi village, children from here used to attend school at Gilai Bomba primary school, nearly 10 kms away.

“Also children of Lengai village used to walk 25 kms to Gilai Bomba primary school, but now they only walk 8 to 12 kms only,” he said.

Daud added that the completion of the project will to a great extent reduce incidents of child marriage and adding that the sign for that has been shown by the great number of students’ enrolment at the school.

He said villagers had appealed to



WVT following children’s education needs hence the latter communicated with World Vision in Germany for sponsorship whose implementation began in 2022.

Loonlue village chairman, Ket-ton Ngairugoi said the completion

of the project will reduce inconveniences facing children in his village in order to realize their education dreams.

For his part, the school’s head teacher, Lepilai Mollé said the school was established as a hold-

ing school under Gilai Bomba primary school and later it was registered as Loondolwa primary school in 2020 with registration Number EM 18277.

He also thanked for the construction of the 5,000-litre wa-

ter tank, provision of food for students as well as 82 goats, 60 sheep, eight cows, VETA training for 2 youth and frequent vaccination of children under five years of age.

For his part, Longido district

commissioner, Marco Nghumbi called World Vision Tanzania as the second arm of the government in providing development to the people, saying that it has implemented projects valued at 22m/- within a short time.

More than 500,000 mosquito nets to be distributed to pupils across Tanga Region

By Guardian Correspondent and Agency

A total of 529,641 mosquito nets worth 2.9 billion Tanzanian shillings (about 1.2 million US. dollars) will be distributed to pupils in 1,083 primary schools in Tanga region, an official said recently.

The Tanga regional commissioner, Omary Mgumba, said the distribution of the mosquito nets was aimed at protecting the pupils from malaria infections.

Mgumba made the remarks when he launched the distribution of mosquito nets to pupils at Tanga district primary school. He said the distribution of the mosquito nets in all the region’s districts was expected to be done in 45 days.

Mgumba said the distribution of the mosquito nets was being coordinated by the government through the Ministry of Health and the President’s Office responsible for Regional Administration and Local Government.

He urged community leaders to supervise the distribution of mosquito nets in their respective areas.



African Development Bank headquarters

AfDB, Japan in for \$350m assistance loan to finance bank’s private sector operations

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) and Japan have signed an exchange of notes for an eighth private sector assistance loan from Japan to finance the bank’s private sector operations.

The loan agreement, to the tune of JPY 44.1 million or \$350 million, carries an interest rate of 0.11 per cent and a repayment period of 30 years, with a grace period of 10 years. The loan will contribute significantly to funding the Bank’s private sector operations through credit lines.

The signing took place at the Bank Group’s headquarters on Friday 17 February, between its senior vice president, Bajabulile Swazi Tshabalala, and Japanese Ambassador to Côte d’Ivoire, Katsuya Ikkatai.

The agreement comes under the joint initiative known as the Enhanced Private Sector Assistance Initiative ([https://](https://apo-opa.info/4181E6y)

apo-opa.info/4181E6y) for Africa (EPSA). This provides financing for the Bank’s private sector operations through a line of credit from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The loans are provided on concessional terms.

“This new arrangement which takes our collaboration forward, will build on the existing strong partnership we have had over the years and fits in firmly with the call and vision of our President Dr Akinwunmi Adesina to further strengthen our collaboration with Japan,” said Tshabalala following the signing.

Ambassador Ikkatai noted that the Tunis Declaration, adopted at the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, or TICAD 8, last August, emphasises that private investment is essential for Africa’s economic growth and inclusive and sustainable development. “Moreover, at

TICAD 8, our Prime Minister Kishida announced \$30 billion in public and private investment from Japan for Africa over the next three years. And this support signed today reflects a strong joint action of the Government of Japan and the African Development Bank which embodies exactly this policy of Japan,” he added.

To date, the Bank and the government of Japan have signed seven non-sovereign loans totaling \$1.5 billion. The loans have contributed to support 51 projects, mainly credit lines and equity to regional development finance institutions, private equity funds and project finance for infrastructure public-private partnerships.

The EPSA loans for non-sovereign operations help finance the Bank’s private sector operations through credit lines (NSLs) from JICA to the Bank. In principle, although pooled with the other financial resources of the Bank

and subject to normal Bank processes (including eligibility and pricing), the resources are attributed to specific projects “endorsed” by the Japanese government.

The government of Japan is one of the Bank’s biggest contributors, participating in the sixteenth replenishment of the African Development’s concessional window, the African Development Fund, in December last year. Japan also contributed to the African Development Bank’s general capital increase (GCI-7) in 2019.

During TICAD8 held in Tunis in August 2022, the heads of the Bank and JICA announced the fifth phase of EPSA, from 2023-2025. It has a joint target of \$4 billion, which is \$500 million more than EPSA 4. An additional up to \$1 billion will be provided by JICA under a new special window to promote debt transparency and sustainability reforms in Africa.

The politics of crime - and the crime in politics

By Stephen Grootes

THE politics of South Africa will increasingly be influenced by crime: there will be demands for populist measures that invariably lead to harsher measures for migrants and others. There will be ever more calls for the reinstatement of the death penalty, and some politicians will try to benefit from satisfying those calls.

On the opposite side of the fence, there is now growing evidence of the links between politicians and hardcore common criminals, which could come back to haunt them at the polls.

Many people feel the sense of living under siege. South Africa's annual murder rate is now 46 per 100,000 people. You would have to go back to the 1990s to find a similar figure.

It is not entirely clear why there has been such an explosion of violence. As the researcher David Bruce explained on Monday, it may well be the combination of the pandemic and its impact on the economy, which has deteriorated markedly of late. But Bruce also points out there is an "entrenchment of organised crime" which is playing a role in the increasing murder rate.

Examples are plentiful, as with residents of Khayelitsha in the Western Cape, who complain of extortion rackets linked to organised crime, where young women are forced to pay protection money simply to walk down a road with a new weave.

Urgent action is necessary: callers to radio stations are demanding that the Constitution be changed to reinstate the death penalty, and many people are turning on undocumented immigrants. There can be no doubt that the actions of people like Nhlanhla "Lux" Dlamini are tolerated simply because of this kind of violent crime.

Police Minister Bheki Cele promises that there will be action and says that police officers are dealing with the problem.

But this is not what communities experience – they feel the impact of violent crime on themselves, their families and their friends.

And by 2020, only 19 out of every 100 murders in South Africa were actually solved. That num-



South African Minister of Police Bheki Cele. (Photo: Gallo Images / Brenton Geach) | iStock



He also attended parties thrown by ShAWN and S'bu Mpisane in eThekweni. This was after S'bu Mpisane became famous as a police officer driving his Lamborghini to work while earning a monthly salary of R15,000.

ber is likely to be lower now.

There appears to be almost a consensus among crime experts that political will is needed to tackle this problem. They point to the problems in Police Crime Intelligence, a unit which was hollowed out by Richard Mdluli and others during the State Capture era.

They also point to a deterioration of intelligence-gathering ability. There are so many other problems.

Good reason to distrust the police

During the intense rolling blackouts that we are experiencing, City Power in Joburg appealed to residents to call the police if they see anyone tampering with their equipment. It is not clear how the police would respond – if at all.

Citizens have good reason to distrust the police. Police officers often assault, rape, kidnap, steal and kill.

As Viewfinder has reported, between April 2012 and March 2019, there were 42,365 criminal cases against the police. And, for many reasons, to do with underfunding and the fact that the Independent Police Investigative Directorate has lacked political will, virtually no action is taken against these of-

ficers.

It would be natural to assume that political leaders would be aware of these problems and would want to set an example. In an ideal world, politicians would tell voters that they are squeaky clean and would portray an image of determination to act against all matters criminal.

While the Zondo Commission has seen overwhelming evidence of corruption against many of our politicians, there is also evidence of links to organised crime.

For example, the ANC deployed Bheki Cele as minister of police. He was removed from the position of National Police Commissioner by then president Jacob Zuma over a leasing deal (a court ruling eventually overturned that decision).

He also attended parties thrown by ShAWN and S'bu Mpisane in eThekweni. This was after S'bu Mpisane became famous as a police officer driving his Lamborghini to work while earning a monthly salary of R15,000.

Even now, despite increasing anger by voters at crime, there is evidence that the ANC has allowed gangsters to infiltrate its structures.

Just a year ago, Fikile Mbalula – now the ANC secretary-general

– and Deputy President David Mabuza referred to the Tshwane-based gang Boko Haram (no relation to its Nigerian namesake) and suggested it had influence in the party.

It is almost certain that crime, particularly violent crime, is about to become a major political issue.

In his first State of the Province Address, on Monday, Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi said fighting crime should be the province's "apex priority".

It is interesting that up until now, none of the major parties has made it a major plank of their public policy. While there have been protests against the ANC over load shedding, and a planned "national shutdown" directed against Eskom and President Cyril Ramaphosa by the EFF, so far none of these parties has held a major event against crime.

Parties with dubious track records

Some parties may find their own track record makes it difficult to speak with credibility on crime. The leaders of the Patriotic Alliance are both ex-convicts who claim to believe in "second chances". So munificent is their forgiveness, they even nominated a former mayor convicted of fraud

in their first term to be mayor of Ditsobotla for a second term.

The EFF has its own problems, partly to do with the fact that credit card evidence ties its leader, Julius Malema, to the massive corruption at VBS Bank. Deputy leader Floyd Shivambu's brother also received money, and then agreed to return it.

The ANC, of course, has its own problems too.

Some of the smaller parties and some of the newcomers may benefit from the criminal chaos.

It is likely that the IFP, for example, may try to claim that it should lead the fight against crime. This is despite the fact that in at least one case, its depolitee has been unable to manage the Johannesburg Roads Agency, and may have made the situation much worse.

Obvious winners likely to emerge out of this mess are the xenophobic movements. Despite the evidence, many people believe that the majority of crimes are committed by foreign nationals. It is easier to believe this than to believe that our own people are responsible for most of the violence which is experienced by so many people.

Thanks to such a fundamental misconception, the parties that promise to "expel all migrants" may well win support, and the shift could explain the ANC government's decision to end the Zimbabwean Exemption Permit.

This could also open the door for ActionSA and its leader, Herman Mashaba, who has been vocal on the matter. The fact that he has no record of corruption or crime, and has acted quickly to remove anyone from his party who has been linked to wrongdoing, may well help him here.

The DA will hope that the same is true for them, with a strong track record in Cape Town, but a more difficult situation in Tshwane. So far, none of its depolitees has been convicted of wrongdoing in office.

One of the problems that all parties will have in fighting crime is that it will not be easy. It is true that we have more murders now than at any time in the last 20 years. But the murder rate has been successfully reduced before. The party that is best able to harness the growing public anger may well get a chance to try to reduce it again in the real world. DM

This weekend's presidential election in Nigeria will have significant impact on Africa and further afield

By Dr Oluwaseun Tella

IN a year packed with elections across Africa, Nigeria, the continent's largest economy and most populous country, will head to the polls on 25 February to elect its president.

The contest has been widely dubbed a three-horse race between the candidates of the two main political parties, Bola Tinubu of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and Atiku Abubakar of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and the Labour Party's (LP's) Peter Obi, who was recently tipped as the next president in a poll conducted by Bloomberg.

The 70-year-old Tinubu served as governor of the commercial capital, Lagos state, between 1999 and 2007. He has since emerged as a political godfather, not only shaping politics in his immediate sphere of influence (South West) but also at the national level, evident in his remarkable role in the emergence of President Muhammadu Buhari.

This prompted him to adopt the campaign slogan "Emi Lokan" – It is my turn – invoking a sense of entitlement to Aso Rock (the Nigerian seat of power). He has promised to continue some of Buhari's policies, including investing in public infrastructure, and pledged to ensure stronger central bank intervention in the economy and increase military spending.

However, his campaign has been

marred by allegations of poor health and corruption, with his detractors citing these as his main reason for avoiding participating in presidential debates.

The 76-year-old Atiku Abubakar, a former vice-president during Olusegun Obasanjo's administration, has contested and lost five times (including primary elections) since 1993. He has vowed to privatise the state-owned oil company, oversee a stronger private sector in the economy and invest in military hardware.

However, like Tinubu, his campaign has been tainted by accusations of corruption and nepotism.

The 61-year-old Peter Obi, a former governor of Anambra state and the only Christian among the frontrunners, has been endorsed by Obasanjo. Obi relies on his strong social media presence which he has deployed effectively to capture the imagination of many of the youth.

He has pledged to strengthen power generation, diversify the economy – which currently relies heavily on oil – and provide more funding for the military. While some associate him with integrity, his critics are of the view that he does not have the wherewithal to compete with the other two main candidates.

Grappling with an uphill task

Given the internal and external challenges that have characterised



Outgoing Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari

the Buhari era, including insecurity, corruption, high levels of unemployment and Nigeria's declining influence in international affairs, the next administration will have to grapple with the uphill task of strengthening democracy and enhancing the country's international stature.

Currently, Nigeria is pulled in different directions by diverse forms of insecurity such as Boko Haram terrorism, herder-farmer conflict, the Niger Delta crisis and banditry. In the 2022 Global Peace Index,

which measures the global state of peace, it ranked 37th out of 44 African states and 143rd out of 163 countries surveyed globally.

A 2022 survey by Afrobarometer highlights that almost 89 per cent of its citizens felt that Nigeria was heading in the wrong direction and 77% were dissatisfied with the state of democracy in the country. The most common challenges identified include poor management of the economy, high levels of unemployment and poverty, poor infrastructure, and high levels of crime

and insecurity.

Similarly, a November 2022 survey by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed that 133 million Nigerians (63 per cent of the population) are multidimensionally poor as a result of a lack of access to basic services such as healthcare and education.

NBS data also show that the unemployment rate in the country stands at 33.3 per cent. Of grave concern is the fact that the unemployment rate among the youth stands at 42.5%. This is complicated by the debt burden (both domestic and external), which rose to N44.06 trillion (\$101.91-billion) by the third quarter of 2022. While Nigeria is sometimes dubbed the "Giant of Africa", these are clear signs of a crippled giant.

As an important exporter of democracy to other African countries, Nigeria's domestic performance is critical to its capacity to deploy its norm entrepreneurship to promote democracy abroad. Indeed, it has promoted democracy in states such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Niger, Mali, Togo, Ivory Coast, São Tomé and Príncipe, and The Gambia.

However, the state does not fare well in promoting "good governance" in its domestic politics. This is evident in Nigeria's poor performance in the major indices that measure democratic values and "good governance", including Freedom House, the Democracy Index,

Mo Ibrahim Governance Index, the Transparency Corruption Perception Index and the Economist Democracy Index.

This suggests that the country does not have the moral authority to promote democracy on the continent. It is complicated by the fact that the resources that are critical to promoting its foreign policy objectives, including democracy promotion and peacemaking, are increasingly being diverted to domestic imperatives given the country's pervasive insecurity and economic challenges.

Indeed, Nigeria has had to cut its peacemaking budget, which often dovetails with democracy promotion in conflict zones. Its contribution of troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions has been significantly reduced in light of the fight against Boko Haram. This has greatly undermined Nigeria's regional and global influence.

Nevertheless, the country's fate is intrinsically linked to that of the African continent. Despite its challenges, the size of its economy, population and military as well as the popularity and influence of its cultural and ideational power dictate that the results of this election will have a significant impact on Africa and further afield. DM

Dr Oluwaseun Tella is Director, The Future of Diplomacy, at the University of Johannesburg's Institute for the Future of Knowledge.

BUSINESS

DSE share indices open the week on high notes

Brent oil price falls amid fears of global economic slowdown

LONDON

Brent oil fell on Tuesday as concern about a global economic slowdown that would reduce demand prompted investors to take profits on the previous day's gains, outweighing supply curbs.

The focus in the wider financial market is firmly on the release on Wednesday of the minutes of the U.S. Federal Reserve's latest meeting, after recent data raised the risk of interest rates remaining higher for longer.

Global benchmark Brent crude was down \$1.09, or 1.3%, at \$82.98 a barrel at 0910 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude for March, which expires on Tuesday, was up 43 cents at \$76.77.

"Brent is at the middle of the trading range since late December of between \$78 and \$88 a barrel, with some investors taking profits on concerns over more U.S. interest rate hikes while others kept bullish sentiment on hopes for a demand recovery in China," said Satoru Yoshida, a commodity analyst with Rakuten Securities.

The US contract did not settle on Monday because of a public holiday in the United States. As a result, the weekly American Petroleum Institute report on U.S. inventories

will be out on Wednesday, rather than Tuesday as normal.

Oil on Monday rose by more than 1% on optimism over Chinese demand, which analysts expect to rebound this year after COVID-19 curbs that had limited use were scrapped.

Signs of tighter supplies also lent prices some support.

Russia plans to cut oil production by 500,000 barrels per day, or about 5% of its output, in March after the West imposed price caps on Russian oil and oil products over the invasion of Ukraine.

Russia is part of the OPEC+ producer group comprising the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies, which agreed in October to cut oil production targets by 2 million bpd until the end of 2023.

Looking ahead into 2023, demand is set to exceed supply, said Tamas Varga of oil broker PVM.

"After a turbulent 2022 it seems increasingly plausible that the global economy will avoid recession, interest rates will peak some time during the summer, global oil consumption will gradually increase whilst oil supply will struggle to keep up with the rise in demand," he said.



By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) share indices open the week on high notes, thanks to appreciation of CRDB Bank Plc share price.

The market report shows the Tanzania Share Index (TSI) closed 4.71 point higher at 4,038.95 points on Monday, compared to 4034.24 points recorded during the end of last week.

TSI gained on Monday following an appreciation of CRDB Bank Plc share price by 1.15 percent to 440/- on Monday close, compared to 435/- on Friday close, pushing up its market capitalization to 1.15trn/- compared to 1.13trn respectively.

Analysts say the domestic index has been on an upward trend due to strong performance of listed domestic stocks and recent positive earnings releases.

According to the market report, all share index (DSEI) closed at 1,937.68 points on Monday this week, an increase of 1.49 points from 1,936.19 points recorded on Friday last week, due to CRDB Bank Plc share increases.

The market report shows a total turnover of 77mn/- recorded during the opening day of the week, following the transaction of 127,606 shares traded in 57 deals, lower than a turnover of 315.7mn/- recorded on Friday last week.

Top mover was CRDB Bank

Plc which recorded a turnover of 33.4mn/- following the trading of 76,369 shares traded in 37 deals at a price ranging from 435/- to 440/- per shares.

The second top mover was NMB Bank Plc which recorded a turnover of 26.7mn/- following the transaction of 7,643 shares traded at 3,500/- per share in three deals, followed by NICO which recorded a turnover of 15.6mn/- from transaction of 40,320 shares traded in ten deals.

However, the report shows NICO share price slightly went down by 2.50 percent to 395/- on Monday close, compared to 400/- recorded during the closing of last week. Prices for other local and cross listed companies remained flat on Monday.

This happens after NICO published its unaudited financial statement for the year ended on 31st December last year which showed earnings per share increased by 54 percent to 97/- compared with 63/- earned in 2021.

Profit after tax also went up by 54 percent to 5.9bn/- last year compared to 3.8bn/- recorded during the previous year.

NICO's total income reached 8.5bn/- last year compared with 5.6bn/- recorded during the previous year, following the increase of investment income from 5.7bn/- to 8.3bn/- respectively.

Interest income more than doubled to 2.9bn/- in 2022 compared to 1.3bn/- earned in 2021.



Signs of tighter supplies also lent prices some support.

Business college equips graduates with job skills

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE College of Business Education (CBE) has introduced an apprenticeship and incubation programme to provide graduates with the skills needed in the labor market.

The programmes are aiming at solving the major employment problem in the country by making graduates keep up with the pace of technological change in the fields of business and economy and promoting self-employment.

"Apprenticeship training is based on practical training in conjunction with the real workplace. Here, the student spends half of their time at college and half to the employer, where they get the opportunity to learn in practice the things he has already learned in theory in class," said CBE Acting Rector Prof. Edda Tandi Lwoga.

Prof Lwoga was speaking to journalists on the new courses which will start in September this year.

The new courses include certificate in Economics and Finance, certificate in Transport Management, certificate in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, certificate in

Business Management, Archives and Museum Management, certificate in Marketing and certificate in Marketing and Tourism.

"At this level we receive a student who has completed the form four and passed at least four subjects. Here we will start to give him basic education in the relevant fields," she said.

Other courses introduced by the college as Diploma in Economics and Finance, Diploma in Transport Management, Diploma in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Diploma in Business Management, Management of Archives and Museums, Diploma in Digital Marketing, Diploma in Marketing in Tourism and Events Management.

She said that the ever-increasing pace of technological change in the fields of business and economy has been a catalyst for the College to prepare graduates who are compatible with those changes.

"CBE is more focused to train graduates with business skills for the Tanzanian economy. The college recognizes that the development of skilled human resources for youth empowerment, productivity, and efficiency in society depends on skilled and experienced instructors, and the



CBE acting rector Prof Edda Tandi Lwoga

quality of training institutions," she said.

Professor Tandi said for 58 years, CBE has been providing excellent services in the community by providing business education to entrepreneurs, producing skilled graduates in accordance with the market needs.

She said the core objective of the college is to provide education, conduct researches and provision of professional consultancies. It has campuses in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mwanza and Mbeya.

Professor Tandi said that in order to contribute to Industrial and Business Development in the Sustainable Economic Growth in Tanzania, the College has been changing its curricula and add-

ing new courses that are in line with the time and developing economy, business and industrial development.

She said in response to the Higher Education System and Providing Unemployed Graduates in Tanzania, the College of Business Education has been increasingly raising many expectations for graduates by providing them with the skills needed by the labor market including many graduates to be self-employed.

"The college has been striving to change the curriculum, to design new courses including using modern teaching methods and the college has started apprenticeship training as well as some students to be on business internships," she said.

Euro zone business growth reaches 9-month high

LONDON

Buoyant services growth meant the recovery in euro zone business activity gathered steam this month, expanding much faster than thought, according to a survey providing the latest evidence the currency union could escape a recession.

S&P Global's flash Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), seen as a good gauge of overall economic health, climbed

to 52.3 in February from January's 50.3, data showed on Tuesday.

That was comfortably above the 50 mark separating growth from contraction and above all forecasts in a Reuters' poll which had predicted a more modest rise to 50.6.

"Business activity across the euro zone grew much faster than expected in February, with growth hitting a nine-month high thanks to resurgent service sector activity," said Chris Williamson, chief

business economist at S&P Global.

"February's PMI is broadly consistent with GDP rising at a quarterly rate of just under 0.3 percent."

Suggesting the upswing could continue, demand increased for the first time since mid-2022 and firms again added to headcount. The new business index rose to 50.6 from 48.9.

Activity in the bloc's dominant services industry grew this month at its fastest pace since June and

its PMI bounced to 53.0 from 50.8, above all estimates in a Reuters poll and far exceeding the median estimate for 51.0.

With recession fears fading, optimism about the year ahead improved again in February. The business expectations index rose to a nine-month high of 61.5, from 61.2 in January.

However, factory activity declined at a slightly sharper pace this month. The manufacturing PMI dipped to 48.5 from 48.8, con-

founding expectations in the Reuters poll for an uptick to 49.3 and below all forecasts.

But an index measuring output, which feeds into the composite PMI, bounced to 50.4 from 48.9, its first time above 50 since May.

Input costs barely rose and factories raised their selling prices at the slowest pace in almost two years. The output prices index fell to 58.3 from 61.6.

"The pandemic-related delivery delays that dogged factories over

the past two years have given way to faster delivery times, in turn meaning pricing power is shifting from suppliers to factory purchasing managers, bringing industrial price inflation down," Williamson said.

Signs of easing price pressures will likely be welcomed by policymakers at the European Central Bank who have been aggressively raising borrowing costs in an attempt to rein in inflation running well above its target.

Members of Iringa Bajaj drivers' union borrow 2.8bn/-

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

Bajaji Iringa Drivers Union (UMBI) has enabled more than 260 young drivers to get loans worth 2.80bn/- from banks and financial institutions since its establishment in 2017.

Speaking to the Guardian recently, the chairman of UMBI Norbert Sumka (pictured), said that the loans were given by various financial institutions in the Iringa region, including FINCA Microfinance Bank and Mufindi Community Bank PLC (MUCOBA).

He has this has enabled them to buy 260 three wheelers (Bajajis) using a lease and purchase arrangement.

"With 300 members has contributed to reduce the tide of unemployment, mainly youths, par-

ticularly those graduating from colleges," said Sumka.

He explained that the group was established after he saw young people driving private rickshaws for a long time with no economic benefits.

"Therefore, we encourage other young people to come here in the UMBI group, so that they can be guaranteed to get loans..." said Sumka.

But, he noted that UMBI is facing the challenge of capital, because when they go to the bank to get a loan, they are told to have fixed deposit as borrowing security.

Fredrick Andea Nyaluke is one of the beneficiaries and a borrower from UMBI, said that through the group, he has been able to borrow three rickshaws since 2018.

He has said three bajajis help



him run his life and he has managed to build a house and able to meet essential needs of his family, including sending children to fee-paying schools (English medium schools).

Nyaluke explained that bajajis he own have also given him the confidence to go to the bank and borrow any loan and return it, but before that he had no that experience.

"...but through the UMBI group I have become the owner of three bajajis and I am able to go to a financial institution and borrow a loan and repay it back," he boasted.

"The call to my fellow youths is that they refuse to be slaves and take the decision to join the group, so that they can be guaranteed for a loan for buying a bajaji and drive their own bajaji," said Nyaluke.

"The difference is that, when I drive my bajaji and earn a day's income, it becomes mine, when he drives the boss's, the day's income remains his boss's, so I ask the young people to join the

group so that they can own their own rickshaws," he urged his young colleagues.

Nyaluke asked young people who are also running private contracts of bajajis to come and register with the union, so that they can get loans for small businesses through the group's lawyer.

"We have received a lot of complaints from some of our fellow youths who operate bajaji on contracts from individuals, that when the time comes to end the contracts, the bosses change the decision and break the contracts, leaving the young people helpless," he explained.

Meanwhile, the Manager of MUCOBA Bank Plc, Iringa Branch Denis Rweyendera, has said that they expect to provide a loan of ten (10) bajaji, worth more than 80mn/- to the group, so that they can finally lend to their members.



Abaas Bhimji (2nd R front row) hands over various facilities donated by him and MNF to the Head of Kibiti prison, Superintendent of Prison Absalom Mokily.

MNF, partners donate facilities to Kibiti Prison

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibiti

Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation (MNF) in collaboration with Association with Care Aid Africa have donated various facilities valued 5mn/- to Kibiti Prison.

The donated facilities include mattresses, women sanitary pads, mosquito repellent gels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, cups, buckets, water tank, cleanliness equipment and soaps.

The aim of the donation is to

help the prison to reduce challenges facing the prison including special needs to inmates as well as improve the prison's environmental condition.

The MNF secretary for Coast region Omary Panzi said the foundation led by its chairman Paul Kimiti and other former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda and Vice chairman of Chama Cha Mapinduzi Abdulahman Kinana is targeting to reach out more people with special needs including children and prisoners.

He said MNF has extended

the support to Kibiti prison after seeing the needs, which will also expected to improve the prison hygienic condition.

Development partner, Abaas Bhimji, who was also among of the donors of the facilities said they have decided to do so as part of commemorating his late uncle Rasa Abdulla Fazal, who taught them to give to those with needs.

"We should not think of ourselves and learn from God who is doing good things to human. We should not leave our fellow people in prison because it is

not the end of their lives," he said.

"The facilities we are donating might be small but they will greatly help those in prison, who have lost their freedom from the community."

Head of Kibiti prison, Superintendent of Prison Absalom Mokily thanks MNF and partners for the donation, saying will help to reduce challenges the prison is facing while serving for inmates.

He said Kibiti prison is also involved with cultivating strategic crops including sisal, ses-

ame and livestock keeping.

"This donation will enable our fellow to leave decently as other human beings despite of being in prison, but it doesn't mean that they are not humans; and it shows that there are people out there who think about people in prison," he said.

He mentioned other challenge facing Kibiti Prison as dilapidated building infrastructure including roofing, because it was built long time ago, water supply and health services provision.

Russian oil flows to China increased to the highest levels

BEIJING

Russian exports of discounted crude and fuel oil to China have jumped to record levels as the re-opening of the world's biggest energy importer gathers pace after the dismantling of Covid Zero.

Overall flows last month were at the highest at any point since the invasion of Ukraine a year ago and surpassed a record set in April 2020, according to data intelligence firm Kpler. Exports of fuel oil surged to an all-time high.

The buying spree was likely underpinned by private refiners, but state-owned processors are now showing more interest in Russian crude after concerns around potential blowback from the US and allies kept them on the sidelines.

China is toe-to-toe with India as the biggest buyer of Russian

crude after the war in Ukraine re-shaped global energy flows. Moscow has had to offer discounts to entice a shrinking pool of customers, a move welcomed by Asian buyers trying to control inflation. The West wants to deprive the Kremlin of funds for its war but would also like to keep a lid of on global oil prices.

Russia's overall crude and fuel oil exports to China reached 1.66 million barrels a day last month, according to Kpler data as of Feb. 20. That's more than the previous record set in April 2020 when the Asian nation was emerging from its initial virus restrictions. Crude and condensate flows rose to 1.52 million barrels a day, just short of a record set almost three years ago.

The uptick in Chinese buying is evidence the country's economic recovery is picking up,



which should help to buoy global oil prices. The International Energy Agency last week cited China for a boost in its demand forecasts, while OPEC producer Iran is tipping Brent to rise above \$100 a barrel this year.

It can take more than six weeks for cargoes shipped from Russia's western ports to arrive in China, while barrels sent from the Far East typically arrive the same month.

Offers for Russian Urals and

ESPO crude were pegged at a discount of \$13 and \$8 a barrel, respectively, to Brent on a delivered basis, according to traders. That's much cheaper than similar West African grades, which were priced at near parity or a premium to Brent.

Asia's largest economy has dominated buying of ESPO, a grade that can be shipped quickly from Russia's Far East, since late-2022. Private refiners have been key consumers,

but traders are watching for demand from state-owned refiners such as China Petroleum & Chemical Corp., or Sinopec, as well as CNOOC Ltd.

China not only bought the entire monthly loading schedule of ESPO for January, it also purchased Arctic grades and Urals, said Viktor Katona, lead crude analyst at Kpler. Its buying spree on fuel oil mainly comes from the Black Sea and Baltic Sea regions, he said.

Ethiopia eyes Sh19bn fee for M-Pesa entry

NAIROBI

The Safaricom-led consortium in Ethiopia will pay \$150 million (Sh18.9 billion) as licence fees to roll out M-Pesa in the populous nation if the proposed regulations by the Horn of Africa country are passed.

The amount referred to as an investment protection fee is contained in the proposed rules that will guide the licensing and launching of mobile money operations such as M-Pesa.

"A foreign national applicant shall present evidence for the payment of \$150 million or equivalent in another foreign currency for investment protection fee," reads the draft published by the National Bank of Ethiopia, the country's banking sector regulator.

An investment protection fee is the amount paid by foreigners to invest in businesses exclusively reserved for domestic investors or the government.

The amount will be in addition to 50 million birr (Sh117.81 million) that Safaricom will have to pay in cash as paid-up capital and the amount deposited in a bank account with restricted access.

The National Bank of Ethiopia is on Tuesday expected to hold a consultative meeting with officials from Safaricom Ethiopia, Ethiopia Telecommunication Authority and those from banks, microfinance banks and payment system operators to discuss the draft.

Mobile money in Ethiopia is set to lift the profile of M-Pesa, which has been raising its stake in Safaricom's revenue mix since its launch in 2007.

M-Pesa accounted for Sh107.69 billion, 39.9 percent, of the telco's Sh269.86 billion total mobile service revenue for the year ended March 2022.

Ethiopia is home to more than 112 million people, making it the second-largest country in Africa by population, and M-Pesa is expected to thrive given the large population that is unbanked.

A Safaricom-led consortium – which also includes Vodacom and Vodafone – was in May granted a telecom licence in Ethiopia following a Sh107 billion (\$850 million) bid but has been unsure of what it would take to get an M-Pesa licence.

The draft directive on licensing and authorisation of payment instrument issuers now makes it clear that Safaricom will have to pay additional money to get a mobile money licence.

If the proposal is passed in its current form, Safaricom will be required to launch M-Pesa within six months of getting the licence.

Safaricom chief finance officer Dilip Pal said last November Safaricom was already preparing for the launch as soon as it acquires the licence.

"I think that's the work that we are currently doing to make sure that our ability to launch in time, we can do it pretty fast, that we are not waiting sequentially to create those capabilities," said Mr Pal.

Safaricom has already tapped a Sh50.44 billion (\$400 million) bridge loan to fund early costs of launching in Ethiopia launch and hopes to break even in the fourth year of operation.

CEO at Safaricom Peter Ndegwa said last November the bridge loan was taken in Safaricom Kenya books but the telco is keen to bring external debt into the books of the Ethiopian unit.

The World Bank prepares for a new, greener mission

LONDON

AT a small rural farm about an hour's drive from the Zambian capital city of Lusaka in late January, US Treasury secretary Janet Yellen stood before a gathering of farmers and told them she understood the destruction that global warming was causing.

"We know that over the past decade, storms, floods, and droughts in Africa have increased in severity and frequency," Yellen told her audience in Chongwe. "Climate change is not just a future threat; it is already here."

Her remarks stood in stark contrast with those made last year by another of America's most senior economists: David Malpass, president of the World Bank. The multilateral lender, created with the twin goals of alleviating poverty and pursuing shared global prosperity, was increasingly being asked to help tackle the impacts of climate change too.

Yet, when asked at a September event if he believes in human-made global warming, the Trump appointee repeatedly dodged the question. "I'm not a scientist," he said.

The comment sparked a future and sharpened criticism of the World Bank for not taking the scale of the climate crisis seriously. Although Malpass later walked back the remark, Al Gore, former vice-president of the US, the bank's largest shareholder, was among those calling on the Biden administration to fire him. "It's ridiculous to have a climate denier at the head of the World Bank," Gore said in a September interview.

The pressure on the World Bank chief only grew more intense from there. In mid-October, 10 countries – the G7 plus Australia, the Netherlands and Switzerland – submitted a paper to the World Bank urging it to "refresh its vision" and align itself with the goals of the Paris Agreement to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

A plan outlined by the bank early in January for how it would incorporate climate change, and other global issues such as pandemic preparedness, into its work was dismissed by major shareholders as being not ambitious enough.

Some blamed the clunky, bureaucratic machinery of the institution for tempering the political energy of the moment. The Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act, passed over the summer, had set the US on a path to a cleaner energy future, and was hailed as a milestone in the country's approach to tackling climate change.

Then on Tuesday, a few weeks after Yellen's return from Zambia, Malpass made a call to the US Treasury to say he would end his term in June, almost a year early.

Officials were caught on the back foot. Although frustrated with the slow pace of change at the bank, in closed-door meetings in Washington Yellen had argued that removing an official appointed by Biden's predecessor would set a bad political precedent.

Yellen and many others view alleviating poverty and tackling climate change as a unified ambition, rather than distinct goals. Now, many of the World Bank's member countries want climate to be at the centre of its mission, and not at the periphery.

Less wealthy nations have been pushing for better lending terms and other support to help them adapt to increasing temperatures, rising sea levels and more extreme weather events, and pay for the transition to clean energy systems.

"For us climate is development, climate is poverty – so the distinction is not that obvious," says Ali Mohammed, climate adviser to Kenyan president William Ruto. "Climate change has affected every sphere of human development and livelihoods."

Wealthy countries responsible for the bulk of historic pollution,

meanwhile, are increasingly looking to the World Bank as a source of international climate finance on a scale they cannot provide, as they confront difficult questions about who should pay for the catastrophic impacts of hurricanes, floods and wildfires.

The scale of the task is formidable: \$125tn of climate investment will be needed by 2050 if the world is to slash emissions and meet the Paris Agreement goals of limiting warming to well below 2C, according to research commissioned by the UN high-level climate action champions.

"If we really want this [climate] agenda to move, there is no other way other than to have the multilateral development banks [MDBs] expand considerably," says Homi Kharas, a senior fellow in the Center for Sustainable Development, housed in the global economy and development programme at Brookings. Given its size and influence, he adds, "it all starts with the World Bank."

The US traditionally appoints the World Bank president, and is now racing to draw up a shortlist of candidates with climate credentials who could refashion the bank while balancing the interests of its almost 200 member states.

Among many shareholders and climate-minded bank officials, a period of pessimism and turbulence is receding in favour of a new optimism that Malpass's successor might mean the start of a new era.

"There's a great hope that whoever comes next can meet the moment on climate change," says one development official. "Malpass was really one of the last vestiges of the Trump administration."

Yet for others, there are fears that a new climate-oriented mission might distract from the bank's traditional development mandate.

The seeds of the World Bank and its sister organisation the IMF were sown at the Bretton Woods conference in 1944, to help the world recover from the economic ravages of war and create a new monetary system.

Almost 80 years on, some say it's time for a new global economic compact designed to tackle the existential threat of climate change. One of the leading voices is Mia Mottley, the prime minister of Barbados, who has called for "a new internationalism", and argued that the Bretton Woods institutions "no longer serve the purpose in the 21st century that they served in the 20th century".

Mottley, whose campaign has been called "the Bridgetown agenda", has pushed for a greater use of concessional finance such as low-interest, long-term debt instruments to finance clean-energy development across the world, as well as climate-resilient infrastructure. Smaller nations must be able to tackle climate change without falling into unsustainable debt, she argues.

Mottley's vision has attracted the public backing of French president Emmanuel Macron, who threw his weight behind her ambitious calls for reform during the COP27 UN climate summit in Egypt last year.

Other countries have called on MDBs to fund investments that benefit countries worldwide – and, in particular, to help rapidly growing middle-income countries shift their economies away from coal, the most polluting fossil fuel.

In response to these and other calls, the World Bank produced an "evolution road map" that explored what more it could do to tackle climate change and other globally important catastrophes.

In its paper, the bank suggested that in order for it to continue financing the world's poorest countries, while also lending more to middle-income nations to help them achieve their climate goals, it would need an injection of cash from shareholders.

But the plea for more cash was universally criticised by the bank's big donor shareholders, including the US, which have



World Bank President David Malpass

had their budgets squeezed by the pandemic, inflation and an energy crisis.

Joe Thwaites, an international climate finance advocate at non-profit the Natural Resources Defense Council, said the road map was "a distinct combination of navel gazing and finger pointing... Fundamentally, it doesn't strike me as grasping the scale of the problem."

A senior government official at the German ministry for economic co-operation and development agrees, saying: "I would not say that the bank hasn't progressed. But the bank is not where the bank should be."

The World Bank says discussions around the road map were "a shareholder-led process" and added that the bank would not comment on the views of its shareholders. According to the bank, it increased its climate finance from \$10.9bn to \$31.7bn over the past seven years. Although the bank's climate finance measured as a proportion of its overall lending has steadily increased, according to independent analysis by climate group NRDC, it still lags behind three other large MDBs, including the European Investment Bank and the African Development Bank.

Rather than give it more money, G7 countries are pushing for the World Bank to look at how it could free up more cash from its balance sheets to supercharge climate spending. One person close to discussions about how to reform the bank says G7 representatives are "concentrating on the idea that the World Bank needs to spend better before it gets more money".

Under its current model, the World Bank has turned relatively modest sums into much bigger numbers, according to an independent review of MDBs commis-

sioned by the G20 and published last year. Between 1944 and June 2021, shareholder countries contributed \$19.2bn capital in total to its main lending facility, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. With that capital, IBRD has issued more than \$750bn in loans and \$23bn in grants to the world's poorest countries, as well as covering the costs of its global development data and research.

But the G20 report said that the MDBs could do more still if they took certain steps. With "very manageable changes to risk tolerance" they could boost their lending capacity by "several hundreds of billions of dollars over the medium term" while still maintaining their credit ratings.

The World Bank has for decades maintained that holding a triple A rating from all three major credit rating agencies is essential for its operations. Shareholders, too, benefit from the bank being able to access low-cost funding from bond markets, which is where the bulk of the bank's funding comes from, and developing countries have warned against losing the rating.

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Financial Times



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

| ITV | ITV | ITV | ITV |
|---|---|--|--|
| SATURDAY 18 Feb | 21:45 Mjue Zaidi | Ramon | 20:00 Ripoti Maalum |
| 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 22:20 Bongo movie: | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 20:30 Tomorrow Today |
| 6:00 HABARI | 23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 10:25 Jagina rpt | 21:00 Out n' About |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 02:05 Al Jazeera | 10:55 Habari za saa | 21:30 Music Club 101 rpt |
| 7:00 Habari | MONDAY 20 Feb | 11:00 Music: The Base | 23:00 Capchat rpt |
| 8:00 Al Jazeera | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 11:55 Habari za saa | 01:00 Al Jazeera |
| 9:00 Watoto wetu | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 12:00 Al Jazeera | Sun 19 Feb |
| 10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO | 6:00 HABARI | 12:30 Afya ya jamii | 08:00 Aljazeera |
| 10:05 Shika Bamba 5 | 6:40 Kumekucha | 12:55 Habari za saa | 09:00 In good shape |
| 10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt | 7:30 HABARI | 13:00 Ripoti Maalum | 10:00 Capchat rpt |
| 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt | 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo | 13:35 Shikabamba | 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt |
| 12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 8:55 Habari za saa | 14:00 Shikabamba | 11:30 DW |
| 13:00 Usafiri wako | 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo | 14:05 Igizo rpt: Rebeca | 12:00 Jagina rpt |
| 13:30 Jagina | 9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 14:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt | 12:30 Bundesligga Kick Off rpt |
| 14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 9:55 Habari za saa | 14:55 Habari za saa | 13:00 In good shape rpt |
| 16:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 15:00 Meza Huru | 13:30 Dw |
| 16:30 Igizo: Rebeca | 10:55 Habari za saa | 16:30 Watoto wetu | 15:15 Aibu yako |
| 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani | 11:00 Music: The Base | 17:00 Music: The Base | 15:30 Rev rpt |
| 18:00 Jiji Letu | 11:55 Habari za saa | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt |
| 18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 18:15 Mapishi | 16:45 Mizengwe rpt |
| 19:00 Jungu Kuu | 12:30 Jungu Kuu | 18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ | 17:00 The Decor rpt |
| 19:30 Shika Bamba | 12:55 Habari za saa | 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon | 17:30 Meza huru |
| 20:00 Habari | 13:00 Mjue Zaidi | 20:00 Habari | 19:00 Eco@Africa |
| 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka | 13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt | 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Masha ni Nyumba | 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights |
| 21:15 Igizo: Rebeca | 13:55 Habari za saa | 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF | 20:00 Jagina |
| 21:40 Art and Lifestyle | 14:10 Soap rpt: Rebeca | 21:45 Chetu ni chetu | 20:30 Out & About rpt |
| 22:10 ITV Top 10 | 14:40 Mapishi rpt | 22:30 Soap: Uzalo | 21:00 Dw News Africa |
| 22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 14:55 Habari za saa | 23:00 Habari | 21:30 Capchat live |
| 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 15:00 Meza Huru | 23:30 Music: The Base | 22:15 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt |
| 01:15 DWTV | 16:30 Watoto Wetu | 00:30 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera |
| SUNDAY 19 Feb | 17:00 Music: The Base | 02:00 DWTV | Mon 20 Feb |
| 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 18:00 Jiji Letu | CAPITAL WEEK 8 2023 | 06:00 Al Jazeera |
| 6:00 HABARI | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | Sat 18 Feb | 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 18:30 DW: Afrimax | 08:00 Al Jazeera | 09:00 Club 101 rpt |
| 7:00 Habari | 19:00 Afya ya Jamii | 09:00 Rev rpt | 11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt |
| 8:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon | 09:30 Jagina rpt | 12:00 Dw News Africa rpt |
| 9:00 Watoto Wetu | 20:00 Habari | 10:00 Culinary delight rpt | 12:30 Our Earth |
| 10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 21:05 Dakika 45 | 10:30 Innovation rpt | 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt |
| 11:50 Bongo Movie rpt: | 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi Housing | 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt | 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) |
| 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo Mwangaza | 22:15 Bundesliga na DW | 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt | 16:00 Bussines Edition Rpt |
| 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 22:30 Soap: Uzalo | 12:30 Our Earth rpt | 16:30 Culinary delight rpt |
| 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 23:00 Habari | 13:00 Business edition | 17:00 Innovation rpt |
| 18:00 Jiji Letu | 23:30 Music: The Base | 12:00 Out and About | 17:30 Meza huru |
| 18:15 Mapishi | 00:30 Al Jazeera | 12:30 Our earth | 19:00 Sports Gazette |
| 18:30 Matukio ya wiki | 02:00 DWTV | 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt | 19:30 Special Pgm : Sauti za Busara |
| 19:30 Igizo: Rebeca | TUESDAY 21 Feb | 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) | 20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt |
| 20:00 Habari | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 16:00 Tomorrow Today | 20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides Of Ana |
| 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 16:30 Eco@Africa | 21:30 Capital Prime News |
| 21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology | 6:00 HABARI | 17:00 Dw News Africa rpt | 22:00 Dakika 45: |
| 21:15 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot | 6:40 Kumekucha | 17:30 Meza huru | 22:45 The Décor |
| 21:30 Igizo: Mizengwe | 7:30 HABARI | 19:00 The Décor rpt | 23:15 Al Jazeera |
| | 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo | 19:30 Special Pgm : Sauti za Busara | |
| | 8:55 Habari za saa | | |
| | 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo | | |
| | 9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with | | |

WORLD

Thousands of junior doctors vote to walk out in England

LONDON

TENS of thousands of junior doctors in England have voted for strike action next month, their trade union said on Monday, adding to a series of walkouts by nurses and ambulance workers putting pressure on an already strained health system.

The British Medical Association (BMA), which represents some 45,000 junior doctors in England, said 98 per cent of those taking part in a ballot had voted in favor of strike action, adding that they will stage a 72-hour walkout next month. The BMA did not give a date for the strike.

Junior doctors agreed in 2019 to an annual 2 per cent pay rise as part of a four-year deal but say that is now inadequate in light of much higher inflation. "This vote shows, without a shadow of

a doubt, the strength of feeling among most of England's junior doctors," the BMA said. "We are frustrated, in despair and angry and we have voted in our thousands."

The BMA describes junior doctors as those who are qualified in clinical training and have up to eight years' experience working as a hospital doctor or up to three years in general practice. They work under the supervision of a senior doctor.

British health minister Steve Barclay called the vote "deeply disappointing."

"I've met with the BMA and other medical unions to discuss what is fair and affordable, as well as wider concerns around conditions and workload. I want to continue discussing how we can make the NHS a better place to work for all," he said in a statement, using the acronym for the National Health Service.



Nurses of the St Thomas' Hospital protest in London, Feb 6, 2023. AP

The BMA says junior doctors have suffered a more than 25 per cent real-terms pay cut since 2008, leaving many demoralized and four in 10 wanting to leave the profession, according to a recent survey.

Another trade union for doctors, the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association, said its junior doctor members had also voted to carry out strike action in a separate ballot. That strike, on March 15, involves less than a thousand staff.

The strikes will heap more pressure on

Britain's state-funded NHS which is already stretched by staff shortages and record backlogs, and is now experiencing waves of disruptive strike action by health workers.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government has argued that higher pay rises would only cause more inflation and interest rates and mortgage rates to go up further.

More than 10,000 ambulance workers were on strike on Monday, while the nursing trade union last week announced a fresh 48-hour strike from March 1. **Agencies**

EU climate diplomacy deal fails as nuclear dispute deepens

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Union countries failed to adopt conclusions on climate diplomacy that had been planned for Monday, owing to a deepening spat over the role of nuclear energy in the green transition, EU officials said.

The upset is the latest development in a dispute between France and other countries who want more EU policies to promote nuclear energy's contribution to cutting CO2 emissions, and those like Germany and Spain who warn this risks distracting from efforts to massively expand renewable energy.

The debate - which focuses on hydrogen produced from nuclear or renewable energy - has already delayed negotiations on new EU renewable energy targets and threatened a multi-billion-euro hydrogen pipeline. Some EU officials fear it could spill into other



A participant walks past waterfall poster at the Palais des congrès during the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal, Quebec, on Dec 18, 2022. AFP

green energy policies, potentially delaying laws needed to meet EU climate targets.

"There are outstanding obstacles, but they will be resolved," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said of the climate conclusions on Monday, without specifying what the obstacles were.

The conclusions would set out

the EU's diplomatic priorities ahead this year's UN climate summit. Speaking after a meeting of EU countries' foreign ministers, who had planned to approve the conclusions, Borrell said he expected countries to give written approval to a final text within days. EU officials told Reuters the majority of the text had been ap-

proved - including plans for the EU to rally support for a global pledge to phase out fossil fuels ahead of the November UN climate summit.

But countries are struggling to agree on whether the text should explicitly promote low-carbon hydrogen - meaning hydrogen produced from nuclear electricity - or focus on hydrogen produced from renewable energy, they said.

"On the question of hydrogen ... there are different positions around the table," one diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity, who said officials were working to try to find a compromise quickly.

A draft of the conclusions, seen by Reuters, said: "EU energy diplomacy will promote the increasing uptake and system integration of renewable energy, hydrogen and its derivatives."

The draft added that EU diplomacy would also promote "safe

and sustainable low-carbon technologies".

Scaling up use, domestic production and imports of emissions-free hydrogen fuel is central to Europe's plans to decarbonise industries such as fertiliser and steelmaking.

France, which has historically derived 70 per cent of its power from nuclear reactors, and countries including Hungary and the Czech Republic, want more EU recognition of nuclear energy, and are for example pushing for nuclear-based hydrogen to count towards EU renewable energy targets.

On the other side are countries such as Germany, which is phasing out its reactors, and Spain. They say they acknowledge nuclear's low-carbon contribution, but that it should not be put on a level footing with renewable energy sources like wind and solar.

Agencies

Israel's parliament advances contested law for judicial reform

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S parliament on Monday voted to push ahead with a contested overhaul of the country's judicial system championed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's religious-nationalist government that has sparked mass protests.

Opposition in parliament vowed to "fight for the soul of the nation" while tens of thousands of Israelis gathered in the streets outside trumpeting their objection. Lawmakers argued late into the night before the proposed changes were approved in a first reading.

"A great night and a great day," Netanyahu wrote on Twitter after the preliminary vote.

Wielding 64 of the Knesset's 120 seats, Netanyahu looked likely to win eventual ratification for the two revisions on the agenda - one increasing the government's sway in choosing judges and the other setting limits to the Supreme Court's ability to strike down legislation.

Polls have found that most Israelis want the reforms slowed to allow for dialogue with critics - or shelved altogether.

The shekel was 1 per cent weaker versus the



People gather with Israeli flags for a protest against the government's judicial reform bill near the Knesset (parliament) in Jerusalem on Monday. AFP

said Knesset Finance Committee chairman Moshe Gafni and head of the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism party. "Any attempt at linkage is politicized."

Opposition lawmakers protested Gafni's statement, calling the committee "a circus".

Earlier in the day protesters posted online

videos of themselves trying to prevent lawmakers from Netanyahu's coalition leaving for the Knesset. Police said eight people were arrested for disorderly conduct and traffic rerouted after demonstrators blocked some roads.

"Demonstrators who talk about democracy are themselves bringing about the end of democracy when they deny elected delegates the fundamental right in a democracy - to vote," Netanyahu said in a statement.

The government says the reforms are designed to end overreach into politics by an unrepresentative Supreme Court. Critics say Netanyahu - who is on trial on graft charges that he denies - seeks legal changes that will hurt Israel's democratic checks and balances, foster corruption and bring diplomatic isolation.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid tweeted that demonstrations would mount "in the fight for the soul of the nation".

Israel's head of state, President Isaac Herzog, has repeatedly urged the government and opposition to hold compromise talks. But while both sides have voiced willingness, they disagree on terms.

Agencies

China reaps fruitful outcomes in development of large LNG carriers

CHINA delivered outstanding shipbuilding performance last year, with output, new, and holding orders accounting for 45.2 per cent, 55.2 per cent, and 49.0 per cent of the world's total, respectively. All ranked first globally.

Chinese shipbuilders received 55 orders for liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers in 2022, accounting for more than 30 per cent of the world's total, a record high for the country, which demonstrated the country's capability in high-end shipbuilding.

"This achievement broke the monopoly of shipbuilders in some countries in LNG carriers building and kicked off a new phase of global competition in the

sector," said Li Yanqing, secretary-general of the China Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry (CANSI).

South Korea has long possessed a dominating position in the global LNG carrier market. The situation was changed by Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding (Group) Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of China's largest shipbuilding company China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited (CSSC), which delivered China's first homegrown large LNG carrier in 2008.

Ever since, China's shipbuilders of LNG carriers have embraced constant development and gradually narrowed the gap between them and their global competitors. LNG tank ships are considered

a product featuring high technologies, high manufacturing difficulties, and high added value. They are dubbed as one of the three "pearls" on the crown of shipbuilding together with aircraft carriers and large cruise ships.

According to an employee with Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding (Group) Co., Ltd., LNG tanker manufacturing is a technology- and capital-intensive industry, which tests the comprehensive capability of manufacturers.

Safety comes first in the designing and building of LNG carriers. Li told People's Daily that building an LNG carrier is as difficult as building an aircraft carrier.

"In particular, the scaffold system,

which has direct contact with the LNG that's as cold as minus 163 degrees Celsius, poses the major technical difficulty in building large LNG carriers," he explained.

LNG carriers must meet very high safety standards as they carry tens of thousands of tons of LNG on the sea for thousands of kilometers.

"Leakages in the tank lead to ruptures of the steel body of the carrier. If the leaking LNG gasifies rapidly, there would be explosions. Therefore, no mistake is allowed in the designing and manufacturing of LNG carriers," Li said.

Since the beginning of 2022, the demand for LNG carriers has soared in the

global market, and the emerging shipbuilding market has seen a surge in LNG carrier orders, which has provided opportunities for eligible Chinese shipbuilders to enter the LNG carrier construction market.

Last year, China saw the rise of multiple industrial clusters of LNG carrier manufacturing led by Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding (Group) Co., Ltd., Dalian Shipbuilding Industry Company, Jiangnan Shipyard (Group) Co., Ltd., and Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Group.

Chinese shipbuilders have become important participants in the field of global energy transportation, Li said.

The surging orders for LNG carriers

have brought China's LNG shipbuilding industry to a key period featuring accelerated development.

It is learned that the production of Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding has been scheduled until 2028.

"The decision to expand capacity, flexible marketing strategies, and solid technological foundation are the basis for Chinese shipbuilders to have entered the marine LNG transport market and expanded their shares," Li told People's Daily, adding that faster delivery and new orders remain important for Chinese shipbuilders to further expand their market, no matter how the market develops this year. **People's Daily**

Biden makes surprise visit to Kiev despite rising anti-war sentiment at home

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden made a surprise visit to the Ukrainian capital of Kiev on Monday, a trip described by media as secret, or even sneaky.

"President Joe Biden's motorcade slipped out of the White House around 3:30 a.m. Sunday. No big, flashy Air Force One for this trip - the president vanished into the darkness on an Air Force C-32, a modified Boeing 757 normally used for domestic trips to smaller airports," said a report by the Associated Press.

"The next time he turned up - 20 hours later - it was in downtown Kyiv, Ukraine," it said. In the Ukrainian capital, Biden held talks with his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky, about the situation on the frontline in Ukraine and announced an additional 500 million U.S. dollars in military aid for Ukraine, which is believed to further escalate the Ukraine crisis.

Addressing a joint press conference with Zelensky, Biden said the new assistance package will consist of missiles for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and Javelin anti-tank missile systems, as well as more military equipment and weapons.

The United States and its allies have already committed nearly 700 tanks and thousands of armored vehicles and 1,000 artillery systems, among other aid to Ukraine, Biden said.

The president's sneaky visit to Kiev came at a time when anti-war sentiment in the United States is soaring. Many Americans are calling on the government to stop fueling the Russia-Ukraine conflict, scale down military spendings and review the role of NATO.

The United States is "completely behind the stoking" of the conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and "there's massive warmongering propaganda and, unfortunately, too many people have bought into it," said Cat McGuire, a protester who participated in Sunday afternoon's rally before the Lincoln Memorial at the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Noting that the conflict in Ukraine can be ended through diplomacy, Jimmy Dore, an American political commentator and media personality, told the protesters that "our politicians want to enrich weapons manufacturers, so they keep donating to them."

Former U.S. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard blamed the politicians for not serving the people but "their masters in the military-industrial complex," calling on Americans to "set aside our differences and work together to fire those warmongering politicians from both political parties."

The military-industrial complex refers to America's military establishment, as well as the industries involved in weapon production. This union, critics say, produces benefits for both sides: war planners receive the tools necessary for waging war to further interests abroad while defense contractors become the recipients of lucrative deals.

Alex Scholz-Karabakakis, who traveled from Vermont to Washington, D.C., for the anti-war demonstration, underscored that it is a "misconception" that the military-industrial complex serves the United States and protects Americans.

"The United States is playing way too much on the military," Scholz-Karabakakis argued while he accused Washington of "expanding outwards to the borders" of other countries and "creating anxiety, fear around the world."

NATO has also been widely slammed among Americans, who are urging the U.S.-led military bloc to contribute positively to world peace and stability, instead of merely being a troublemaker.

The tragedy in Ukraine "could have easily been avoided if the Biden Admin and NATO had simply acknowledged Russia's legitimate security concerns regarding Ukraine becoming a member of NATO," Gabbard once tweeted.

"I feel like NATO has been a force for destruction and aggression since its inception," Scholz-Karabakakis said. "They've been responsible for wars and destruction for decades now and I think that Americans still don't understand the danger that NATO poses for the world."

Eric Reeves, a protester from Texas, echoed the perspective and said that NATO "should be dissolved" and that "the West needs to stop doing what it's doing" - particularly the United States' continuous delivery of arms to Ukraine - so that Russia and Ukraine "could work out what they need to work out" and the conflict would end.

**Agencies**

Africa's push for compensation for impacts of climate change bearing fruits - UN official

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICA'S push for compensation from the developed world for having suffered from the impacts of climate change is bearing fruits, a UN official has disclosed.

United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Director General of the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group Ibrahim Cheikh Diong said the COP27 (the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties), which was held in Egypt late last year, acted on what is called a "loss and damage" fund to be given to Africa as compensation to protect its people from impacts of climate change.

The funding will be financed by the developed world, "those who actually pollute the environment most," Diong told the press on the sidelines of the 36th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Assembly.

Noting that Africa contributes less than four percent of the global greenhouse gases emission, the director general said the continent through the ARC has been raising concerns about the impact of climate change on Africa while demanding compensation for its people.

According to Diong, the ARC is advocating for Africa to receive the funding as quickly as possible while maintaining the need for having competent African institutions that will be able to access the funding very quickly and disperse it effectively.

Diong said the AU has come up with a new regional disaster reduction strategy that guides members to plan better in dealing with disasters, prepare well to manage and transfer risks to the insurance market, and protect lives and livelihoods.

"African heads of states are recognizing the problem of climate change and want to fix this from a political perspective, and eventually come up with some solution to address climate change," Diong said.

Since its inception 10 years ago, the ARC has provided up to 1 billion U.S. dollars worth of coverage across all member states and to all disasters combined on top of a payout of 125 million U.S. dollars, the director general added.

Highlighting the recent flooding in South Africa, Nigeria and Niger as well as the critical drought in the Horn of Africa, Diong said the recurrence of disasters in Africa is on the rise, causing a huge impact on human conditions, particularly women and children.

The two-day summit, slated from Feb. 18 to 19 at the headquarters of the AU in Addis Ababa, was held under the theme of the year for 2023, "The Year of AFCFTA: Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation."

Putin speaks on partnership with Africa

ADDIS ABABA

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin has hailed the growing partnership between Russia and Africa, saying he hopes to further boost cooperation with the continent.

In an address to the African Union (AU) summit, published on the Kremlin website on Saturday, Putin (pictured) praised the AU as an "authoritative international structure," playing a vital role in settling local conflicts, assuring stability, and strengthening ties between African nations.

"For Russia, African states have always been and remain important and reliable partners. We are united by the desire to build a just and multipolar world order, based on true equality and rule of international law, free from any form of discrimination, forceful dictatorship and sanctions pressure," the Russian leader told the gathering, now underway in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

Putin also reiterated his invitation to African leaders to attend the second Russia-Africa Summit, scheduled to take place in St Petersburg this July.

He explains rapprochement with Africa

The first such forum, held in Sochi in 2019, "created good conditions for intensifying our traditionally friendly relations, both on the bilateral level and on a multilateral basis," he said. The event in St Petersburg should allow the sides to set new goals in expanding their cooperation further in various areas, the president added.

"I look forward to continued constructive joint work for the benefit of our countries and peoples, in the interests of ensuring peaceful and prosperous development of the African continent," Putin wrote.

Relations between Russia and Africa have become closer during the conflict in Ukraine, as many nations on the continent have resisted Western pressure to condemn and sanction Moscow.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has made two African tours in less than a year, visiting Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda and the Republic of the Congo in summer, and traveling to South Africa, Angola, Eswatini and Eritrea a few weeks ago.

Agencies

Former Zimbabwean President Mugabe's son arrested on property damage allegations

HARARE

FORMER Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's son, Robert Tinotenda Mugabe (Junior), has been arrested on allegations of malicious damage to property at a suburban house during a weekend party in Avondale in the northwest of Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

Police spokesperson Paul Nyathi confirmed the arrest in a statement and said Mugabe (Junior), aged 31, was due to appear in court soon on Monday. Mugabe was arrested on Sunday after a complaint by his friend Nkatozo Sindiso that he destroyed property worth 12,000 U.S. dollars at House Number 3A Verdi Lane, Strathaven, Harare, Zimbabwe's official news agency New Ziana quoted Nyathi as saying.

Six killed after fresh quake hits Türkiye-Syria border

ANTAKYA, TÜRKIYE

SIX people were killed in the latest earthquake to strike the border region of Türkiye and Syria, authorities reported yesterday, two weeks after a larger one killed more than 47,000 people and damaged or destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes.

Monday's quake, this time with a magnitude of 6.4, was centered near the southern Turkish city of Antakya and was felt in Syria, Egypt and Lebanon.

Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) said there had been 90 aftershocks. Six thousand tents were sent to the area overnight for residents alarmed by the new quake.

The Hatay provincial governor's building, already damaged in the Feb 6 quakes, collapsed in the latest tremor, television footage showed.

Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said 294 people had been injured, with 18 seriously hurt and transported to hospitals in Adana and Dörtöyl.

Patients were evacuated from some health facilities that had remained in operation after the massive tremors two weeks ago, as cracks had emerged in the buildings, Koca said on Twitter.

In Samandag, where AFAD had reported one person dead on Monday, residents said more buildings had collapsed, but that most of the town had already fled after the initial earthquakes. Mounds of debris and discarded furniture lined the dark, abandoned streets.

Muna Al Omar said she had been in a tent in a park in central Antakya when the ground started heaving again.

"I thought the earth was going to split open under my feet," she said on Monday, crying as she



A soldier carries a man after being injured in the latest earthquake in Hatay, Türkiye, on Monday. (PHOTO / DEPO PHOTOS VIA AP)

held her 7-year-old son.

US help

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on a visit to Türkiye on Monday that Washington would help "for as long as it takes" as rescue operations in the wake of the Feb 6 quake wound down, and the focus turned to shelter and reconstruction work.

The death toll from the Feb 6 quakes rose to 41,156 in Türkiye, AFAD said on Monday, and was expected to climb further, with 385,000 apartments known to have been destroyed or seriously damaged and many people still missing.

President Tayyip Erdogan said construction work on nearly 200,000 apartments in 11 provinces of Türkiye would begin next month.

Total US humanitarian assistance to support the earthquake response in Türkiye and Syria has reached \$185 million, the US State Department said.

Among the survivors of the earthquakes are about 226,000 pregnant women in Türkiye and 130,000 in Syria women who urgently need access to health services, the UN sexual and repro-

ductive health agency has said.

Around 39,000 are due to deliver in the next month, and many are sheltering in camps or exposed to freezing temperatures and struggling to get food or clean water.

Syria aid

In Syria, already shattered by more than a decade of civil war, most deaths have been in the northwest, where the United Nations said 4,525 people were killed. The area is controlled by insurgents at war with President Bashar al-Assad, complicating aid efforts.

Syrian officials say 1,414 people were killed in areas under government control.

Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said a convoy of 14 of its trucks had entered northwestern Syria from Türkiye on Sunday to assist in rescue operations.

The World Food Programme has also been pressuring authorities in that region to stop blocking access for aid from Syrian government-controlled areas.

As of Monday morning, 197 trucks loaded with UN humanitarian aid had entered northwest

Syria through two border crossings, a spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said.

Thousands of Syrian refugees in Türkiye have returned to their homes in northwest Syria to contact relatives caught up in the disaster.

At the Turkish Cilvegozu border crossing, hundreds of Syrians lined up starting early on Monday to cross.

Mustafa Hannan, who dropped off his pregnant wife and 3-year-old son, said he saw about 350 people waiting.

The 27-year-old car electrician said his family was leaving for a few months after their home in Antakya collapsed, taking up a pledge by authorities allowing them to spend up to six months in Syria without losing the chance to return to Türkiye.

"I'm worried they won't be allowed back," he said. "We've already been separated from our nation. Are we going to be separated from our families now too? If I rebuild here but they can't return, my life will be lost."

Agencies

Major coal port in north China turns into 'coastal garden'

SEA breeze was coming to a coal terminal at the Port of Huanghua on the west coast of Bohai Bay in Cangzhou, north China's Hebei province.

As coal trains from northern Shanxi province successively arrived at the terminal, their hopper cars were dragged to the first stop there - the rotary car dumpers.

Zhou Runsheng, a technician who has been working for ten years at the car dumper shed of the terminal, told People's Daily that the dumpers were once a big polluter.

"When hopper cars were rotated, coal dust would be kicked up. Those who wore white shirts would soon see their shirts turn grey," Zhou said.

Today, thanks to new technologies developed by the port, the coal dust that could have been kicked up when cars are rotated is wrapped by extremely small water droplets with a diameter of only a few micrometers.

"We have four rotary car dumpers, and each of them can unload 8,000 tons of coal per hour. That means over 100 million tons every year. Given this, the car dumper shed is still kept clean," Zhou said.

The Port of Huanghua is an important coal port in China. It has ranked first in the country in terms of coal throughput for four consecutive years. However, coal dust pollution had been a huge challenge that hindered the development of the port.

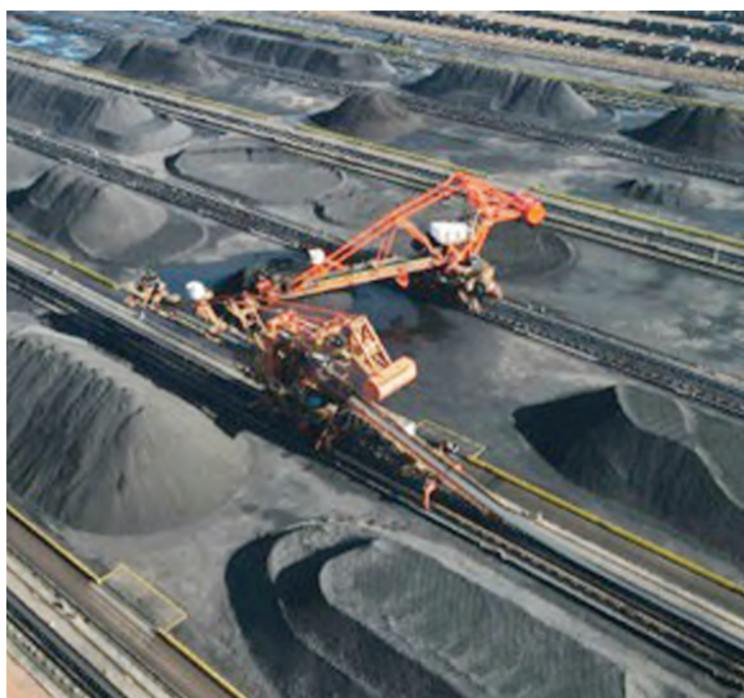
To tackle the challenge, the Port of Huanghua embraced intelligentization and built a whole-process dust suppression system.

The port upgraded every procedure of coal processing, including dumping, piling, and loading, said Huai Quan, manager of the production supply center of the company that runs the port, adding that the application of environmental protection technologies helped the company tackle the challenges of dust pollution at the coal terminal.

According to Huai, 17 environmental monitoring sites, which update data every minute, have been set up at the coal terminal. The data in and outside the terminal are almost the same, the manager added.

Apart from coal dust pollution treatment, the Port of Huanghua also made efforts to advance water conservation so as to turn itself into a green hub.

Freshwater is a valuable resource for



Machines transfer coal to be used for power generation at a stock dump in the Port of Huanghua, Cangzhou, north China's Hebei province. (Photo by Fu Xinchun/People's Daily Online)

the Port of Huanghua, which sits on a coastal salt marsh.

"The coal terminal's operation consumed over 3.7 million cubic meters of freshwater each year, and the figure even rose after environmental protection rules became more strict," Huai told People's Daily.

To solve the problem, the port planned "two lakes and three wetlands," Huai said. According to him, the "two lakes" take ballast water on cargo ships from south China and surface runoff collected in the rainy season, respectively.

The ballast water "lake" receives 1.1 million to 1.5 million cubic meters of freshwater each year, and the runoff "lake" 400,000 cubic meters, Huai noted.

The "three wetlands" refer to three sewage disposal stations that dispose of wastewater generated by dust-extraction units and other devices. They can purify over 2.05 million cubic meters of sewage on an annual basis. The coal slime settled during the treatment is made into coal briquettes that earn an extra 9 million yuan (\$1.31 million) for the port each year.

The "two lakes and three wet-

lands" were transformed from dumping areas and idle lands. They are interconnected and form a complete set of water recycling systems.

"The water is gradually reutilized in production, which cuts the cost of freshwater consumption by over 19 million yuan each year," Huai told People's Daily.

The sufficient and recyclable freshwater in the "two lakes and three wetlands" is now nurturing the plants in the port and attracting various fish and bird species, turning ashy terminals into a beautiful "coastal garden."

"We also set up a technological innovation team that puts green inventions to all links of production, so as to maximumly reduce human labor, cover the whole port with power supply and keep enhancing green development," said Dong Chuanbo, manager of the environmental protection department of the company that runs the Port of Huanghua.

According to Dong, the port will further promote the collaboration among and upgrading of photovoltaic, energy storage, and hydrogen-producing systems for better green and low-carbon transition.

People's Daily

Türkiye expects Sweden's 'positive steps' for joining NATO

ANKARA

TURKISH foreign minister on Monday reaffirmed Ankara's demands for more Swedish steps over its security concerns despite US pushes for Sweden and Finland's rapid accession into NATO.

Speaking at a joint news conference with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in the Turkish capital of Ankara, Mevlut Cavusoglu said Türkiye is not sure about Sweden's admission into the military alliance, since it has yet to take enough steps to meet Türkiye's concerns.

Cavusoglu argued that although Sweden conveyed some positive messages, "PKK supporters are still present in Sweden. They are recruiting people; they are financing terror acts." He was speaking of the Kurdistan Workers' Party which Türkiye considers a terrorist group.

The Turkish minister reiterated that Ankara's stance on Finland's accession could be different and that its membership could be ratified earlier.

Blinken, speaking earlier at the

press conference, said the United States strongly supported Sweden and Finland's accession into the alliance "as quickly as possible".

"Finland and Sweden already have taken concrete steps to fulfill the commitments they made under the trilateral agreement ... We welcome those steps which are significant," Blinken added.

Cavusoglu responded that all parties in NATO must convince Sweden in particular to take more action to address Türkiye's concerns.

"If Sweden can take some positive steps then we can convince our parliament, our people and only after that we can say yes for their membership," he added.

Finland and Sweden applied to join NATO in May 2022 in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Their accession to NATO needs the approval of all member states of the military alliance. Türkiye and Hungary, both members of NATO, are holding back their approvals. Türkiye requests that the two Nordic countries to "speedily and thoroughly" extradite individuals it considers to be terrorist suspects.



Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu (right) and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (left) arrive for a joint news conference following talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ankara, on Feb 16, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

Pundits rethinking local soccer parameters after Simba SC rout

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

A convincing 3-0 win in an away match at the Benjamin Mkapa arena in Dar es Salaam by top Moroccan side Raja Club Athletic, archrivals to current CAF Champions League holders, Wydad Athletic Club, and the technique that the visiting side displayed in the match against Tanzania's Simba SC, showed the gap between the two sides.

Implicitly it was also a reminder that there is still a huge gap between our teams and top North African sides, such that discussion is no longer centered on either coaching or individual players but on the team.

It is a long way to go merely to find answers as to what ails our teams, as Simba SC is our flag bearer.

The surprising feature about the rout at the hands of Raja Club Athletic was that the earlier discussion and pundits spent the better part of two days trying not just to put bets on the two encounters for continental titles.

They also exhaustively sought out views on whether our sides had a chance to win, and while there was visible hesitation on chances of their next street rivals, the odds being pronounced was either win or draw for the more ambitious continental contenders. Now it lies in ruins.

It will take an enormous amount of faith to believe that a side that hasn't collected one point in two encounters emerged at either the top or the runners-up position, thus in evident odds, its safari ends at the Group Stage.

While Simba SC's first encounter with Horoya Athletic Club showed it has a chance of coming back, failing to earn a point in its home tie with Raja Club Athletic has more or less removed those hopes, as a failing side needs to win the next match to stay in contention. It is hard to say Simba SC is still in contention.

A section of pundits, trying to keep their heads above the water and skip the 'sinking ship' mentality, especially as there has lately been plenty of seemingly justified celebration that the Msimbazi Street side is included in the Africa Super League grouping the continent's top clubs.

Simba SC was also slotted at number 12 among 20 leading African sides, a datum they will have to demonstrate is still relevant, for instance, if they win



Tanzania's Simba SC fullback, Shomari Kapombe (L), negotiates his way past Morocco's Raja Club Athletic defensive midfielder, Roger Aholou, when the clubs took on each other in this season's CAF Champions League Group C match held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. Raja Club Athletic cruised to a 3-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

three of their remaining matches, a tall order.

It implies the need for squad revamping for Simba SC to remain 'continental'.

This also means that the idea that the Mainland Premier League is number five in Africa as some advertorial data contends is misplaced.

Our league is outclassed by four North African sides, and three or four south of the Sahara. It nears top 10 status, but nowhere near the top five as the datum set out, by earlier figures.

The latter outcome for their archrivals, Yanga, changed nothing in the issue as it didn't suggest that the Jangwani Street outfit is a better side, though it improved its chances in the second-tier of continental tournaments.

There is no doubt that the proper issue is how far our league is really among the best in Africa, and the Yanga result shows that it does compare with the Congolese league at the moment.

Pundits point out that TP Mazembe is not its old self, and being eliminated by Vipers SC to

drop to the second-tier tournament is an adequate illustration.

Vipers SC looked a shadow better in the starting matches compared to Simba SC but hardly look like they are hard hitters.

In that case, there was a slightly awkward celebratory mood on the part of Jangwani Street outfit's fans, as they won the second 'derby' of continental ties at nearly the same moment.

The fanfare was slightly dented as it is with a different class of teams where they are home, while their next street rivals are trying to prove something at the top, and this is where the overall dignity of Tanzanian football is being judged.

From the look of things we end at group level in the top competition, and definitely, there is but a slim chance in the second competition, the fanfare notwithstanding.

Players at Jangwani Street club will have 18m/- to share out, based on stakes taken out by the Union President and the RC is a huge consolation individually and at a community level, but removes nothing of the fact that they were playing in a different

soccer-land compared to the Msimbazi Street outfit.

They were rather surprisingly comfortable with the match such that the captain was Bakari Nondo Mwamnyeto, needed for aerial balls but somewhat unreliable on his feet, and then two key players missed out. They no longer have Bernard Morrison and Feisal Salum.

That kind of lineup would have been next to fatal even in a good premier league game, and suddenly it appears to have worked in what would otherwise have been a testing continental encounter, as they saw in their first match losing 2-0 at its first group game.

Winning 3-1 thereafter worked best for Yanga head coach Nasreddine Nabi as he has some colours to show for in the side's continental appearance.

He will still have to come out in forthright terms later on what it will take for the side to either be a real contender in the second-tier tournament or make a good run in the top-flight journey.

Yanga SC top official lauds President Samia

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's president Hersi Said has lauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for fulfilling her promise to present prize money to Tanzania's clubs that will register wins in the Group Stage of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League and 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup.

The Tanzanian football giant defied the odds, beating DR Congo's TP Mazembe 3-1 in this season's CAF Confederation Cup Group D clash played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday night.

The outcome has since witnessed Yanga raking in 15m/- from President Samia who had pledged to present 5m/- for each goal scored by the clubs.

An inspirational performance shown by the country's envoys in

the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup has enabled them to pick the first maximum points in Group D.

Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla, is also reported to have presented 1m/- for each goal netted, hence, the Jangwani Street-based club walked away with a total of 18m/.

Said also called on soccer stakeholders in the country to motivate the outfits in coming continental showdowns' fixtures.

The Jangwani Street outfit leader stated apart from President Samia's promise, other stakeholders he did not want to mention have contributed money following Yanga's win in last Sunday's CAF Confederation Cup Group D tie.

Said disclosed: "We have carried out the instructions of the President, we are very grateful

to our President Samia Suluhu Hassan, we have carried out her instructions and we have delivered."

"We are motivated heading to upcoming games as we have already tasted our first win in the competition, we still have many games to play in Group D and we don't want to be carried away by our first win that has come with many presents from state's leaders," the Yanga boss noted.

Tunisian side US Monastir leads Group D with four points while TP Mazembe and Yanga have collected three points apiece to occupy second and third slots respectively as per the goal difference.

Malian envoys AS Réal de Bamako are languishing at the bottom place with one point and will welcome Yanga in their next encounter at the home venue on Sunday.



Yanga's president, Hersi Said. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Tanzania's other outfit, Simba SC, failed to secure the prize money from the President, as the club went down 3-0 to Morocco's

Raja Club Athletic in the CAF Champions League Group C duel played in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

TotalEnergies keen on maximizing on Kilimanjaro International Marathon 2023

By Guardian Correspondent

THE great experience and adventure during the 2022 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon coupled with the vast marketing experience went a long way in prompting TotalEnergies to press the sponsorship button for the prestigious international event.

"We participated as staff and what we experienced made us think of making this meaningful step to come in as a sponsor so we can further explore the opportunities that we saw," Gertrude Mpangile, Director of Legal Affairs, TotalEnergies Marketing Tanzania, reveals.

She is confident that the sponsorship will mark a good partnership opportunity for both TotalEnergies Marketing Tanzania Ltd and the Kilimanjaro International Marathon, a recognized international event that attracts over 12,000 runners from in and out of the country.

The official notes: "We are glad to be part of this milestone for the Kilimanjaro International Marathon and bring the community and world together to a great health and fun course as well as broaden the knowledge of our TotalEnergies products and services to our customers."

Participation

TotalEnergies Marketing Tanzania Limited is not only coming in as a sponsor but also adding more excitement and fun at the water points and a catalyst to the 2023 Kilimanjaro Marathon experience at the Moshi University of Cooperatives (MoCU) Stadium on February 26.

The director says: "Twenty-three employees from TotalEnergies Marketing Tanzania Limited are expected to run fields in the various races where they look forward to a lot of excitement and lasting memories."

"Furthermore, the experience at the water table as the runners pass by to get water and other drinks is something that our staff, who will be serving and engaging with the huge crowd with pomp and fair right on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro, are looking forward too," Gertrude says.

Training

According to Gertrude, it's all hands on deck as the team gets ready for Kilimanjaro International Marathon where the employees through the TotalEnergies jogging club run every Tuesday and Thursday since November 2022 in preparation for the 21km run.

Gertrude notes: "The club has been progressing with the training sessions where they started with a 5km run - 8km run - 15 km run and the ultimate goal is to get to 21km before the main event in Moshi."

"The jogging club and TotalEnergies management have also been motivating the runners to participate in other marathons being held across the country since the 2022 Kilimanjaro International Marathon as part of building the runners' stamina, team spirit and keeping fit," she says.

Marketing

Since most people will be driving to Moshi, TotalEnergies advises them to use excellium fuel with additives that clean car engines and reduce fuel consumption which is only available at TotalEnergies service stations and high-quality lubricants which meet international standards for both petrol and diesel cars.

Gertrude adds that they will cooperate with other sponsors including the main sponsor, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km, Tigo- 21km, Grand Malt 5km Fun Run, water table sponsors TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, and official suppliers Kibo Palace Hotel, CMC Automobiles, KK Security, and Keys Hotel.

"We would love to share our successful experience after the event but for now we are excited and looking forward to having a great experience at the Kilimanjaro International Marathon, reaching out and interacting with new customers," the director reveals.

Kilimanjaro International Marathon is a yearly event held in Moshi and is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and nationally coordinated by Executive Solutions Ltd.



TotalEnergies Marketing Tanzania Limited's employees in a group picture once they took part in the previous season's Kilimanjaro International Marathon in Kilimanjaro. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

RB Leipzig's 'difference maker' Nkunku returns for Man City showdown

LONDON

BUNDESLIGA side RB Leipzig are gearing up to face juggernauts Manchester City in their home Champions League tie today, and hoping the return of top goalscorer Christopher Nkunku will make all the difference.

Nkunku made a late cameo in Leipzig's 3-0 win at Wolfsburg on Saturday, setting up a goal for Konrad Laimer after a 98-day absence which saw him miss France's run to the World Cup final in Qatar.

His 21 minutes on the pitch Saturday has him in line for a return to the starting eleven, and manager Marco Rose said it shows how valuable the star forward is to Leipzig's hopes.

"You could see how good it was for us that Christopher is back," Rose said after the victory.

"With him on the pitch, we are more unpredictable as a team."

Nkunku suffered a knee injury in November in France's last training session before departing for Qatar, one of a series of injury blows for the team in the tournament run-up.

Despite missing five league matches, Nkunku still sits atop of Leipzig's goalscoring charts this season with 12 -- just one less than Bundesliga season leader Niclas Füllkrug.

- Crucial comeback -

Nkunku's return is crucial to any hope Leipzig have of springing an unlikely upset on the Champions League favourites and making it past the last 16 for only the second time in club history.

In particular, Leipzig will need Nkunku's speed and creativity to break down a City defence which has conceded just two goals this Champions League season -- the equal lowest in the competition alongside Bayern Munich.

Earlier in February, Rose heaped praise on Nkunku's unique qualities as the 25-year-old worked towards a comeback, calling the Paris Saint-Germain junior "a difference maker."

"He simply has qualities that are not so common in the Bundesliga, in Europe and in the world," Rose said at the time.

- 'Courage' against Haaland -

On the opposite side of the pitch to Nkunku on Wednesday will be star City forward Erling Haaland, who has 32 goals in 31 games since moving to the Etihad Stadium from Bundesliga rivals Borussia Dortmund in the summer.

Haaland scored more goals against Leipzig during his time in Germany than any other opponent, with six goals in four games, including two in Dortmund's 4-1 German Cup final win over the Red Bulls in the 2020-21 season.

Rose will know Haaland's threat better than most, having coached the then 18-year-old at Red Bull Salzburg and later at Dortmund.

The man tasked with keeping Haaland in check on Wednesday, Leipzig captain and centre-back Willi Orban, was confident the home side could keep the Manchester City striker at bay.

"Of course, it will be a big challenge for us. But we can do it -- we showed that against Real Madrid," he said.

"He (Haaland) is difficult to defend of course, but with courage you can do it," Orban added.

Leipzig beat the reigning European champions 3-2 at home in October to seal their qualification for the group stage.

Leipzig forward Emil Forsberg -- who scored the opener against Wolfsburg on Saturday -- mirrored Orban's optimism.

Speaking after the match, Forsberg said the "beautiful and important win" would give his side "self-confidence" for the City clash.

"We're looking forward to an awesome game. We want to go out and win."

AFP



Christopher Nkunku

Man City fighting fires ahead of Champions League test



Pep Guardiola

LONDON

MANCHESTER City's quest to finally conquer Europe resumes today when Pep Guardiola's men travel to RB Leipzig, but all is not well for the English champions on or off the field.

City appeared to have laid down a marker in the Premier League title race by beating leaders Arsenal 3-1 away last week, only to then throw away two points by conceding late to draw 1-1 at Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

They are also playing under a cloud after being charged with more than 100 breaches of financial rules by the Premier League, dating back to the 2009/10 season.

Defender Kyle Walker described City's sloppiness in relinquishing top spot in the Premier League at the weekend as "unacceptable".

"Sometimes it's football and sometimes it's emotion," he said. "Every game should be treated the same -- like a cup final."

A two-point deficit at the top of the table could turn into five should Arsenal win their game in hand against struggling Everton.

A lack of consistency in City's performances is troubling Guardiola ahead of his side's return to action in the competition they most crave.

City have never won the Champions League,

while Guardiola, who won the trophy twice as manager of Barcelona, has not done so since 2011, his penultimate season at the Camp Nou.

The signing of Erling Haaland was expected to be the final piece in solving City's puzzle in Europe.

The Norwegian has delivered the goals expected of him, with 32 in all competitions. Yet Haaland's arrival is one of the factors used to explain a dip in City's collective standards this season.

The defending champions have dropped 20 points already in 24 games -- compared with 21 points in the whole of the 2021/22 campaign.

- 'Going after it' -

Despite Haaland's haul, City had scored more goals as a team at this stage last season. Defensively they also look more exposed -- an issue not helped by Guardiola's willingness to let Joao Cancelo join Bayern Munich on loan, leaving him without a natural left-back.

Nathan Ake, Aymeric Laporte, Rico Lewis and even creative midfielder Bernardo Silva have been shunted out to do a job on the left side of defence in the past two weeks alone.

Guardiola said he was heartened by City's display at Forest despite a lack of killer instinct that cost them two points.

However, he has not been slow to call out his players since the World

Cup break for a lack of hunger and desire to remain on top in England, which is an uncharacteristic approach for the former Barca and Bayern Munich coach.

Finding such motivation for the Champions League should not be difficult. Third-choice goalkeeper Scott Carson is the only member of Guardiola's squad to have won the competition previously, when he was at Liverpool.

"We're coming after it," goalkeeper Ederson said of City's quest to win the Champions League.

"I think we're a group of great quality and that shows how much the club has developed over the last five or six years, with Premier League titles, Carabao (League) Cups, FA Cups, Community Shields.

"So this title is what the club needs. It's what we athletes need and it's what Guardiola needs here at the club, too. This year, we're going to try. We're going after it."

There could also be the extra incentive of not knowing for sure when City might get another chance to play in the Champions League due to the score of charges on financial breaches earlier this month.

Should City be found guilty, a heavy points penalty or even relegation could be on the cards for a club that has played in Europe's elite competition for 12 straight seasons.

AFP

Bukayo Saka is more sinned against than sinning, so why the yellow card imbalance?

LONDON

BUKAYO Saka is usually not the sort of character to lash out but, on this occasion, he had simply had enough. Just before half-time at Villa Park on Saturday, he was clattered from behind by Philippe Coutinho, and a switch seemed to flick inside his mind. With rage in his eyes and blood rushing to his head, Saka jumped to his feet and pushed Coutinho in the chest.

Douglas Luiz, Coutinho's Villa team-mate, was the next to feel the force of Saka's anger. He, too, received a forceful shove from the young Arsenal winger, who was promptly ushered away from the fracas by the watchful Jorginho and Aaron Ramsdale.

At that moment, Saka looked ready to take on anyone who dared come near him. It was uncharacteristic of the 21-year-old, who so rarely loses his cool, but Arsenal supporters would say that such a reaction was inevitable from a player who is so regularly targeted by opposition defences.

Across the previous 45 minutes of action, Saka had once again been on the receiving end of a series of physical challenges. Some of Villa's tackles were legal, but many of them were not. Some of them were punished by

the referee but, to Saka's frustration, others were not. Saka was especially annoyed by the decision not to award a free-kick for a challenge that resulted in him losing his boot in the first half.

The sight of Saka on the floor, wincing in pain, has been an increasingly common one for Arsenal this season. As Mikel Arteta, the Arsenal manager, put it after the match: "Teams are not stupid. They want to stop him."

Oleksandr Zinchenko, Saka's team-mate, went further. "Bukayo is an unbelievable player," he said. "All the full-backs from other teams know he is so dangerous, so they try to provoke him and tackle him. The referees should know this. We can speak about [Lionel] Messi, Cristiano [Ronaldo], Neymar and players like this. The referees need to protect this kind of player."

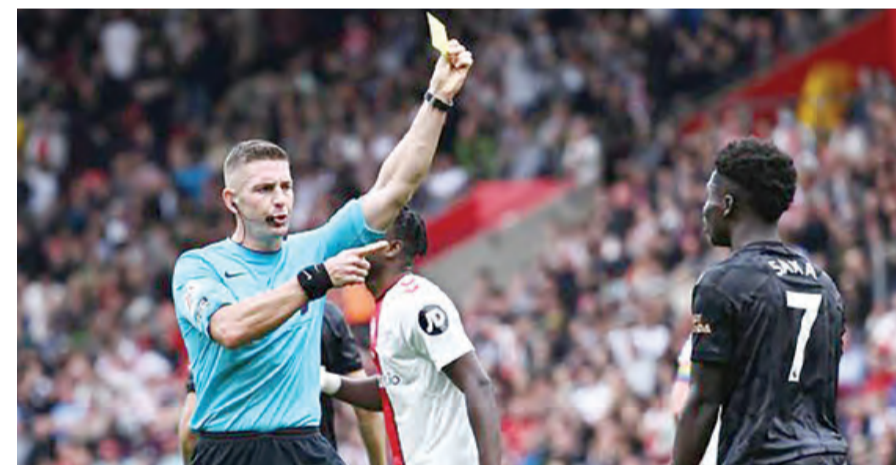
For those of an Arsenal persuasion, there is a growing feeling that opposition teams are not being adequately punished for their rough treatment of the England winger. Usually, such complaints would signal the first murmurings of a tiresome conspiracy theory -- after all, doesn't every fan think every player on their team is unfairly treated?

There is something curious, though, about the

frequency with which opposition players are booked -- or, indeed, not booked -- for fouling the England winger. This season, Saka has won 40 fouls in the Premier League, the ninth highest in the division, but has drawn only four cards (one card every 10 fouls).

The other most-fouled wingers in the league have so far drawn yellow cards much more frequently. Wilfried Zaha has drawn nine cards from 57 fouls (one card every 6.3 fouls), Jack Grealish has drawn 10 cards from 49 fouls (one card every 4.9 fouls) and Jarrod Bowen has drawn six cards from 45 fouls (one card every 7.5 fouls).

It is a quirk that is not just isolated to this season. Since making his Premier League debut in January 2019, Saka has been the ninth-most fouled



Bukayo Saka shows a yellow card. REUTERS

current player in the division. Over the course of his top-flight career, he has drawn a card every 7.3 fouls. In that time, the most-fouled forwards in the league (Zaha, Grealish, Jordan Ayew, James Maddison, Richarlison, Adama Traore and Harry Kane) have all drawn cards more frequently.

To make matters even worse for Saka, his own fouls are being regularly punished with bookings. This season he averages 4.8 fouls committed per yellow card he receives, which means he has been more than twice as likely

to be booked for committing a foul as an opponent is to be booked for fouling him.

So, what is going on here? The first thing to say is that not all fouls are equal. This is not just a numbers game. As a winger, playing in a team with a high defensive line, it is possible that many of the fouls committed by Saka have prevented an opposition counter-attack, which makes him more likely to receive a booking.

Many of the fouls on him, meanwhile, have been niggly challenges

that slow him down. Clearly, not every foul is worthy of a yellow card.

Another possible explanation -- and we are venturing deep into the land of speculation here -- is that Saka generally tries to ride challenges and avoid going to ground. This, evidently, is an admirable approach that should be applauded. But it is a sad reality of the modern game that more of his opponents might have been punished if he was more willing to collapse to the turf in dramatic fashion.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man City fighting fires ahead of Champions League test

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Tanga Regional Commissioner urges football stakeholders to support Coastal Union, African Sports

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANGA Regional Commissioner Omary Mgumba has called upon soccer stakeholders in the region to fully support and see to it the region's football clubs, Coastal Union and African Sports Club, do well.

Mgumba said so in a meeting with African Sports Club and Coastal Union leaders who visited his office.

Coastal Union is participating in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League, occupying 13th position after amassing 22 points after 23 matches.

African Sports Club is battling it out in this season's Championship League with the squad holding ninth place out of 16 teams after posting 20 points from 18 games.

Mgumba said if Tanga will not have any team battling it out in the Premier League, the possibility of watching live matches in Tanga would be gone.

The official asked the clubs' officials: "Make sure that Coastal Union participates in 2023/24 Premier League and see to it African Sports is also participating in Premier League next season, without doing so you will let yourself down."

"If we will not have teams that participate in Premier League, we will not be seeing Yanga, Simba SC, and other teams come to Tanga," Mgumba said.

Mgumba further said he is an avid supporter of African Sports Club and Coastal Union thus, with few matches remaining in both NBC Premier League and Championship League, he should be notified of the sides' games so he can attend the ties at Mkwakwani Stadium.

He also asked the clubs' leaders to concentrate on fighting for the teams' interests by allowing transparency in income and expenditure.

President Samia extends prize money pledge to Simba SC, Yanga



Tanzania's Yanga attacker, Kennedy Musonda (C), shoots past the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'s Tout Puissant Mazembe defender, Johnson Atibu (R), when the two sides took on each other in a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group D tie played in Dar es Salaam last Sunday. Yanga commanded a 3-1 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has extended her pledge of presenting 5m/- for each goal that will be scored by Simba SC and Yanga in the upcoming Group Stage matches of this season's CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup.

Samia had earlier promised to present the cash prize, in which Yanga went away with 15m/- from the President after winning 3-1 against TP Mazembe in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group D duel that took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Gerson Msigwa, the Director of Information Services and chief government spokesperson, said so at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Msigwa said that President Samia's pledge of rewarding the goals scored by Simba SC in the CAF Champions League and Yanga in the CAF Confederation Cup is in progress, with the President promising to again hand over 5m/- for every goal scored by the two clubs.

The official noted: "The offer is still ongoing and the President will continue handing over 5m/- for every goal scored by our home teams in continental tournaments."

Tanzania's other outfit, Simba SC, failed to secure the prize money from the President, as the club went down 3-0 to Morocco's Raja Club Athletic in the CAF Champions League Group C duel played in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

A week after losing 1-0 to

Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club, Simba SC was once again on the losing end following the 3-0 drubbing by Raja Club Athletic that left them pointless after two rounds of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group Stage.

Against the run of play, the Moroccans opened the score at the half-hour mark when Hamza Khabba pulled a trigger past the hosts' shot-stopper, Aishi Manula.

Then, they managed to hold on to their lead until the last moments before extending the gap with goals by Soufiane Benjidda (82nd minute) and Ismail Mokadem (86th-minute penalty).

The results leave Simba SC languishing at the bottom of

Group C while Vipers SC is sitting third following its goalless stalemate with Horoya Athletic Club in Kampala. Raja Club Athletic occupies the top place in the group with six points followed by Horoya Athletic Club which has collected four points from the club's two opening games.

In a post-match press conference, Simba SC head coach Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho', admitted the side's players made life hard for themselves with poor finishing against Raja Club Athletic in the CAF Champions League encounter at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Saturday evening.

He said: "Congratulations to my opponents because

they used their opportunities to score goals. I think my team played well but we needed to play more aggressively in the opponent's box. When we had opportunities to shoot we preferred to take a pass and overlap without the objective inside the box."

"It is the CAF Champions League Group stage, there are no small teams. Raja Casablanca is a good team... we changed in the second half and played well but we did not have the correct objective in finishing. We have got good experience, we need to forget this game and prepare for the next game with Vipers SC."

Robertinho pleaded for patience as he molds the team insisting he did not have the

benefit of a pre-season to prepare the squad.

"When I came here, I had no time for pre-season, immediately, it was game after game. I need time to prepare the team well, tactically and physically."

Simba SC will next take on Vipers SC in what will be a nice set-up East African derby while Raja Club Athletic hosts Horoya Athletic Club in Casablanca. Only the top two teams in the group qualify for the quarterfinals.

Having qualified for the quarterfinals three times in the last four years, Simba SC now needs to win the two back-to-back games against Vipers SC while hoping Raja Club Athletic takes care of Horoya Athletic Club.

KMC FC top official vows to support Hitimana despite poor results

By Correspondent Nasir Nchimbi

KINONDONI Municipal Council FC's recent form in 2022/23 NBC Premier League has turned worse, with the club lately occupying the 12th place with 23 points.

The outfit has taken part in 22 matches, notching a victory in five, a draw in eight ties, and a defeat in nine to become one of the teams fighting to either escape relegation or participate in promotion/relegation playoffs.

Last year, the club hired a new Chief Executive Officer, Daniel Mwakasungula, taking over from Walter Harrison who had left for Yanga to become the league defending champions' manager.

Recently, Mwakasungula disclosed that the team's lack of good results and the pressure that is mounting on the drop zone bother him.

Mwakasungula said: "I lack sleep at times because the recent form has become worse and it is disturbing me even though we started the season well, it turned out differently when we picked many injuries among players."

The official stated: "Seven players of the first team got injured. We registered new players, the team began to pick its pace and return slowly, most players are nursing injuries... it is not easy to start fast straight away and new signings are slowly adapting to the coach's system."

Mwakasungula disclosed: "At the moment we are looking at the technical bench under Thierry Hitimana, closely so that we can support them. We are with the team to make sure we don't get relegated." The official added: "There is no problem within our team and they are among the teams that pay their players on time."

"All employees in the team also get their payment on time, so financial problems do not contribute to getting these results."

The official noted: "We realized from the beginning by making a plan that we are going to the league, we will meet at different times, so we have to stick together to get Kinondoni Municipal Council FC where it is supposed to be."

Regarding the outfit's stadium under construc-



Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's players and officials celebrate when the side scored a goal in a recent NBC Premier League tie that took place in Dar es Salaam.

tion at Mwenge in Kinondoni, Mwakasungula noted: "It is more than 80 percent complete. We thank Kinondoni Municipality leaders including the Director and the

Mayor, they are leaders who have had a good vision, our stadium is going to add value to the team." Mwakasungula stated: "The stadium will be used from next season

because there are a few things we are finishing. The construction of the stadium requires a lot of things and processes, so it must be built in phases to be better, things like

pitch, gates, fences, and rooms are already there." "It will be a very unique and modern stadium. There is also a business area, that's why there are modern apartment

blocks, if the construction had only centered on the pitch, it would have been completed, but this one is built in a modern way, everyone will enjoy it and it will increase our economy."

"The process of hostels' construction also exists, the facilities will be outside the stadium, but the hostels that will be inside the stadium will be for our youth teams."

"We have U-17 and U-20 youth teams, they train at the Bora grounds at Kijitonyama and they have their strategic plan."

"We are going to establish a women's team, it is easy to do so because the Kinondoni Municipal Council owns many

schools, so our players are found there, that's why we don't invite players to auditions, we want to make the people of Kinondoni see that the team belongs to them."

"There is a lot of talent and the big task is to make sure we continue it properly, we have sent a proposal to the team's board so it can look at it, give us suggestions and then we can start the process."

Speaking about the Premier League schedule, Mwakasungula said: "We choose different playing grounds to allow other fans to see the league matches but we always follow the standard procedures."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

