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Judge speaks out on Tanga Cement deal



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'Undergo early testing for NCDs'



SMART MONEY

Challenges, opportunities towards cashless payment in Tanzania

EU's carbon taxation could cut yearly GDP by \$25bn in Africa

Russian route recovers over high oil prices

Govt hiring over 18,400 educational, health staff

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has in the next financial year set out to employ 18,449 new servants in education and health cadres.

Angellah Kairuki, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office, told journalists in the capital yesterday that a total of 171,916 applications were received, with those selected already assigned work stations.

The government will in the near future announce vacancies to cover 2,751 posts in the

health sector that need to be filled, which will also involve those who sent applications earlier.

In an advertisement in April 2023 the permit allowed the ministry to recruit 21,200 public servants, up to 13,130 in education and 8,070 health practitioners, she said.

In the new drive for the 18,449 new servants, 5,319 are health practitioners and 13,130 in the teaching profession, she said, elaborating that recruitment considered the age of applicants, year of graduation and

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Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (in hat) joins hands with Dodoma residents yesterday in sprucing up the city's Machinga mixed-goods market as part of the commemoration of World Environment Day (June 5). Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



ACT: Float all tenders except for emergencies

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE government can issue tenders without going through the tendering process in emergency situations like natural disasters or outbreak of war, the opposition ACT-Wazalendo has declared.

Ismail Jussa Ladhu (pictured), a ranking central committee member, made this observation when addressing a rally at Nyarugusu grounds here yesterday, asserting that this is what is provided for in the Zanzibar Procurement Act.

He cited the Zanzibar Constitution at Article 23 affirming that every person has the responsibility to protect Zanzibar's natural resources, suggesting that the construction of the new Amaan Stadium did not follow official tendering procedures.

A building contractor was given the tender without prior advertising, while the funds thereof had not been endorsed by

the Zanzibar House of Representatives, he stated.

Tendering procedures for the construction of the stadium have not been followed, contravening provisions of the law on procurement and competition passed by the House, with the procurement law having been adopted in 2016, he said.

The old stadium was in the process of being demolished without a tender inviting construction firms to come out to compete for the job, he stated.

The stadium has capacity for 12,000 people and will accommodate 15,000 people after it is rebuilt, he stated, pointing out that the government could easily have built a similar stadium.

He went back to the issue of privatization of Zanzibar port handling services to a French firm, asserting that the deal was conducted secretly, lacking any tender process.

"This was in violation of the procurement and fair competition laws enacted by the Zanzibar House of Representatives," he emphasized, affirming that it is surprising for the Zanzibar government to spend billions of shillings to purchase building equipment for infrastructure instead of handing the work to private firms.

The Zanzibar government spent 10.3bn/- for road building equipment but the relevant department is often denied work

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'Plastic carrier bags be totally removed'

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has directed the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) and local government authorities to intensify efforts in implementing the ban on the use of plastic carrier bags.

The VP issued this directive shortly after leading a cleaning exercise at the Dodoma small traders complex as part of activities to mark the World Environment Day observed annually on June 5th.

Themed 'beat plastic pollution, restore ecosystem,' the cleaning exercise was

In collaboration with NEMC they shut down a factory producing the banned bags

attended by government officials, traders and city residents in the national capital.

Stringent legal measures should be taken against people violating the ban, he said, asking the responsible authorities to closely follow up on the distribution and production of alternative carrier bags.

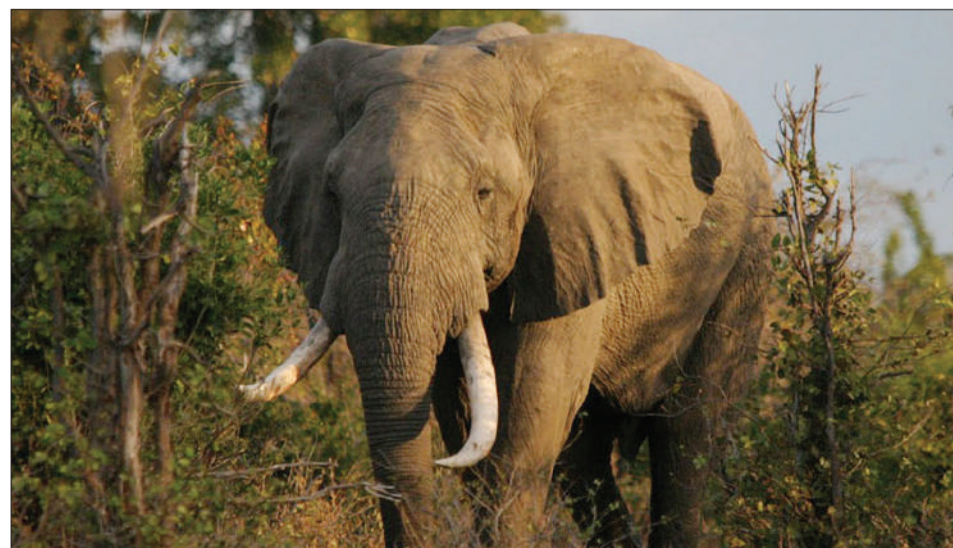
Carrier bags producers need to indicate vital information including their address as it is crucial that alternative carrier bags meet the set standards and quality, he said.

Companies and individuals engaging in the production of plastics must ensure that the generated wastes are properly collected and dumped, he said, urging local governments to ensure that garbage collection tenders are offered to qualified firms.

They ought to have experience in executing the job efficiently, he said, cautioning that local government officials offer such tenders to incompetent firms

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'Jumbos behind havoc in villages, raising fear'



By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

A NUMBER of legislators yesterday raised concern over a rise in the number of wildlife

invasions, appealing to the government to take measures to curb elephants roaming in various areas, destroying crops and putting lives at risk.

Debate estimates of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism for fiscal 2023/24, they said fear has gripped residents in various parts of the country.

This follows increased cases of elephants terrorizing villagers with the victims left without compensation, they stated, demanding that the government make robust efforts to rescue settlements, properties and crops.

Yahaya Mhata (Nanyumbu) said that wildlife invasion on people's settlements and farms poses great risk to food security. Many households are left without harvests, while the government takes a long time to deliver the required support including compensating the victims, he said.

"Residents of Sengenya ward are currently living in great fear as elephants often invade settlements and farms. Over 70 farms have been destroyed affecting

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'Jumbos behind havoc in villages, raising fear'

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over 200 people," he stated, appealing for more innovative ways to curb the now regular invasions.

Dunstan Kitandula (Mkinga) said residents in 15 wards of Mkinga districts are having difficulties due to regular invasions of elephants in their settlements and farms, crushing their efforts and income expectations.

Elephants from Mkomazi National Park and from across the border in Kenya cover long distances and invade villages, destroying properties and crops, he stated.

People in some villages fear to plant anything as the crops will at the end of the day be destroyed by rogue elephants, now rampaging for about three years, he told the MPs.

Things have changed as previously people in the area were producing a lot for domestic and commercial purposes, but not since elephants started roaming in those areas, he lamented.

Daimu Mpakate (Tunduru South) said many national parks have a shortage of staff like warders, fueling incidents of elephants invading settlements.

"In last month alone, four people have been killed by elephants in the constituency," he said. "This is so threatening, we are calling on the government to hire more rangers so as to help control these animals," he said.

Increasing elephant invasions

Farmers sound the alarm on 'race quotas' for water in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

DRAFT regulations that will determine access to water based on skin colour will have a catastrophic impact on food security and employment in the agricultural sector in South Africa.

This is the warning from Agri SA in response to the proposed water licensing regulations gazetted by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in May 2023.

According to the draft regulations, certain enterprises applying for water use licenses to take or store water will, in the future, have to allocate shares of up to 75% to black South Africans for such water use licenses to be granted.

According to the department, this consideration is to achieve equity and redress past racial discrimination.

The prescribed minimum black South African shareholding requirements of 25%, 50%, or 75% required for a water use license to succeed depends on the volume of water abstracted or stored or the area covered.

The shareholding requirements are given in the table below, as outlined by the department.

The proposed regulations also exempt mining companies, the state and state-owned entities, and 100% black-owned entities.

According to the draft, "the responsible authority may, subject to the availability of water resources, support black people with water licences before a final decision is reached on their applications."

The proposed regulations are seen as the DWS' most radical and sweeping effort to date toward changing the demographics concerning water use in South Africa, said Agri SA.

It noted that the agricultural and forestry sectors appear to be the primary target of the proposed regulations, accounting for approximately 60% of South Africa's total water use.

According to the organisation, the consequences for food security and the sustainability of the agricultural sector should these regulations be passed in the current form cannot be understated. "They would have a devastating impact on the sector and its ability to provide the country with a secure food supply."

"This is because focussing solely on ownership, to the exclusion of all other relevant factors, will mean the loss (or partial loss) of water resources for numerous currently viable commercial farming

raise hunger in many households lacking crops in farms, he said, urging that permits for hunting elephants should be issued to cut down their numbers or else be shifted to more appropriate national parks.

Emmanuel Shangai (Ngorongoro) said elephants are destroying farms and settlements in a number of villages in the constituency but scant amounts of compensation are paid to victims.

Conflicts between residents and wildlife are the principal threat to life in many parts of the countryside as wild animals are roaming and living freely outside national parks thus affecting people's lives, he declared.

Aida Kenani (Nkasi, Chadema) urged the government to start thinking of putting fences in the borders of all National Parks and game reserves so as to control wildlife attacks on humans.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, the minister, when tabling the ministry's estimates said due to the robust efforts taken by the government to improve the protection and conservation of natural resources by controlling poaching, "the numbers of wildlife species has rapidly increased."

These efforts, along with other factors, have also enabled numbers of elephants to increase to 60,000 in 2023 from 43,330 in 2014, "making Tanzania the third country in Africa having large numbers of elephants," he had stated.

enterprises," it added.

Concerningly, the draft regulations would seem to be attempting to replace the current suite of considerations which apply to granting water licenses with ownership demographics.

Regarding section 27 of the National Water Act, the DWS must consider all relevant factors when issuing a water use license. This already includes the need to redress the results of past racial and gender discrimination, noted the organisation.

Legal and policy executive at Agri SA, Janse Rabie, explained that Section 27 of the National Water Act contains at least ten other considerations that the DWS (the responsible authority for granting water use licenses) must consider before granting any application for a water use license.

"What the proposed regulations seek to achieve is to make BBBEE the sole consideration for granting licenses, essentially forcing the transfer of ownership of the ability to use water lawfully," he said.

Furthermore, he noted that these regulations are also unlikely to achieve the goal of further transformation in the sector and would threaten the employment of 800,000 South Africans.

"Achieving transformation will require creating an environment conducive to growth and investment in the sector, providing meaningful support for new entrants. This will encourage the opposite," he said.

Rabie stressed that this effort by the government could not have come at a worse time for the sector and the economy, which is already reeling from the impact of load shedding, rural crime and deteriorating public infrastructure.

These considerations remain important and are especially so when considering the sector's foundational role in food security and employment, as well as the very significant headwinds farmers are currently facing.

"Water is the most vital input for the sector, and if farmers lose the lawful use of this input, the impact will be catastrophic," said Rabie.



They would have a devastating impact on the sector and its ability to provide the country with a secure food supply



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi bids farewell to Dr Kumar Praveen (L), Consul General of India in Zanzibar, after talks at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Govt hiring over 18,400 educational, health staff

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special needs applicants. In the recruitment drive in the past year 49,089 applicants were removed from the list, leaving 122,827 applicants who graduated before 2015. Some graduates applied for positions not announced in the advertisement, she stated.

"Of the 122,827 applicants whose documents were verified, 36,065 applicants were removed from the process, leaving 86,448 applicants

who met the criteria," she said.

Other reasons for removing 36,065 applicants include failure to attach some important documents such as academic certificates while others lacked professional licenses allowing them to do the intended work. "There were those who did not attach birth certificates and applicants who lied that they are disabled," she affirmed.

The new employees need to immediately report at their assigned work stations and submit

original academic credentials to district executive directors, she said, intimating that legal measures will be taken against new employees provided with subsistence allowances and then fail to report at respective work stations.

Failing to report to their positions will have posts filled by other qualified applicants from our database, she said, insisting that those selected are not allowed to change work stations or request a

transfer before completing three years in their assigned stations.

DEDs need to facilitate the new employees and ensure they comply with the set regulations, the minister noted, specifying that later job vacancies will be announced for Orthopaedic and X-ray machine operators, as their number is still low.

The government has invested heavily in medical equipment and thus the need to recruit technicians to operate them, she added.



Shinyanga District Fire and Rescue Force commander Stanley Luhwago pictured in Shinyanga municipality at the weekend taking visually impaired Buhangija Primary School teacher Agnes Makambajeki through training on the use of fire extinguishers. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

ACT: Float all tenders except for emergencies

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they are ready to do and then it is assigned to foreign private firms, he further stated.

Salim Bimani, the party's publicity and communications secretary, said that opposition parties have had huge opportunities at elections since the inception of multiparty democracy but they are always denied their rights by the Zanzibar Elections Commission (ZEC).

As Zanzibar gears up for the 2025 polls the party requires the government to make sure the ZEC enabling law is amended early

enough, plus having ZEC officials overseeing the polls justly and fairly, he appealed.

He said ACT-Wazalendo "has not merged with the ruling CCM despite it being part of the government of national unity (GNU)," urging the government to sort out cases of corruption raised in the annual report of the Zanzibar Controller and Auditor General.

Nassor Ahmed Mazrui, the deputy secretary general, said the party's youth are not supposed to sleep until they ensure they get their rights and make sure the party wins the next general election.

'Plastic carrier bags be totally removed'

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lacking adequate garbage collection equipment.

The public need to take care of water sources and avoid polluting rivers, lakes and the seashore as environment conservation is everyone's responsibility, he said.

Selemani Jafo, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office, said the government intends to focus on environment conservation, with this year's Uhuru Torch race geared at the environment, in particular conservation of water sources.

He commended students from primary schools to universities for turning out for environmental activities, including the 'Read with a Tree' for tree planting in schools, praising various stakeholders for stepping up environment conservation for sustainable development.

Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule said the region was pursuing a campaign to control the use of plastic carrier bags. In collaboration with NEMC they shut down a factory producing the banned bags, she added



Barrick Bulyanhulu general manager Cheick Sangare (L) presents a certificate to one of the firm's employees at an event held at the weekend to honour staff who participated in earlier this year's Occupational Health and Safety exhibition. The gold mine emerged overall winner. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MPs: Infrastructure in national parks, game reserves deficient

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

DESPITE the recent huge increase in tourist arrivals, Members of Parliament have said that more efforts are still needed to improve infrastructure and accommodation in national parks and various protected areas.

The lawmakers also wanted the government to invest efforts to market the country's attractions globally so as to increase revenues.

Last week, the government announced that the number of local and foreign tourists had increased from 1.7 million in 2021 to 3.8 million in 2022 due to various strides made in collaboration with stakeholders to boost the sector.

Hawa Mwaifunga (Special Seats) wanted the government to invest resources in improving infrastructures as well as accommodation in national parks so as to attract more tourists and enable them to enjoy their tour.

The government should also improve wages to workers in all parks, especially rangers as they are doing a great job to protect the attractions.

Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (Kilosa) wanted the government to wake up and start giving much focus on marketing various tourist attractions that are in danger of extinction.

He named the Mautia Hill in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region as only one hill that has yoderite minerals, but the government was not doing much to protect and promote it.

He said the government should initiate efforts to rescue the hill by conserving it as a geo-park adding that it was high time now to push geo-tourism by establishing more geo-parks in the country.

Prof Kabudi advised the government to establish a special forest park and reserve in Dodoma so as to increase attractions and lure more guests.

"Mount Kilimanjaro should be declared and well marketed as the first longest volcanic mountain in the World, this will attract and lure more tourists," he added.

Soud Mohamed Juma, Donge urged the government to consider the huge work that the conservation and the paramilitary forces are doing to protect the country's wildlife and other natural resources.

"These workers' interests and wages need to be improved, they are fighting day and night to ensure that the country's resources are protected," he said.

Neema Mgaya, Special Seats wanted the government to invest resources to heavily market tourist attractions in the southern circuit.

She noted that the southern circuit has been blessed with a number and exceptional tourist attractions but the government was yet to conduct much needed investment to make sure that it was well promoted and heavily invested in a bid to attract many local and foreign visitors from around the world.

"The government should also invest in beach tourism, Tanzania hasn't used the potential available in ocean and lakes beaches to promote tourism, it is high time now to attract investors who will construct luxury hotels and malls along beach areas to attract more tourists and boost the country's economy," she asserted.

Cosato Chumi, Mafinga Urban commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for showing great commitment to transform the tourism sector and approving enough funds to implement various projects aimed to boost the sector and attract more tourists in the country.

He further urged the government to focus on using sports and other cultural events to promote tourism which include establishing special sports areas within national parks.

Secondary school students shine in Chinese language competition

By Guardian Reporter

FIFTEEN students from 11 secondary schools have participated in the 16th "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition, an annual worldwide Chinese speaking and performance event.

The competition was sponsored by the Centre for Language Education and Cooperation under China's Ministry of Education and the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania and jointly organised by the Chinese language programme for secondary schools in Tanzania and

China Cultural Centre in Tanzania.

Esther Michael Masunga, a 20-year-old student from Benjamin William Mkapa high school in Dar es Salaam, emerged as the winner. "The Chinese language has opened doors to endless possibilities," she said.

In the competition, the students were challenged to showcase their language skills, demonstrate their knowledge of Chinese culture, and impress the audience with their unique talents. "My participation in this competition will not only deepen my understanding of China

but also empower me to become an ambassador of cultural harmony and global cooperation," Masunga SAID after she was presented with a reward by Wang Siping, cultural counselor in the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania and director of the Chinese Cultural Centre.

"I hope that Tanzanian teenagers will learn Chinese hard, strengthen their understanding of Chinese traditional culture, and grow into messengers and bridges for friendly exchanges between China and Tanzania," Wang said.

Leopold Kaswezi, acting director

of the Tanzania Institute of Education, said the competition, themed "Fly High with Chinese," marked a significant milestone in enhancing cultural exchange between Tanzania and China.

"It reflects our shared commitment to embracing the Chinese language and culture and the opportunities it presents for personal and academic development," Kaswezi said.

"This competition is not merely a test of language proficiency, but a celebration of the rich tapestry of Chinese culture," he added.

'Lawyers misled govt on Tanga Cement deal'

By Guardian Reporter

JUDGE (rt) Thomas Mihayo has said that lawyers misled the government on the Twiga Cement intent to purchase majority shares of Tanga Cement.

Addressing reporters in his office in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, the veteran official of the judiciary said the court had already stopped the merger of the two firms.

The Fair Competition Tribunal (FCT) gave an order to stop the merger after stakeholders opposing it filed a petition and obtained the ruling.

After going through the ruling, he was shocked by the government's step to still pursue merger despite the ruling, intimating that what is primary is to obey court rulings.

Neither the government nor the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) was entitled to discard the ruling, and in case of dissatisfaction

it ought to have asked FCC to review the ruling rather than put it aside, he stated.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the Investment, Industry and Trade minister, as well as her Treasury colleague Dr Mwigulu Nchemba defended the decision, underlining that the government had not violated any law.

Dr Kijaji and Dr Nchemba said the government decided to go on with the mergers because the earlier environment, in regard to markets had changed and hence there was no stop order in regard to the new process.

Judge Mihayo asserted that the merger had been stopped without any further qualification, hence the decision contravened the law because a legal ruling was disregarded.

Ministers' statements in the legislature indicate that legal counsels in the respective ministries

misled the ministers in general on the issue, he stated, insisting that not obeying a lawful court ruling undermines the rule of law.

Scancem International DA, part of the Heidelberg Cement group operating Tanga Cement, sought the merger but it was opposed by cement stakeholders, including a Chalize Cement Co. that was later deregistered.

Other signatories to the petition landing at FCTY were a consumers' rights association and one Peter Heller, which attracted a range of legislators, affirming that the cement market would be in great jeopardy. If Twiga Cement is allowed to buy Tanga Cement, a market monopoly would arise "by having 68 per cent of the market share," the petitioners claimed.

FCT had accepted the petition and gave its ruling to stop the merger process, a position discounted by FCC in approving the share deal.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in Dodoma city yesterday cutting the ribbon to launch a special journal on fifth anniversary of the Solicitor General's Office. He is with (from-L) Constitution and Legal Affairs minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro (L), Solicitor General Dr Boniface Luhende and Attorney General Dr Eliezer Feleshi. Photo: PMO



Reference: PAT/EOI-INTERVENTION/2024 - INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) AND REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ) FOR WELL INTERVENTION SERVICES AT SS7

Date: 06th June 2023

- PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Ltd. a Producer, Distributor and Marketer of Natural Gas from the Songo Songo Plant in Kilwa District, Lindi Region hereby invites potential suppliers to supply the following services to the Songo Songo Island Gas Field.
- This call for EOI and RFQ signifies the start of an open, transparent and objective tender process which will commence from the date of this notice. The Contract for these works shall be for the duration of the Well Intervention programme (Q1 2024).
- The Potential Supplier should be a well-established and reputable company which can supply the following services (scope of work):
 - Well Intervention Services: including specialist equipment, supplies and personnel to perform offshore gas well intervention operations, including, but not limited to:
 - Coil Tubing Equipment & Pumping Services.
 - Coil Tubing deployed downhole tools & BHA.
 - Downhole Cementing and Isolation Equipment & Services.
 - Surface equipment and materials for the circulation of fluids and mixing of viscous and specialty pills for removal of downhole solids.
 - Surface equipment for the purveying and operation of:
 - Downhole perforating equipment (including supply and handling/storage of appropriate explosive charges)
 - Downhole cased hole logging equipment for measurement of flow, gas saturation and acoustics (including supply and handling/storage of RA sources - if applicable)
 - Well Test separator for surface handling of downhole fluids containing water, solids and hydrocarbons (gas)
 - Supply of Liquid N2 (min 20,000 kg) and storage onsite Songo Sono Island.
 - Experienced personnel familiar with offshore well interventions and where applicable qualified to International Well Control Forum (IWCF) standards.
 - Marine and Logistics Support: including specialist equipment, supplies and personnel to perform offshore marine and logistics support; in particular:
 - Mobile offshore barge or platform installation capable of providing a stable working environment for the above package of intervention equipment (deck space >450m2 and >100mT capability).
 - Ability to perform heavy lifts offshore (up to 30MT).
 - Supply of electrical power, lighting & fuel for operations.
 - Supply of reverse osmosis (RO) unit for treatment of sea water.
 - Supply of sewage unit for treatment of effluent.
 - Experienced personnel familiar with offshore marine and logistics support; compliance with IMO and SOLAS standards where applicable.

- Potential Suppliers must have:
 - Prior experience of offshore Interventions, marine and logistics operations.
 - Recognized Health, Safety and Environmental management system (ISO certified).
 - Recognized Quality Assurance management system (ISO certified).
- Potential suppliers must indicate clearly whether they can supply part or all services, and that they are willing, capable,

experienced and competent to offer and manage the above-mentioned services; failure to clearly so indicate may result in disqualification from the bid list. Potential Suppliers must submit information to demonstrate their technical competency, relevant experience as a minimum. This must include the following: -

- Proof of experience in providing sustained scope of services in remote areas. Experience in offering such services in mining or oil and gas exploration or production areas will be an added advantage.
- Registration as a Local Supplier and Service Provider with EWURA.
- Proven technical capability.
- Experience in similar works.
- Proven HSE expertise and good record (attach relevant HSE policy, quality assurance documents, accident/incident records etc.)
- Specific payment terms in Tanzania Shillings for Tanzania registered Companies and USD and Euro for International Companies. Payment should indicate clearly costs in each area of the scope of work. Costs are to be inclusive of 15% Withholding Tax but VAT exclusive. Quotations will be subject to the terms of the agreed Service Agreement.
- Proof of registration with the local authorities. This shall include but not be limited to a certificate of registration with BRELA, TRA (TIN & VAT), Valid Business License, etc.
- Proof of having all necessary and valid permits from the relevant authorities for the required services.
- Proof of financial capability. Provide latest approved audited financial statements for the past 3 years.
- Provide current annual returns updated in the BRELA Online Registration System/ORS Detailed Company Search Report. A mere form No. 128 will not be considered.

Note: Potential suppliers may be requested to submit further information prior to being included in any final Bid List.

- All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be in writing and communicated by e-mail, facsimile, hand-delivery, or delivered by courier, otherwise the potential supplier may be disqualified from tendering at the sole discretion of PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited.
- Interested eligible suppliers may obtain further information by writing to the address below or e-mail to Peter Sololo (e-mail address: peter.sololo@panafricanenergy.com) with a copy to Bizimana Ntuyabaliwe (e-mail: bntuyabaliwe@panafricanenergy.com).

All responses to be sent to the following address before Friday, 30th June 2023 at 2pm.

PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited, Oyster Plaza, 5th Floor, Haile Selassie Road, P.O. Box 80139, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Telephone: +255 22 292 3307, Fax +255 22 292 3312.

Attn: Bizimana Ntuyabaliwe, Deputy Managing Director.

Govt has built 3,000 classrooms through Covid relief money, govt tells legislators

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government through the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-Covid-19 relief fund (TCRP) has constructed 3,000 classrooms.

Deogratius Ndejemi, Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) made the statement in response to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Neema Mgaya (CCM), who had wanted to know what the government was doing to renovate all the old schools in the country.

He also said that the government through the BOOST projects which is being implemented in primary schools, intends to construct additional 12,000 classes in the 2022/23 financial year, vowing to spend local funds through the local government for the construction and rehabilitation of the old primary schools countrywide.

Ndejemi also said that the government has renovated 89 old schools in the country in its quest to rehabilitate all schools in the country.

He told the lawmakers that the move is aimed at completing construction and rehabilitation of all old schools nationwide which are in bad shape.

He explained that two of the renovated schools are in Njombe Region, adding that the government is committed to ensure all schools are in good shape.

Ndejemi said the government is aware of the outdated infrastructure in some of the old schools, saying they are in a programme to have

them renovated to the needed standards.

He further said the government has started the renovations through a number of education projects.

Ndejemi expressed the government commitment to ensure they have in place a conducive learning and teaching environment for all education levels including primary schools.

He named some of the education projects which are supporting the government in renovations and rehabilitation of the dilapidated old primary schools infrastructure as Education Programme for Results (EP4R).

He added that in the 2021/22 financial year, the government through the EP4R has undertaken construction of 1,970 primary schools' classrooms, 5,303 pit latrines and 17 teachers' houses in a bid to improve the education infrastructures.



...the govt is aware of the outdated infrastructure in some of the old schools, saying they are in a programme to have them renovated to the needed standards

Mining firm in clean-up initiative to mark World Environment Day

By Guardian Correspondent,

Sengerema

SOTTA Mining Corporation Limited—developer of the Nyanzaga Gold Project has reaffirmed its commitment to World Environment Day with a clean-up initiative in Ngoma Town in Sengerema District, Mwanza Region.

To mark the 50th anniversary since the establishment of World Environment Day, and in line with this year's theme of Solutions to Plastic Pollution, Sotta is hosting a number of activities in the local community to promote awareness of the negative impact plastics have on the environment and human and animal health.

Sotta remains committed to aligning its operations and strategies with the universally accepted principles of protection of the environment by minimising the environmental impact from the Company's activities. As part of this commitment, Sotta seeks to continually improve on its environmental performance in the implementation of its activities to ensure a healthy environment for the communities around its operations.

Sotta's General Manager and Director, Damien Valente stated: "I cannot but praise my colleagues for making this year's Environment Day a huge success. OreCorp and Sotta Mining are committed to safeguarding the environment, a priority reflected on a daily basis by everyone involved with the continued development of the Nyanzaga Gold Project. At Sotta Mining every day is Earth Day."

SMCL is a joint venture between the Government of Tanzania (16%) and Nyanzaga Mining Company Limited (84%), a subsidiary of OreCorp Tanzania Limited, to develop the 1.1trn/- Project south of Ngoma in the Sengerema District, following the granting of a Special Mining License on 13 December 2021.

The Project is now on track to be the first large scale gold mine to be built in Tanzania in over a decade

and the first ever large scale mine in the Sengerema District.

The Nyanzaga Gold Project is located in the Sengerema District of the Mwanza Region in the Lake Victoria Goldfields. Once successfully developed, the Project will produce more than 200,000 ounces (over six tonnes) of gold per annum for an initial 12 years and will cost an estimated 1.1 trn/- to build. The Project will deliver significant direct and indirect employment opportunities and contribute significantly to the economy by way of royalties and taxes. The Project will also deliver additional benefits to the region including education, health facilities and infrastructure via the company's generous community enhancement scheme.

The company continues to work with all levels of government to ultimately deliver Tanzania and all its stakeholders the first large scale gold mine development in over a decade.



I cannot but praise my colleagues for making this year's Environment Day a huge success. OreCorp and Sotta Mining are committed to safeguarding the environment, a priority reflected on a daily basis by everyone involved with the continued development of the Nyanzaga Gold Project. At Sotta Mining every day is Earth Day



Higher Education Students Loans' Board executive director Abdul-Razaq Badru (C, in red tie) in a group photo with private sector employers confirmed to be observing requirements on the repayment of HESLB loans. It was at an event held in Dar es Salaam yesterday to recognise them for the compliance. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Tanzania received over 19bn/- from LDCF in past five years'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA has received a total of 19.3743 bn/- from the UN's framework convention on climate change, Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) in the past five years in the fight against climate change, the Parliament heard yesterday.

LDCF's aim is to address the needs of least developed countries whose economic and geophysical characteristics make them especially vulnerable to the impact of global warming and

climate change.

Deputy Minister of State, Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Khamis Hamza Khamis told the lawmakers that the amount was spent on some four projects in Zanzibar and Mainland.

He was responding to a question raised by the Donge MP, Soud Mohammed Jumah, who had wanted to know how Tanzania has benefited from the framework convention on climate change.

In response, the deputy minister

explained that Tanzania, like other countries, continues to get support from LDCF in the fight against climate change.

He said, "The government will continue seeking funds from LDCF in the fight against climate change as opportunity avails."

The LDCF is enabling least developed countries to prepare for a more resilient future.

Its funding helps recipient countries address their short-, medium-, and long-term resilience needs and reduce climate change

vulnerability in priority sectors and ecosystems.

The LDCF works with partner agencies to bolster technical and institutional capacity at the national and local level, to create a policy environment that encourages investment in adaptation solutions, to reduce systemic barriers to progress, and to promote innovation and private sector engagement.

The funding has addressed a range of adaptation priorities in the LDCs across a range of vulnerable sectors including agriculture, water, disaster risk management, coastal zone management, infrastructure, and sustainable alternate livelihoods among others.



Marco Stephano, assistant coordinator of studies the College of Business Education's Gender Desk, pictured in Dar es Salaam presenting foodstuffs to a representative of the city's Hisani Orphanage Centre Kigamboni, Meshack Elihuruma (R). A delegation from the college paid the facility a visit at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

JKCI due to run special camp for diagnosis, treatment of leg veins

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) has planned to run a special camp for diagnosis and treatment of leg veins known as Peripheral Interventions.

The special camp will be held for the first time in this country from 19 to 21 June this year at the institute.

According to the information given by the Head of the Department of Relations and Communication of the institution, Anna Nkinda, the camp will be conducted by cardiologists of (JKCI) in collaboration with their colleagues from Andalusia Hospital in Egypt.

She said expert doctors will

perform surgery on patients through a small hole using a Cathlab machine.

"JKCI is asking the health experts from the District, Regional and Referral Hospitals in the country to refer patients with blood vessel blockage problems to come and be treated in this camp for examination and treatment of those veins, Peripheral Interventions," she said.

In addition, the institute asked patients with blood circulation problems to come to the institute for examination and treatment and that the patients will contribute to the medical expenses.

Recently, the expert doctors of the institution went to Malawi to provide specialist treatments for heart diseases where they managed

to serve more than 724 citizens.

As a result of the service, the government of Malawi thanked the government of Tanzania for sending the experts to diagnose and treat heart diseases for the people of that country.

The Minister of Health in Malawi, Khumbize Chiponda said this when she visited the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to check the services provided by (JKCI) experts during a special five-day heart treatment camp.

Khumbize said Malawi and Tanzania have agreed to cooperate in building each other's capacity as the country has not yet been able to establish a heart hospital, so through the camp they will assess their capacity if they can establish a center that will be providing

specialist heart treatment services in the country.

Khumbize said heart treatment is expensive, so far Malawi has more than five hundred patients with various heart diseases who are waiting to be taken outside for treatment.

Lay Pastor Kachoka, a Malawian citizen who received care at the camp, thanked the doctors from JKCI for conducting a thorough examination and advising him to attend a heart treatment clinic every six months.

"We the people of Malawi really need these services here in our country, I recommend that next time you organize a camp like this, put it in different parts of our country so that all citizens can benefit from these services," said Pastor.

In the five-day heart treatment camp that ended recently in Malawi, a total of 724 people were examined, of which 494 were adults and 230 were children.

Longido health centre to cater for more than 40000 residents of remote areas

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

OVER 40,000 residents of villages located within the Kitumbeine Ward of Longido stand to benefit from the newly built health centre which now cares for in and out patients from remote precincts of the district.

In addition to the 800 million that the central government has injected into the facility, the NCBA Group, through its financial institutions, has promised to equip the maternity and caesarean section of the Kitumbeine health centre which is located more than 60 kilometers from Longido township.

Longido strides the expanse landscape along the northern borderline separating Kenya and Tanzania.

"The Kitumbeine health centre will cater for all residents in surrounding villages that may not afford to travel all the way to the

Longido town to seek medical services at the district hospital, especially expectant mothers," said Dr Frank Kimbweza the physician in-charge at the facility.

However, according to Dr Kimbweza, the new medical facility still needs a lot of equipment in order to be fully functional and expressed gratitude to the NCBA Bank which donated an examination bed as well as caesarean kit to the health centre.

The managing director and chief executive of NCBA Bank in Tanzania, Claver Serumaga, presented the special donations to the regional medical officer, Dr Sylvia Mamkwe.

"We want to back the government's efforts to ensure accessible and quality medical services and the regional authorities told us about the needs of the new Kitumbeine Health Centre in Longido so we are extending support to the facility,"

said Serumaga.

On her part, the Regional Medical Officer, Dr Mamkwe said they expect to start conducting surgical medical services at the new Kitumbeine health centre with special emphasis to caesarean section as well as other maternity services.

The Longido district medical officer, Dr Selemani Mtenjele pointed out that most of the area residents living far away and further apart from each other, outreach medical services were vital to ensure that all people in the precinct are covered.

Longido is resided by mostly nomadic Maasai pastoralists whose mode of life include moving from one location to another seeking greener pastures and water for their livestock.

Covering an area of 7,885 square kilometers, Longido is an expansive district albeit its highly scattered population of 124,000 residents.



Damas Muagange (R), acting head of KCB Tanzania's legal department, pictured in buoyant mood alongside other employees of the bank during the commemoration of National Cancer Survivors Day - 2023. The event was held at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, with the bank as the main sponsor. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania's economic growth for boost following the expansion of Tanga port

By Guardian Reporter in Tanga

THE contribution of Tanga port for the country's economic growth is set to increase following completion of the expansion project; the ports' manager Masoud Mrisha said recently.

The port's improvement is also expected to lower transportation costs in order to boost businesses. Traders in the northern zone who were using the ports of Dar es Salaam and Mtwara will now have their consignment delivered at the Tanga port.

The port manager noted that expansions and other improvements at the port have considered large vessels to make sure they successfully dock at the port for loading and off-loading of cargo.

Mrisha explained that improvements were done in two phases whereas the first phase that started in 2019 was meant to deepen the entrance channel from three metres to 13 metres to allow large vessels with a length of up to 200 metres to enter the port at a cost of 172.3bn/-.

The second phase involved expansion of two berths, he said. "The first phase also involved

procurement of equipment for loading and off-loading of cargo that included a mobile crane with a capacity of carrying 100 tonnes and an empty handler for carrying empty containers," he said.

Other equipment were a forklift with a 50-tonne capacity and two others with a capacity of carrying five tonnes, Rubber Tyre Granty (RTG) with a 45-tonne capacity, Terminal Tractor (TT) and four spreaders.

According to Mrisha before the improvements, the Tanga port had a challenge of accommodating large vessels due to shallow depth.

He said previously, the port had a capacity to handle 750,000 tonnes of cargo annually, but after the improvements it can handle 3 million tonnes and operates 24 hours.

"After the second phase of improvements the port's capacity to host large vessels has increased. It can now accommodate 7 large ships, with a total of 67,371,406 tonnes," said the manager, commending President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan for approving 430.1bn/- for completion of the project.

He said plans are underway for improvement of passenger berth, whereby initial processes

for execution of the project have kicked off. The processes include feasibility study and announcement of tenders to acquire a contractor.

He added: "Completion of the passenger berth will allow the port to start receiving passenger vessels from Unguja and Pemba Island, hence opening up doors for trade between the regions."

Acting Project Manager from the China Harbour Engineering Company, Eng Bian Liang, said the company is experienced in implementing such projects in different countries.

"In undertaking the Tanga port project the company deployed experienced experts and engineers from both China and Tanzania. The experts are working together in ensuring the project is implemented at required standards and quality," said Eng Liang.

Eng Liang noted that the project has enabled knowledge transfer to Tanzanian technicians, saying until completion the project has enabled Tanzanian technicians to acquire more skills that would enable them to work in such projects anywhere in the world.

A total of 500 Tanzanians got direct and indirect jobs during the project implementation.



INVITATION TO BID

RFP Title: Tender for Printing and Distribution of MVC_MIS Tools
RFP Number: 2023-PACT/5/01
Date of Solicitation: June 6, 2023
Closing Date and Time: June 21, 2023, 11:00 (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
Questions and Clarifications: Due by June 20, 2023

Introduction to Pact and ACHIEVE Project:

Pact is an international nonprofit that works in nearly 40 countries building solutions for human development that are evidence-based, data-driven, and owned by the communities we serve. Founded in 1971, Pact works with partners to build resilience, improve accountability, and strengthen knowledge and skills for sustainable social impact. Visit us at www.pactworld.org

The Adolescents and Children HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment, and Virus Elimination project, or 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 President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by a Pact-led consortium of top global HIV/AIDS partners, including Palladium, No Means No Worldwide, and WI-HER.

Through the ACHIEVE project, Pact Tanzania seeks to procure MVC_MIS tools to support project implementation, data collection, and reporting for Community Case Workers who deliver services to OVC, adolescents, and their caregivers.

Overall Objective:

The overall objective of this assignment is to procure and distribute MVC_MIS tools for ACHIEVE project for 5 sites per the below list of tools to be used to support implementation, data collection, and reporting of FY 2023 activities.

A. Requirement, Scope of Work, and Reporting Description of Items

Type of Item for Printing	Number of Items	Specifications
National MVC Registration Form	524	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triplicate (White, Yellow, Pink) and include 3 double-sided pages/ instructions at the beginning of the book A4 Paper size Perforated, serial number (use the letters of the form name before the serial number), Perfect binding 20 x 1 x 1
National MVC Monthly Service Delivery Tracking Form	5,690	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triplicate (White, Yellow, Pink) Perfect binding Include 2 pages of guide instructions (double-sided) at the beginning of the book. The serial number on the top (use the letter of the form name before the serial number) Legal paper size Perforated, 40 x 1 x 1
National MVC Referral Form	789	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triplicate (White, Yellow, Pink) Perfect binding; include 1-page guide instructions at the beginning of the book. "Serial number on the top of the form, and the SAME serial number on the bottom part of the form. The bottom portion of the slip is perforated too Legal paper size 80x1x1
Screening and Enrollment	478	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perfect binding A4 paper size 4 pages instructions (2 sheets double-sided) Then forms; 1-page, single-color; 70gsm bond paper with numbering; Perforated Cover full-color 250gsm with glossy finishing. 20 forms per book 20 x 1 x 1
Family and Child Asset Assessment.	3013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perfect binding A4 size Set of 8 pages of instruction at the beginning of the book (4 sheets double-sided) 5 sheets double-sided forms 10 (5x10x1) Serial number Perforated
GBV Screening	517	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 pages instructions (2 sheets double sided) Forms 2 pages (1 sheet double sided) 100 forms per book. b/w 70mf bond paper Numbering and perforation Cover: 250gsm with a glossy finish in full colors
HIV Prevention Knowledge	521	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perfect binding 4 pages of instructions at the beginning of the book (2 sheets double-sided) + 2 pages double-sided form (1 sheet) x 50 (1x50x1) A4 size Perforated
HIV Services, Risks, and Adherence	814	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perfect binding 8 pages of instructions at the beginning of the book (4 sheets double-sided) + 2 pages double-sided form (1 sheet) x 50 (1x50x1) A4 size Perforated Serial number
HIV Services, Risks Adherence Quarterly Monitoring Tool	3360	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perfect binding 6 pages of instructions at the beginning of the book (3 sheets double-sided) + 2 pages double-sided form (1 sheet) x 50 (1x50x1) A4 size Perforated Serial numbers
Care Plan	2120	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triplicate (White, Yellow, Pink) Legal paper size Perforated Serial number (use letters of the form name before the serial number) Perfect binding Perforated 60 forms per book 2 pages per form
GBV&VAC Incident Reporting Form	367	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triplicates copies Use NCR paper Numbering and perforated 1x3x50
GBV&VAC Service	349	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duplicate copies Use NCR paper A2 paper size Numbering with perforation Printed in full colors 1x2x50
CHRSAA	536	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perfect binding 8 pages of instructions at the beginning of the book (4 sheets double-sided) + 2 pages double-sided form (1 sheet) x 50 (1x50x1) A4 paper size, Perforated with serial number

Scope of Work

- Vendor to visit the Pact office to see the sample of the tools to be procured per the quality of the materials needed.
- Pact will review the samples submitted by the vendors regarding the samples Pact shared with the vendors and select the best vendor. This applies only to shortlisted vendors.
- Ensure a good arrangement of the document(s) before mass printing. This includes -
 - Page set up.
 - Typesetting per the standard government format (Font style, size, line spacing, etc.)
 - Align, update, and format table of content against document content and PlanRep System.
 - Align, update, and format a list of tables of figures.
 - Insertion of appropriate logos and back page.
- Obtain approval of the final arranged document(s) from Pact Tanzania in collaboration with the Government of Tanzania (if need be) upon submission of a printed sample of the guide.
- Deliver the Printed tools or guidelines to established destinations/delivery points per the distribution list shared by Pact Tanzania.
- A vendor should communicate any substantial alteration of the document to ACHIEVE -technical team through the Pact-Procurement team.

All questions and requests for clarification should be directed to ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org with the subject line "Request for Clarification: Printing and Distribution of MVC_MIS Tools" before COB June 20, 2023. Reporting

The Supplier will report to HIV Integration Advisor and Senior Procurement Officer.

B. Eligibility

To be considered for the award, vendors must currently be legally operating in Tanzania, and the quotation must include all of the following information:

- Ability to meet or exceed the requirements/technical specifications outlined in Section A;
- Ability to deliver the items/services specified in Section A no later than the

date(s) required.

C. Submission Instructions

- The following information is to be included by a vendor in the proposal:
- Draft inception report detailing methodology & timelines for providing printing services.
 - Quote, valid for at least 90 days
 - Current company profile.
 - Delivery time (estimated work completion timeline after receiving an order).
 - Quality of the work (measured on the sample submitted upon request).
 - Copies of registration, certificate, and address of their registered office, valid business license, VAT, TIN certificates, Tax clearance certificate, and any industry-relevant license or certificate.
 - Evidence of similar assignments and at least two (2) names and addresses of clients served.
 - Current Audited financial statement for 2 consecutive years.
 - Payment terms.

Interested bidders should submit their bids both electronically and physically to Pact Tanzania. Electronic bids should be sent to tendertz@pactworld.org and physical submissions should be delivered to the following address:-

The Tender Committee,
Pact Tanzania,
74 Uporoto Street, Victoria
P. O. Box 6348,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
tendertz@pactworld.org

Note:

- Pact will open all bids on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 11:30 am in the presence of Bidder's Representatives who choose to attend.
- Quotes must be in Tanzanian Shilling and must include taxes separately.
- Proposals must be submitted both electronically and physically to Pact Tanzania.
- Quotations received after that time or at a different address may not be accepted.

Govt wants people to undergo early testing for NCDs

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has urged the people to utilise the official health systems available from dispensary to referral hospital levels for early testing for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), especially on cancer in order to avoid death and huge treatment expenses.

The remarks were given by the government Chief Medical Officer, Prof Tumaini Speaking at the celebration to mark International Cancer Survivor Day held at the national level at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), Dar es Salaam and attended by hundreds of people including those who have been treated of the disease.

"There are many kinds of treatments in the streets, but they come to the right treatment in hospitals. Utilise these services to enable early diagnosis of the disease," said Prof Nagu and assured Tanzanians that the government has improved its treatment systems that assured sufferers reliable treatment.

He said the government has in place online service connecting all main referral hospitals in the country including those in Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Mwanza and Kilimanjaro regions to simplify medical examination and treatment.

Prof Nagu said the number of cancer patients are increasing in the country hence he urged the people to take great care in prevention, frequent testing and change lifestyles to thwart NCDs.

He said changing lifestyles include exercises, reducing salt and sugar consumption, eating better diets and frequent examination of health statuses.

Meanwhile, the Director of Shujaa Cancer Foundation, (SCF), Gloria Kida cited hardships experienced by cancer patients in the country including finding themselves with the need to spend huge expenditure above their incomes,

misleading beliefs in communities in regard to treatment available in hospitals, family disputes, stigma and diminishing incomes owing to spending more time in treating the disease.

Kida explained that a cancer hero is the one who after knowing that he suffers from the disease, took the appropriate step by following hospital regulations without being swayed by street 'doctors.'

Some people who suffered from the disease and were cured testified their experiences and called on the people to do away with misleading beliefs that say hospital treatment involves radiation that causes early death.

"I want to assure you all that I underwent radiation in 2011 and got cured of the cancer and I go about doing my income earning activities as normally," said Fred Justine.

The International Cancer Survivor Day is observed on the first Sunday of June every year and in Tanzania the event has been observed for the third time in collaboration with ORCI.



There are many kinds of treatments in the streets, but they come to the right treatment in hospitals. Utilise these services to enable early diagnosis of the disease



George Simbachawene (in academic regalia), Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), performs alongside Public Service College Tanga Campus graduands at graduation ceremony held at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt plans for blue economy project to be executed in mainland, Zanzibar

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is finalising preparations for the blue economy project of the Tanzania Scaling-up Sustainable Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Project (TASFAM) to be implemented in mainland and Zanzibar, it has been revealed.

Blue economy entails the fishing sector, fish farming, establishing fish processing factories, seaweed farming, oil and gas drilling and the utilization of various marine

resources as well as seashore tourism.

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, David Silinde, made the statement in the parliament, adding that through the project small scale fishermen will be able to access financial support.

He was responding to a supplementary question asked by the Special Seats MP, Angelina Malembeka (CCM), who had wanted to know what the government was doing to help small scale fishermen in Zanzibar access loans.

She also wanted to know plans to provide the fishing groups with education on wise use of finances for modern fishing.

In response, the deputy minister said the TASFAM project to be implemented in both sides of the republic had the training components and is also aimed at providing interest free loans to the small scale fishermen.

"Acknowledging the great demand and importance for financial assistance to fishermen, the government is to implement

the project aimed at empowering fishermen in Zanzibar" he said.

He added that the directives of both President Samia Suluhu Hassan and President Hussein Ali Mwinyi emphasizes that before the loans, fishermen should be provided with education on proper use of the loans.

Lusinde explained that the strict requirements for loans have been reduced on this special loan to small scale fishermen as directed by the two leaders.

He added that the Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA) whose aim is to manage and develop fisheries conservation and related activities is working together with various institutions to empower fishermen.

School children with disabilities receive aid following fire disaster

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

CHILDREN with various types of disabilities who escaped death after their dormitory caught fire killing three others children at the children centre for children with disabilities at Buhangija Primary School in Shinyanga Municipality have been provided with assistance, including school items and mattresses.

November last year one children's dormitory at the centre caught fire causing deaths to the children with disabilities while 29 others escaped death.

Rajabu Mtunge, representative from Sense international organisation handed over the assistance at the weekend, to the children who survived the fire disaster at a brief event at Buhangija Primary School.

He said apart from providing inclusive education to teachers at the school, they saw it fit to hand out items as assistance to the children with disabilities who survived the disaster.

"The items handed over include 20 school bags, 290 exercise books, eight boxes of pens, 58 shirts, 58 skirts and 58 sweaters.

"Others are 48 pairs of socks, 29 mosquito nets, 40 bedsheets and 20 mattresses," said Mtunge.

Meanwhile, Dr Idelphonse Mkama, the Consultant for the Inclusive Education Project, which also incorporates four other institutions - Sense International, Tanzania Cheshire Foundation, ADD International and Light for the

World, said development partners are solidly behind children with disabilities to solve their problems and that is why they have provided inclusive education to their teachers.

Speaking, the event's official guest, Ibinzamata Ward Education Officer Mackrine Shija, who represented Shinyanga District Administrative Secretary Boniphace Chambi called on the teachers to utilise well the knowledge gained to teach the children with disabilities to increase examination passes.

Futuma Jilala, Headmistress of Buhangija Inclusive Primary School conveyed her thanks for the assistance provided to the children with disabilities who survived the fire disaster.



The items handed over include 20 school bags, 290 exercise books, eight boxes of pens, 58 shirts, 58 skirts and 58 sweaters



Sweden's Ambassador to Tanzania, Charlotta Ozaki Macias (R), briefs Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (2nd-R) at the weekend on Scania trucks when the minister attended celebrations to mark the firm's 50th anniversary held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Farming policies improvement bolsters crops production, stakeholders advised

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

IMPROVEMENTS to the farming policies and the increase of the irrigation infrastructures construction have enhanced crops production and boost food security.

The remarks were made here at the weekend by Magreth Natayi, Senior Agriculture Officer from the Ministry of Agriculture at a meeting attended by farming and health stakeholders.

She said the meeting focused on the fight against poor nutrition in Mbeya Region and improve food

security systems.

He said policies have been improved in every sector and financial investment strategies have been put in place in order to improve food production.

"I would like to assure Councillors and experts of Mbeya City Council that all issues that had stuck in regard to this sector will be implemented because the budget has been increased, including the issue to improve irrigation infrastructures, extension services and market availability," she said.

Opening the meeting, Mbeya

District Commissioner, Beno Malisa called on the stakeholders to have sustainable strategies to ensure food availability systems are improved.

Malisa said in regard to the improvement of people's health, health officers at street, village and ward levels have put in place procedures to weigh children under five years of age to determine their health statuses so as to know how they can be helped to avoid malnutrition, and called on parents and guardian to provide their children with better diets.

Judith Sarapion, Mbeya City project officer for the improvement of food systems against nutrition challenges (iv4n) explained that the project is for empowering councillors in all 36 wards of Mbeya City to implement various reliefs on nutrition.

She said the group is essential because it has great influence within the community, hence it is easy for the project to be implemented and attain set goals in improving the health of the people.

Meanwhile, Itende Ward Councillor, Julius Mahongo said they will make efforts to provide the education at the ward development meetings, including public meetings which they plan to conduct shortly.

9,000+ coffee farmers in Mbeya and Songwe regions get training on better care for the crop

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 9,000 coffee farmers in Mbeya and Songwe regions have undergone training on better farming practices against the effects of climate change as well as quality coffee seedlings for planting.

Dismas Pangalas, Coffee Research Programme Manager from Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI), Mbeya Zone made the remarks here yesterday at the meeting of coffee stakeholders that also incorporated various institutions involved in the crop's value chain.

Pangalas said their responsibility is to provide training to farmers and produce quality coffee seedlings whereas for the year 2023 they have reached 9,000 farmers in Mbeya and Songwe regions.

The managing director of Agriculture Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF), Honest Mseri said the aim of the meeting is to discuss available opportunities in regard to the coffee crop and how to help farmers to benefit.

"This project is being implemented by five organisations

- Café Africa, Brac Maendeleo, Agro Forest, TaCRI and ANSAF which are sponsored by the European Union (EU) in Mbeya, Songwe and Ruvuma Regions and which have involved farmers, agriculture officers and stakeholders from the private sector in the programme," he said.

He added that they make efforts to look into opportunities that can attract investors of the crop to enable youth and women groups to earn income from the production of various goods from the coffee crop including manufacturing of drinks and edible oil.

In the same vein, Songwe Region Agriculture Officer, George Nipwapwacha said through the coffee crop many opportunities have been obtained including financial services in rural areas and trade in farming inputs.

Ruvuma Region Coffee Production Manager Rabel Ulomi said the region has a big land area fit for coffee production which is yet to be utilised particularly in Mbeya and Nyasa districts with over 6,000 hectares.



Captain Christopher Shalua (L), Tanga regional officer-in-charge with the Tanzania Shipping Agency Company, briefs the acting permanent secretary Investment, Industry and Trade ministry, Conrad Millinga (R) in Tanga city at the weekend on the agency's operations. It was at the ongoing 10th Tanga Trade and Tourism Exhibition organised by the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA). Photo: correspondent Cheji Bakari

Church climate activists fault Tanzania bishops for backing oil pipeline

By Guardian Reporter

CATHOLIC Church environmental activists in Africa are expressing grave concern after a group of bishops in Tanzania endorsed a proposed crude oil pipeline project, amid increasing calls to abandon fossil fuels to tackle climate changes.

The campaigners - members of the Laudato Si' Movement in Africa - flagged this concern days after Pope Francis urged the world to quickly ditch the fuels to end "the senseless war against creation."

In East Africa, the Catholic activists were once again drawing attention to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project, warning that it would contribute to further greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbate the global climate change crisis.

"We are aware of the position taken by a section of bishops from the Tanzania episcopal conference," Prince Papa M'Kowiti, the programs manager for Africa at the Laudato Si' Movement, told OSV News May 31. "We urge them to reconsider their support for EACOP and advocate for a just transition away from fossil fuels."

The 898-mile pipeline is designed to transport petroleum from oil fields in Hoima in western Uganda and deliver the product to the Indian Ocean port of Tanga in Tanzania. Uganda hopes to start transporting its crude oil into international markets through the pipeline by 2025, despite the increasing opposition.

The oil pipeline was initially a business project between Uganda and Tanzania, but in early May, reports emerged indicating that Congo had started discussions with Uganda on how it could use the pipeline to transport crude oil. The entry of an additional state actor has drawn the Congo Basin into the controversial venture.

After the Amazon, the basin is the world's second largest carbon sink. A "carbon sink" removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The Congo Basin contains some of the largest tropical rainforests in the world and is an important source of water used in agriculture and energy generation.

In a video posted on the Tanzania bishops' conference website and YouTube channel, Archbishop Jude Theddaeus Ruwa'ichi of Dar es Salaam said that this is not the first oil pipeline in Tanzania.

He gave the example of the 55-year-old Tanzania Zambia Mafuta (TAZAMA) pipeline, which

stretches for over 620 miles, taking crude oil from the capital, Dar es Salaam, and delivering it to the Zambian city of Ndola.

"The pipeline has been in use for many years and for the benefit of Zambia and has not drawn any controversies," Archbishop Ruwa'ichi said, explaining that when there are natural resource deposits - like petroleum - these resources need to be exploited in a manner that does not harm the people.

"I hope the Uganda-Tanga pipeline will be constructed with utmost care and consideration of the country's safety and environmental protection, but for the benefit of the people," he added.

The archbishop said he thinks those opposed to the pipeline could be serving their own interests, since Tanzania is not the first country to exploit and benefit from petroleum resources.

Rehema Peter, a climate activist in Tanzania who is a founder of the Tanzanian Partnership for Green Future and a Laudato Si' animator, said she is "shocked" about the new bishops' position on the pipeline. She said it seemed the bishops had based their position on false solutions and needed to look at the other side of the coin.

"The project paints a picture of good economic development while the other side is the destruction of the environment. About 80% of this pipeline passes through Tanzania and will lead to so much greenhouse gas emissions, destroy the ozone layer, and potentially pollute over 200 rivers," Peter said in a May 31 statement.

"I urge them to independently look at the EACOP issue again while considering the science and research and compare it to Laudato Si', the message to the whole world."



I hope the Uganda-Tanga pipeline will be constructed with utmost care and consideration of the country's safety and environmental protection, but for the benefit of the people

NEMC praises hospital for taking care of environment

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has applauded the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) for taking care of the environment and asked other institutions and hospitals to learn and imitate the example.

Hamad Taimur, NEMC acting director general made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he and other employees visited the hospital to provide sanitary equipment as part of the World Environment Day celebrations, themed: "Stop pollution caused by plastic bags."

Taimur said Muhimbili hospital has succeeded to a large extent in taking care of the environment due to having a smart committee to monitor all issues related to environmental sanitation and take action whenever they see violations of procedures.

Taimur said that the equipment they have handed over to the hospital will help to separate the layers of waste because according to the hygiene and environmental management system, all the waste is not piled up in one place.

"Let's congratulate our colleagues, we have seen a very good environment and they have reached here due to having a good environmental management team,

with the Director of Environment Department and his assistants who have been closely monitoring all issues related to the environment," he added.

"We have walked and seen that Muhimbili is green in every corner and you can't find garbage anywhere, so we call on hospitals, clinics and health centers to follow this example of having special places to put their garbage and then burn it," he said.

He said that when the garbage is separated, it becomes easier for professionals to burn it, thus reducing or completely eliminating the destruction of the environment in the hospital area while stressing that it is important for others

to learn how MNH manages its garbage.

The Technical Director of Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Domiana John, thanked NEMC for providing them with sanitary equipment, saying that MNH appreciates the donation and will ensure that the equipment is taken care of.

"We here at Muhimbili really appreciate the environment because we believe in a safe environment there is safety and we will use these devices to continue to make our environment friendly and safe for human life and we join you in opposing environmental pollution caused by plastic bags," she said.



National Environment Management Council acting director general Hamad Taimur (R, foreground) and Muhimbili National Hospital technical director Domiana John (in green) inspect sanitation facilities at the hospital yesterday where NEMC staff went to donate an assortment of items for use in environmental cleanliness. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

25 villagers hospitalised after drinking local brew

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbozi

TWENTY-FIVE residents of Halambo Village in Mbozi district, Songwe Region cheated death after drinking a local brew suspected to be poisoned.

They were rushed to Mbozi District Hospital here for treatment with many of them having running stomachs and vomiting.

It is claimed that the villagers

went to a local brew drinking house for the drink but immediately started experiencing stomach pains and were given first aid treatment at the village dispensary but later rushed to the hospital after their conditions deteriorated.

Halambo Village Chairman, Lazima Mwambani said on Saturday that on the fateful day there was a burial at the village after which people went to the local brew bar

to drink. "The incident happened on Friday and the total number of those affected was 31 some of whom began feeling bad on the same day with others the following day and had to be rushed to hospital for treatment, and they were doing well," said Mwambani.

He added that the brewer of the drink, Tabu Shilumba is claimed to have fled after hearing that people who took the brew were sick,

however the police are holding her husband for interrogation although his name is yet to be identified.

Doctor in Charge of Mbozi District Hospital, Dr Nelson Mponjoli confirmed to have received the people saying they were doing well with others already discharged.

"I cannot say for sure that they drank a poisonous local brew but they were brought to the hospital with a running stomachs," he added.

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Drinking of milk assures body of critical nutrients

MILK is nature's most complete food. It contains over 400 nutrients, with endless possibilities. Milk is not high in calories when it's low fat so, we should not remove milk totally from our diet, but we should choose low fat milk since it contains all the nutrients found in full cream milk except for the fat.

Even as we adults, we need to drink milk, but it is important to know that not all milks are the same.

Older adults who drink three cups of dairy milk a day can increase their brain's level of a powerful antioxidant that helps protect the brain from the damage that accompanies aging and aging-related diseases.

Fortifying milk with vitamins and minerals is a very delicate process, and the quality and quantity of the added nutrients have a direct effect on health. We should therefore encourage our people to consume milk and other dairy products since they are rich in calcium, magnesium and phosphorous which substances are important in strengthening human health.

People should realise the nutrients in milk which are good at preventing dental decay, strengthening bones, smooth skins, and good immune system and also good for children development.

Milk can help children develop their full potential mentally and physically if taken adequately could solve many nutrition disorders in children.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), recommends that a person should consume at least 200 litres of milk annually.

Per capita milk consumption in Tanzania is estimated at 47 litres a

year, behind neighbouring Kenya and Uganda which stand at 110 litres and 62 litres respectively. This is also far below the 200 litres per capita per year as recommended by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) that a person should consume a least 200 litres of milk annually.

According to the National Crop Census, 47.1 per cent of households in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar own dairy cattle. Despite this, dairy cattle production faces challenges such as poor rearing practices, low milk prices, lack of market, and lack of knowledge in value-added milk production.

According to health experts, a Tanzanian puts himself or herself closer to disease by not drinking milk. Dairy products like milk are the best dietary sources of calcium.

Calcium has many functions in the body but its primary job is the development and maintenance of healthy bones and teeth. Calcium is also important for blood clotting and wound healing, maintaining normal blood pressure and muscle contractions including heartbeat.

People should change their attitude and drink more milk and also put more focus on breastfeeding the babies. Those aged five years and below require milk as a complete diet and for their brains to fully develop.

Parents especially mothers should be educated on the importance of early breastfeeding on their babies in tender age. There is an urgent need to reduce prevalence of malnutrition in the region especially in the first 1,000 days of a child's life. This is the time his/her brain develops rapidly and lays his/her future cognitive and social ability.

Land ownership uplift crucial in mining of rare earth metals

ALL is set for the start of what appears to be large scale mining operations by a stretch of Australian firms ready to put in upwards of \$4bn into mining rare metals vital the renewable energy industry. The prospects are not new but at each turn the public learns something new on the situation, this time hearing a bit more on the scale of operations and financing. There were elaborate remarks on the confidence the companies have on the Tanzanian situation from experts.

Projected investments of up to 9.46trn/- during the next two years, despite that the lion's share of the money will to the purchase of machinery and paying of experts, still a lot of it will pass into the monetary mass locally. Construction works will start in more areas apart from Kabanga nickel project, with a number of commercial banks receiving large deposits that will give them more leg room for lending operations to local business entities, which uplifts needy sectors.

Some enlightening remarks were made by Scott Morris, the Australian trade commissioner for Africa at the weekend in Dar es Salaam, that investment in critical minerals follow the signing of framework agreements with the government over the past two years. It is evident that it was a laborious process, and for some reason the Kabanga project took off quite early. That implies the others waited for more reassurances, or had difficulties mobilising capital, etc.

Critical minerals targeted by Australian mining firms include cobalt, graphite, nickel, lithium and a range of other rare earth metals, with firms like Black Rock, EcoGraph and Evolution Energy

interested in graphite mining. Peak Rare Earths will naturally target rare earth metals while Kabanga Nickel has started working on a nickel project in Biharamulo District. There is a mineral sands mining firm along with gold and other minerals found along with gold ore, if one remembers the gold sands saga during the fifth phase, as it has copper, etc.

With critical minerals having been discovered in Kagera, Mwanza and Morogoro regions, while other regions already host vast mining operations, the land holding aspect in mining ought to be reexamined. The government has often talked about large tracts of land having been placed under mining exploration firms and then the licences having to be cancelled for others who are likely to develop those areas. That permits rectifying occupancy due to the limited character of ownership as occupancy, but it also hinders developing the land, which becomes more problematic at the end of the mine's life cycle.

Analyses of extractive industries and development focused on contribution to development via budgetary input, then switched to environmental destruction and finally to gender balance in mining, a wholly different issue. As a matter of fact the missing link in the sector's development potential is land ownership, as the mining firms already in operation need to have the land in perpetuity so that they place other investments when the mining per se is over or is no longer as profitable. Its experts and executives, after 15 years doing the work and knowing the land is theirs, will definitely think of other viable projects, like a water game park, by filling the wasteland, thus attracting thousands of tourists from their home country. It isn't difficult.



Child protection: Let children be themselves when it comes to gender

By Kholofelo Mphahlele

SOUTH Africa is observing Child Protection Week from 29 May to 5 June to shine a spotlight on the rights of children as enshrined in the Constitution and the Children's Act. The campaign aims to ensure the rights, safety, and well-being of children - aiming to foster a safer environment. To foster a safe environment, however, children must not only feel physically safe but also emotionally safe. Yet teenagers often do not have a safe space to speak to trusted people about the confusion they face around their gender.

In April, I was involved, in my SECTION27 capacity, in community outreach and workshops on sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) in Vrededorp, Johannesburg that were hosted by the Boys and Girls Club of South Africa. In the second workshop, 60 learners from Grade 7 to 11 (aged 13-18) delved into the issues such as pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, puberty, and gender identity and expression. Through group discussions and plenary sessions, knowledge was shared, questions were answered, and voices were heard. We will now return for a third workshop to further explore topics like gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.

During these workshops with youth, it was clear there are teenagers grappling with the concept of gender identity and who are uncomfortable talking to their parents and teachers.

Hard to pin down For some young people, gender identity and expression are not fixed - rather, it can change daily. Someone's gender expression on a given day doesn't necessarily need to mirror how they perceive their own gender identity overall.

A growing number of teenagers identify with a non-traditional gender label, according to a March 2018 study published in the journal Pediatrics.

One way to look at it is that it enables people, especially teenagers, to take their identity and expression one day at a time instead of feeling tied to a single, overarching gender label.

The term 'gender fluidity' has come to best describe the way some teenagers feel they fit outside the gender binary. The term acknowledges that gender doesn't have to be fixed and de-emphasises the need to align oneself with a specific gender - a concept more and



more people are moving away from as conversations about alternate ways to express and experience gender proliferate.

The term is hard to pin down precisely since it describes such a vast array of people and experiences. One way to look at it is that it enables people, especially teenagers, to take their identity and expression one day at a time instead of feeling tied to a single, overarching gender label.

The American Psychological Association on its website states, "Many people describe gender identity as a deeply felt, inherent sense of being a boy, a man, or male; a girl, a woman, or female; or a nonbinary gender (e.g., genderqueer, gender-nonconforming, gender-neutral, agender, gender-fluid) that may or may not correspond to a person's sex assigned at birth, presumed gender based on sex assignment, or primary or secondary sex characteristics."

So, for many people who are gender fluid, the discovery of the descriptor has been liberating, helping them understand themselves and the way they live. It has given them a sense of self.

Stigma, discrimination, and public health

But there are still many children, however, that struggle to explain the concept of non-gendered pronoun use. Often their peers also struggle when confronted with their friend's gender fluidity and would sometimes ask invasive questions, like, "What kind of bathroom do you use if you are a trans person?"

The challenges faced by trans children do not exist in isolation. The same societal stigma that makes life hard for trans kids also makes it hard for trans teens and adults to access healthcare services.

As has been shown in several reports by community-led clinic monitoring group Ritshidze, so-called key populations are often poorly catered for in our public healthcare system. Key populations among others include trans persons and men who have sex with men. According to Ritshidze's most recent report on key populations, many transgender people who were interviewed said they don't access services at a public health facility because staff is not friendly and their privacy is not respected.

The challenges faced by trans children do not exist in isolation. The same societal stigma that makes life hard for trans kids also makes it hard for trans teens and adults to access healthcare services.

Nothing new

Gender fluidity is not a new phenomenon, nor does it mean there's a new experience happening in the world. There's just a new vocabulary available to describe what's been happening in the world.

Many parents and teachers, and healthcare workers for that matter, find it hard to understand and keep up with the changing language, especially because many grew up in a time when gender fluidity was not even spoken about. But it's never too late for them to educate themselves.

There is a tendency among older generations to think that

these complexities around gender are young people's issues, but it's not. It impacts everyone and has a knock-on effect on the public health system.

If parents fail to understand that children are more alike from birth than they are different and treat children accordingly, our world will continue to be gendered. Undoing these kinds of assumptions will not be easy, but perhaps parents can all think twice before they tell a little boy how brave he is and a little girl how kind or perfect she is.

There is a tendency among older generations to think that these complexities around gender are young people's issues, but it's not. It impacts everyone and has a knock-on effect on the public health system. So, becoming culturally aware can help parents and teachers understand and support the LGBTQI+ community, and also contribute to the betterment of society.

The right of a person to choose their sex or gender identity is integral to their personality and is one of the most basic aspects of self-determination, dignity, and freedom as enshrined in the Bill of Rights and confirmed by the courts, most notably the Constitutional Court. Our Constitution recognises equality and dignity and prohibits discrimination on the basis of, amongst others, gender, sex, and sexual orientation.

During Child Protection Week, parents and teachers, along with the rest of society, need to reflect on these rights and make them realisable for children.

UN Human Rights Office remains under-funded and under-resourced

By Volker TurkReprint | 1

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action was adopted 30 years ago at the UN Human Rights Conference in the Austrian capital in June 1993. The Declaration was a strong and clear endorsement – by consensus of all UN Member States – of the rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In December last year, I launched our year-long commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We have since issued a series of initiatives calling on States and all others to make pledges, and to take clear steps to fulfil the promises of the Universal Declaration.

The Human Rights 75 programme will culminate in a high-level event on 11 and 12 December – convened by my Office here in Geneva, linked up with Bangkok, Nairobi and Panama City.

This year, we also celebrate 30 years since the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna created the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. That is an important milestone for us.

It was in June 1993 at this conference that – after a difficult process fraught with geopolitical divisions – the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action was adopted. The Declaration was a strong and clear endorsement – by consensus of all UN Member States – of all the rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Over the past 30 years, the work of this Office has contributed to greater recognition of the centrality of human rights in making and sustaining peace, in preventing and halting violations, in fostering accountability, in sustainable development, in humanitarian response and, of late, in economic policy and the work of international financial institutions.

We have been at the forefront of addressing issues of global importance as they emerge, including the human rights impacts of climate change, artificial intelligence, and digital technology.

My Office is now present in more places than ever. We have gone from just two field presences when we started to 94 presences around the world today.

And I would like to see this expanded further – there should be a UN Human Rights Office everywhere. For all States can and should do better on human rights. I have been advocating for this in my meetings with all UN Member States and in my missions.

I have also been speaking about how underfunded and under-resourced my Office remains. We need to double our budget. I call on donors – State, corporate and private – to help us make this happen. A strong UN Human Rights Office and a healthy, well-resourced human rights ecosystem are of global interest.

Our work and the human rights mechanisms that we support have helped advance the human rights cause, identify drivers of conflict and crisis and barriers to development, and offer solutions as well as pathways to remedy and accountability.

We work with State institutions, national human rights bodies and civil society on the ground, to help reform laws, to train officials. We also help open the space for civil society organisations and journalists to do their work, and we are often serving as a bridge between civil society and institutions of the State.



We call out violations and set off alarm bells when attacks on, neglect of, or disdain for human rights could set off crises.

Our work on accountability and transitional justice has helped ensure that perpetrators of serious human rights violations end up in prison, and our work on protection of civic space and human rights defenders has secured the release of people who are detained in violation of their rights.

We provide a reality check. We help set the facts straight, we ground our analysis in human rights laws and standards, we dig into the root causes of human suffering, and we offer systemic, sustainable solutions.

Nowhere is the devastating impact of human rights violations more stark than in the midst of armed conflict and in the aftermath of natural disasters. Cyclone Mocha, which cut a swathe of destruction through Rakhine, Chin and Kachin States, as well as Sagaing and Magway, in Myanmar on 14 May is the latest, deeply painful manifestation of a man-made disaster resulting from a climate event.

For decades, the authorities in Myanmar have deprived the Rohingya of their rights and freedoms and relentlessly attacked other ethnic groups, eroding their capacity to survive. Displaced communities have subsisted in temporary bamboo structures, some since 2012, with Myanmar's military repeatedly denying requests of humanitarian agencies to build more sustainable living conditions in areas less prone to flooding. I saw this myself on my many trips to Myanmar, especially to the east. They have also consistently prevented the Rohingya from moving freely, including in the days before the cyclone.

The damage and loss of life was both foreseeable and avoidable – and is clearly linked with the systematic denial of human rights. It is imperative that the military lift the blockages on travel, allow for needs assessments to happen, and ensure access to and delivery of lifesaving aid and services.

The desperate situation of the people of Sudan – who fought so courageously against repression of their rights – is heartbreaking. In spite of successive ceasefires, civilians continue to be exposed to serious risk of death and injury – overnight we have had reports of fighter jets across Khartoum and

clashes in some areas of the city, as well as gunfire heard in Khartoum-North and Omdurman.

My Designated Expert on Sudan, Radhouane Nouicer, has been meeting remotely with civil society still in the country and with those who have fled – and the testimony is terrifying. Many civilians are virtually besieged in areas where fighting has been relentless.

With State institutions not functioning in Khartoum, civil society actors are risking their lives to fill the gaps. Many human rights defenders, particularly women, have reported receiving threats – but they are undeterred; they continue their crucial work.

Several reports are emerging of sexual violence in Khartoum and Darfur – we are aware of at least 25 cases, but such violations are often the most difficult to document, so I fear the real number of cases to be much higher.

General al-Burhan, General Dagalo, you must issue clear instructions – in no uncertain terms – to all those under your command, that there is zero tolerance for sexual violence, and that perpetrators of all violations will be held accountable. Civilians must be spared. And you must stop this senseless violence now.

It is the near-total impunity for gross violations that is at the root of this new, brazen grab for power in Sudan. Efforts to bring this conflict to an end must have human rights and accountability at their core – for any peace to be sustained.

Elsewhere, I am deeply troubled by the growing phenomenon of anti-rights movements that have been active against migrants and refugees, against women, against people belonging to certain faiths, religious and racial groups, as well as against LGBTIQ people, among others.

We need to push back on such anti-rights movements that are fed and stoked by peddlers of lies and disinformation – including by so-called political and religious leaders and “influencers”. These are people who use populism, repression and even vilification of segments of society – to the detriment of society as a whole – as a short-cut to power and influence.

Following such hateful, discredited narratives, we are seeing a further worsening of laws criminalizing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, including in Uganda. These laws violate a host of human rights, they lead to

violence, and they drive people against one another.

They leave people behind and undermine development. Many of these laws are actually colonial relics that have imported 200-year-old stigma and discrimination into the 21st Century.

Hate speech and harmful narratives against migrants and refugees also continue to proliferate; they are accompanied, worryingly, by laws and policies that are anti-migrant, and they risk undermining the basic foundations of international human rights law and refugee law.

Developments that are unfolding in various countries, including the UK, the US, Italy, Greece, and Lebanon are particularly concerning as some of them appear designed to hinder people's ability to seek asylum and other forms of protection, to penalize those who seek to help them – or to return them in unlawful, undignified, unsustainable ways.

Article 14 of the Universal Declaration is clear on everyone's right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution. We need solidarity – to ensure that all people in vulnerable situations are treated with humanity and respect for their rights.

In a number of situations, we see the consequences when different groups incite and stoke hatred and division between communities. The recent violence in Manipur, Northeast India, revealed the underlying tensions between different ethnic and indigenous groups.

I urge the authorities to respond to the situation quickly, including by investigating and addressing root causes of the violence in line with their international human rights obligations.

It will be three years to the day that George Floyd was murdered by a police officer in the US. The small measure of justice achieved in this case remains exceptional – in the US and globally. I remain deeply concerned by regular reports of deaths and injuries of people of African descent during or after interactions with law enforcement in a number of countries. There needs to be firm and prompt action by authorities to ensure justice in each case.

It is clear that we won't solve the problem of police brutality against people of African descent until we deal with the broader manifestations of systemic racism that permeate every aspect of their lives.

The racial abuse faced – once again – by Real Madrid football player Vinicius Júnior in Spain just this past Sunday is a stark reminder of the prevalence of racism in sport. I call on those who organise sporting events to have strategies in place to prevent and counter racism.

Much more needs to be done to eradicate racial discrimination – and it needs to start with listening to people of African descent, meaningfully involving them and taking genuine steps to act upon their concerns.

I also continue to be concerned about the shrinking of civic space, including in China, where there has been a spate of sentences against human rights defenders based on laws that are at variance with international human rights law.

Also deeply worrying are crackdowns on women's rights – a tool for men in power to exercise dominance over and enfeeble entire societies. Misogyny is a disease. In combination with violence, it is cancerous.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban continue, aggressively, to seek to erase half of the population from everyday life. Such a system of gender apartheid ruins the

development potential of the country.

I will never understand how anyone can trample so cruelly upon the spirit of girls and women, chipping away at their potential and driving one's country deeper and deeper into abject poverty and despair. It is crucial – for the sake of the people of Afghanistan, the future of the country and the wider region – that repressive policies against women and girls are immediately overturned.

In Iran, while the street protests have diminished, the harassment of women – including for what they do or don't wear, appears to have actually intensified. Women and girls face increasingly stringent legal, social, and economic measures in the authorities' enforcement of discriminatory compulsory veiling laws.

I urge the Government to heed Iranians' calls for reform, and to begin by repealing regulations that criminalise non-compliance with mandatory dress codes. The onus is on the State to introduce laws and policies to protect the human rights of women and girls, including their right to participate in public life without fear of retribution or discrimination.

I am also appalled by the continued use of the death penalty in significant numbers. I urge them to halt executions immediately.

One more situation that is of deep concern to me is that in Pakistan – where hard-earned gains and the rule of law are at serious risk. I am alarmed by the recent escalation of violence, and by reports of mass arrests carried out under problematic laws – arrests that may amount to arbitrary detention.

Particularly disturbing are reports that Pakistan intends to revive the use of military courts to try civilians – which would contravene its international human rights law obligations.

I call on the authorities to ensure prompt, impartial, transparent investigations into deaths and injuries that occurred during the 9 May protests. The only path to a safe, secure, prosperous Pakistan is one that is paved with respect for human rights, democratic processes, and the rule of law, with the meaningful and free participation of all sectors of society.

Beyond individual country situations, of broader concern for me are recent rapid advances in the development of artificial intelligence – particularly generative AI. The opportunities are immense – but so are the risks. Human rights need to be baked into AI throughout its entire lifecycle and both governments and companies need to do more to ensure that guardrails are in place. My Office is carefully following and studying these issues.

Allow me to end with an appeal to all of you to help push back against the disinformation and manipulation that feeds anti-rights movements, and to help protect the space for people to defend their rights. Human rights are universal. The dignity and worth of every human being should not be – cannot be – a questionable, sensitive concept.

It is my fervent hope that this 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will provide the space and inspiration for all of us to go back to the basics – to find the roots of human rights values in each of our cultures, histories, and faiths, uniting us in pushing back against the instrumentalization and politicization of human rights within and between countries.

This article is based on the opening remarks by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk at his press conference in Geneva on May 24.

By Special Correspondent

Can we avoid future IMF credit in Ghana?

At long last, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the long-awaited \$3-billion bailout being sought by Ghana to reset its economy to ease the hardship in the country.

The IMF granted the approval at its Board's meeting held on Wednesday.

According to the arrangement, the IMF will disburse the three-year extended credit in

batches, releasing \$600 million as the first tranche, with the rest coming in tranches every six months as the country managers do the needful.

On Thursday, the Governor of the Bank of Ghana (BoG), Dr Ernest Kwamina Yedu Addison, announced at the joint IMF and the Finance Ministry presser that the first tranche would hit the bank's account on Friday because the BoG had received a swift advice regarding that.

The Minister of State at the Ministry of Finance, Dr Mohammed Amin Adam,

has confirmed that the \$600 million has actually hit the BoG account.

The Minister says the funds would be useful for balance of payment support, fund the 2023 budget, help stabilise the forex market, reduce interest rate and tame inflation.

We are happy to hear this and also the fact that the Official Creditor Committee on Ghana has alluded to the strong reform programme being pursued by the government to restore macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability while laying

the foundation for an inclusive recovery for which the country deserves the assistance.

That, for us, means Ghana has proven its qualification and readiness for the credit facility but the question is, will the country abide by all that it has to do to receive the rest of the money and also make the current assistance benefit the whole country?

Already, the country has been to the IMF for a bailout 16 times but could not stop at that and so we are at it again the 17th time.

For all the previous bail-

outs, the country's authorities showed that all would be well, yet things went haywire.

In fact, the 17th request was unexpected because the Akufo-Addo administration vowed not to go in for it but certain circumstances like COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war have combined to force it to do so against its word.

This is understandable because there can always be circumstances beyond our control, but what about those that can be under our control?

Some expert sources say cer-

tain negative practices have become the bane of the country's economic progress, including non-compliance with certain IMF stipulations, corruption, over-spending by the government and the low ratio of tax revenue to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Regarding the IMF stipulations, for instance, the Director of the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (IS-SER) at the University of Ghana, Prof. Peter Quartey, has called on the government to assiduously work to meet the IMF bail-

out conditions, otherwise come a review, the next tranche might not come.

We think the government cannot afford such an embarrassment.

But while we say this, we still want to appeal that there is the need to check corruption among state officials and over-spending for political expediency; and pursue all the necessary efforts to raise the ratio of tax revenue to GDP from the current 13.9 per cent (January 2022) to 25 per cent, which the experts say can help bring some relief to the country.

Close inequalities to end AIDS & prepare for future pandemics

BRASILIA

THE COVID-19 crisis has shone a light on the danger of pandemics; social crises have shone a light on the danger of inequalities. And the reality is that outbreaks become the pandemics they do because of inequality. The good news is that both can be overcome - if they are confronted as one.

Scientific and medical breakthroughs in the treatment and prevention of HIV should have brought us to the point of ending AIDS. Tragically, however, although the number of new HIV infections is falling fast in many countries, it is still rising in dozens of countries and the goal of ending AIDS by 2030 is in danger.

The reason: economic and social inequalities within countries and between them increase people's risk of acquiring disease and block access to life-saving services.

Letting inequality grow is driving pandemics and prolonging emergencies that drain economies and health systems. This makes all of us vulnerable to the next pandemic, while placing entire countries and communities of people in harm's way.

In too much of the world we see policy approaches which leave inequalities to widen, and even, in some cases, deliberately exacerbate inequalities.

On a global level when wealthy countries quickly invest billions in their own medical and social response, while leaving other countries so burdened by debt they have no fiscal space to do so, that undermines the world's capacity to fight AIDS and pandemics.

During COVID-19 while wealthy countries poured in billions to protect their economies, reduce economic and social hardship and fight the pandemic, almost half of all developing countries cut health spending and about 70% cut spending on education.

Viruses do not respect borders, so when the vaccines, drugs, and tests intended to stop those viruses go to powerful countries in excess, while



Thembeni Mkingofa, a woman living with HIV, visits the PMTCT section of the Makhume District Hospital, Zimbabwe. She has three children - 14, 10 and 2 who are all HIV negative. This is her fourth pregnancy. Her husband is also on HIV treatment. Here she is pictured with her two-year-old daughter, Hilda Chakirizira. 5 November 2019. Credit: UNAIDS/C. Matonhodze

other countries have little or nothing and are held back from producing medicines themselves, that perpetuates pandemics everywhere.

Similarly, social and economic conditions that perpetuate pandemics in low- and middle-income countries pre-

sent a global threat. Much as with COVID-19 the same has happened with the MPox virus.

In recent years twice as many people have died of MPox in the Democratic Republic of Congo as the entire rest of the world combined but, as of today, zero vaccines

for MPox had been delivered to the DR.

Social and legal determinants that make people vulnerable to pandemics must be tackled. Globally almost 5,000 young women and girls become infected with HIV every week. Dismantling barriers

to sexual and reproductive health and rights services, investing in girls' education, and combating gender-based violence to remove gender inequity is key to ending the AIDS pandemic and protecting women's health.

Laws that criminalize and marginalize LGBT communities, sex workers and people who use drugs weaken public health approaches and prolong pandemics such as HIV. In sub-Saharan African countries where same sex relations are criminalized, HIV prevalence is five times higher among gay men and men who have sex with men than in countries where same sex relations are not criminalized.

Even within countries that are making substantial progress against HIV, advances may not be shared equally. Here in Brazil for example, HIV infections are falling dramatically among the white population as access to treatment is widened and new prevention tools such as PrEP are rolled out.

That shows what can be achieved; but HIV infections among the black population in Brazil are still on the rise. A similar story runs in the United

States where gay white people are more likely to have access to good health care than gay black people.

We emphasize that it is not only access to health care that perpetuates these inequalities, but the social determinants that increase the risk of infection.

To overcome inequalities in accessing essential services, communities must be empowered to demand their rights. The AIDS movement is one of the best examples of how groups of people experiencing intersecting inequalities can unite to overcome them, leading to millions of lives being saved.

Successive Commissions on Social Determinants of Health have brought together evidence on how the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age are powerful influences on health equity.

To bring together these two strands of knowledge over the coming months we will be convening global experts from academia, government, civil society, international development and the creative arts to build a Global Council to advance evidence-based solutions to the inequalities which drive AIDS and other pandemics.

The council will unite experts from disparate fields of economics, epidemiology, law, and politics and will include ministers, mayors, and former heads of state, researchers and clinicians, health security experts, community leaders and human rights activists.

The work of the Global Council will harness essential evidence for policymakers. It will elevate political attention to the need for action. Most crucially, it will help equip the advocacy of the frontline communities fighting for their lives, with what they need to shift policies and power.

Appropriately, the Global Council is launching in Brazil. Whilst Brazil has exemplified the challenges of intersecting inequalities, Brazil's social movements have been pioneers in confronting them, and Brazil's new government under President Lula has committed to tackle inequalities in Brazil and worldwide.

To fight tomorrow's pandemics, we need inequality-busting approaches to today's pandemics. The world's leaders now face a clear choice: stand by whilst the dangers mount or come together to tackle inequalities for a world that is not only fairer, but safer too.



Shanenire Ndiweni, has a consultation to receive pre-exposure prophylaxis at the Centre for Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Research Zimbabwe (CeSHHAR Zimbabwe) clinic, Mutare, Zimbabwe, 6 November 2019. Credit: UNAIDS/C. Matonhodze

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

By Felister Peter

US-funded initiative enables drug addicts to recover and achieve their dreams

THE presence of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) clinics in southern highland regions—Mbeya, Songwe, Rukwa and Katavi have helped people who use or inject drugs to achieve their goals.

The MAT initiative, apart from other harm reduction strategies among drug addicts which include provision of medications in combination with counselling and behavioural therapies for purposes of fighting HIV, Tuberculosis (TB) and hepatitis B and C.

Allen William (30) is one of the drug addicts who have been on methadone treatment for three years; he acknowledges the support from the U.S government through its President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) as he is now married with one kid.

"Being on drugs, I stayed 30 years without meeting my mother. This programme has completely changed my lifestyle, I'm married and I have a small business," said William, noting he was dragged into using drugs by friends where he started with smoking cigarettes before moving to cannabis and heroin.

William said he is now a role model to many people using drugs and has been able to encourage a number of them to register for methadone medication treatment. He advised her fellow youth to stop using drugs, saying being an addict makes you disrespected even by your family members.

"Drug addicts are involved in criminal activities such as stealing. Being on methadone dose you can undertake productive activities such as employment and parenting," said William who is from Iringa Region.

Festina Mwandwanga (25), is a gospel singer based in Mbeya Region, she started using drugs at the age of 16. She has been through a lot of challenges doing indecent work.

"I used cannabis and heroin for seven years; there was a time I couldn't afford to buy the drugs and stayed for two weeks without using the addictive substance,



Festina Mwandwanga

thus experiencing various withdrawal symptoms; a situation that pushed me to go for methadone treatment," narrated Mwandwanga.

She added: "I have recovered and married to a husband who was also a drug addict; we are blessed with one child. I can sing and engage in other reproductive activities, thanks to PEPFAR for supporting MAT clinics.

Janeth Mwamtobe (36) Crisis Responding Officer at Save Tanzania (SETA) said they also work closely with the police force and prisons because drug users who go through a lot of abuse are sometimes taken to court or imprisoned over lack of support.

SETA is an organisation that works with the Henry Jackson Foundation Military Research International (HJFMRI) in implementing interventions that aims to help people using drugs through methadone medications

Mwamtobe who is the beneficiary of MAT programs said the organization ensures that remandees and prisoners on methadone treatment continues with their daily dosage.

Mwamtobe was dragged into drug abuse by her male partner who was a drug dealer.

"I used drugs for over ten years before I decided to register for methadone treatment at a Dar es Salaam based MAT

clinic at Mwananyamala Referral hospital. I had to take medication for five years to become who I am today," she stated.

She added: "I decided to go for methadone doses after witnessing the kind of abuse that women using drugs go through at society level. I had a desire to help them to recover, thanks to training I have received as I can now provide them with support by visiting them at their homes, prisons and courts to ensure continued treatment."

Mbeya Regional Crimes Officer, Andrew Kantimbo said the harm reduction program is not only beneficial to drug users, it also helps police of-

icers as they are also at risk of being infected with communicable diseases such as HIV and hepatitis during arrests.

"The program has contributed to reducing crime incidents. Drug users sometimes steal from people to get money for the drugs. We thank PEPFAR as most of them are on medication at a MAT clinic at Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital.

Drug addicts in custody are escorted by police officers to go for medication at MAT clinic, he added, stressing the force will continue to work closely with the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) in controlling drug business by cutting sup-

ply chain and discouraging demand through provision of education to youth on the adverse effects of using drugs.

Assistant Commissioner, Isack Kangura, the Ruanda Central Prison Officer In-Charge said since prisoners have the right to medication, they are allowed to go for clinics with escort from prison officers. He said the prison has so far assisted more than 20 prisoners.

Dr Alick Kayange from the US Embassy said that PEPFAR supports 11 MAT clinics across the country while in southern highland regions there is a clinic in Mbeya and Tunduma in Songwe Region.

He said they support provision of similar services at the Ruanda Prison in Mbeya and Ukonga Prison in Dar es Salaam.

"More than 10,000 youth have been rescued countrywide. At SETA we have 400 people on methadone medication and over 300 others at our clinic in Tunduma town," said Dr Kayange, noting the interventions are geared at reducing new HIV infections among drug users as they are more likely to be infected.

Dr Adela Peter, HJFMRI senior district programme officer and Methadone Focal Person said SETA was initiated in 2017 serving 400 addicted youths in Mbeya Region.

Dr Peter said that methadone medication is also offered to inmates who are in prisons. She said the foundation works closely with the government at various levels as well as partners for purposes of achieving the goal of eradicating HIV/Aids by 2030.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report names the common illegal drugs used in Africa as khat, heroin, cocaine and cannabis.

Drug abuse results in economic, social and health effects including; mental retardation, lung diseases, heart diseases and HIV, disorders in adolescence, young adults and the general public.

The UNODC world drug report 2022 indicates that around 284 million people aged 15-64 used drugs worldwide in 2020, a 26 per cent increase over the previous decade.

Globally, the report estimates that 11.2 million people worldwide were injecting drugs. Around half of them were living with hepatitis C, 1.4 million were living with HIV, and 1.2 million were living with both.

Climate change mitigation starts in the kitchen

By Guardian Correspondent

CLEAN cooking plays a vital role in addressing the impact of climate change. According to statistics, high efficiency modern stoves can decrease fuel consumption by 30-60 per cent, leading to a reduction in greenhouse gases (GHG) and black carbon emissions. It is key to note that in order to achieve the global climate change objectives we have to address the prevailing cooking practices. By expanding the adoption of clean cooking solutions, we can tackle climate change while simultaneously making substantial improvements in health. Moreover, this approach advances women's economic empowerment and supports local economic development. President Samia Suluhu Hassan has set ambitious targets to ensure 80% of Tanzanians use clean cooking solutions by 2033. Our Correspondent interviewed the Senior Finance Specialist and CookFund Programme Manager, UNCDF Tanzania, Imanuel Muro on the role of the CookFund Programme in supporting this target and Tanzania's climate change commitment.

QUESTION: In December 2021 UNCDF signed an agreement to implement the CookFund for accelerated market roll-out of clean cooking solutions in the country. What is the CookFund program and please explain its relevance to climate change mitigation?

ANSWER: The CookFund Programme is funded by the European Union (EU) and



Clean energy key in addressing climate change

serves as a key component of the broader integrated approach for enhancing the sustainable cooking value chains programme, with the aim of contributing to Tanzania's climate change agenda. The main objective of the UNCDF as the main implementing partner and Fund Manager is to accelerate the market rollout of clean cooking solutions in Tanzania. This is achieved by providing support to enterprises and companies, including producers, importers, wholesalers, suppliers, and retail distributors of clean cooking solutions, in the five programme regions—Dar es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Dodoma, and Mwanza.

When we talk about climate change, there is a direct correlation between deforestation and cooking practices utilizing wood and charcoal. Currently, Tanzania

loses approximately 1% of its forest cover annually and over 80% of charcoal is consumed in urban areas. Additionally, with the majority of the population engaged in farming, the expansion of families adds more pressure on the land for agricultural activities. To mitigate this concerning trend, UNCDF as Fund Manager and implementer of the CookFund, we are deploying our expertise in sustainable development finance to stimulate the market development of affordable alternative cooking solutions to reach the end user.

Q: Alternative cooking solutions have been identified as part of global initiatives to achieve sustainable development and mitigate climate change. However, Tanzania

still faces challenges in adopting these solutions. Could you please highlight some of the challenges that are limiting the country's progress in taking this step?

A: There are several challenges that include user perception, accessibility, availability and affordability. Tanzania is the 31st largest country in the world with nearly 950 thousand square kilometers posing challenges to market penetration of cooking solutions to households. Also significant investment is required along the value chain from production, storage to transport.

The intervention by UNCDF provides qualifying enterprises in the value chain with grant funding and business development support to increase access, availability, and affordability to the end

user.

The issue of user perception involves safety concerns of alternative cooking solutions and taste preference for food cooked via wood and charcoal. There is also a misconception that clean cooking solutions are more expensive but the reality is that they are budget friendly and better for the environment.

Q: What are the primary alternative cooking technologies being implemented, and how can these solutions mitigate climate change?

A: In our context, several alternative cooking technologies are being implemented, including Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Natural Gas (NG), bio-ethanol, briquettes, electric pressure cookers (EPC) and improved cooking stoves. The CookFund also support innovative solutions for increasing access and affordability to the end-users. Our goal is to create an appropriate energy mix that fosters market growth, while acknowledging the complexities involved in market development.

The way we cook directly impacts the environment. The use of polluting fuels such as wood, charcoal, coal, and kerosene contribute to a significant portion of global emissions, similar to the shipping and aviation sectors, accounting for approximately 2% of total emissions. For instance, in Tanzania urban areas, the transition to clean cooking solutions is particularly important due to the presence of fast-food vendors, commonly known for their popular dishes like 'chipsi zege' and 'mama ntilie'. Moreover, a significant number of households still rely on charcoal stoves as their primary and secondary cooking methods at home.

Expanding the adoption of clean cooking solutions can play a vital role

in reducing direct emissions. Additionally, these solutions can prevent emissions resulting from forest degradation, support carbon removal efforts, preserve biodiversity, improve air quality, promote sustainable economic growth, and enhance food security.

Q: Could you provide more details on the mechanics that the UNCDF CookFund is employing to support enterprises and companies in promoting the adoption and distribution of alternative cooking solutions? Additionally, what is the expected impact on local communities?

A: Under the guidance of the CookFund Program Investment Committee, financial support to enterprises is through a combination of performance-based financing where funds are linked to results achieved by businesses in reaching the end user, and pre-financing working and investment capital. The different financing mechanisms will be provided as incentives and a phased approach for working and investment capital. The EU disbursed Euro 1.3 million earlier this year in grants to sixteen (16) enterprises and companies, fifteen (15) are in the pipeline and the ongoing call for applications runs until September 2023.

Companies will also receive business development services where applicable. CookFund is targeting 295 SME suppliers for financial and technical support and 3,340 end user SMEs. The anticipated program results include adoption by 580,000 households.

The multiplier effect of the CookFund intervention will result in the creation and support of 11,500 direct and indirect jobs and about 5 million MT reduction of carbon emissions.

Climate disasters have major consequences for informal economies

SYDNEY

In the Pacific Islands and many developing and emerging countries worldwide, the informal economy far outsizes the formal one, playing a vital role in the survival of urban and rural households and absorbing expanding working-age populations.

Informal business entrepreneurs and workers make up more than 60 percent of the labour force worldwide. But they are also the most exposed, with precarious assets and working conditions, to the economic shocks of extreme weather and climate disasters.

In 2016, Category 5 Cyclone Winston, the most ferocious cyclone recorded in the southern hemisphere, unleashed widespread destruction of Fiji's infrastructure, services and economic sectors, such as agriculture and tourism. And in March this year, Cyclones Judy and Kevin barreled through Vanuatu, an archipelago nation of more than 300,000 people, and its capital, Port Vila, leaving local tourism businesses with severe losses.

It is now three months since the disasters. But Dalida Borlasa, business owner of Yumi Up Upcycling Solutions, an enterprise at Port Vila's handicraft market, which depends on tourists, told IPS there had been some recovery, but not enough. "We have had two cruise ships visit in recent weeks,

but there have only been a few tourists visiting the market. We are not earning enough money for daily food. And other vendors at the market don't have enough money to replace their products that were damaged by the cyclones," she said.

Up to 80 percent of working-age people in some Pacific Island countries are engaged in informal income-generating activities, such as small-holder agriculture and tourism-dependent livelihoods. But in a matter of hours, cyclones can destroy huge swathes of crops and bring the tourism industry to a halt when international visitors cancel their holidays.

Climate change and disasters are central concerns to the Commonwealth, an inter-governmental organization representing 78 percent of all small nations, 11 Pacific Island states and 2.5 billion people worldwide. "The consequences of global failure on climate action are catastrophic, particularly for informal businesses and workers in small and developing countries. Just imagine the struggles of an individual who relies on subsistence and commercial agriculture for their livelihood. Their entire existence is hanging in the balance as they grapple with unpredictable weather patterns and unfavourable conditions that can wipe out their crops in a matter of seconds," Rt. Hon Patricia Scotland KC, Sec-



Rt. Hon Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, visited the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu in April to discuss climate justice and witnessed the impacts of Cyclones Judy and Kevin in the country. Photo Credit: Commonwealth Secretariat

retary-General of the Commonwealth, told IPS. "It's not simply a matter of economic well-being; their entire way of life is at stake. The fear and uncertainty they experience are truly daunting. But they are fighting. We must too."

The formal economy in many Pacific Island countries is too small and offers few employment opportunities. In Papua New Guinea, an estimated four million people are not in work, while the formal sector has only 400,000-500,000 job openings, according to PNG's Institute of National Affairs. And with more than 50 percent of the population of about 8.9 million aged below 25 years, the number of job seekers will

only rise in the coming years. And so, more than 80 percent of the country's workforce is occupied in self-generated small-scale enterprises, such as cultivating and selling fruit and vegetables.

But eight years ago, the agricultural livelihoods of millions were decimated when a record drought associated with the El Nino climate phenomenon ravaged the Melanesian country.

"Eighty-five percent of PNG's population are rural inhabitants who are dependent on the land for production of food and the sale of surplus for income through informal fresh produce markets. In areas affected by the 2015 drought, especially in

the highlands, the drought killed food crops, affecting food security," Dr Elizabeth Kopel of the Informal Economy Research Program at PNG's National Research Institute told IPS. "Rural producers also supply urban food markets, so when supply dwindled, food prices increased for urban dwellers," she added.

In Vanuatu, an estimated 67 percent of the workforce earn informal incomes, primarily in agriculture and tourism. On the waterfront of Port Vila is a large, covered handicraft market, a commercial hub for more than 100 small business owners who make and sell baskets, jewellery, paintings, wood-

carvings and artworks to tourists. The island country is a major destination for cruise ships in the South Pacific. In 2019, it received more than 250,000 international visitors. Highly exposed to the sea and storms, the market building, with the facilities and business assets it houses, bore the brunt of gale force winds from Cyclones Judy and Kevin on 1-3 March. Tables were broken, and many of the products stored there were destroyed. Thirty-six-year-old Myshlyn Narua lost most of the handmade pandanus bags she was planning to sell. The money she had saved helped to sustain her family in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, but it would not be enough to survive six months, she stated in a report on the disaster's impacts on market vendors compiled by Dalida Borlasa.

The country's tourism sector has suffered numerous climate-induced economic shocks in recent years. In 2015, Cyclone Pam left losses amounting to 64 percent of GDP. Another Cyclone, Harold, in 2020 added further economic losses to the recession across the region triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"To address the climate emergency and protect the lives and livelihoods of people, particularly those in the informal sector, countries must fulfil their commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement. They must work to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and provide the promised US\$100 billion per year in climate finance," said the Commonwealth Secre-

tary-General. She added that climate-vulnerable nations should also be eligible for debt relief. Meanwhile, the Commonwealth Secretariat is working with member countries to improve their access to global funding for climate projects. And it is calling for reform of the global financial architecture to improve access to finance for lower-income countries that need it the most.

At the same time, the International Labour Organization predicts that the informal economy will continue to employ most Pacific Islanders, and the imperative now is to develop the sector and improve its resilience.

In PNG, the government has acknowledged the significance of the informal sector and developed national policy and legislation to grow its size and potential. Its long-term strategy is to improve the access of entrepreneurs to skills training, communications, technology and finance and encourage diversity and innovation within the sector. Currently, 98 percent of informal enterprises in the country are self-funded, with people often seeking loans from informal sources. The government's goal is to see informal enterprises transition into higher value-added small and medium-sized businesses and to see the number of these businesses grow from about 50,000 now to 500,000 by 2030.

In Port Vila, Borlasa and her fellow entrepreneurs would like to see their existing facilities made more climate resilient before they face the next cyclone. She suggested that stronger window and door shutters be fitted to the market building and the floor raised and strengthened to stop waves and storm surges penetrating.

Looking ahead, the economic forecast is for GDP growth in all Pacific Island countries this year and into 2024 after three difficult years of the pandemic, reports the World Bank. Although, the economic hit of the cyclones is likely to result in a decline in growth to 1 percent in Vanuatu this year. But the real indicator of economic well-being for many Pacific islanders will be resilience and prosperity in the informal economy.

IPS UN Bureau Report



More than 80 percent of people in Papua New Guinea live in rural areas and are sustained by informal business activities, especially the smallholder growing and selling of fresh produce. Credit: Catherine Wilson/IPS

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 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Challenges, opportunities towards cashless payment in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

Elvis Minja (not real name) had 220,000/- on his mobile money account, and he wanted to purchase some stuffs valued 200,000/- in one of the supermarkets in town.

He decided to withdraw the money from a mobile money agent, the transaction which cost him nearly 5,000/- as cost of withdrawing, which included the mobile network transaction fees and government levy.

After withdrawing cash from the agent, his mobile money account network had the remaining balance of 15,000/-.

Few hours, Minja went to the supermarket to purchase the stuffs he wanted, and went back home, without knowing that, he would have served his 5,000/- and remain with 20,000/- into his mobile money account, by using "lipa kwa simu" services at the supermarket instead of cash.

Like Minja, Mohammed Yusuf (35) an employee of a private company in Dar es Salaam has a habit of using cash in doing purchases at the supermarkets and stores rather than a bank's visa card or mobile money.

"I can't purchase goods at the supermarket using my visa card, because I don't trust technology over the safety of

my money," he said.

"Even if I have money in my bank account or mobile account, I rather withdraw first from the mobile money agent or bank's ATM for paying my purchases."

Yusuf said he doesn't care what he has been losing money from withdrawing cash for purchases payment, because this is habitual to him; unless he is assured over the security of the technology.

Minja and Yusuf are among of millions of Tanzanians whom unknowingly, lost their money unnecessarily due to their habits of purchasing goods and services using costly and risky cash, rather than cheaper and safer digital payment systems.

According to Visa International, nine out of ten Tanzanians are purchasing goods and services using cash, rather than cheaper and safer digital channels, which are available all over the country; specifically Points of Sale (PoS) or mobile money payment channels.

Cash transactions accounts for 92 percent of personal purchases among Tanzanians, and only 8 percent are made through digital payment channels, lower than the global benchmark of at least 50 percent of the GDP.

Despite of having sufficient digital payment infrastructures, their use in Tanzania is



Visa International country manager Salma Ingabire

lower than those of the neighbouring countries including Kenya where the rate is 55 percent of the GDP and Rwanda at 33 percent; although Tanzania is ahead of Uganda and Burundi.

Tanzania has proven to have an appetite for digital payment, primarily through mobile. The mobile money penetration is high with 40 million subscribers. The market is expected to reach \$216.4 billion by 2024.

Apart from advancing financial inclusion, digital payments reduce the cost of providing financial services to the poor, increase safety and convenience; reduce government expenditure associated with printing and distribution

of currency.

Visa International country manager Salma Ingabire told The Guardian in an interview recently that Tanzania has a long way to go, when it comes into realizing its goal of promoting cashless economy.

She mentioned some of the challenges facing the realization of cashless economy; include high costs of transactions, public trust on digital payment channels and perceptions among business communities, when it comes into the use of digital payment, specifically banks Visa debit cards.

She said the surcharge of 2.5 percent charged by seller of goods and services when it comes into paying using Visa

card, also discourages the adoption of digital payment culture.

Bank of Tanzania (BoT), Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and other stakeholders have been striving to promote the use of digital channels on payments, but the adoption by Tanzanians has remained very low.

"For the past five years, we have seen a huge change in digital landscape in Tanzania, as a country but not only the country, but across the region for various accesses including fintechs," she said.

She said Tanzania being one of the Visa key markets, with large population across the East African Community (EAC), presents a lot of oppor-

tunities for both the country and stakeholders that want to work in the market.

"What we have seen for our side which is a result of what we have done with government, regulator and our partners in the market over the past five years, we have seen a tremendous growth in purchases using visa cards," she said.

"In the last five years, the purchase percentage was less than five percent, today we are about 12 percent of the total volume in this market. I really want to commend the partners we are working together; the banks, financial institutions, a few fintechs we are working with in the market, and most importantly, the regulator that has been regulating the market progressively through financial inclusion policy," she said.

She said with the higher penetration of mobile telecom in Tanzania, offers opportunity for Visa to work with MNOs and Fintechs that have been providing solutions through mobile, while supporting mobile apps.

"The partnership is what we are doing and we want fintechs, mobile network operators to be part of our network," she said.

The government announced recently that will in the next financial year direct more resources in creating conditions for cashless economy and wid-

er financial inclusion.

Supporting fintechs

The Visa country manager said as fintech is an integral part of payment technology, because are coming up with financial solutions that are solving the real problems in the societies, the global company is mostly focusing on working with fintechs.

"Visa has done everything possible to accommodate fintechs in the network. We have different programmes such as Visa everywhere initiative where we are calling different fintechs across the region that have come up with solutions in solving social problems and we are trying to fund them and identify them," she said.

"We enable them to come to us as to be part of Visa network."

Through Visa Everywhere, the company has also allocated funds to support young developers through call of applications every year.

She said the company also has another initiative on SMEs to enable them to better manage their businesses through providing them with business solutions.

Digital security

As cyber threat remain a major concern, Ingabire said Visa International is providing solutions to banks and financial institutions, fintechs to ensure secure e-commerce.

EU's carbon taxation could cut yearly GDP by \$25bn in Africa

LONDON

A report underlines that the European carbon tax could severely penalize African countries, most of which lack the financial and technological resources to rapidly decarbonize their heavy industries.

The European Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), applicable to seven economic sectors from 2026, could make Africa lose \$25 billion yearly, according to a report published, on May 9, by the African Climate Foundation (ACF) and the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, a research center hosted by the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Entitled "Implications for African Countries of a carbon border adjustment mechanism in the EU", the report points out that this mechanism, better known as the European carbon tax, is both a means of achieving the target of a 55 percent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2035 (compared with 1990 levels) and a trade defense measure.

It aims to level the playing field between companies in the European Union (EU) and those in third countries by assigning a carbon price to certain imported products.

The CBAM is designed to complement the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS), which applies to all EU member states as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway since 2005.

The EU ETS obliges European companies to acquire several GHG emission allowances corresponding to the actual amount of CO₂ or equivalent gases they emit, to decarbonize their production processes. To avoid relocations caused by the absence of carbon taxation on imports, the EU decided to subject imported products to the same



carbon price imposed on goods produced in the European area.

A 3-year transition period

The CBAM will initially apply to seven sectors (cement, steel, iron, aluminum, fertilizers, electricity, and hydrogen) and expand gradually to other sectors. The European carbon tax will become applicable on October 1, 2023, with a three-year transition period during which only reporting obligations will apply. Payments will only be re-

quired from 2026.

To estimate the impact of this tax on African economies, the African Climate Foundation and the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa have used models that take into account several data, including the price of carbon, products exported to the EU, the GDP of African countries and their carbon emissions.

The models are based on two carbon prices. The first price is €40 (\$43) per ton and the sec-

ond, which is more realistic and the 2022 average, is €87 (\$93.6) per ton.

Based on those prices, several scenarios were developed. At 40 euros per ton, the European border carbon adjustment mechanism applied to the seven sectors concerned in the first phase would result in a 3.99 percent drop in African exports to the EU and a 0.58 percent decline in the continent's GDP. At 2021 GDP levels, this

equates to an annual decline of around \$16 billion in Africa's GDP.

LDCs are particularly vulnerable

One of the reasons Africa is so vulnerable to the CBAM is that the EU is a major market for African products. The EU absorbs around 26 percent of African fertilizer exports, 16 percent of iron and steel exports, 12 percent of aluminum exports, 12 percent of cement exports, and 33.1 percent of manufactured goods exports.

In the scenario based on a carbon price being around €87 per ton, the European carbon tax would cause a 5.75 percent drop in African exports to the EU, and cut the continent's GDP by 0.91 percent. At 2021 GDP levels, this equates to a fall of \$25 billion in revenues yearly.

Another scenario assumes the extension of the European carbon tax to all economic sectors and carbon priced at €87 per ton. Under that scenario, African exports to the EU would fall by 7.13 percent, and the continent's GDP would be cut by \$31 billion yearly.

Africa is home to 33 of the world's 46 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and the report points out that these countries will be the hardest hit by the European carbon tax, mainly due to their very limited financial and technological capacity to decarbonize their production processes. There is, therefore, the need to initiate a dialogue on the most appropriate ways of reducing the negative impact of the European carbon adjustment mechanism on African economies, and on LDCs in particular.

Russian rouble recovers over high oil prices

MOSCOW

The Russian rouble recovered from a more than five-week low against the dollar to firm marginally on Monday, supported by higher oil prices and companies' dividend plans after Russia said it had repelled an offensive by Ukrainian forces.

At 0745 GMT, the rouble was 0.1 percent stronger against the dollar at 81.44, having hit 81.92 in early trade, its lowest since April 27. It had gained 0.4 percent to trade at 87.08 versus the euro and firmed 0.4 percent against the yuan to 11.43.

Russia said on Monday its forces had thwarted a major Ukrainian offensive at five points along the front in the Ukrainian region of Donetsk and killed hundreds of troops, while Kyiv accused Moscow of spreading lies.

While geopolitical risk could hamper the rouble, the currency was buoyed by other factors.

FX sales by Russian firms including oil major Lukoil, which is accumulating cash for dividend payments, should buttress the rouble.

"For the week we will likely see the dollar-rouble pair go below the 80 mark," said Promsvyazbank analyst Egor Zhilnikov. "The main support for the rouble could come from Lukoil's market activity on the backdrop of the company's dividend payments."

Brent crude oil, a global benchmark for Russia's main export, was up 1.8 percent at \$77.48 a barrel.

Saudi Arabia on Sunday pledged a deep cut to its output in July on top of a broader OPEC+ deal to limit supply into 2024 as the group seeks to boost flagging oil prices.

Russian stock indexes were higher.

The dollar-denominated RTS index was up 0.2 percent to 1,053.5 points. The rouble-based MOEX Russian index was 0.2 percent higher at 2,723.5 points.

Digital marketing: Marketing in an augmented reality

Where do we see Augmented in the next 5 years? Or even 10 to 15 years from now.

Well it is the next digital platform and every 3 or 5 years we experience this shift or transition in computing platforms, for example the last digital shift was from desktop to mobile and next shift will likely be from Mobile to Metaverse as it is expected to be the future of social technology.

In a marketing perspective you will be able to do things that you will not be able to do in the physical world as you will be (or with people) in a virtual world. Two people can be in the same place at the same time while being in 2 different places or cities or countries.

Indeed it is a rich experience, and one not to miss out on.

But from a consumer perspective it changes for example how children might study, how people might train in their roles, how one could have experience of being in places there would not have been able to visit or learning and going back into history to learn about say the history of Tanzania,

Egypt, Rome etc. like you were there. Imagine walking down the streets of Dar es Salaam say in the 1800s, it will be an incredible experience.

If you go into the business arena with augmented reality just imagine trying on a Gucci outfit or driving a Ferrari or using the latest Apple phone all from the comfort of your home while getting the real experience of that product or service. If you have plans to go on holiday but you cannot make up your mind on which hotel to choose, with such devices you can visit the hotels and view the rooms to help make your decision.

How will Marketers Play?

First and foremost, Marketers need to be curious, they need to want to learn and embrace this space and its technology. Basically, a must "try" attitude, play the game get involved that's what makes the difference. There is a mobile app called Spark AR that allows people to create personalized augmented reality effects then be able to publish them on Instagram - it is like your own personalized production studio you can make 2D photos, change back-



Alley Mtatya (pictured) is the founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics based in Dar es Salaam

grounds, filters or simply change the world around you.

For marketers or businesses it allows them to extend their personal brands with a unique touch and grow audiences because their customers will really be excited about this new experience and its space.

Augmented Reality will be a Continuum

Currently we can access such an experience via Oculus and many other apps already in the market but as technology moves forward one will be able to simply wear augmented glasses experience virtual reality (if you want to be totally immersed), sometimes you may want to use a computer or a phone.

As for marketers, developers or businesses capability of reaching clients right in front of their eyes and interacting with your products will give a whole new meaning. On the marketing aspect questions are yet to be raised, will advertisements still come in the form of search engine ads or banners ads or full video ads before and after the augmented reality experience? Consumer privacy,

data protection and so forth.

Furthermore, we as Tanzanians are we prepared to embrace such technology? Are Tanzanian businesses ready to enter this space? Does it make a beneficial use case for businesses that are ready to invest in such technology? If you think out loud Tanzania has magnificent resources and tourism space to market to the world. What about education and spending on local expertise to master this space? Will it be the same old path sleep now and learn later or will we move to investing in our own youth for this space?

So I say, There's that old saying that, "You judge a tree by its fruits. What are your fruits?" Think about it.

Ecobank introduces trade hub to promote intra-African trade

LOMÉ

Ecobank Group, the leading Pan-African banking Group, has unveiled its 'Ecobank Single Market Trade Hub' as part of its commitment to promoting intra-African trade.

The Ecobank Single Market Trade Hub (the "Trade Hub") is live, with over 300 businesses from 22 countries having signed onto the digital platform so far.

The Trade Hub connects traders across Africa, within the 1.4 billion people single market framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The Ecobank Single Market Trade Hub is a cutting-edge digital platform, which serves as an exchange and information repository, designed to respond to the evolving trading needs of SMEs and corporates within Africa's single market.

The Trade Hub reduces the asymmetry in trade information and in this connection, leverages Ecobank's wide client base and network advantage, through its presence in 35 African markets.

Jeremy Awori, Chief Executive Officer, Ecobank Group, said: "AfCFTA has created an immense opportunity for African businesses. As the pan-African bank with the most extensive coverage of Africa, Ecobank is perfectly placed to provide trade, information and payment solutions to support SMEs and corporates seeking to capitalize on the single market. The Ecobank Single Market Trade Hub is a new and remarkable addition to our portfolio of omni-channels, empowering businesses to thrive within Africa's single market."

The Trade Hub offers the following essential features and services:

MyTradeHub: An online match-making platform, enabling importers and exporters to create their company profiles, exhibit their goods and services, and connect with buyers and suppliers across Africa.

AfCFTA expertise: A valuable repository of knowledge and information on the African Continental Free Trade Area, to help SMEs and corporates to familiarize themselves with the single market and ways to expand their trade into new African markets.

Trade and Payment Solutions: A gateway into Ecobank's full range of products and digital solutions, including trade finance and services, cash management solutions (including RapidCollect), domestic and cross-border payments, investment banking, Capex financing, and more.

Souleymane Diagne, Group Head Trade, Ecobank Group, added: "The AfCFTA has revolutionised the African business landscape and the Ecobank Single Market Trade Hub, within this context, is an enabler of intra-African trade through catalysing partnerships and facilitating African businesses' access to new markets. Using the MyTradeHub feature, importers and exporters can upload their profile and showcase their goods and services online to find buyers or source them from suppliers within the continent. Combining the matchmaking capabilities of MyTradeHub, extensive AfCFTA information resources, and a seamless access to Ecobank's comprehensive suite of financial solutions and digital channels, the Trade Hub will help businesses thrive within the AfCFTA and maximise their value-addition across regional corridors."



Jeremy Awori, Chief Executive Officer, Ecobank Group

TBS urges producers to use free standards verification services

By Correspondent Cheji

Bakari, Tanga

TANZANIA Bureau of Standards (TBS) has called on entrepreneurs and other goods producers in Tanga region to embrace government's grant that offers free standards verification services, aims to empowering them to effectively compete and expanding their markets scope into East Africa territories and Africa at large.

TBS Northern Zone manager, Engineer Joseph Mwaipaja said made a call here while briefing to journalists who visited the bureau's pavilion at ongoing 10th TCCIA-Tanga Trade and Tourism Exhibition which is taking place at Mwahako grounds in Tanga city.

He said that, product classification is vital into devising a marketing strategy that helps to create effective customer-centric marketing strategies.

He explained that Tanga had recently become international trades gateway region after the government implement numerous strategic mega projects like improvement of Tanga Port and East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), by pointing out that the projects will be a game changer by bringing other entails opportunities by increasing high demands of goods henceforth those



Engineer Joseph Mwaipaja

entrepreneurs issued with certificate standards will pave the way to them to have vast chances to compete and sell more in East African markets.

He further explained that according to available data, until end of July this year, about 30 producers and business people of Tanga region will be offered certificates of standards verification by TBS. "These are great developments and give hopes and we TBS pledge to continue implementing programs of edu-

ating entrepreneurs on the importance of possess TBS verification certificates that will boost them to conduct their business competitively," he said.

Explaining, he said the presence of 10th TCCIA-Tanga Trade and Tourism Exhibition is potential platform that brought together both entrepreneurs and enterprises to exhibit their products as well as for TBS getting opportunities to easily reaches entrepreneurs, business people

and producers and educating them all matters concerned standards of their produced goods.

Earlier, Investment, Industries and Trade acting permanent secretary Conrad Millinga who official launched the exhibition on behalf of minister for Investment, Industries and Trade asked the business stakeholders to effectively use African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement that will progressively eliminate tariffs on intra-Africa trade, making it easier for African businesses to trade within the continent and benefit from growing African market by noting as for entrepreneurs to benefit with AfCFTA are supposed to use that grant to improve their products because quality is key to achieving a competitive edge as it promotes greater customer satisfaction.

On 13 December 2018 through AfCFTA East Africa partner states which are Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania agreed to make trade between them and with other countries cheaper, faster and more straightforward in a significant boost for economic integration in East Africa and continental trade facilitation.

The AfCFTA was founded in 2018, and on 9th September 2021, the Parliament of Tanzania ratified the Agreement.

Euro zone business activity growth declines during May

LONDON

Euro zone business activity was shored up last month by the bloc's dominant services industry offsetting a deepening decline in the manufacturing sector, according to a survey which also showed overall price pressures had abated.

HCOB's final Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global and seen as a good gauge of overall economic health, fell to a three-month low 52.8 in May from April's 54.1. While still comfortably above the 50 mark separating growth from contraction it was below a preliminary estimate for 53.3.

"Relatively resilient services activity growth should ensure that the euro zone regains some footing and shows a positive rate of expansion in the second quarter after GDP stagnated in the October-March period," said Cyrus de la Rubia, chief economist at Hamburg Commercial Bank.

A PMI covering the services sector dropped to 55.1 from April's one-year

high of 56.2, below the 55.9 flash reading. A manufacturing PMI released last week showed the downturn in factory activity deepened as demand slumped despite prices falling.

Overall cost pressures were lower in May and both the composite input and output prices indexes fell. The output index dropped to 56.4 from 56.8, its lowest since April 2021.

While that will likely be welcomed by policymakers at the European Central Bank who have yet to get inflation down to target it was largely down to factories reducing prices as services firms, closely watched by the ECB, increased their charges faster.

Despite that, demand for services continued to rise and firms increased headcount, albeit at a slower pace. The employment index dipped to 54.6 from April's 11-month high of 55.6.

"The services sector is being supported by the strong labour market, rising wages and a tourism sector that is flourishing throughout Europe," said de la Rubia.

Saudi Arabia shoulders burden to support oil market with extra cuts

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia will make an extra 1 million barrel-a-day oil supply cut in July, taking its production to the lowest level for several years after a slide in crude prices.

The bold move by the most important member of the OPEC+ coalition came at the cost of ceding ground to two key allies: Russia, which made no commitment to cut output deeper, and the United Arab Emirates, which secured a higher production quota for 2024. Oil prices advanced on Monday.

Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said he "will do whatever is necessary to bring stability to this market." As oil prices are hammered by a softer economic outlook, especially in China, achieving this means shouldering the burden of cuts. The rest of the 23-nation group offered no additional action to buttress the current market, but did pledge to maintain their existing cuts until the end of 2024.

The kingdom is doubling down after the previous round of curbs – agreed just two months ago – failed to deliver a sustained price rally. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries announced a surprise supply reduction of about 1.6 million barrels a day in early April, but since then weak economic data from China have weighed on oil futures, which fell 11% in New York in May.

West Texas Intermediate jumped almost 5% early in the session on



Monday before paring some gains to trade above \$73 a barrel. Global benchmark Brent climbed toward \$78 a barrel.

Next month's additional cut could be extended, but the Saudis will keep the market "in suspense" about whether this will happen, Prince Abdulaziz said. The minister has repeatedly sought to hurt bearish oil speculators, warning them to "watch out" in the buildup to Sunday's meeting.

"For the near term, crude prices

will largely depend on a test of wills," said Bob McNally, president of consultant Rapidan Energy Group and a former White House official. It will be a battle "between stability-seeking Saudi Arabia and bearish paper traders."

The Saudi effort to bolster the price of its most important export requires the sacrifice of further market share. Global oil demand is forecast to hit a record high this year, but the additional cuts announced on Sunday will bring Saudi production

to about 9 million barrels a day in July, the lowest since June 2021 when output was still recovering from the depths of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The main winner from the weekend's OPEC+ talks was the United Arab Emirates, which gets a boost to its production limit for next year at the expense of some African members, which were asked to give up part of their unused quotas. Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei thanked his colleagues for the increase and expressed the country's loyalty to

the cartel.

"We will always support OPEC and will always stay together," Al Mazrouei said. It was an important statement from a country that on at least one previous occasion threatened to leave the group if it didn't get a higher quota.

Russia, the second largest OPEC+ producer, wasn't required to make any additional cuts this year, but like other members it extended its existing curbs by 12 months to the end of 2024. Moscow has increasingly been

competing with its Middle East OPEC allies in Asian markets since Europe banned most imports of its oil. There have also been questions about whether it has fully implemented its pledged production cuts in recent months due to the high volumes of its exports.

The announcement of the OPEC+ deal was delayed by several hours as ministers haggled over the details. The most contentious point was the revision to the baselines against which the production cuts of several nations are measured. African nations Angola and Nigeria, which have struggled to meet their output targets almost since they were introduced three years ago, were the strongest holdouts, delegates said.

Even though the countries can't fully utilize their output quotas today, they were unwilling to give them up, delegates said. Several of them are seeking new investments to boost production in coming years and a restrictive OPEC+ output quota could undermine their attractiveness to foreign investors.

It was a bitter political pill for them to swallow and talks dragged on through late night sessions in Vienna hotels on Saturday and continued in the OPEC headquarters on Sunday. In the end, the impasse was resolved and the African countries agreed to lower output limits, subject to an independent review of their production capacities.

The other controversy of the meeting was that three news organizations, Bloomberg, Reuters and the Wall Street Journal, were barred from entering the OPEC headquarters in Vienna. Asked about the exclusion of journalists, Prince Abdulaziz referred the question to OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais. He offered no explanation for the decision.

France rolls out the red carpet for EV battery factories

PARIS

For French President Emmanuel Macron, it was a light-bulb moment.

In an ornate ballroom at the Palace of Versailles last July, the head of Taiwan's ProLogium took out a pair of scissors and cut one of its solid-state batteries the size of a credit card in half. The small bulb it was powering continued to shine.

Macron was amazed by the demonstration of the safety and durability of the next-generation technology many carmakers hope will soon power electric vehicles (EVs), according to two people at the meeting. "We'll make your life easier and help you set up shop here," he told ProLogium's Chief Executive Vincent Yang.

Ten months later, Macron and Yang stood side-by-side in Dunkirk to announce that ProLogium had picked the northern French port ahead of sites in Germany and the Netherlands for its first EV battery gigafactory outside Taiwan.

It is one of four such gigafactories Macron hopes will transform the poor, former coal mining area near Belgium into a hub for the EV battery industry, creating jobs and helping to put France at the forefront of Europe's energy transition.

IT DIDN'T HAPPEN BY CHANCE.

Interviews with 10 government officials and executives involved in the investment decisions show that France rolled out the red carpet, offering battery makers generous subsidies thanks to a relaxation of EU state aid rules for green energy projects - along with some personal lobbying by Macron.

The people said changes since Macron became president in 2017, such as cuts in corporate tax, measures to make hiring and firing easier, and reductions in a production tax based on the size of factories, also played a role in the decisions.

Besides ProLogium, China's Envision AESC, local startup Verkor and the ACC consortium including Mercedes and Stellantis are setting up gigafactories in the same area - and officials said France is courting Chinese EV giant BYD and Tesla to build car plants too.

"Results don't just fall from the sky," Macron told Reuters in Dunkirk. "It's in line with what we've been doing for six years. France is adapting to the world."

'RACE WITHIN EUROPE'

Automakers are racing to stay ahead



French President Macron visits the Dunkirk Urban Community offices, in Dunkerque

of rivals by producing cleaner vehicles, securing greater control over their supply chains and bringing plants making EV batteries - an industry dominated by Chinese, South Korean and Japanese firms - closer to their manufacturing sites.

At the same time, European governments have been fretting that the \$430 billion U.S. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which includes big tax subsidies to cut emissions while boosting domestic manufacturing, would divert investment to the United States at Europe's expense.

That's why France is presenting the conversion of its once-industrialised north into a gigafactory hub as a victory for European economic and manufacturing sovereignty in the face of stiff U.S. and Chinese competition.

But Macron's activism also highlights the growing rivalry between European governments to land high-profile investments from car companies and their suppliers.

"The president fights for Europe whenever possible. But it's also a race within

Europe," said a French diplomat familiar with Macron's thinking who declined to be named.

With the ProLogium deal and the inauguration of ACC's plant last month, Macron also hopes to show a disgruntled public that his business-friendly reforms are paying off, and shift the narrative away from months of protests over his decision to raise the retirement age.

At the moment, however, France lags well behind Germany when it comes to attracting battery makers.

Including ProLogium's 48 gigawatt-hour (GWh) plant, it has 169 GWh of planned or existing sites, way short of Germany on 545 GWh and Hungary with 215 GWh, according to a snapshot of projects co-authored by Heiner Heimes, an academic specialising in battery production at RWTH Aachen University in Germany.

PLAYING CATCH UP

But France is catching up, partly thanks to its largesse in funding projects upfront.

To bag the ProLogium solid-state battery plant, which is expected to involve a total investment of 5.2 billion euros and create 3,000 jobs over time, France offered incentives worth more than 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion), one source with knowledge of the deal told Reuters.

French officials and ProLogium executives declined to comment on the level of support as it is still pending European Commission approval and the final amount could differ.

For the 2.3 billion euro plant opened by ACC (Automotive Cells Company) - the battery manufacturer involving Franco-Italian carmaker Stellantis, German rival Mercedes and French energy company TotalEnergies - France provided about 840 million euros in subsidies, including funds for research and development, according to the finance ministry.

ACC plans to build two similar plants in Germany and Italy, with the help of 437 million euros and 370 million euros in public funds respectively, according to the German and Italian governments.

Ola Kaellenius, chief executive of Mercedes-Benz Group, said it was taking a region by region approach to ensure EV batteries were made near its auto manufacturing plants around the world - so having gigafactories in Europe was inevitable.

"Now that you have additional economic incentives on top of that, it is something you have to take into your business case calculation, there is no doubt about that," he told Reuters.

To roll out the public support France is using to entice battery makers, Macron lobbied Brussels to let EU member states match the kind of subsidies Washington is throwing at the EV industry under the IRA.

The EU agreed in February to loosen state aid rules, paving the way for France to unveil a green tax credit package, which can be worth up to 40% of a company's capital investment in wind, solar, heat-pump and battery projects.

"The usual level of support to major industrial companies is around 10 to 15%. Here, it's higher than usual," said Marc Mortureux, the head of the PFA French car lobby. "We're now at support levels in line with those of the U.S. IRA."

'A CHARMING GUY'

Xavier Bertrand, head of the region home to the battery hub, told Reuters it could fast-track projects in less than half the time it takes other French regions as it gets all the necessary approvals done in parallel, rather than one after the other.

France is also making a cash incentive of up to 5,000 euros for buyers of new electric cars conditional on the manufacturers meeting tough low-carbon standards, effectively shutting out many non-European carmakers using dirtier energy.

Still, the IRA almost threw ProLogium's investment in France off course, one French presidential adviser told Reuters.

In April this year, Macron advisers and ProLogium held a crunch meeting in Paris after the company said it needed a "little extra" to convince its board to invest in France.

According to the adviser, what sealed the deal was a promise by Macron that he would attend the signing ceremony in person, and give ProLogium a welcome publicity boost.

"Macron is a charming guy," ProLogium's Yang told Reuters, when asked about the French version of events. He added, though, that the cheap electricity from the nearby Gravelines nuclear power plant was just as important, if not more so.

French officials say the gigafactories are just one example of a country that is starting to open factories on its soil after two decades of offshoring to lower-cost sites - thanks to the government's supply-side reforms.

Some opposition politicians say, however, that Macron is just exposing France to the whims of companies that are playing governments off each other to win more public money.

"Dunkirk has Chinese and Taiwanese investors," Fabien Roussel, head of the French Communist Party told Reuters. "These shareholders can pull out for a number of reasons. What happens if the state has no guarantees or a share in the business?"

WORLD

McCarthy lauds US debt ceiling deal, Republicans divided

WASHINGTON

US House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy on Sunday lauded the debt ceiling deal he negotiated with Democratic President Joe Biden, but a prominent House conservative warned that McCarthy has "credibility issues" that may prompt some Republicans to seek his ouster as the top Republican in Congress.

Representative Ken Buck, a member of the far-right House Freedom Caucus, said the deal had failed to deliver the deeper spending cuts that McCarthy had promised his party when he ran for speaker in January.

The debt ceiling deal keeps fiscal 2024 spending flat at this year's levels, allowing a 1 percent increase for fiscal 2025. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that the deal will cut deficits by about \$1.5 trillion over a decade

from its current-law baseline forecast.

House Republicans in late April passed a bill demanding \$4.8 trillion deficit reduction over 10 years in exchange for a debt ceiling hike, drawing Biden into negotiations that led to the deal's Senate approval on Thursday.

Asked whether the Freedom Caucus would seek a vote to oust McCarthy in response to the deal, Buck told CNN's State of the Union program: "I don't know if the motion to vacate is going to happen right away. I do know that Speaker McCarthy has credibility issues."

To win the speakership in a fractious election process in January, McCarthy agreed to rule changes that allow just one member to force a vote to oust him, making him unusually vulnerable to hardline Republican conservatives.

Other Republicans rushed to McCarthy's defense a day after Biden signed into law the legislation that suspends the



US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy speaks in the Rayburn Room following the House vote on Fiscal Responsibility Act at the US Capitol in Washington, DC on May 31, 2023. AFP

debt ceiling until Jan. 1, 2025, averting what would have been a disastrous US payments default that was expected on Monday.

"Speaker McCarthy's position is absolutely safe," US Representative Garret Graves, a Louisiana Republican who helped negotiate the debt ceiling deal, told CBS' "Face the Nation".

McCarthy told Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures" that the deal marks a rare reduction in non-defense discretionary spending, prevents the hiring of more Internal Revenue Service agents next year and increases funding for defense and veterans.

"It's not perfect but it is a beginning of turning the ship" on spending, he said. "Now we've got to do the rest of the job."

Deal passes in divided congress

Buck said that McCarthy promised Republicans that he would cut spending levels to fiscal 2022 levels, not the higher 2023 levels agreed in the deal, making the deal a loss the party.

To regain conservatives' trust, Buck added that McCarthy's future actions will need to "involve spending responsibly" and stop relying on the votes of Democrats as he did to pass the debt ceiling suspension. The deal was approved by 149 House Republicans

and 165 Democrats, strong majorities of both parties. Roughly half the 76 Republican no votes were from the ultra-conservative Freedom Caucus, while 46 Democrats, mostly progressives, opposed the deal, saying it enforced stringent work requirements on poor families who receive food assistance or monetary aid and others who face obstacles to employment.

They also criticized provisions that could lead to ending the student debt payment pause for younger people, and the streamlining of approvals for fossil fuel industry projects opposed by environmentalists, two key constituencies for Democrats.

On Friday, Fitch Ratings it would keep the US top tier credit rating on "negative watch" until the third quarter due to concerns over repeated brinkmanship over the debt ceiling, along with rising debt and deficits.

Asked if she was concerned about a ratings downgrade, White House budget director Shalanda Young told CNN that the Biden administration does not control Fitch's assessment process, but has warned about the potential costs of debt ceiling brinkmanship.

"It's bad for the country. It's bad for the global economy," added Young, who helped negotiate the deal.

Virgin Atlantic expands in India, to start London-Bengaluru flight from March 31 next year

NEW DELHI

BRITISH airline, Virgin Atlantic, yesterday announced its plans to launch a new direct flight between London Heathrow and Bengaluru.

The daily flight service will be started on March 31, 2024, for both customer and cargo operations, the airline said in a statement. The new flight will start in the upcoming summer schedule of 2024, and the airline said that it will offer almost 500,000 seats in a year between the UK and India.

The airline at present operates regular flights between London Heathrow, and Delhi and Mumbai.

Bengaluru is considered as a major IT hub, and the airline said the direct flight services will further add to this fast-growing city with the UK.

"We couldn't be happier to be expanding our offering in India, it's a destination our people and customers love to fly to," said Juha Jarvinen, Chief Commercial Offer, Virgin Atlantic.

"Known as India's Silicon Valley, the rapidly growing city of Bengaluru represents an incredibly exciting opportunity for us as we continue to expand our India offering, offering increased connectivity for customers not only between the city and the UK but to key tech hubs in the US including Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles."

Besides flight to Bengaluru, Virgin Atlantic announced that it will launch a seasonal winter service from London Heathrow to Dubai starting from October 28, 2023, and Manchester to Las Vegas egas beginning on June 3, 2024.

ANI

China to further relax market access for foreign investors

CHINA will continue to push for the relaxation of market access for foreign investors, renewing efforts to lure foreign capitals and expand high-level opening-up, the Ministry of Commerce said yesterday.

Zhou Qiang, director of the department of market system development of the Ministry of Commerce, said China will appropriately shorten the negative list for foreign investment to further cancel or relax restrictions on market access. It will align with high-standard international economic and trade rules to deepen reforms in relevant areas and steadily advance institutional opening-up.

"The unified national market we are constructing will be a globally-oriented and fully open market, which will undoubtedly provide a better environment and a bigger platform for various market entities, including foreign companies," he told a news briefing on Monday.

In the next step, he said the country will actively promote the construction of a unified national market and make greater efforts to attract and utilize foreign capital.

More efforts will also be made to better serve foreign companies and create a world-class environment for foreign investment.

He added that areas of interest to many foreign investors, such as government procurement, bidding and standards formulation will be key focuses for improvement.

Xinhua

We are absolutely not trying to establish NATO in Indo-Pacific- US Defence Secretary

NEW DELHI

THE United States is not trying to establish the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the Indo-Pacific region, Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin said yesterday adding that the nation will continue to work with like-minded countries to ensure that the region remains free and open.

While answering a media query over the Chinese defence minister's statement, Austin said at a press conference, "We are absolutely not trying to establish a NATO in the Indo-Pacific. We continue to work with like-minded countries to ensure that the region remains free and open so that commerce can prosper and ideas can continue to be exchanged." "We will continue that work. Certainly, India and us share the same vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific," he added.

This came in response to



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh holds a bilateral meeting with United States Secretary of Defence Lloyd J. Austin, at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi on Monday. Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan and the Defence Secretary, Giridhar Aramane are also seen. ANI

China's statement on NATO. Earlier, Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu warned against NATO-like military alliances in the Asia-Pacific, saying they would plunge the region into a "whirlpool" of conflict, Channel News Asia reported.

Addressing the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore, he said, "In essence, attempts to push for NATO-like (alliances) in the Asia-Pacific is a way of kidnapping regional countries and exaggerating conflicts and confrontations, which will only plunge the Asia-Pacific into a whirlpool of disputes and conflicts."

Austin arrived in India on Sunday and is currently on a four-nation visit. India is the third stop, after visiting Japan and Singapore.

Meanwhile, on the probability of the misadventures that can take place in the India-China Line of Actual Control (LAC), Austin said, "In terms of what could happen along

the LAC, I won't get into any kind of speculation, but a number of things can always happen... but want to make sure that we do everything we can to ensure that things don't happen. And part of that is being able to communicate with great powers, and with each other to prevent things from incidents escalating out of control. So I won't... to speculate as to whether or not there'll be additional misadventure, but I certainly hope not."

Earlier today, Austin and Union Minister Rajnath Singh held the bilateral meeting and delegation-level talks where they concluded a roadmap for Defence Industrial Cooperation which will identify opportunities for the co-development of new technologies and co-production of existing and new systems as well as facilitate increased collaboration between defence start-up ecosystems of the two countries. ANI

US, Saudi Arabia urge cease-fire in Sudan

KHARTOUM / CAIRO

SAUDI Arabia and the United States on Sunday urged the Sudanese Army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) to reach a new cease-fire to end hostilities.

Saudi Arabia and the United States remain steadfast in their commitment to the people of Sudan and call upon the parties to agree to and effectively implement a new cease-fire, with the aim of building to a permanent cessation of hostilities," the two countries said in

a joint statement posted by the US Embassy in Sudan on Twitter.

Despite the formal pause in the Jeddah talks and the expiration of the five-day extension to the previous week-long cease-fire agreement on Saturday, the delegations from the two warring parties remain in Jeddah, the statement said.

It added that the facilitators stood ready to resume formal talks and reminded the parties of their obligations under the May 11 Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Ci-

vilians of Sudan.

On Thursday, Saudi Arabia and the United States announced the suspension of the Jeddah peace talks between the Sudanese Army and the RSF.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly armed clashes between the army and the RSF in the capital Khartoum and other areas since April 15, leaving more than 800 people dead and at least 1.6 million displaced, according to UN statistics.

The Egyptian president and his Mauritanian

counterpart called on Sudan's warring parties to reach an immediate cease-fire to end the country's deadly clashes, Egypt's official news agency MENA reported on Sunday.



Saudi Arabia and the United States announced the suspension of the Jeddah peace talks between the Sudanese

ETAWAH

UTTAR Pradesh minister Sanjay Nishad on Sunday weighed in on the completion of 9 years of the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi (pictured) at the Centre, claiming whatever was promised have been fulfilled.

Addressing a press conference at Etawah on Sunday, Nishad invoked the phrase "9 saal bemisaal (9 unprecedented years)", adding,

"We are taking our achievements over the course of our 9 years in power at the Centre to the people. We fulfilled what we had promised it is now our responsibility to let the people know about it." He added, "Our

We fulfilled what we had promised - UP minister

government (at the Centre) is consistently doing good work, which is why we won the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls as well as the (UP) Assembly polls last year hands down. We are on course to winning the next year's Lok Sabha elections as well.

Modi-Ji has allotted funds to the tune of Rs 26,000 crores for fishermen. The government is constantly carrying out development work for the community."

On the Opposition's argument that the Centre was hoodwinking the people with its mislead-

ing claims of development, Nishad said, "They should first come clean on what they did for our backward classes in the last 30 years. We have set up a commission for them. They did no such thing when in power."

Hitting out at former chief minister and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, he said, "Akhilesh Yadav had been the chief minister of the state and is the national president of his party. He should list out what all he did during his years in power."

"They (Opposition leaders) took an oath to serve the people



as members of the Parliament and the legislative assembly but only believe in staging walkouts. This shows who is misleading the people. All communities are with Modi-Ji. Our governments at the Centre and the state have worked for all sections without any discrimination," Nishad said.

On the Opposition demand-

ing the resignation of Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in light of the horrific triple train accident in Odisha's Balasore, which left 275 passengers dead and more than 1,000 injured, the state minister said, "Tell me if anyone from the Opposition resigned, owning moral responsibilities for such mishaps, during their tenure in power."

Our Prime Minister visited the accident spot as well as the injured in hospital. Name any other PM who did something similar. The Opposition leaders should refrain from resorting to such cheap politics in this hour

of grief. Instead, they should help us ensure that no such incident takes place in future. The number of such accidents has actually gone down since we came to power."

On the ongoing wrestlers' protest and the ultimatum by the khap panchayats to act against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who faces allegations of sexual harassment, Nishad said, "The matter is in court and we should exercise patience and await its verdict."

On the statement by Rash-

triya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's that Muslims were safest in India, the UP minister said, "We are now free of polarisation, Article 370 and communal riots. Muslims have now identified parties which indulges in the politics of appeasement for votes."

There are more Muslims than there are members in the SC and ST communities. Our government (at the Centre) provided houses, Ayushman cards (under scheme to provide health insurance to people who are deprived of the secondary and tertiary care services) and food to people from disadvantaged communities without any discrimination." ANI

UN food programme funding cuts to worsen Palestinians' plight

HONG KONG

THE impending suspension of vital UN food assistance to 200,000 people in the West Bank and Gaza due to funding shortages could worsen the sad plight of Palestinians and low-income families already struggling to get by amid the ongoing conflict, analysts said.

Continued Israeli aggression toward occupied Palestinian territories has prevented Palestinians from "investing in their lands" and contributing to economic development, they added.

Speaking at a United Nations Security Council meeting via video conference on May 24, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland said that without new funding, the United Nations World Food Program, or WFP, will have to suspend cash assistance to 200,000 Palestinians from this month.

The WFP supported 350,246 people in need in April. Of those, 277,246 received cash-based transfers in the form of a monthly e-voucher to the value of \$12.40 per person.

However, the WFP also highlighted that "due to limited donor funding" it was forced to reduce the standard value of the monthly e-vouchers from \$12.40 to \$10.30 per person from May 1.

"There is no time to spare," Wennesland told the UN meeting. He also warned that the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) will not have the resources to deliver core services as soon as September.

Without increased funding "we will face serious humanitarian and, potentially, security challenges", he added.

"I think this time the threat is real and clear. The low-income people will be suffering because the international community reduced their financial

aid to the poor people in Palestine. Most of the people who are going to suffer from this are mainly in Gaza where the Israeli siege continues year by year," said Mohammad Abualrob, an assistant professor and chairperson of the Department of Media at Birzeit University in the West Bank.

"In Gaza and the West Bank, the checkpoints, the siege in Gaza, all kinds of demolition of houses in the West Bank, and (Israel's) full control of Area C are preventing the Palestinians from investing in their lands," he added.

The 1995 Oslo II Accord established the administrative division of the Palestinian West Bank into areas A, B, and C. Area A is administered by the Palestinian Authority and Area C by Israel, while Area B is where the Palestinian Authority exercises administrative control but shares security control with Israeli authorities.

According to the latest "Multi-Sectorial Needs Assessment of the State of Palestine 2022", published in the WFP Palestine country brief in April, one-third of the Palestinian population, or 1.84 million people, suffer from food insecurity. Of them, 1.1 million are severely food insecure, with 90 percent of those people living in Gaza.

In Gaza and the West Bank, the WFP said 73,000 people were reached through quarterly in-kind distributions - with 2,310 megatons of wheat flour, chickpeas, olive oil, lentils, salt and vegetable oil handed out.

Abualrob said that the Israeli siege in Gaza had also pushed the unemployment rate past 50 percent among Palestinian youth and any reduction of financial aid to low-income people "will cause more suffering to Palestinian families, mainly because of Israeli procedures".

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the un-



Palestinians sit in a car after they received aid from a United Nations food distribution center in Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip on Aug 8, 2018. AFP

employment rate among labor force participants in Palestine reached 24 percent in 2022, while total labor underutilization - which also includes underemployment - reached 31 percent.

The number of unemployed was 367,000 in 2022 with 239,000 of these in the Gaza Strip and 128,100 in the West Bank. Total labor underutilization was 500,000 including 56,000 discouraged jobseekers and 22,000 in time-related underemployment.

According to the International Labour Organization, time-related underemployment refers to all persons in employment who want to work additional hours and are available to do so but have worked less than a speci-

fied hours threshold.

The PCBS also noted that the unemployment rate for youth graduates in the West Bank reached 28.6 percent compared to 73.9 percent in Gaza Strip.

Ayman Yousef, a professor of international relations at the Arab American University in Jenin in the West Bank, said that food security in the Palestinian territories, especially in Gaza, "is really in bad shape".

"I think there's more suffering (in Gaza) than (in the) West Bank. These kinds of stories are very much available among Palestinian refugees. As you know, Gaza it is a community of refugees, affecting both men and women, as well as children," said Yousef.

"But at the same time, I feel the WFP,

which is functioning under the UN, is using these stories to galvanize and collect some funds from different international actors, or countries," he added.

Yousef said the situation may worsen, but at the same time, he also lamented the lack of political initiative for the region.

During the UN Security Council meeting on May 24, members of the UN Security Council urged all parties to observe the recent cease-fire and voiced alarm over continued violence, settlement activities and inflammatory rhetoric.

Earlier in May, Egypt brokered a cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip.

Iraqi leaders, Syrian foreign minister vow to boost ties, cooperation

BAGHDAD

IRAQI leaders met on Sunday with visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad in Baghdad to discuss strengthening bilateral ties and cooperation in various fields.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani stressed the importance of the integrity of the Syrian territories to Iraq and the interconnection of Iraqi national security with Syria's security during a meeting with Mekdad, said the Prime Minister Media Office in a statement.

He expressed Iraq's full readiness to help the Syrian people to overcome their suffering and crises, it said.

For his part, Mekdad extended a visit invitation from the Syrian president to al-Sudani to further strengthen bilateral relations and joint actions to consolidate security and stability in the region, said the statement.

During his visit, Mekdad also met with Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid, where the two sides discussed the need for cooperation to pursue the remnants of terrorism, control borders, and combat drugs to consolidate security and stability in the region, according to a statement issued by the Iraqi Presidency.

The visiting minister also met with Iraqi Parliament Speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi, and the two officials discussed coordination to achieve stability in Syria and the return of the displaced and refugees of the Syrian people to their country, the Parliament Media Office said in a statement.

Earlier in the day, Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein held a joint press conference with his Syrian counterpart, during which Hussein called for regional and in international action to help improve the humanitarian situation in Syria. **Agencies**



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Most Asian countries oppose NATO expansion in region - diplomat

BEIJING

MOST countries of the Asia-Pacific region are against bloc confrontation and NATO expansion in the region, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a briefing yesterday.

Commenting on statements by representatives of Indonesia, Singapore and several other countries that they do not want to see a new Cold War and do not want to be forced to choose between China and the US, the spokesman said: "The position of most countries in the region is very clear: they oppose the merging of various military blocs in the region, they do not welcome NATO's expansion

into Asia, they do not accept the transfer of bloc confrontation to Asia." Wang Wenbin pointed out that regional states "will not allow a Cold War or a hot war in Asia."

He added that Asia is "the region with the greatest potential for growth and development in the world." According to him, Asia should be a large arena for mutually beneficial cooperation and should not be divided into "closed and exclusive small" blocs.

"Some countries say they are free and open to maintain peace and prosperity in the region, but in reality they are constantly chipping away at various military blocs and trying to push NATO into the Asia-Pacific

region," Wang Wenbin said.

Representatives from Indonesia, Singapore, and several other countries expressed their reluctance to see a new Cold War at the Shangri-La Dialogue international security conference, held June 2-4 in Singapore.

There, Chinese Defense Minister Li Shangfu unveiled China's new security initiative. In his speech at the forum, he noted that the creation of NATO-like military alliances in the Asia-Pacific region would lead to a series of conflicts.



China employs digital technologies to optimize transport capacity

AT 6:30 am, bus driver Xiao Xinhua in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian province drove a No.37 bus to the train station. After arriving at the station, the information on the route display of his bus was changed to M9 from No. 37, and the man then headed for another destination.

This is a flexible bus dispatching model adopted by Xiamen, which enables a bus to run on different routes. Based on the big data analysis of passenger flow, the system effectively integrates the resources of drivers and vehicles and optimizes capacity distribution, thus diverting buses to places in need.

From carriages to steam locomotives, and to intelligent vehicles, the transport industry has gone through a big transition from an era of transport capacity to a time of algorithms, which will significantly change public transportation and travel services.

To optimize transport capacity with algorithms is not only about making vehicles intelligent. Cameras and lidars on the streets can collect data of pedestrians, vehicles, road markings, stations, roads and parking spaces and then send them to a "city brain" that manages urban traffic.

The "city brain" would then generate graded plans to optimize public transport in a targeted manner.

Intelligent transport gives better experiences to passengers.

In Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, many buses are equipped with panoramic camera systems that help reduce the driver's blind spots and thus make bus trips safer.

In Changsha, central China's Hunan province, traffic lights at crossroads would turn green priorly as appropriate when intelligent buses pass through, which makes bus trips faster.

In Haikou, south China's Hainan province, many passengers have found lost items on buses thanks to a positioning system.

Digital technologies have bolstered public transport services. Public transport, being economical, energy-efficient, eco-friendly, convenient and comfortable, will become a travel choice for more people. Intelligent public transport not only features higher efficiency and better experience, but also offers additional services through smart bus stations and other facilities to meet passengers' diverse demands.



Employees of Qingdao Zhenqing Bus Group in east China's Shandong province check the operation of buses in an intelligent commanding centre. File photo

For instance, electronic bus stop displays can offer a wide range of services, including displaying weather information, bus routes and live bus arrival times, as well as Wi-Fi connection and free mobile phone charging. In addition, they also come with surveillance cameras and SOS alert devices to better ensure passengers' safety. Such displays are especially friendly to special groups, such as seniors.

The advancing digital technologies and new application scenarios will endow public transport with a bigger space for improvement. Recently, a demonstration project of an intelligent public transport system developed by Xiamen passed acceptance inspection by the Ministry of Transport. With this system, buses equipped with BRT (bus rapid transit) can automatically stop at each station without human operation, and when a bus is not at a safe distance from the car in front, two cars will activate a collision prevention system.

Besides, an intelligent guiding system can recommend opti-

mal power plans for buses to make trips smoother. Digital technologies are making public transport more convenient and safer.

Public transport concerns the efficiency of social functioning as well as the life quality of every individual. The application of digital technologies can optimize urban transport capacity, improve transport efficiency, and make transport smoother, thus meeting people's expectations for a better life.

People's Daily

Ukrainian army's offensive attempt failed - Russian Defence Ministry



MOSCOW

UKRAINIAN armed forces failed to achieve success in a large-scale offensive on five front sectors in the south Donetsk area, official spokesman of the Russian Defense Ministry Lieutenant General Igor Konashenkov said.

"The adversary launched a large-scale offensive from the morning of June 4 on five sectors of the front in the south Donetsk area by bringing into action 23rd and 31st mechanized brigades from strategic reserves of the Ukrainian armed forces with support from other military units and teams," the spokesman said. "The adversary's objective was to break

through our defense on the most vulnerable front sector, in its opinion. The enemy failed to perform its tasks and had no success," Konashenkov noted.

The adversary used six mechanized battalions and two tank battalions, the defense ministry's spokesman informed.

"As a result of skilled and sophisticated action of the Battlegroup East, the Ukrainian armed forces lost more than 250 persons, sixteen tanks, three mechanized infantry combat vehicles and 21 combat armored vehicles," Konashenkov stressed.

He particularly noted that Chief of General Staff Army General Valery Gerasimov was at one of frontline command posts in this area. **Agencies**

The Guardian

SPORT



India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Shri Binaya Srikanta Pradhan (3rd R), chats with Indian artist Abhijit Pohankar (2nd R) that leads a music group, Bollywood Gharana, after the group had performed at a function that took place at India's High Commission to Tanzania's venue in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT CHRISTINA MWAKANGALE

JKT boxers shine in 2023 Open National Boxing Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NATIONAL Service (JKT) outfit's boxers had an impressive outing in the 2023 Open National Boxing Championships at CCM Manyara Park venue in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) president Lukelo Wililo said the championships attracted 137 boxers drawn from 19 clubs from across the country.

He said one of the championships' aims was to identify new talents and they are pleased that they have managed to unearth raw talents.

"The just-ended championships attracted 137 boxers from 19 clubs, we are happy that we have managed to unearth new talents that we will work with, the future of boxing looks very promising," he said.

He said in the 48kg bout, Hamad Hashim from the JKT outfit beat Victor Njile from Morogoro, and in the 51kg bout Idd Athuman of the JKT outfit overpowered Said Mtambala of Ngome Club.

In the 54kg bout, Abdallah Mohamed of JKT beat Leonard Elias of Ngome Club, in the 57kg bout Alex Steven of Ngome Club lost to Stephen Michael of JKT while in the 60kg bout, Mwalami Salum of JKT beat Omari Naziru of Ngome Club.

In the 63.5kg fight, Shaaban Abdallah of JKT outclassed his clubmate Sebastian Karanga.

Wililo stated in a 67kg fight Ngome boxer Saidi Hamisi lost to his club mate, Elias Damson, and in a 71kg bout, JKT boxer Joseph Phillip lost to David

Charles of Ngome while in a 75kg bout, JKT boxer Daniel Ilankunda defeated his club mate Alphonse Abeid via Knockout.

In the 80 kg fight between Joseph Elizima and Nidha Masikoto, both of JKT, it was declared no contest, whereas Edwin Respus of Ngome lost to Petro Joseph of Mbeya's Matema in the 86kg category.

In the 92kg bout, Rajab Hamza from the Yomba Yomba outfit won against Richard Mwakitope of Ngome.

He said in 92+kg Fadhili Gonzi of Yomba Yomba Club outclassed Muhina Morisin of Ngome outfit.

The BFT official said a 51kg bout between the JKT team's female boxers Aisha Iddi and Lafita Saidi was canceled.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 2023 Open National Boxing Championships, Wilfred Nyamwija - Ward Councillor for Hananasif Ward in Kinondoni District - praised BFT for hosting the showdown saying is the only sure way of identifying new boxers.

The official stated: "This is the only and sure way of identifying new boxing talents, I'm happy that despite financial challenges BFT faces, it always hosts tournaments."

"Please keep on (promoting boxing) as the country needs a new crop of boxers that can fly the national flag high," Nyamwija, also the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Dinari Investment, advised.

The BFT also organized National Level 1 & 2 Coaches and Umpires course, dubbed (R&J) course.

Yanga leaves Algiers with dreams dashed but with heads held high

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AFTER sustaining a slim 2-1 defeat to USM Alger in the first leg of their do-or-die 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final about a week ago here in Dar es Salaam, Yanga and their army of ardent fans must have been hoping that the Jangwani Street side would be able to overturn the first leg deficit in the return leg last Saturday in Algiers, Algeria.

However, despite seizing the lead in the opening minutes of the make-or-break second leg, Yanga ultimately failed to net more goals, which meant that the score was tied at 2-2 on aggregate once the match had run its course.

Sadly, the draw on aggregate meant that USM Alger had clinched the greatly desired CAF Confederation Cup on the away goals rule to the utter heartbreak of numberless Tanzanians.

Granted, although clinching the continental trophy proved to be a bridge too far for Yanga, the Jangwani Street club can still justifiably hold their heads high as they bowled over local fans throughout the CAF Confederation Cup.



Tanzania's Yanga players warm up shortly before taking on Algeria's USM Alger in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final return leg match at Stade du 5 Juillet in Algiers last Saturday. Yanga cruised to a 1-0 win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Indeed, Yanga has amply demonstrated that our football teams need not quake in their boots at the mere thought of taking on the continent's premier football clubs.

With that in mind, it is hoped then that Yanga's overall stand-out performance in the CAF Confederation Cup this season will usher in a new and glorious

age of remarkable dominance by our local football clubs on the African football landscape. That last point helps us to segue nicely to the European women's football stage where one African star has been shining brightly this season to the sheer happiness of continental football supporters.

The illustrious football icon

that I am referencing is Barcelona's predatory Nigerian striker Asisat Oshoala who last Saturday was crowned alongside her teammates as this season's UEFA Women's Champions League (UWCL) winners.

Indeed, since arriving at the spectacular Nou Camp Stadium, Asisat has played a distinctly influential role in her side's quest to secure as many trophies as possible.

Having said that though, it is crucial to bear in mind that there are not many female African football luminaries plying their trade overseas, which is in stark contrast to continental men's football where seemingly countless diamonds in the rough leave the continent every year to head for affluent European sides.

In light of this, one would like to call upon African football's governing body the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to leave no stone unturned in their efforts to bolster continental women's football.

We hope that if CAF can approach this task with zest and enthusiasm, then a large number of our female football stars will one day rank alongside the cream of global women's football.

'Peace of the brave' as Yanga exits in like manner as Simba SC, in Algiers

By Correspondent John Kimbute

BY a certain count, the second final tie between city giants Young Africans SC (Yanga) and USM Alger was a stalemate that was decided by an away goals rule, after an extra goal for the hosts giving them an upper hand was canceled early in the match.

There was a full 90 minutes of play after that point, including a missed penalty and some near misses, for the game to remain a stalemate at goal level, but the play the host side put in their away match carried the day. Yanga left the pitch head bowed.

There were impressions that the Jangwani Street side might have the luck to score another goal as the USM Alger captain and acknowledged team leader, Zinedine Belaid, failed in a penalty shot that was saved by the Yanga goalie, Djigui Diarra.

It was not the first time he did that, and the rules of blame have it that the best player misses a penalty so that either the club or national team ranks and files grudgingly acknowledge that it is just bad luck.

Either a weaker or ordinary player would have plenty of problems carrying that blame.

Analytically speaking, the fact that Yanga failed to use the penalty goal within five minutes of the start of the game to add another goal, and then the home side failed to score a penalty, makes the two sides completely balanced.

Yet the fact that the Algerian side prepared for the first game more intensely than Yanga, who may have started to celebrate way too early, proved to be a durable advantage.

It comes down to the philosophy of finishing the game in the first match and defending it later.

It is not clear if Yanga's head coach Nasreddine Nabi was sobbing at the end of the match, but some onlookers in television rooms appeared to notice as much.

It is a scant possibility as he already had finished 'grieving' over the outcome of the first tie at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, popularly known as 'Estadio Lupaso', and



Tanzania's Yanga president, Hersi Said (C), embraces the club's skipper Bakari Mwamnyeto during a presentation ceremony held after the culmination of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final return leg match against Algeria's USM Alger played at Stade du 5 Juillet in Algiers last Saturday. Yanga cruised to a 1-0 win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

nothing was surprising that his side did not score a goal after that penalty.

The more accurate impression on his part would rather be satisfied with how his side handled the second final match, eliminating any chance of disaster, by a substantial wallop that was eagerly expected by some.

The stadium atmosphere was a sort of reminder of what happened when Simba SC played Wydad Casablanca in the former's away match in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League last-eight round, in that wild celebration and plenty of firecrackers more or less died down not long into the match.

The penalty score cut down much of the fans' enthusiasm, but as the minutes slipped by, they were more eager and anticipating. They less expected goals than wishing the game ends.

Yanga had control of the midfield for the better part of the game, missing a second goal narrowly towards the end, just as USM Alger's well-built Botswana player, Tumisang Orebone, has a shot that beat Diarra and crawled past the far post during injury time.

This may to an extent suggest that Nabi met stiffer opposition

compared to his old home side Club Africain whom he found a way of subduing when Yanga went there for CAF Confederation Cup playoffs, enabling the Jangwani Street side to start another hunt for continental honours. It came close to doing that, just like Simba SC.

The reactions to the early Yanga goal were unsettling for their city rivals as it now looked like the visiting side was in pole position to take the trophy if they added another goal.

And given their good showing in the midfield, it appeared that the head coach had indeed found a way of controlling the home side, and could get away with it as he did at Club Africain. Worrying about a Yanga win was intense.

In that case, Yanga players had the confidence they needed for most of the match, the penalty score having dampened the USM Alger fans considerably, but, as the game went on, a section of the fans started using catcalls as a substitute.

Some local fans also observed that the rain 'arrived safe and sound' in Algiers as it was raining heavily in much of the first half in particular, a situation some pundits had suggested occasioned their

undoing.

They were not overly repeating that sort of funny view, saying opponents played much better in the rain owing to good boots.

There is an expression in the national language that 'he who wants to insult doesn't choose what to say', so we hear that between an Algerian side and a Tanzanian side, it is an Algerian side that will be more comfortable with rain.

We forget for a moment that the North African country is mostly desert, despite that there are pockets of ordinary rains in coastal areas, especially for relief rainfall, over mountain slopes.

There was still a curve of opinion in how the final match outcome is received.

The result was too mixed to call, a win in the match itself and a loss in the outcome.

It implies that only the first match was worth talking about as it is the one that laid the premise for what happened in the return tie, more or less irreversibly.

For a newcomer club in continental competition upper rounds after a preliminary round exit in the top-tier showdown earlier, it was a good run, better than expected.

Racist abuse of Vinícius Júnior highlights entrenched problem in soccer

MADRID
HANGING from a high-way bridge in Madrid, an effigy of one of the world's most famous Black soccer players stands as a graphic reminder of the racism that sweeps through European soccer.

In truth, the signs are everywhere.

In Italy, where monkey chants swirled around the stadium in April as a Black player celebrated a goal. In England, where a banana peel thrown from a hostile crowd during a game in north London landed at the feet of a Black player after he scored a penalty. In France, where Black players from the men's national team were targeted with horrific racial abuse online after they lost in last year's World Cup final.

Go outside Europe and you'll find them, too.

In Australia, where there were monkey noises and fascist chanting during last year's Australia Cup final. In South America, where matches in the continent's biggest competition, the Copa Libertadores, have been blighted by monkey chants. In North Africa, where Black players from visiting teams from sub-Saharan Africa have complained of being targets of racist chants by Arab fans.

The manifestation of a deeper societal problem, racism is a decades-old issue in soccer — predominantly in Europe

but seen all around the world — that has been amplified by the reach of social media and a growing willingness for people to call it out. And to think that it was only 11 years ago that Sepp Blatter, then president of soccer governing body FIFA, denied there was any racism in the game, saying any abuse should be resolved with a handshake.

The Black player currently subjected to the most vicious, relentless and high-profile racist insults is Vinícius Júnior, a 22-year-old Brazilian who plays for Real Madrid, arguably the most successful soccer team in Europe.

It was around the neck of an effigy of Vinícius that a rope was tied and the figure hung from an overpass near Madrid's training ground in the Spanish capital in January. It was Vinícius who, two weeks ago in perhaps a defining incident for the Spanish game, was reduced to tears during a match after confronting a fan who called him a monkey and made monkey gestures toward him.

It's Vinícius who is emerging as the leading Black voice in the fight against racism, which continues to stain the world's most popular sport.

"I have a purpose in life," he said on Twitter, "and if I have to keep suffering so that future generations won't have to go through these types of situations, I'm ready and prepared."

Vinícius' biggest concern is that Spanish soccer authorities are doing little to stop the abuse, leading to racism being an accepted part of the game in a country where he has played since he was 18.



Referee Ricardo De Burgos Bengoetxea, left, speaks with Real Madrid's Vinícius Junior during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Valencia and Real Madrid, at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia, Spain, Sunday, May 21, 2023. The game was temporarily stopped when Vinícius said a fan had insulted him from the stands. He was later sent off after clashing with Valencia players. (AP Photo)

Indeed, federations around the world have been too slow — in some cases, apparently unwilling — to equip themselves with the powers to sanction teams for the racist behavior of their fans, despite being given the authority <https://apnews.com/article/soccer-racism-boateng-fifa-9c6a7d1038986a5cfae742c59f02b8a9> by FIFA to do so since 2013.

Fines? Sure. Partial stadium closures? OK. But more stringent punishments, like point deductions or expulsion from competitions? They are typically reserved for matters such as financial mismanagement, not racial abuse of players.

The result is frustration and a sense of helplessness among Black players and those wanting to protect them. Asked what he expects to happen after the Vinícius incident, Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said: "Nothing. Because it has happened lots of times and nothing happens."

Anti-racism campaigns and slogans are welcomed but increas-

ingly viewed as tokenism, especially when fines handed to clubs or federations for racial abuse committed by fans often are so pitiful.

Take the juxtaposition, in 2012, of European governing body UEFA handing the Spanish soccer federation a \$25,000 fine for fans directing racial abuse at a Black player for Italy during the European Championship with, around the same time, a Denmark player getting fined five times that amount for revealing underpants with the name of a bookmaker on it.

Experts believe the global outrage, widespread reaction and outpouring of support for Vinícius following his latest abuse could mark a turning point in the fight against racism in Spain. It certainly struck a chord in Brazil, where there were protests outside the Spanish Consulate in Sao Paulo, while the Spanish league is now seeking to increase its authority to issue sanctions. Its protocol up to now has been to detect and denounce incidents and pass evidence to courts, where cases are typically shelved.

Jacco van Sterkenburg, a professor of race, inclusion and communication in soccer and the media at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, said explicit racism in stadiums is more accepted and normalized in some parts of Spanish and southern European soccer culture compared to places like England and the Netherlands, where the media, former players and soccer federations have openly addressed the issue.

"When, as a football association, you don't take a firm stance against it and you don't repeat that message time and time again, it will reappear," Van Sterkenburg said in a video call. "You have to repeat the message that this isn't allowed, this isn't accepted."

"When nothing happens, you should still repeat this message. Some clubs have programs in place where they repeat the message, even when nothing happens. It sets the norm, continuously."

Jermaine Scott, an assistant professor of history at Florida Atlantic University, told the AP that while overt racism is no longer a recurring problem in mainstream American sports, institutional racism is very much evident, reflected in the lack of coaches and executives through the sports landscape who are Black, Indigenous or people of color. He sees this same institutional racism in European soccer, too.

For Scott, a player like Vinícius might be at odds with European soccer's values.

"As soccer spread throughout the world, different cultures made the game their own, and instilled different values, like creativity and innovation, and importantly, joy, and some would even say freedom," Scott said.

"So when a player like Viní Jr. plays with the

classic Afro-Brazilian style, accompanied by the samba celebrations, it upsets the value system of European soccer, which has historically disciplined those who challenge such value systems."

Soccer needs outside help with racism and gets it through anti-discrimination campaigners such as Kick It Out in Britain and LICRA in France. The Fare network, a pan-European group set up to counter discrimination in soccer, places undercover observers in crowds at Europe's biggest games to detect racist chants and extremist symbols on banners.

Fans also are increasingly likely to raise awareness of racist incidents by reporting them to federations and campaign groups or posting videos and photos on social media, with the material often used by authorities as evidence to punish perpetrators.

Then again, the growth of social media has its downsides when it comes to the amplification of racist abuse in soccer compared to previous generations, where it was mostly restricted to inside stadiums.

Now, people can fire off racist insults over their phone anonymously, directly to the accounts of the world's best players on Instagram and Twitter. That leads to the paradox of soccer players, eager to boost their brands, using the same platforms on which they are being abused.

after Boateng walked off the field, players who react to being racially abused can still feel they lack support.

In April, Inter Milan forward Romelu Lukaku's silencing gesture toward Juventus fans who abused him in an Italian Cup game led to a second yellow card and being sent off the field. Lukaku's one-game ban was eventually overturned by the Italian soccer federation.

At a Portuguese league game in 2020, Porto forward Moussa Marega had been racially abused by Vitoria fans who threw seats at him after he scored and pointed to his skin. When Marega, who was born in France but plays for Mali's national team, carried one of the seats above his head in defiance the referee gave him a yellow card.

He then tried to walk off as teammates physically kept him on the field.

Soccer authorities move toward tougher sanctions for racial abuse over last decade

GENEVA

WHEN Kevin-Prince Boateng walked off the field to protest being racially abused by an opposing team's fans a decade ago, he set soccer authorities on a path toward tougher sanctions in cases of discrimination.

His teammates at Italian club AC Milan had his back when Boateng, who is Black, refused to tolerate the abusive chants he heard from fans of a small provincial club during a mid-season exhibition game in 2013.

Boateng kicked the ball toward the opposing fans before striding back to the locker room, his teammates right behind him.

At FIFA headquarters in Zurich, then-president Sepp Blatter seized the moment to demand tougher punishments for clubs, national federations and their teams — or the players responsible — in cases of racism and discrimination.

Longer bans. Point deductions. Relegation or expulsion from competitions and tournaments.

FIFA created a racism task force and strengthened its disciplinary code within months of Boateng's actions. So did European soccer governing body UEFA, whose 10-game minimum ban was twice that of FIFA's.

Blatter, however, quickly stepped back from turning strong words into fully formed action.

Would the sporting sanctions hold up in

court?

"This will lead to people coming to the stadium wanting to stop the game intentionally," Blatter said, hinting that fans may use the rule for their own nefarious purposes.

Ten years after the Boateng incident, few of the toughest sanctions have been applied and racism is still a problem in stadiums.

10-MATCH BANS

FIFA quickly took the option in 2013 to impose a longer ban on players or officials for racist, discriminatory or offensive conduct.

Croatia defender Josip Šimuni missed the 2014 World Cup because of an incident minutes after his national team qualified for the tournament. Šimuni celebrated a victory over Iceland in Zagreb by leading fans in chants identified with the pro-Nazi Croatian regime during World War II.

Czech Republic defender Ondřej Kúdela missed the European Championship in 2021 because of a 10-match ban after racially abusing an opponent while playing for Slavia Prague in a Europa League game. The case relied heavily on the accuser's word against the alleged abuser — making it a landmark decision.

That case came about a

POINT DEDUCTIONS

Blatter's initial insistence on point deductions, enforced relegation or disqualification for teams has not worked out on soccer's escalating scale of sanctions, which starts with fines and partial stadium closures and rarely rises to harsher penalties.

The highest-profile deduction was the one point UEFA took from Croatia in a qualifying group for Euro 2016. It involved a swastika image embedded in the field ahead of a match against Italy, played in an empty stadium because of the racist conduct of Croatian fans at a previous game.

Some claimed it was a deliberate act of sabotage to embarrass the Croatian soccer federation. But UEFA held the federation responsible because it is charged with protecting the field of play from being vandalized.

Croatia still qualified for Euro 2016.

COURT CASES

Despite a push for tougher sanctions for teams when fans racially abuse players, a 2003 ruling from the Court of Arbitration for Sport set a bar for proportionate punishments depending on the number of fans involved and the seriousness of the incident.

That precedent from



FILE - AC Milan midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng gestures towards the crowd as he leaves the field after being subjected to racial abuse during a friendly soccer match in Busto Arsizio, near Milan, Italy, Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013. Boateng set soccer on a path toward tougher sanctions in cases of discrimination when he walked off the field to protest racial abuse by an opposing team's fans a decade ago. His teammates had his back when he refused to tolerate the abuse from fans of a small provincial Italian club during a mid-season exhibition game in 2013. (AP Photo)

year after France great Thierry Henry, who is Black and was playing for English club Arsenal, was targeted by PSV Eindhoven fans in the Netherlands during a Champions League match.

PSV later went to the arbitration body to challenge a fine of about 32,000 euros (\$35,000). The court upheld the principle of holding clubs responsible for the conduct of fans, but cut the fine to less than 20,000 euros (\$22,000).

The court said the abuse had been "isolated, of very limited scale and duration."

That precedent from 20 years ago is still a

factor in prosecutions today.

CASES DROPPED

Both FIFA and UEFA

closed investigations because of lack of evidence into alleged racial abuse of English youth players

by opponents. The incidents occurred in the Under-17 World Cup final against Spain, and in a UEFA Youth League game between English team Liverpool and Russian club Spartak Moscow.

Cases also were dropped by UEFA after Black players said they heard racist abuse by opposing fans during games. Sweden forward Alexander Isak alerted the referee at a Euro 2020 qualifying game in Romania and Michy Batshuayi heard abuse aimed at him while playing for German club Borussia Dortmund against Italian team Atalanta in a Europa League game in 2018.

Batshuayi mocked UEFA in a Twitter post after the investigation was shut down weeks later. UEFA did not give a reason why.

PUNISHING THE ACCUSER

More than a decade

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Racist abuse of Vinícius Júnior highlights entrenched problem in soccer

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Augustine Okrah. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Simba SC parts ways with Augustine Okrah

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Simba SC has announced a decision to part ways with Ghanaian attacker Augustine Okrah after a single season at the club.

Okrah joined Simba SC at the start of this season after shining in the Ghana Premier League with Bechem United.

He was signed on a one-year deal with an option of extending but the two parties have opted not to exercise that clause.

"Simba SC's management officially announces the departure of attacking midfielder Augustine Okrah after the end of the 2022/23 campaign," Simba SC's press release read.

"Okrah has completed his contract with the club and the player will not be offered an extension," the statement revealed.

Okrah caught the eye of Simba SC after he scored 14 goals in the 2021/22 Ghana Premier League for Bechem United in 32 appearances.

He was the top scorer of the Ghana Premier League in the 2013/14 season with 16 goals during his first stint with Bechem United.

He appeared to hit the ground running when he scored his first goal for Simba SC in the club's pre-season friendly against Egyptian side Ismaily SC which ended in a 1-1 draw.

He also scored on his league debut for Simba SC when the club took on Geita Gold FC in August.

Okrah also found the back of the net during his debut for his outfit's NBC Premier League duel against rivals, Yanga, known as 'Dar es Salaam Derby'.

The Ghanaian winger was beautifully played through by Zambia international Clatous Chama to put the Msimbazi Street squad ahead in the 16th minute.

In the six months which have followed, Okrah has contributed four goals and one assist in 17 appearances.

Apart from Simba SC, Okrah has had stints in Sudan playing for arch-rivals Al Merreikh and Al Hilal Omdurman. He has also played for Asante Kotoko and Egypt's Smouha SC.

The 29-year-old winger first rose to prominence during his debut season with Bechem United in the 2013/14 league season, which saw the player score an impressive 16 goals.

He not only emerged as the league's top scorer but also earned the accolade of Player of the Season that year.

Following his successful stint with Bechem United, Okrah embarked on loan spells with Swedish club BK Hacken before joining Sudanese powerhouse Al Merreikh.

After a season, he made a switch to rivals Al Hilal Omdurman. Throughout his career, Okrah has also had playing experiences with NorthEast United in India and Smouha SC in Egypt.

Simba SC, alias 'Wekundu wa Msimbazi', is rebuilding after another trophyless campaign.

The spell has seen the team exit the 2022/23 CAF Champions League at the quarterfinal stage, crash out of the Azam Sports Federation Cup semi-final, and the outfit is bound to finish behind fierce rivals Yanga in the Premier League.

Polisi Tanzania FC in final push to avoid automatic relegation



Polisi Tanzania FC left-back, Yahya Mbegu (L), tackles his Simba SC counterpart, Gadiel Michael, as the sides took on each other in a past Premier League clash in Kilimanjaro.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

POLISI Tanzania will be searching for salvation points on the penultimate match of the season as they take on 2022/23 NBC Premier League runners-up Simba SC in the evening at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The law enforcers have been positioned 15th in the league standings - four points behind 14th-placed Mtibwa Sugar.

Victory over Simba SC would see the Kilimanjaro-based Polisi Tanzania climb and keep their slim hopes of battling it out in the

playoffs while a defeat would relegate them to the Championship League.

The only positive thing for the Kilimanjaro-based side's head coach Mwinyi Zahera and his troops is the fact that Simba SC already secured the second-place finish and has nowhere to go in the NBC Premier League ladder regardless of what happens today and on the final day.

The negative thing is

that Simba SC heads into this on the back of 10 wins in the last 11 NBC Premier League affairs but Zahera insists they would not give up in their bid to survive automatic relegation this season.

The Congolese gaffer noted: "Not losing this game was very important to give us confidence and we will take the momentum to the next game."

"One thing for sure is that

we will not give up. For the remaining matches, we will give everything to get the three points. This victory has given us the motivation to push," Zahera said following his squad's 3-1 victory over Mtibwa Sugar in the last outing.

Polisi Tanzania has no suspension worries coming into this must-win match and the club is yet to report new injuries in camp

Coach Zahera will be

banking on the form of Kelvin Sabato. Sabato, a muscular goal-getter, struggled at Singida Big Stars before making the switch to Polisi Tanzania mid-season.

The former Mtibwa Sugar striker has seized his chance in the second half of the season, scoring six goals in 15 appearances to aid Polisi Tanzania's cause.

The goal-getter's prowess includes his decisive strike against Mtibwa Sugar most recently to ensure the law enforcers would not suffer automatic relegation.

On the other side, Simba SC will likely send the strongest lineup to the pitch aiming to end the season on a high note.

For a second season in a row, Simba SC is bound to finish trophyless but their fans will still demand more from the players even with nothing but pride at stake against Polisi Tanzania.

In head-to-head records, Simba SC and Polisi Tanzania have met in 11 league games since 2020.

Simba SC has won eight games while three others have ended in draws. When the two teams met earlier this season, Simba SC won 3-1.

Flashnet Pak Stars wallops RAS Logistics Caravans B in 2023 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tourney

By Guardian Reporter

THE pursuit of the trophy in this season's Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament has gained momentum, with Flashnet Pak Stars garnering a comprehensive 71-run defeat of RAS Logistics Caravans B in an encounter that took place in the city on Sunday.

The tie's eventual winners displayed an impressive performance, defeating RAS Logistics Caravans by a comprehensive margin.

The match took place at the Leaders Club ground, where cricket enthusiasts gathered to witness the thrilling clash between these two formidable teams.

Flashnet Pak Stars won the toss and elected to bat first, displaying confidence in their batting line-up.

Their decision proved to be a fruitful one as they managed to put up a challenging total on the scoreboard.

The team scored 147 runs for the loss of three wickets in the match reduced to 15 overs, thanks to some stellar contributions from their batsmen.

The standout performer for Flashnet Pak Stars was Zeeshan Ul-Haq, who delivered a scintillating knock, propelling his team towards a formidable total.

The experienced Ul-Haq exhibited sheer class as he



Flashnet Pak Stars' player, Zeeshan Ul-Haq (R), receives the Colourflex Man of the Match award from Mohandas Kuttipurath, former Chairman of Caravans Cricket Club, after last weekend's 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup game involving Flashnet Pak Stars and RAS Logistics Caravans B. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

scored a brilliant 62 runs off just 37 deliveries.

His innings included an array of breathtaking shots, leaving the opposition in awe.

His partnership with other batsmen further strengthened Flashnet Pak Stars' position in the game.

In response, RAS Logistics Caravans faced an uphill battle while chasing down the target set by Flashnet Pak Stars. Their batting lineup struggled to counter the formidable bowling attack.

RAS Logistics Caravans were eventually bowled out for a mere 76 runs in 13.4 overs of the 15-over match, falling significantly short of the target.

Ul-Haq, who displayed his all-round prowess, wreaked havoc with the ball as well.

He proved to be a thorn in RAS Logistics Caravans' side by claiming an outstanding four wickets, conceding only 12 runs in a spellbinding 2.4 overs.

His exceptional performance with the ball further solidified his status as the Colourflex Man of the Match.

For his scintillating batting performance, Flashnet Pak Stars' opener Ivan Ismail was voted as the Rickshaw Game Changer of the Match.

Apart from Zeeshan Ul-Haq, Rana Waqas, and Basit Raza also made significant contributions to the Flashnet Pak Stars' bowling attack.

Both players took two wickets each, adding to the misery of the RAS Logistics Caravans' batsmen.

Their accurate bowling and

well-executed plans dismantled the opposition's batting line-up.

Gokul Das emerged as the sole fighter for RAS Logistics Caravans, showcasing resilience amid the challenging situation.

He scored a commendable 22 runs off just 15 deliveries, but his valiant efforts went in vain as his team failed to find support from other batsmen.

The Flashnet Pak Stars' comprehensive victory over RAS Logistics Caravans served as a statement of their dominance in this season's Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament.

Their exceptional performance with both bat and ball exemplified their strength as a team.

As the tournament pro-

gresses, both teams will look forward to bouncing back in their upcoming matches.

The Flashnet Pak Stars, buoyed by this impressive win, will aim to carry the winning momentum forward, while RAS Logistics Caravans will seek to regroup and come back stronger in their next fixture.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup is an annual T20-formatted cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors include Alliance Insurance, Colourflex, TATA Africa Holdings, ASAS, Rickshaw Travels, Ras Logistics, Pepsi, e-Parking, Remax, Flashnet, and Aurobindo.

Others are Azania Bank, Jiuzhou, All Season Hotel, General Petroleum, Honeywell, Automark, Hisense, Oman Air, Ashton Media, Mo Assurance, Aucom & Harmonic, and Car & General.

Horizon Teleports, Aone Bottlers, Samsonite, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Euro Cables, VL Smart Solutions, Mobidoc, GI Logistics, Delta Africa, Samaki Samaki, and Tanzindia Assurance wind up the sponsors' list.

Alliance Caravans lifted the 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's trophy following the outfit's four-wicket drubbing of Aurobindo Aga Khan SC in the final.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

Dear Noisy Neighbour, SALAAM. YOUR LOUD NOISE IS UNCALLED FOR YOUR QUIET NEIGHBOUR



IS THIS WHAT I GET FOR MY HOSPITALITY?