



National Pg 3 PM warns against child labour in mining



National Pg 4 Tanzania among world producers of legumes



National Pg 6 Brewer offers opportunities for girls



UNESCO, ICTC set for Internet use assessment

By Getrude Mbago

AN Internet use census is soon taking off, the Information and Communication Technologies Commission (ICTC) said yesterday.

Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga (pictured), the director general, said yesterday that the study, titled as a national assessment of internet development in Tanzania and its impact in various areas, will take three months to complete.

Billed at \$35,975.03 (83.78m/-), the project is part of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and the multi donor fund for freedom of expression and safety of journalists (MDP) project, supervised by the country office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), she said.

It will also help with assessing available internet connectivity and use as to its inclusiveness, how much it is contributing to various development initiatives, she said, noting the commission expects that the findings will help the commission to design robust strategies to promote growth of ICT.

World Bank sees WASH scaling down health bills

By Guardian Reporter

UNIVERSAL access to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) could reduce economic burdens by \$1.9bn/- per year by 2030, enabling the country to potentially generate more than \$2.4bn each year in savings on excess medical costs and lost productivity.

Nathan Belete, the World Bank zonal director, says in a recent update that achieving WASH goals can support the jobs agenda while mitigating adverse effects on workforce productivity and advance Tanzania's objectives for inclusive growth and poverty reduction.

Inadequate access, according to the 18th edition of the Tanzania Economic Update subtitled 'Clean Water, Bright Future,' tops issues on transformative impact of investing in WASH.

While the country has made significant progress in recent years in improving access to WASH services, only 61 percent of households have access to basic water supply. Just 32 percent have basic sanitation, and 48 percent have access to basic hygiene by quality accepted in the sustainable development goals framework, he stated.

Upwards of nine percent of the population still practices open defecation which entails serious health risks, while rural areas

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi exchanges greetings with the Chief Justice of Tanzania, Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma, and Zanzibar Chief Justice Khamis Ramadhan Abdalla upon the president's arrival at the venue of Zanzibar Law Day celebrations yesterday. Photo: State House

Coffee, tiles top the list in AfCFTA export drive

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PROCESSED coffee and tiles top the list in a schedule of ten product types for export drive under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) starting July 1.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the Investments, Industry and Trade minister, made this observation when addressing a gathering of members of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), with Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba in attendance.

She said that Tanzania is among seven initial countries according priority to the scheme, thus exporting their products to the

Africa-wide market to kindred member states who have ratified the free trade area protocol.

Urging manufacturers and traders to seek out those opportunities, she said her meeting with CTI members on the subject is the third in a series, seeking to raise awareness of industrial sector stakeholders on what is required to make use of the facility.

Coffee is the pioneer product under that arrangement, not to be exported raw but processed while locally manufactured tiles are also being lined up for regional

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EACOP compensation: 8,781 sign forms, 95pc already paid

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL 8,781 Tanzanians had by end of last month signed compensation agreements and 95.2 per cent of them had already been paid, to vacate land needed for the building of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).

Stephen Byabato, the Energy deputy minister, made this observation at a seminar for new members of the Energy and Minerals standing committee of the National Assembly led by its chairman, Dunstan Kitandula.

The seminar, organised by the ministry, sought to take stock of EACOP, clean energy for cooking and local participation in the crude oil pipeline project, he said, noting EACOP activities so far as including acquiring land for the pipeline trench work.

The workshop for processing 86,000

pieces of pipes to be used was being built at Sojo-Nzega, having reached 58 per cent of the work at present, he said.

He was affirmative that work on the pipeline project was progressing well, with various activities taking place both in Tanzania and in Uganda.

He also briefed panel members on government efforts in extending the distribution of clean and safe energy for cooking in villages, chiefly by distributing cooking gas in Lindi, Mtwara and Coast regions.

The work is being undertaken by the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and the Rural Energy Agency (REA), he said.

There are also efforts to distribute cooking stoves using much less charcoal and less smoke, with expectations

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Samia earns praise for increasing students' subsistence allowance

By Guardian Reporter

EDUCATION stakeholders including human rights activists and politicians have lauded the President Samia Suluhu Hassan's move to increase the subsistence allowance for higher education students to 10,000/- per day from 8,500/-.

Their views came two days after President Samia announced the increase of students' allowance when speaking at a meeting of universities' and colleges' students and leaders through Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students' Organisation (TAHLISO) and Zanzibar High Learners Federation (ZAH LIFE).

They said that the increase is in line with the cost of living of students because 8,500/- wasn't enough, lauding the president for working on it so that the beneficiaries live at least a moderate life.

Hellen Kijo-Bisimba, parent, educationist and human right activist said it is a step to be appreciated, although the procedure for each student to get loans should be fair and equitable.

"We are grateful for that step, but there are many complaints because the money is a loan and not free, it will be paid then the person in need should be given it. You will find that those who deserve to get 100 per cent get 40 per cent, those who get 40 per cent get 100 per cent.

"It should be given fairly so that every beneficiary can get it.

Selamani Bishagazi, director of an NGO called Sauti ya Jamii Tanzania, said that the increase in funds to support higher education students should be in line with the existing sources.

"There should be a system to control incomes, but where does that money come from? We do not see new sources. Let's start new sources of incomes or the existing ones should be stable, collect them correctly. For example, EFD machines should be provided free of charge, so that every merchant pays the profits.

Bishagazi also said that the government should address other

challenges in higher learning institutions, including sexual corruption, saying that research has identified the problem, and it affects women more.

Janeth Mawinza, managing director of a women's NGO, called WAJIKI, said that when the government declares to increase the allowance, the students should also use the money for relevant purposes.

ACT-Wazalendo's youth wing chairman, Abdul Nondo said the increased allowance has come at the right time when the cost of living has been high.

Over the weekend, the President said that young people with qualifications to enter university and their parents do not have the capacity, the government has spoken with the NMB Bank which allocated 200bn/- for them, for providing low interest loans.

She said that another step taken by the government was to talk with some countries to provide funding for higher education students, noting that when the country gained independence, there was only one university and now there are 30 universities and among them 12 are government and 18 are private.

Since President Samia came to power, in March 2021, loans for higher education students, which were being provided, were 464bn/-, but now the loans stand at 654bn/-.



They said that the increase is in line with the cost of living of students because 8,500/- wasn't enough, lauding the president for working on it so that the beneficiaries live at least a moderate life

EACOP compensation: 8,781 sign forms, 95pc already paid

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to increase budget funding for extending access to clean cooking energy in villages.

This includes the setting up of biogas plants in institutions that serve over 300 people, he stated, while the parliamentary team was also briefed on how the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) oversees the involvement of Tanzanians in the EACOP project.

Efforts had been undertaken by the government to solve a number of challenges surfacing in the work,

he said.

Panel members gave suggestions on improving project implementation as well as other energy projects going on countrywide, commending the ministry for its innovative drive in the clean cooking energy problem.

Deputy permanent secretary Kheri Mahimbali sat in for permanent secretary Felschesmi Mramba, with attendance of ministerial officials as well as its operating agencies of REA, EWURA and TPDC.

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of advocacy initiatives by various pace setters at the national level like Neema Lugangira (Special Seats-Kagera), to ensure that digital space in Tanzania is safe and inclusive for all, he elaborated.

The study will inform policy recommendations and practical initiatives enabling the country to improve its internet ecosystem as advanced ICTs evolve, he stated.

"Unique to Tanzania, the study can further guide us on how best Tanzania can benefit from promoting the use and visibility of Kiswahili in the digital space in Tanzania, the region and beyond," he pointed out.

The MP, who chairs the African parliamentary network on internet governance, said that growth of the internet has a positive impact on many aspects of society, including education, the economy and

personal communication.

More coordinated efforts are needed to ensure that digital space brings greater positive outcomes to people and the country, she stated.

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) shows that Internet use in Tanzania has increased by 4.2 per cent from 29.8m cable users in 2021 to 31.1m by last September.

The rise in internet users indicates 17 per cent growth annually for five years from 2017 when the country had 16.1m internet users. The number had risen to 29.1m at the end of 2021.

Increased use of Kiswahili also explains the rise as Kiswahili content on the internet is increasing rapidly with applications in Kiswahili also on the increase. "This is due to efforts to spread use of Kiswahili internationally," the TCRA report affirmed.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R) exchanges greetings with pupils of Isyesye ward's (Mbeya Urban District) Ilomba Primary School yesterday shortly after handing over 100 desks to the school. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

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lag behind urban centers in all dimensions of WASH, the report underlines.

"For Tanzania to ensure universal WASH access, considerable upfront investment is required to avoid the devastating consequences of inadequate services," it says.

Death and disease are the most immediate consequences of inadequate WASH services, being responsible for 31,000 deaths (10 percent of preventable deaths) and cost the economy upwards of \$2.4bn/- each year in excess medical costs and lost productivity, it said.

The heaviest toll is being borne by the women, children, along with the poor and vulnerable, it elaborated, pointing out that WASH-related

World Bank sees WASH scaling down health bills

illnesses lessen the educational attainment of pupils, impairing the cognitive development of children.

Achieving sustainable, universal WASH access requires institutional capacity building and new financial outlays at the national, subnational and community levels. Prioritizing the cross-cutting impact of WASH on the wider policy agenda is vital, with policymakers across various sectors needing to advocate for WASH investments.

Ruth Kennedy-Walker, World Bank senior water supply and sanitation specialist and report co-author said that developing collaborative solutions to address shared challenges need to be part of implementation of the third Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP).

The project requires an estimated \$6.5bn/- in total, she said, pointing out that providing near universal WASH access would cost the

government just \$16 per capita per year.

This is less than half the \$38 per capita that inadequate WASH services cost the country each year, thus the WSDP-3 implementation would generate benefits equal to its initial investment of \$4.1bn/-.

These funds relate to WASH related activities under the programme, recovered within five years in this cost benefit matrix, she added.



Judges follow Zanzibar Law Day address by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Coffee, tiles top the list in AfCFTA export drive

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markets, she said. The manufacturers said they were ready to export the product, whereupon the minister said that there are other products also listed for the regional export drive which she opted to keep under wraps for a while as discussions with manufacturers are still being pursued.

CTI executive director Leodgar

Tenga said the meeting had enabled manufacturers to explain the challenges they face for Industry and Finance ministers to work upon regarding the business environment.

The idea is to create an enabling environment that attracts investors, he said, affirming that the meeting had enabled industrialists to thank the government for the good it has

done. Various challenges facing business people had been addressed but remaining obstacles should also rapidly be addressed to woo investors, the CTI executive underlined, urging local manufacturers to produce quality products to attract markets in East Africa and far beyond.

He appealed to the government

to make sure it reduces or removes tax on raw materials imported from foreign countries to make local products more competitive.

He urged care in regard to local industries, as to what a free market implies so that it is not "being turned into a free market of your competitors if you have not created a good environment for local people to produce quality products cheaply."



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa shares a light moment with Serena Hotel Dar es Salaam marketing director Seraphin Lusara (R) at Parliament grounds in Dodoma city at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania has lowest inflation rate in East Africa, says WB

By Guardian Reporter

WHILE Tanzania's headline inflation rate has increased in recent years (5 per cent in 2022), it remains the lowest among the East African Community (EAC) member states, World Bank says in the 18th Tanzania Economic Update report launched yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

Nathan Belete, World Bank country director said that headline inflation continued to edge up during 2022 as a result of rising international commodity prices and severe drought, reaching 4.2 per cent in the first nine months of 2022 compared to 3.5 per cent in the same period the previous year.

"This is concerning as food makes up about thirty per cent of the

consumer price basket," he said.

The official said that inflation in Tanzania has been the modest by the standards of regional peers. The latest data for the countries of the South African Development Community (SADC) excluding Zimbabwe reveal that consumer prices rose by an average of 10 per cent (almost 2.4 times the rate in Tanzania).

According to him, core inflation in Tanzania also remained below the levels of most regional peers. Tanzania's relatively stable exchange rate likely mitigated the impact of unfavourable global trends on domestic inflation.

The World Bank report also stated that Tanzania's economy is growing faster than the rest of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and this came

after a mild showdown during the COVID-19 pandemic, Tanzania's economic recovery has outpaced in SSA average with GDP growth expected to climb to 5.3 per cent in 2023 from 4.6 per cent in 2022.

"Several regional peers have outpaced Tanzania's recent growth, but this pattern largely reflects the pandemic milder initial impact on economic activity in the country. While Tanzania's economic grew by 2 per cent in 2020, the weighted average growth rate for the East African Community was just 0.8 percent, and sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) as a whole experienced contraction," Belete said.

The World Bank also stated: "A relatively stable exchange rate coupled with fuel subsidies helped contain consumer price inflation to

just 4.8 per cent in September 2022, well below the SSA regional average of 10 per cent."

"To sustain rapid growth and achieve its development, Tanzania must accelerate structural reforms... economic domestic risks stem primarily from the slow or incomplete implementation of policies to reduce regulatory compliance costs and support private investment," said WB

The World Bank boss also lauded Tanzania for fuel subsidies also attenuated the pass-through effect of elevated oil prices.

In the latest International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank debt sustainability analysis found that Tanzania was at moderate risk of external debt distress and at moderate risk of overall public debt distress, with some space to absorb shocks.

Tanzania to benefit from 120bn/- programme for resilience of biodiversity, climate change threats

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is expected to benefit from 120bn/- programme that will facilitate implementation of various projects aimed at building the resilience of biodiversity to the threats of climate change in the country.

Supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the projects will play a big role in strengthening environmental protection and fighting against climate change impacts.

This was said yesterday in Dodoma by the Secretary General, Vice President's Office, Union and Environment, Mary Maganga during the opening of a two-day workshop for environmental stakeholders and experts aimed at identifying priorities of environmental projects and climate change supervised by GEF.

Maganga thanked development partners for preparing the plan on the provision of the funds which have so far already been issued in phases, something which will help strengthen the conservation and environmental management in the country.

She however, urged stakeholders and experts to utilize well knowledge and experience they have in strengthening the fight against the existing environmental challenges with the aim of ensuring the preparation and implementation of projects under GEF on time.

"Tanzania is one of the beneficiary countries of GEF projects which are funded through various international agreements, so the Vice President's officer has decided to bring the stakeholders and experts from ministries and sectoral institutions in this meeting

to set joint strategies and thus achieve the environmental agenda," she said.

PS Maganga further called on the experts to ensure that they make quick preparations to identify the priority areas of the development partners' projects so as to commence implementation and complete them on time.

Ibrahima Sow, coordinator of GEF programmes in the Africa region said Tanzania has been allocated with the funds for the 8th round and will help implement three project areas for the next four years.

He mentioned the areas as Great Lakes and Water Basins management project, funds for capacity building for project experts as well as projects management in developing countries.

Dr Andrew Komba, director of environment from Vice-President's office, Union and Environment said the government has continued to work with various stakeholders so as to promote environmental conservation.

"Climate change is one of the consequences of global warming along with the destruction of natural vegetation and biodiversity, so the government has embarked on tree planting campaigns to ensure that the country copes with these effects," he said.

Chairman of the Tanzania Environmental Stakeholders Forum, Tumaini Marijani commended the government on how it is coordinating conservation issues.

He urged experts, stakeholders and all Tanzanians to participate well in several tree planting exercises to support the government's efforts that aim at conserving the country's environment for sustainable development.

PM warns against child labour in mining

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed district commissioners in mining areas to address child labour in their localities and instead take the children to school.

PM Majaliwa made the directive when he laid a foundation stone for the Songwe district hospital at Mkwajuni ward on the first day of his tour in the region.

He said there has been a tendency by some people to force children to work in mining sites hence denying them the basic right to education which is essential.

Prime Minister Majaliwa called upon leaders of the mining sites to identify the people working on the sites so that children who are eligible to go school are taken to school.

"There has been a tendency to take children to work in the mining sites, you need to identify on all those working in the sites to ensure children are taken to school," he said.

He said regional and district authorities should take actions against parents who fail to take their children to school and stern measures should be taken accordingly", he said.

PM Majaliwa also directed the executive director for Songwe district council Cecilia Kavishe to ensure the project is completed timely so that by April it starts to offer services.

Kavishe said the project which is 95 per cent complete has cost about 3.5bn/- and is expected to be completed fully by the end of March, this year.

He said the construction of the hospital involves an Out Patient Department (OPD) ward, chemotherapy, pharmacy, administration, maternity and an emergency department.

Member of Parliament for Songwe Philipo Mulugo hailed the

government for implementing various development projects aimed at improving life in the region in various sectors namely education, health and water.

The legislator requested the government to construct a road from Mbalizi-Chang'ombe-Mkwajuni-Saza-Patamela-Makongrosi which is 118 kilometers long to boost transportation of goods.

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PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE under instructions received from American Embassy, we shall sell Household furniture's, Vehicles and Generator by public auction on Saturday 18th February, 2023 commencing at 10:00 am. The auction will take place at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street.

Furniture and Computers Bidding Start at 10:00am:
Sofa set, Occasional sofa, Dresser, Hutch, Chest drawer, dining table, Chair, Book case, Book Shelve, Office desk, Chairs, Office partition board, Garden table, Lounge Chair, Carpet, Beds, Mattress, Fridge, Freezer, Washer, electric / gas cooker, A/c split units, Xerox photo copy m/c model 7855, New assorted Kyocera photo copy parts, TV set, Computer set, Laptop, Printers, Professional high pressure car wash m/c and etc.

Vehicles and Generator Bidding Start at 12:00 hrs.

Unit	Make	Model	Year	Duty
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1	Toyota L, Cruiser GX- V8 Auto Tran.	1VDO27 Diesel Engine	2011	Not Paid
2	Generator 32 KVA & 65 KVA - 3 Phase	Cummins Diesel Engine	-	Not Paid
1	Water Storage Tank	Fiber 90,000 Liters	-	Not Paid


All items may be inspected at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street from February 15th to 17th, 2023 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

AUCTION CONDITIONS:

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- Payments via CRDB and NBC Bank VISA & Master Cards will be accepted.
- All items are sold on "as is" basis with no guarantee.
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Court postpones case facing Dar businesswoman

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Dar es Salaam Kisutu Resident Magistrate Court has adjourned until February 27, a case facing a businesswoman, Pepetua Gondwe who is allegedly accused of obtaining 315m/- by false pretence.

State Attorney, Ashura Mnzava told the court that the case was brought for hearing before the Kisutu Principal Resident Magistrate, Richard Kabate yesterday but witnesses on the prosecution could not appear before the court due to family issues.

It was alleged that on 22 April 2019 within Dar es Salaam region the accused obtained money by false pretence from one Ritha Remi.

On the first count, it was alleged that the accused obtained money after deceiving Remi that the money was meant for business purposes, something she knew

was not true.

On the second count, on the same date and place, the accused cheated and forged a Tax Identification Number (TIN) issued on 19 September 2019 for the purpose of showing that it was issued by Commissioner of Tax from Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), something she knew was not true.

On the charge sheet, after reading the preliminary hearings and interrogation the accused admitted to commit the offence.

After being searched, the accused mobile phone and other belongings were taken by police however she denied owning them.

The accused remained in police custody after failing to fulfil bail terms which are presenting two sureties who will sign a bond worth 47m/each.

Also, the accused was supposed to present to court cash worth 47m or property equivalent to the said amount.



Rev Fr Vincent Mpwaji (C), Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam of the Catholic Church, presents foodstuffs to one of several patients from 13 medical institutions run by the archdiocese. The event was held at the weekend's Holy Mass in Dar es Salaam in marking this year's edition of World Day of the Sick (Feb 11). World Day of the Sick is a Catholic Church awareness or observance day aimed at praying and sharing, sacrificing one's suffering for the welfare of the church, and urging everyone to see the face of Christ in his or her ailing brother or sister. Right is Pastoral Activities and Services for People with AIDS Dar es Salaam Archdiocese (PASADA) advisory board chairperson Fr Christian Nyumayo. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Catholic Church pleads with Tanzanians to support nurses

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE Catholic Church has asked Tanzanians to support nurses in their roles by improving their welfare to facilitate improvement of the healthcare services provision in the country.

Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam Rev. Fr Vincent Mpwaji, made the call over the weekend at a holy mass aimed to commemorate the 31st World Day of the Sick 2023 at Chang'ombe

Parish in Dar es Salaam.

According to him, it is the role of the church to take nurses as prayer points as they work on understanding the pain and bitterness that patients go through.

"As far as health is concerned, troubles have a special meaning if connected with troubles and tribulations that Jesus went through. We even dare to ask where God is in those times; with this, we are called to stick in faith upon the prayer for

the ill towards their salvation and all people at large," he said.

Recalling the Covid-19 pandemic with almost everyone abandoning patients, Rev. Mpwaji said it's the nurses who chose to risk their lives to comfort and heal the sick. It's the role that they imposed much faith in believing that Christ was going to heal them.

Health Secretary for the diocese Pauline Archard, said it is time the church links itself with vulnerable and the sick people as a source of happiness.

Feb. 11 is World Day of the Sick, introduced by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses.

MNH launches 'advanced burn care nursing training'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has been urged to scale up across other regions, the knowledge on how to take care of severely burned patients to reduce deaths and disabilities.

Saturini Manangwa, assistant director for nursing and midwifery in the Ministry of Health said yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the official launch of the 'Advance Burn Care Nursing Training' hosted by the MNH.

He said the training will also help to reduce congestion experienced at zonal and regional referral hospitals in the country.

He, however, admitted that shortage of experts and resource constraints are one of the big challenges of quality services to burn patients.

The director said further that the training to nurses in 14 regions was for the first time conducted in East Africa sponsored by Inter-burn - a charity committed to reducing death, disability and disfigurement

from burns in low resource and conflict settings.

Manangwa said nurses equipped with advanced burn nurse care training will help to reduce deaths and disabilities caused by poor expertise. "We want MNH now to scale the training to nurses across other regions to reduce congestion at zonal and regional hospitals," he said.

He said in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs), burn injuries have become a forgotten public health crisis, and outcomes for patients are often particularly poor.

Although affordable, lifesaving interventions exist to confront many of the challenges present in these locations, there is little understanding as to how they can be delivered in a wide diversity of settings.

MNH executive director representative, Dr Rachel Mhavile said that out of 328 burn patients admitted at MNH last year, 235 were children.

Also, out of those admitted in

hospitals last year, 18 per cent died from burn injuries necessitating the need to improve the services.

Assistant director midwifery and nurses at MNH, Redemta Matindi said the aim of the training was to build the capacity of the nurses to improve the quality of services especially when taking care of patients suffering from burns.

She said also to identify strategies to understand the current problem in practice and recognize how to build a team to support a quality improvement practice.

Matindi thanked Interburn for selecting Tanzania to be the host country to hold a course for burn patients to improve the quality of services.

She expressed hope on the good outcomes adding that the patients will get good treatment at the right time as soon as received in the health facility.

Interburn is a charity committed to transforming global burn care and prevention through education, training, research and capacity-building.

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Pursuant to Section 8 Of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 Of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licences to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the applications.

Comments should be addressed to:

Director General
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
P. O Bo 474
14414 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2
Fax: +255 22 2412009
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Industry, Trade and Investment minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (2nd-L) and Confederation of Tanzania Industries officials in jovial mood as she arrived at the Dar es Salaam venue of a CTI breakfast meeting yesterday. Left is CTI executive director Leodegar Tenga and right is CTI board chairman Paul Makanza. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Tanzania among world prominent producers of leguminous crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

TANZANIA has been cited among world prominent producers of leguminous crops whereby in 2021 it is estimated to have produced 1.8 million tonnes, with exports thereof expected to earn \$ 266 million in 2023 from \$198 million in 2020.

This was revealed at an event to mark the National Leguminous Bay by nutrition officer from FAO, Stella Kimambo on behalf of the organisation's country

representative, Dr Nyabenyi Tipu, who added that 85 per cent of the crops was exported to India.

"Despite their nutritious value, Tanzania consumption trends for leguminous crops have been dropping, with many families believing that food from leguminous crops is for poor families, hence reducing their consumption at the table," said Kimambo.

She appealed to the government to enter into trade agreement with India in order to be accorded

favourable deals in regard to the world leguminous market.

"We also appeal for the mobilisation of the crops consumption via food programmes at schools, prisons, armed forces in order to build up the crops' internal market," she added.

Margareth Natai, an agriculture officer from the Ministry of Agriculture said the ministry is implementing the Agri-Connect Project in order to mobilise and build up the consumption culture of leguminous foods.

Lorry drivers close road in protest of harassment from council officials

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TRANSPORT activities along Isonje-Makete were suspended for more than seven hours at the weekend as lorry drivers were pressurising for the removal of council officials who allegedly fined them during the night.

The drivers closed the road claiming that there are some officials from Mbeya District Council who stop them during the night and fine them allegedly for carrying overweight bags of potatoes popularly dubbed "lumbesa."

Speaking to reporters, the drivers said they were being harassed by council officials and sometimes they have been soliciting bribes to let them go.

Aggrey Ndewesi, one of the drivers said the officials are seen along the road only during the night, the practice that worries them as they think they are not officially sanctioned by the

government to do so.

He said when they transport the potatoes they already paid government levies, 1,000/- per bag but when they arrive at the area they again find the officials.

"These officials are harassing us along this road, they solicit bribes, hence we have decided that the only way to defend ourselves is to close this to prompt those responsible to come and listen to us," he said.

Another driver, Abushiri Ilala said: "These council officials have been stopping those who carry overweight bags, but if you look at the bags, that is not the case at all and that is why we are seeking the government's intervention.

He added that when they are at the farms they have been filling potatoes in the bags and seal them up following actual weight, but during transportation the bags get loosened up and appear overweight (lumbesa).

He said after seeing they are

being repeatedly harassed by council officials they asked them to bring a weighing machine for verification, but the officials have been refusing that request and continue harassing them.

The incident prompted Mbeya District Executive Director, Stephen Katemba to visit the area to listen to the lorry drivers.

Katemba said what he saw in regard to the bags' weight was that they were not at all overweight hence they were not subjected to any fines.

He called upon the drivers to continue abiding by the laws in regard to the weight of the potato bags they carry.

"The bags are not seriously overweight, but you should not surpass, as for now I permit you to proceed with your trips," he said.

Last year, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa told all regional officials to stamp down on the "lumbesa" issue by crop dealers when buying crops from farmers.



Joseph Mutalemwa (R), Tigo director for the Lake Victoria Region, presents a car to Kahama resident Samson Daniel. The latter won the prize in a Tigo promotion raffle held in Kahama town at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Relief to Unyamikumbi residents as bridge is built across Utamaa River

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

A TOTAL of eight people have died and two others escaped death in Unyamikumbi Ward, Singida Municipality between 1961 and 2022 as they were crossing the ravine along Utamaa River due to lack of a bridge.

Unyamikumbi Ward Councillor, Kipandwalpini confirmed the tragic incidents saying that in

collaboration with the Singida Town Member of Parliament Mussa Sima, they managed to get funds allocated for the construction of the bridge across the ravine, the work of which was now complete.

"In the circumstances we thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the funds for the construction of this bridge, which is now the saviour for the Unyamikumbi Ward residents," he said.

Halima Jumanne, a resident of Unyamikumbi Village, said she once witnessed an incident in which her friend died while crossing the ravine.

Singida District TARURA Manager Bayona Lambati said there were great inconveniences experienced by the residents wanting to cross the Utamaa River and that TARURA has managed to construct the bridge over the ravine.

Longido TASAF beneficiaries form savings group to access council's free-interest loans

By Guardian Reporter, Longido

A cross section of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) beneficiaries in Ilchangsapokin village in Longido District, Arusha Region can now access loans from the district council after forming women savings group.

Councils in the country allocate ten percent of revenue collections to improve citizen livelihood economically.

These funds are provided as a loan with no interest to groups of women, youth, and people with disabilities. Of the funds, four percent is allocated for youth.

Some 15 members of Ingishongi group in the village, who are also beneficiaries of the TASAF programme have benefitted from the loans.

Ruth Lazaro, the group secretary said the savings group was established in September 29th 2021 after members were trained by

TASAF officials.

She said the aim was to see how best they can utilize the little money they get after every two months. "Through this savings group we have been able to fulfil our basic needs" explained the group secretary.

She said they applied for loans from the district council and were given 3m/-.

However, the long-term goal is to buy a milling machine that will provide them with a more stable income as stated by Nalamara Lemuru, a member of the group.

"We know the programme will come to an end at some point, but we are preparing for better," said the 43 years old mother of five children, adding that without TASAF they could not have reached that far.

She thanked the government for the initiatives through TASAF and district councils' fund which are helping to improve living standards of people.

According to her, group members agreed to contribute 500/- every week and the amount can be loaned to any member, earning some interest to the group.

Namuru Talaswa, 42 years old mother of seven children shared similar experience but maintained that before TASAF life was unbearable.

"After getting education on money savings from TASAF officials, we decided to form the group in order to easily raise money and loan each other," she said.

She said despite getting 42,000/- after every two months, she has managed to buy school needs for her children as well as other needs.

TASAF Coordinator in the district, Lobulu Sarun, described the women group as one of the strongest beneficiaries' activities.

He noted that there are over 9040 fund's beneficiaries in some 50 villages and seven streets in the district council.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Advisor Climate resilient water Supply and Sanitation Services

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

The GIZ programme "Water Security and Climate Resilience for Urban Areas in Tanzania" is looking to fill the position of Advisor for Climate resilient water Supply and Sanitation services

Duty station: Dodoma, Tanzania with frequent travel to Singida and other areas within Tanzania. Fixed term contract

Responsibilities and Tasks

The Advisor is responsible for

- managing the thematic area of responsibility that forms part of the commission, programme objectives, team agreements and agreements with the superior. The responsibilities lie within Output Area 2: "Climate Resilient Water Supply and Sanitation in Urban Centres" within the Programme for Water Security and Climate Resilience for Urban Areas in Tanzania.
- contributing to Output Areas 1: National water policy advice towards strengthening core processes of the Ministry of Water in relation to climate resilient water security and in Output Area 3: "Climate resilient Water Resources Management" of the programme.
- assisting programme initiatives to provide professional advisory services to and cooperate with a broad range of target groups and partner institutions, especially Water supply and sanitation authorities, Local government authorities, Basin Water Boards, Ministry of Water, and local beneficiaries in the towns of Singida, Sumbawanga, Tunduma, Mbeya, and others that may be identified by the programme.
- innovation and knowledge management.

Advising the partner institution(s)

The Advisor

- assists and monitors the development and implementation of programme plans and activities in close consultation with counterparts from the institutions mentioned under Part A.
- contributes to preparing and implementing work plans within Output Area 2, in coordination with Output Areas 1 and 3 of the programmes.
- manages the design, preparation and implementation of meetings, workshops, seminars, writing project reports and plans and other events on issues connected with the programme's area of activities
- supports the utility management team in designing utility performance improvement measures and recommends necessary changes, improvements, and initiatives to improve climate resilience in water supply and sanitation services and its access, especially for people living in marginal and underserved service areas of the towns included in the programme.
- supports preparation of Joint Town-level Master Plans (JTP) for improving water supply and sanitation, preparation of Climate Resilient Water Safety Plans (CR-WSP) based on Ministry of Water Guidelines and following GIZ procedures and methodologies
- supports the utilities in developing ready-to-finance project proposals for implementing priority projects identified by the JTP plans and CR-WSPs.

Networking and cooperation

The Advisor

- supports cooperation, regular consultations, and dialogue with partners, based on technical expertise, mutual trust, and respect
- assists with PR and communications work and cooperates with local communities, relevant organisations, non-governmental agencies, and individuals in the programme environment and with other projects to improve and maintain good working relationships
- communicates local interests and efforts, forwards these to the GIZ Water team and encourages sharing ideas and information for the benefit of the programme and the Output areas.

Knowledge management

The Advisor

- ensures knowledge transfer within the GIZ staff and supports the development of ready-to-use strategies and technical concepts, including guidelines, manuals and procedures that are within the National Water Policy and in accordance with MoW and GIZ principles
- drafts reports and presentation documents with reference to MoW and GIZ communication guidelines.
- prepares appropriate input for various programme reports including annual reports and contributes to other reports required by the programme manager and GIZ Head Office.

Coordination tasks

The Advisor

- assists with general project planning and develops project concepts including preparation, organisation and moderation of planning exercises and their implementation
- assists with monitoring, quality management, evaluation, communication and documentation of project activities and outputs
- coordinates relevant project activities at local level in consultation with the Output Area leader and in cooperation with the partners.
- compiles the relevant information for joint activities and assignments
- supports other operational activities within the GIZ programme (e.g. offer preparation, impact monitoring, project progress review, reporting etc.)

Professional tasks

The Advisor

- works closely with the WSSAs of Singida, Sumbawanga, Tunduma and Mbeya and supports them in improving water supply and sanitation services in underserved, marginalised areas within their area of jurisdiction. A focus therefore is on advisory services and on-site sanitation, faecal sludge management, and decentralised sanitation systems, for instance through the application of the Joint Town-level planning and implementation.
- provides support to WSSA in applying existing digital tools and processes as well as in developing new ones that improve their efficiency in service delivery, e.g. mapping of the water supply network and customers, reducing non-revenue water, etc.
- provides technical support to the WSSA in resource mobilization, including the development of ready to finance project proposals for improving water supply and particularly sanitation services in the respective service area
- provides technical, up-to-date knowledge in the area of responsibility, with reference to national, regional and international experiences and best practices.
- establishes and applies regular exchange mechanisms with relevant stakeholders.
- collaborates with GIZ experts working in the other Output areas of the programme and in the NatuReS programme
- participates in and contributes to GIZ and relevant partner events.

Required Qualifications, Competences and Experiences

- Master's degree or above in an area that is related to the programme and Output area objectives, with a focus on a relevant field, such as: Civil, Environmental or Sanitary Engineering, WASH, etc. with a focus on climate change resilience or adaptation aspects
- at least seven (5) years proven work experience in technical and management aspects of urban water supply and sanitation in Tanzania, including planning and designing of water supply and on and off-site sanitation schemes.
- At least 1 to 2 years' experience in investment funding and bankable/ready to finance project proposal development
- At least 1 to 2 years' experience in the field of low-cost water supply systems, e.g. water kiosks.
- At least 1 to 2 years' experience in faecal sludge management in urban settlements
- Very good working knowledge of ICT technologies (related water resources management software, and computer applications (e.g. MS Office).
- Fluency in written and oral Swahili and English is required.
- Excellent communication and networking skills.
- Working experience with international organisations.
- Proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary team of national and international experts.
- Willingness to upskill as required by the tasks to be performed - corresponding measures are agreed with management.

Applications:

Interested candidates should send their letter of application together with the CV and copies of academic certificates by email to hr.giz-tanzania@giz.de.

Please use the subject line "Climate resilient Water Supply and Sanitation services". Closing date for submission: 20.02.2023

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

GIZ Tanzania is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from all qualified and eligible candidates regardless of their gender, origin, religion/belief, disability, or any other minority group.

Kenya landlords demand high fees from Tanzania pastoralists grazing their livestock across the border

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

NOMADIC Pastoralists from Tanzania who cross onto the Kenyan side seeking greener pastures during times of drought are usually forced to pay daily grazing fees.

That came to light here during the official launch of a new booklet on 'Application of Indigenous Knowledge for Environment Conservation,' compiled by the Media Aid for Indigenous and Pastoralist Community (MAIPAC).

"Following the long spell of drought which hit the Northern Zone last year, many of the pastoralists in Longido and Ngorongoro, the districts bordering the neighboring country of Kenya, crossed to the other side with their livestock," said the executive director of MAIPAC, Mussa Juma.

According to Mussa Juma, once there, the local grazers realized that Kenya has a wide stretch of wilderness like Tanzania.

"There, each piece of land is claimed, there are no vacant plots, so they were forced to pay daily grazing fees depending on the number of cattle in their menagerie," Mussa maintained.

The MAIPAC front man said the grazers also discovered that all the grazing areas in Kenya featured artificially planted Napier grass whose seedlings were essentially uprooted from Tanzania in the first place.

"The pastoralists had to learn it the hard way, that they can always create their own pastures for future use, in case of drought by planting the elephant grass on selected patches of land," the MAIPAC official pointed out.

The drought spell of 2022 killed 129,786 animals in the Monduli District.

In the neighbouring district of Longido nearly 60,000 animals, including wildlife and livestock died because of drought.

The serious drought spells affected most parts of Tanzania in 2022.

For instance, the Great River Ruaha in the southern highlands had dried up.

The drought is among the negative effects of global warming as a result of climate change.

To address that, the media organization conducted research on how to apply indigenous methods to offset such calamities and from the studies in three districts of Longido, Monduli and Ngorongoro, the booklet was published.

The Minister of State in the President's Office, in-charge of Regional Administration and Local Government, Sulemani Jafo officially launched the booklet on 'Application of Indigenous Knowledge for Environment Conservation,' in Arusha.

"It is high time we go back to our own time tested and proven indigenous knowledge conserving the environment because everything else seems to have failed and this is a global problem," Jafo pointed out.

The newly hatched nature-based conservation initiative titled, 'Forest, Water and Environment Conservation, Using Indigenous Knowledge,' sets out to address climate change problems using nature based solutions.

MAIPAC is the focus organisation which implements the project in partnership with the Longido District Council, Ngorongoro District Council, Monduli District Council, Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRFF) and the Civic and Legal Aid Organization (CLAO).

The 'Forest, Water and Environment Conservation, Using Indigenous Knowledge,' project is supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the GEF Small Grants Program and the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.



Sulemani Biashangazi (L), director general of suburban Dar es Salaam's Kipunguni Community Voice Centre, stands as facilitator yesterday during a sensitisation seminar on sexual corruption open to residents of Ilala District. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court has set free Pasco Mkati and his colleagues who were facing two charges including conspiracy and theft of two containers containing sanitary pads.

Mkati and his colleagues were set free after the prosecution presented nine witnesses but the court was not convinced of guilt of a crime.

The judgment was given last week by Kisutu Principal Resident Magistrate, Ramadhani

Kisutu court sets free accused facing two conspiracy charges

Rugemalila after both sides testified.

Rugemalila told the court that prosecution failed to present key witnesses including the owner of the dry port.

"The prosecution has failed to bring witnesses who could testify how the conspiracy took place. Therefore, the accused are not guilty and the court set

them free," Rugemalila told the court.

Apart from Mtaki, other accused persons are Dar es Salaam dry port clerk, George Shauri, Adam Mzava and Munasary Salim, who were present when the case was brought for hearing.

According to the charge sheet, all accused were facing two counts which are conspiracy and intent

to commit an offence by stealing two containers.

It was alleged that on the first count, the accused committed the offence on 8 May, 2017 while at dry port in Dar es Salaam city.

On the second count, it was alleged that on the same date and place, the accused stole two containers of sanitary pad with 5390 cartons worth US \$ 20,000

Brewer offers opportunities for young women in STEM

By Guardian Reporter

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) has embarked on a programme aimed to empower women to grab opportunities embedded in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

The STEM Apprenticeship Programme is part of its parent company, Diageo's 10-year strategic plan - Society 2030: Spirit of Progress.

Through the STEM apprenticeship programme, SBL sponsors graduate students from higher education to learn and gain valuable experiences and on-the-job training.

SBL has always advocated for inclusion and diversity in its business operations, therefore, the STEM apprenticeship programme further cements the brewer's commitment to bridging the gap by giving young women access to STEM-related skills.

SBL is currently taking another round of cohorts after the success of the first round of the apprenticeship programme. Lydia Masonda, Julieth Masawe, and Christina Ndalichako are among the STEM Apprenticeship graduates from SBL who now work as Autonomous Maintenance Operators, at the SBL Moshi plant.

Masonda said: "I see an opportunity for growth, as well as being permanently employed in SBL. I can confidently say I see a bright future in my career path."

Masawe considers her experience in the programme to be a journey of growth professionally and personally, "I never imagined that one day I would operate a fully automated machine for a big company such as SBL. Just being here keeps me motivated to learn and become better at my craft. I got trained on technical, business, and supply side of the business, something tangible to have."

One beneficiary from the second

cohort, Miriam Joseph Masanja, a student from Mbeya University of Science and Technology, majoring in Bachelor of Electrical and Electronics Engineering said, "Since I joined the cohort, I have garnered problem-solving skills, functional capabilities in brewery operations, multitasking, and communications, to mention a few, which are tools for personal development and growth in this field."

Another candidate from the second cohort, Glory Hungu, from the Sokoine University of Agriculture, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Technology and a beneficiary of the STEM programme finds the programme crucial to girls and women in the modern age, saying, "I have always been inquisitive in terms of solving challenges on different issues but also curious on gaining knowledge through experiments, and science has always given me the answers I needed."

Natalia Kimacha, SBL's Manufacturing Excellence Manager said she was proud of the programme's success and how it empowers talents in the field.

"Our recruitment process picks the best ten out of hundreds of applicants. We have designed policies for graduates and offer a programme that gives practical experience and job opportunities. The company has several partnerships with universities and career fairs. Our agro-scholarship program Kilimo Viwanda is an example of how we support youth to obtain experience within the labour market," said Kimacha, noting that, to ensure sustainability, SBL has put in place policies and strategies that encompass inclusion and diversity.

SBL pledges to continue supporting women in science and ICT fields, as part of its efforts to bridge the gap, whilst expanding its initiatives in empowering women across its business as well.



Universal Communications Service Access Fund CEO Justina Mashiba addresses journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on the role of the fund and the achievements it has made over the years. UCSAF was set up by law some 16 years ago primarily to facilitate and coordinate communication services access to Tanzania's rural and urban underdeveloped areas through partnership with sector players so as to achieve social and economic development in line with the goals of the country's Development Vision 2025. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Dar school emerges second winner in tax quiz competition

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

STUDENTS of St Mary's Secondary School Mbezi Beach in Dar es Salaam, have emerged number two in a quiz competition about tax issues that involved 59 private and government schools.

The school emerged number two behind Kibaha secondary school of Coast Region in the competition held recently at the Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) in Mikocheni Dar es Salaam.

The competition, which lasted for three days, was organised by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)

and involved 59 private and public secondary schools.

Speaking about the competition yesterday, the school Headmaster, Recca Ndipoo, said that following the victory, the students of the school were awarded computers, photocopy machines, trophies and various medals.

"We always participate in various competitions organised by TRA, so this year we participated along with 59 schools and in those schools we emerged second behind Kibaha secondary school which was the first," he said.

He added that the event was organised by a large government institution and involved private and

government schools, so the school's victory is a matter of pride for the entire school's leadership.

He said that the students of the school showed a high level of competence in answering various questions related to taxes, which made them emerge the second among 59 schools.

"Competing with 59 schools in the Dar es Salaam region, including private and government schools, and emerging in second position is not a joke, this is not a small thing to us. We are proud of this success and in the next competition we promise to be number one," he said.

Chairman of St Mary's board, Dallas Mhoja mentioned that the

secret behind the success is the good preparation of students and competent teachers who have been working tirelessly to ensure their students perform well in national examinations and in such events.

"This competition has brought great excitement to our students and teachers who participated because apart from prizes like computers, they were rewarded with cash, so this competition is very important in the education sector," he said.

He commended TRA for organizing such an event which he said helped to create tax awareness and the importance of paying tax to students in their childhood.

MV Mwanza set to open more investment doors for regions in Lake Zone

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

LAKE Victoria's largest ship to be built, MV Mwanza (HapaKaziTu) has officially been launched after completion of Phase II of its construction and is expected to open doors for investments and new internal and external markets.

The vessel's Phase II completion at 100 per cent means that the ship is 82 per cent complete before being fully completed in August this year before starting its voyages to all major ports in Lake Victoria in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Speaking at the launching ceremony here at the weekend Deputy Works and Transport Minister Atupele Mwakibete issued instructions to Tanzania Ports Authority to make sure they refurbish all major ports at which MV Mwanza will make calls, the work of which should be completed within the remaining few months.

He added that the vessel will open its doors for investment via the ports of Bukoba, Kemono, Jinja (Uganda), Kisumu (Kenya) and Musoma.

The Director General of Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL), Erick Hamisi said the ship has cost 109.1bn/- and the contractor has already been paid 88 per cent or 93.8bn/- the rest will be paid after completion.

Earlier, Mwanza Regional Commissioner Adam Malima said the completion of the ship is expected to strengthen passenger and cargo transport in various areas within and outside the Lake Zone regions, including neighbouring countries of Uganda and Kenya.

He added that the coming of MV Mwanza will integrate with the modern Standard Gauge Railway

(SGR) as it will be receiving cargo transported from Dar es Salaam Port destined to neighbouring countries including Uganda.

Malima added that Mwanza Region will be a big beneficiary of three government mega projects that will help to raise its economy -SGR that will have a dry port to be built at Fela station, the international airport and the biggest ship ever to be built in the Great Lakes countries.

Meanwhile, Regional Commissioners from neighbouring regions explained how the ship will benefit the country by enhancing investment activities.

Kagera Regional commissioner Albert Chalamila said the ship will be a great transport relief for both cargo and passengers in his region, especially for residents in island areas.

He added that already the government has allocated 30m/- for the refurbishment of Kemono Port at which MV Mwanza will be berthing.

Earlier, Geita Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigella said the ship will help to enhance investment activities and called investors to grab the opportunity.

Mara regional commissioner, Maj. Gen Suleiman Mungiya Mzee appealed to the government to improve Musoma port to allow the new ship to berth.

Head Engineer for the MV Mwanza Project, Vitus Mapunda said when the ship will begin operating, it will abide by all criteria for environmental conservation.

The ship weighing 3,500 tonnes will have the capacity to carry 1,200 passengers and 400 tonnes of cargo including 20 vehicles and will call at all major ports on Lake Victoria.



Vincent Mpuya (2nd-R), returning officer for an election involving opposition Chadema's King'azi B branch in Kwembe Ward, Dar es Salaam's Ubungo municipality, pictured at the weekend supervising the proceedings. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Councillors endorse dismissal of two hospital nurses for 'gross negligence'

By Guardian Correspondent, Masasi

TWO health workers at the Masasi's Mkomaindo District Hospital, Mtwara Region - Pascal Mnyaru and Joyce Nkane have been dismissed after they were found wilfully negligent for the death of a pregnant woman for failing to provide medical services in time when she went at the hospital to give birth.

The final decision for dismissal of the two health workers was referred to the Masasi Town Councillors Meeting whereby they unanimously

endorsed their dismissal for the negligence committed early last year.

Announcing the decision yesterday at the Councillors Meeting, the Deputy Masasi Town Council Mayor Mbaraka Kodo said the council sat together with the town council's management and endorsed their dismissal

Kodo said their case reached the Town Council's management seeking permission for the two workers to be deliberated upon and the decision was for their dismissal. He said the two health workers,

both senior nurses at the Mkomaindo Hospital, are alleged to have caused the death of a pregnant woman by failing to attend to her in time.

Meanwhile, the Hospital Doctor in Charge, Dr Salumu Gembe said the decision made was final because the matter had passed all necessary stages.

He said before the decision for their dismissal, a team from the country's medical board came to make investigations and found out that the two workers had committed gross negligence.

"This should be a wake-up call for other hospital workers, as the two's dismissal had followed all disciplinary steps, starting with the revocation of their professional licences, I call upon all of you to work in adherence to professional ethics," said Dr Gembe.

Ally Salvatory, Mkomaindo Ward Councillor said as leaders they have been receiving many complaints from the people in regard to workers at the hospital about acts of negligence when treating patients, hence the decision to dismiss the two workers was right.

Dar court adjourns computer hacking case facing 6 people

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

PROSECUTION side into the case of hacking computer systems illegally, facing loan officer from Platinum Credit Tanzania Limited, Mulokozi Muyeke and his colleagues, has claimed that they are still searching for other two suspects and their guarantors who skipped bail.

Senior State Attorney, Sylvia Mitanto, said this on Friday before Principal Resident Magistrate at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate Court, Yusto Ruboroga when the case was brought for mention and progress of investigation.

Those who skipped bail are gym supervisor, Samuel Sangawe and Rajabu Msangi whose arrest warrant was

issued as well as their sureties.

In the wake of this information, Mitanto asked the court to adjourn the case to another date whereby Hon. Ruboroga agreed and adjourned the case until 22 February this year when it will come up for another mention.

Other accused in the case are Rajabu Muawia, James Kaya and Frank Saka, who are facing five counts.

On the first count it was alleged that the accused organised a criminal gang with bad intention and committed the said offence.

It was alleged that between 01 April and 20 July last year, within and outside the country, all the accused did conspiracy and hack computer systems owned

by Platinum Credit Tanzania Limited.

On the second count, on the same date and place, all the accused with bad intention and without justification caused loss by hacking the said computer system.

On the third count, one accused Muyeke while at Platinum Credit Tanzania Limited offices, hacked the computer system and spread information and gave away code numbers of the system to Muasya and Saka.

On the fourth count, which Muasya and Saka are facing, it was alleged that on the same day, without legality, the accused received code number and information and hacked the computer system of the said company.

Also, on the first count, all the accused on the same day hacked the said computer system illegally.

By Guardian Reporter

NYANKUMBU girls Secondary School in Geita has been overwhelmed by parents seeking to register their children following an impressive performance in the recently released O-level results.

The school which is owned by the government and was built by the Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) through corporate social responsibility has been a game changer for girls' education in the region.

GGML spent a total of 15bn/-in the construction of the boarding school as well as improving the infrastructure of other schools in the region with the aspiration of supporting the government's efforts in improving the education sector in the country.

School headmaster Georgia Mugashe said in an interview that in this academic year it has registered 240 form one students while they had a number of applicants and had to leave others due to large number

Girl school records impressive performance in last year's Form Four examination results

of applications. She said that the school with more than 1,050 students has helped improve pass rate in the region which has been trailing behind in the past examination results.

She noted that according to the form four results of 2022, all students have passed and no one has received division zero.

"In the just ended examinations, a total of 38 students got Division I, 86 Division II, 36 Division III and six students with Division IV. So you can see the efforts we are making to ensure that they all get division one and even in the 2021 results, 50 students got division one," he said.

Vice President of AngloGold Ashanti who oversees sustainable projects in Ghana and Tanzania, Simon Shayo said it is exciting and encouraging to see the school that GGML has established with the aim of improving education in Geita region.

He said GGML has been at the forefront of supporting the government's efforts as it has also built infrastructure in schools in Bugando and Kamena which have started receiving advanced level students from the year 2021/2022.

"A total of 287.5m/- was spent on these two schools and in collaboration with the Geita Town Council, these funds were provided through the CSR fund," he said.



Macon Dunnagan (R), Tanzania's goodwill ambassador for tourism in the US, poses with tourists from North Carolina for a briefing session at the weekend shortly before they set out for a Mount Kilimanjaro expedition. They have already started their six-day Special Climb through the Rongai route, the mission organised by Moshi-based tourism firm ZARA Tours. Photo by Correspondent James Lanka

INSURANCE AGENCY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Insurance business in Tanzania is poised for a phenomenon growth in a coming time. To tap into this opportunity one of the top and fastest growing insurance company with a strong brand name invites business owners, dealers, institutions, and person having wide network to apply for agency license.

Typically, the agents earn the commission and bonuses out of insurance business they earn. The insurance company will provide all trainings and assistance in registration processes and business development.

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Elephant underpass: Modernising wildlife corridors a good initiative

WLDLIFE administrators and a breadth of district and regional officials are breathing with relief that a way has been found to cut wildlife killing by motor vehicles when busy tarmac roads are built across a patch of conservation territory. It is the idea of a 13 kilometres long tunnel intended to serve as an elephant corridor, part of a wildlife corridor restoration project, apparently managed across a number of countries by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Nyerere Park wildlife corridor project falls under the Southern Tanzania Elephant Program (STEP), a USAID move.

The project illustrates the difference between thinking up big projects and crucial interventions with small projects, as the project is billed to cost euro 300,000 upon completion. The idea was a sideline consideration on the Kidatu-Ikakarua road in Kilombero District in Morogoro Region, financed by the European Union (EU) USAID officials say they shared the idea with them they agreed to support construction of the underpass at a cost of euro 0.3m. It was the idea that they basically accepted as the costing was much smaller than the use of the corridor to the wider conservation picture in the national parks.

The rest of what was explained was in a sense a matter of conservation details, like installing cameras to monitor the number of elephants crossing between the Udzungwa Mountains and Nyerere national park conservation areas through the underpass, in a briefing for a team of media personnel from the Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET). It is possible this idea may have to be replicated in other places, for instance the Tarangire Manyara conservation area where contentions are heard from time to time. Unless of course the issue differs from one area to another, if animals

want to pass, or to use the area.

Another impression that comes up is that more organisations are starting to be involved in conservation issues, as in the past there was talk about the Frankfurt Zoological Association which has strong links with northern zone conservation matters. There is even a link between USAID interest in conservation issue and wider US interest in stopping the traffic in wildlife as part of wider governance improvement programmes globally. The project poignantly underlines its presence on the scene, monitoring conservation as a whole, while the interest it shows and how it is evaluated back home uplifts interest in the parks as well.

Another piece of information aired during the JET visit was about plans to construct a railway underpass along the Tanzania Zambia Railway (TAZARA) for the same jumbos, as they fall to trucks on highways or to trains when the railway traverses conservation areas. There are spots which emerge as especially notorious, where crossing jumbos may often meet trains while that would scarcely happen in other areas the railway line could still be traversing conservation territory. Six elephants were killed on the TAZARA railway track in the past two years, in which case the situation was in danger of getting from bad to worse, as plans in the region are to increase trade with more countries.

Hopefully this will also diminish incidents where jumbos attack and kill people here and there, with conservation officials say one or two people die each year from such interactions. If the problem was simply that of passage from one area to another along a fairly defined route, the underpass efforts will take care of those situations. But if there is wider expansion of economic activities, building an underpass corridor could see some people encroach further into conservation areas for the feeling that elephants will be out of the way. It would be a mistake.

Policing poisoning water sources can't just be left to NEMC offices

ASURPRISING situation was at hand last week when National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka visited Sunshine Gold Mine in Chunya District, Mbeya Region but there was nobody to talk to concerning the situation at the mine. He was making an on the spot inspection of what is happening in relation to reported outflow of toxic waste water, finding its way to water sources and imperil the health of surrounding populations as well as animals. He then issued a 14 day ultimatum to the mine operator to explain what the company is going and show its operational permits.

While it was clear the area needed to be put under supervision to stop activities being conducted at the mine until the mine operator explains to NEMC in the capital, there was a gap of officials witnessing the directive being given. As the NEMC chief executive was only accompanied by officials from the NEMC Southern Highlands Zone offices for an impromptu visit at the mine, it wasn't clear how far district and regional administration were in the picture. It was vital that regional secretariat and district councils are equally involved in the moves.

While the tour may have been arranged by NEMC as an internal visit, the situation was definitely being followed by district officials for all this period, as poisoning water sources is no laughing matter. The fact that the visit was impromptu and seemingly not needing to be coordinated with regional or district administrators was a sore thumb. It implies the factory operators have different levels of understanding with

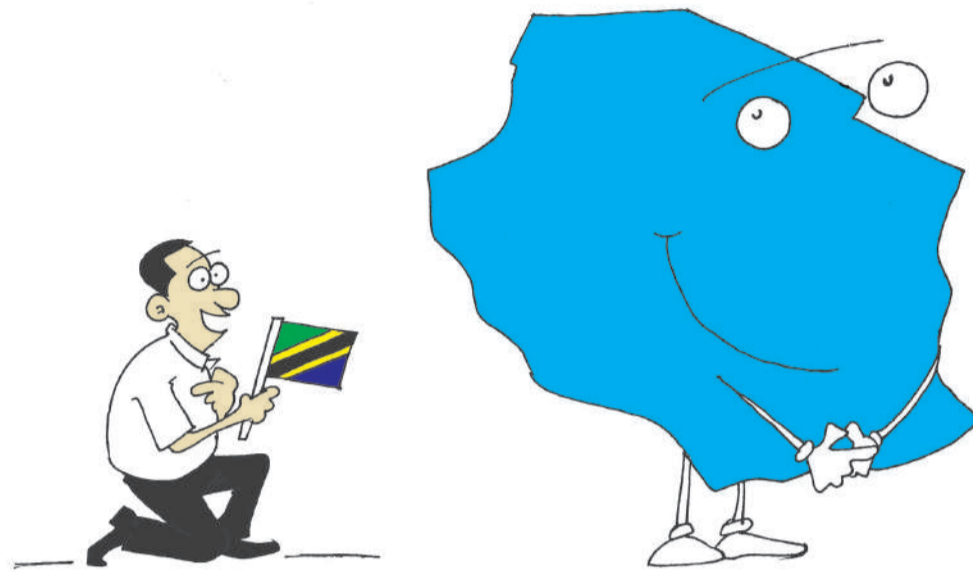
the respective administrations, while the public authorities lack effective communication with one another on the matter.

If this impression isn't entirely mistaken, then it would imply there is something that needs to be corrected, that there is greater cohesiveness, which also means resolve, in supervising environmental regulations, and especially for an issue as sensitive as water sources. But it isn't the first time that laxity seems to reign in a matter of utmost public interest, like the way cattle herders feed cattle on crops, and this is taken as a dispute between two individuals. It is a threat to the public order and an unwarranted condemnation of a family or village to hunger.

The NEMC team ascertained initial investigations of the presence of two sewage water ponds where one of them has a permit and the other is illegal, but both are in use. As we have district and regional defence and security officials to ensure that lives and property are being defended, building a pond for waste water collection and its content seep into water sources without this being forcefully addressed by village, ward or district officials was surprising too say the least.

And by the time NEMC is in place, officials aren't around, nor were any administrators to be seen either, as if it is simply of concern to NEMC. That was largely the sort of impression the visit created, and the public will be wondering if water source poisoning is in certain circumstances a small matter. As it can't possibly be the case, it follows that communication was inadequate on the issue, and perhaps the interest wasn't at its most noticeable, either.

Be my Valentine!



By Angelina Ngalula

IN the last 12 months, we have witnessed geopolitical instability and conflicts, increasing inflation, volatile energy prices, disruption of supply chains, the long tail of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the rising interest rates.

All these storms have caused shockwaves across the globe that had trickled down to our local economy.

Over the same period, Tanzanian companies have demonstrated resilience, recovery, and adaptability to survive in the post-pandemic-wartime era.

We've seen a record-breaking performance from the private sector companies in key economic metrics in 2022, signaling a positive outlook for 2023.

These achievements are the courtesy of strong macroeconomic policies and, in particular, HE President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan's personal and government's response to creating a better business and investment climate.

It goes without saying, the government's recognition and embracement than ever before of the private sector as the catalyst for economic growth has also contributed a great deal to the feat.

For instance, in 2022, commercial banks in Tanzania saw their earnings raise to record levels in the first half, signaling the sectors net profit will surpass Sh1 trillion by early 2023.

This is attributed to strong company performance, private sector confidence, improved Non-Performing Loans (NPLs), and banks' ability to support development through credit.

In addition, credit extended to the private sector grew at around 23.7% in 2022, the highest in over a decade, and significantly higher than 5.6 in the quarter ending December 2021.

Loans to productive sectors such as agriculture, mining, micro, small and medium enterprises; trade and manufacturing create a trickle-down effect on the economy.

The capital market, in the other hand, saw a strong growth perspective and business performance, thanks to a recent change of legislation, mainly liberalisation of the capital account to allow investors from East African Community (EAC) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to participate in the local bond markets.

This saw Tanzania Share Index (TSI) rise by 9.1 per cent in 2022 compared to 2.9 per cent in 2021, raising Sh853.71 billion in one year to outpace many regional indexes.

This ultimately increased wealth for local businesses and allowed international investors to diversify their portfolios in Tanzania as an

Tanzania's private sector upbeats on economic outlook in 2023



emerging economy.

Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), the country's investment promotion agency, achieved a historic milestone by luring over \$3.16 billion worth of investments to Tanzania in 2022, a growth of more than 250% year on year.

The investment capital stream into the country leads to employment creation and augments the foreign exchange reserves at a time when imported commodities, such as oil, continue rising.

In addition, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) collected Sh2.77 trillion in tax in December 2022, the biggest monthly collection since the inception of authority in 1996.

This is a strong sign of the private sector's willingness to pay taxes, improved relations between the government and taxpayers, as well as the rise in economic activities.

Given the global conditions in 2021/22, these accomplishments are not a little feat; they signify the growth of the country's private sector, thus offering a clear positive trend in 2023, as we forecast another record-breaking year.

The World Bank forecasts that Tanzania's economy will expand by 5.3 percent in 2023, which is way above Sub-Saharan Africa's average growth of 3.6 per cent.

However, we shall proceed with caution, if the warning by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, that 2023 would be a difficult year for the global economy and that inflation will continue to rise, is anything to go by.

To achieve such growth, we urge the Tanzania government to maintain its pro-growth policies in 2023 as it seeks to maintain economic growth while cushioning the economy against adverse impacts.

Hence, we at the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) will continue having constructive dialogues with the government through existing platforms, including parliamentary committees, Tax Force on Tax Reforms, and ultimately the Tanzania National Business Council H.E President President Samia

Suluhu Hassan chairs.

This aims at ensuring a friendly business environment, attractive investment incentives, and fiscal policies are in place in 2023/24 to stimulate growth while mitigating external shocks.

In addition, we foresee an increase in government debt as the country tries to finalise its capital infrastructure projects on roads, airports, railways, water, and energy, among others.

Investing in these key infrastructures will lead to an increase in the productive capacity of our economy, and, therefore, enhance its capacity to pay back without causing panic on the public debt.

However, the government can seek alternative financing options to diversify its debt burden such as by using private equities and the public-private partnership (PPP) in efforts to finance these strategic projects.

This will further spur private sector growth and maintain the debt to reasonable levels, given the potential for interest rates to increase as nations try to curb inflation in the year ahead.

An increase in energy supply will be another success factor for the private sector in Tanzania. Progress of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Dam, the largest of its kind in the region, with the capacity of generating 5,920GWh of power annually, will certainly revolutionise the country's industrial economy.

We will be able to host large and labour-intensive industries that require large energy input. With over 80% of rural electrification complete, this project will diversify our economies and spur businesses in most villages, creating employment and raising people's incomes.

In 2022, Tanzania was one of seven countries selected for a pilot project on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Initiative on Guided Trade trial. Given its strategic location and the growing manufacturing base, Tanzania's three businesses should take advantage of the AfCFTA with market access of 1.3 billion people.

We should, therefore, ensure our policies enhance resilience by boosting intra-Africa trade, especially in manufacturing products to cushion economies from volatile commodity prices from Western and Eastern economies.

As Tanzania implements its 10/30 Agenda, global and regional demands for food surge, the agricultural sector, which provides livelihoods for most Tanzanians, will be another important sector of

focus in 2023.

Tanzania can become a regional food basket, thanks to its 44 million hectares of fertile land. Farm productivity can be raised with the help of effective agricultural policy by prioritising mechanisation, irrigation, and investment in fertilizer plants, post-harvest loss, and value addition.

Agriculture, manufacturing, and energy are among key sectors that are most vulnerable to climate change, with drought affecting agriculture and reliable power supply.

These sectors employ over 70% of Tanzanians, hence any drastic change in climate change will affect their livelihood and reduce our per capita income.

However, we are encouraged by the government's efforts in developing policies to support climate resilience, including the National Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026. It is understood that in efforts to decrease greenhouse gases, Tanzania is promoting and attracting clean technologies and renewable energy.

The private sector highly applauds these efforts. We cannot deny the reality that we are living in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), which is characterised by the fusion of the digital and physical worlds.

Increased use of technology such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and the Internet of things has heralded a new era of economic disruption.

Tanzania's young innovators and businesses are already proving to be an asset in molding the country's future, and if allowed to thrive, they might be at the forefront of providing the much-needed solution.

Government decision-makers must become catalysts for entrepreneurial leadership if these young people are to succeed.

Creating a Startup Act could result in significant economic growth and help nurture this culture of innovation.

In conclusion, by improving institutional governance and enacting policies that can leverage the private sector, preparing climate and pandemic-proof companies, youth and women inclusion, maximising on efficient use of technology, and utilising the country's resources for inclusive and sustainable development, we will, once again, see Tanzania breaking records in 2023.

Angelina Ngalula is the Chairperson of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF).

Nigeria election 2023 in Katsina: 'You let kidnappers take me, now you want my vote'



Aisha Mama (L) had to flee her home for her mother's house in Katsina city because of the attacks on her village. File photo

By Nduka Orjinmo

MANY Nigerians live in constant fear of being kidnapped and held for ransom by armed gangs, especially in the north-west of the country, where thousands of people have had to flee their homes. The insecurity means many in the region, which has the country's largest number of registered voters, may not take part in the 25 February elections.

Short presentational grey line

An unpaved mile-long road that ends at a tree stump is the only way for vehicles to get into Bakiyawwa village in Nigeria's northern Katsina state.

This community of mostly subsistence farmers is not where you would expect criminals behind Nigeria's lucrative kidnap-for-ransom business to go looking for victims.

It came as a surprise therefore when motorcycle-riding armed men invaded last September and abducted 57 villagers.

"They held my wife for 38 days," said Abduljabara Mohammed, a civil servant and one of those considered well-off. He paid 1m naira (\$2,100; £1,700) for her release.

"I gave them all my money and a motorcycle, then pleaded with them not to take me," said Zaradeen Musa, 30, whose door was kicked in around 01:00 as the armed men, commonly referred to as bandits, operated unchallenged for four hours after repelling a police unit called in by the villagers.

Maria Sani, 45, was seized but managed to slip away as the bandits led the victims to their forest hideout.

She was left wondering what would have become of her if she had not escaped as, like many abducted that day, she could never have afforded the ransom.

All those kidnapped were eventually freed but only after months of negotiations that resulted in them paying with cash or valuables

such as motorcycles. The abductions show how far the kidnapping problem has spread - not even the poorest are spared.

Nevertheless, those in Bakiyawwa would consider themselves lucky as the attacks sometimes turn deadly, such as the reported killing of more than 100 villagers by armed men last Friday in another part of Katsina.

Such armed groups in the north-west and violent secessionists in the south-east pose real threats to the 25 February elections, analysts say. Attacks on offices of the Independent National Electoral Commission (Inec) led to polls being moved by a week in 2019, and the recent burning of an Inec office in the south-east has led to fears of another postponement, although officials have said there will be no delays.

In December, Inec announced that it was too dangerous to hold the polls in some parts of Katsina state but it is not clear what will happen on election day.

Law professor Chidi Odinkalu argues that this election risks being dragged into uncharted legal territory if insecurity hampers voting and a candidate believes they have been robbed of vital support.

In the past, people have stayed away from voting over fears of violence in southern states like Imo, Anambra, Lagos and Rivers, but now, the kidnap crisis in the north has left many disinterested in the elections.

"You let kidnappers take me, now you want my vote," said Mrs Sani through an interpreter.

Like many here she previously voted for President Muhammadu Buhari but she is sitting this one out.

President Buhari is standing down after serving two terms and Bola Tinubu is standing for the governing All Progressives Congress (APC).

"How can you see all the suffering and still vote for the APC?" said

Lawal Suleiman, a former party member but now a lone voice in the village campaigning for the Labour Party's Peter Obi.

Many others in Bakiyawwa say they would probably back the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), if they vote at all.

"If Buhari couldn't solve the problems of this country, no-one else can," Nana Samaila, who fled her village in Batsari three years ago after attacks by armed groups, told the BBC.

Her daughter, Aisha Mama, also recently fled with her husband from the village of Dangyya after persistent night-time attacks forced her family to sleep in their farm for weeks.

Mrs Samaila had high hopes that President Buhari, a former military ruler who comes from Katsina, would solve Nigeria's myriad issues when she first voted for him in 2003, but like many others, she is now disillusioned by the failures of his government.

Hundreds of school children have been abducted and released, and the state governor once asked residents to arm themselves against the bandits in a show of helplessness.

The leading candidates in the election recognise that insecurity, which is intertwined with rising food prices that have caused record levels of inflation, is Nigeria's biggest challenge at the moment.

Atiku Abubakar of the PDP, Mr Tinubu of the APC and Mr Obi of the Labour Party are proposing police reforms, revamping the military and improved welfare, among other ideas.

Their plans are not radically different from what President Buhari, who was elected on a promise of tackling Islamist groups in the north-east, has done with only limited success.

While he has largely succeeded in containing the Islamist insurgency, violence in the north-west and south-east has massively increased on his watch.

"He scattered [destroyed] the economy, there is so much insecurity," said Mohammed Yusuf, a farmer originally from Katsina now forced into selling tea and cooked noodles on the streets of the region's biggest city, Kano.

Kano, Katsina and Kaduna, dubbed the three Ks, are considered key states for whoever wants to emerge as Nige-

ria's president because of their large voting population. There are more registered voters here than in the five south-eastern states.

Mr Buhari's bloc of votes in the trio of states helped him win two elections in a row, and while some will still back the APC, there is a feeling that the party has lost ground in a region battered by insecurity.

Just two weeks ago, this was illustrated when stones were thrown at the president's helicopter during a visit to Kano.

There is also a dark horse in the form of Rabiu Kwankwaso of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP). Only his die-hard supporters expect him to win the presidency, but he has emerged as a major disruptor who might decide who becomes the next president.

A former governor of Kano state and one-time defence minister, Mr Kwankwaso is immensely popular in Kano and neighbouring Jigawa state.

If he takes the majority of votes in Kano, whose six million registered voters rank second only to Lagos, it will greatly affect other candidates, especially those of the APC and PDP.

This might work in favour of the Labour Party which does not have a strong support base in the region.

Mr Kwankwaso, like many other Nigerian politicians, has switched parties several times. Last time, he backed the PDP and there are rumours he will step down for its candidate and fellow northerner, Mr Abubakar, at some point.

"He and Obi won't win, though they are better alternatives to Mr Abubakar who is a cronies capitalist," said Umar Yahaya, a university student driving a taxi in nearby Kaduna.

"But anyone that votes the APC is rewarding them for failure," he said, as we headed to the recently reopened Rigasa station to board the Kaduna-Abuja train. The line had been shut for months after a deadly attack by militants which saw the killing and abduction of dozens of passengers.

When Mr Buhari inaugurated the line in 2016 it was considered a sign of progress in the north, but now it has become a symbol of the violence consuming the region.

Young Ghanaian graduate sets up all-female security network to create employment

ACCRA

FOR most young Africans, the next hurdle after completing tertiary education is securing a job to help lay a solid foundation for the future.

Facing a persistently high unemployment rate, Mary Tackie-Yaoboi, a young female graduate of Knutsford University College in Ghana, decided to take her destiny into her own hands by establishing a business to create jobs for herself and other young women in the country.

Also, being tired of constant disappointments in her quest to get enlisted into any of the state security services, and with her passion for working in the security sector, Tackie-Yaoboi set up an all-female private security company where she could realize her life-long ambition.

"I am the chief executive officer (CEO) and founder of She Guards, an all-female private security company, the first of its kind in Ghana. We provide services at weddings, parties, conferences, exhibitions, and corporate events. We also offer personal escort services to tourists and dignitaries," Tackie-Yaoboi told Xinhua in a recent interview.

The female guards turned out smartly at events in their all-black security outfits, either as guards, aids, or escorts, ensuring that everything goes well with no security hitches or glitches.

"I have always had a passion for joining the security services. But I tried for several years without success. I remained unemployed for three years while still following and chasing this dream, buying forms, going for screening, and taking examinations, without success," she said. Due to her passion for the security vocation, Tackie-Yaoboi said, "I thought to myself, why not set up a private security company? I studied human resource management in school, and security is also about personnel management.

"Her inspiration came from the fact that there were all-female security companies in other countries doing well." So I decided to do something similar," she said. "Moreover, Ghana is becoming a destination for tourism, conferences, and events alongside the growing business environment. With these also comes the need for private security, and I foresaw that opportunity and decided to take advantage of it."

She first secured a job with an all-male security company that was willing to employ her as the only female among the males.

"They are all male but were willing to offer me the opportunity to give me the experience and the training I needed. So I was with them for a while, but still was not fulfilled because that is not where I wanted to



Mary Tackie-Yaoboi performs her duty as a security guard at an event in Accra, capital of Ghana, on Nov 16, 2022. (Xinhua)

be." After a few years with the all-male security company, Tackie-Yaoboi decided to move on and set up the all-female security firm to fulfill her passion and goals.

Another reason that drove the 29-year-old to set up the company was to make a case for gender mainstreaming in the sector. Ghana officially started licensing private security companies in 1992 to enhance supervision and ensure the optimal safety of patrons. But the sector is male-dominated, with just a few females.

"There are women in the system. But mostly, when people think of security, they think of the males," the young CEO said.

The truth, however, "is that most women have special needs, and we know what women want, and some of the things are private which male guards will not be able to help them.

So we saw that as an opportunity to be able to assist," she said. Her company now provides security services for female celebrities and prominent people in society. "You know women have empathy, so we work with that, and then it goes well." Even though the sector is competitive, Tackie-Yaoboi is brimming with confidence that She Guards will survive. She disclosed that some of the security companies also invite them when requiring specific female needs. She conceded that the beginning had not been easy.

"But I am prepared to work hard to break through the difficult times to succeed." Due to the rowdiness of certain events, She Guards collaborates with state law enforcement agencies to get their intervention in challenging situations.

"We are not afraid as we train enough and are well equipped to control situations; when it escalates, the police come in because we have established a strong relationship with state security," she added. She admitted that standing for long hours is not easy. "The boots are hot; we are standing under the sun, dehydrated. It involves a lot, so we do physical training to remain in top shape."

Through Tackie-Yaoboi's initiative, young women, who with a passion for security and escort services but were not able to get enlistment in the state security services, could still realize their dream by working with She Guards or any other all-female security companies that sprang up later.

So far, the company has more than 20 guards. Mavis Debrah is an auto mechanic who wanted to be in the state security apparatus without success and now works with She Guards.

The security sector is one thing I am passionate about. I found out She Guards and went through the training. Here I am," said Debrah, adding that it is a decision she will never regret.

Bihar: How an Indian woman tracked down her daughter's 'dead' rapist

LAST year a woman in India's northern state of Bihar was told her daughter's rapist had died and the case against him closed. She questioned the claim and uncovered the truth, leading to the reopening of the case and ultimately securing justice for her daughter. The BBC's Soutik Biswas investigates a remarkable tale of perseverance.

On a balmy morning possibly in February last year, two men arrived at a cremation ground on the banks of the Ganges, India's holiest river.

They were there to perform a Hindu funeral rite. The men were lugging firewood, but were strangely not carrying a corpse.

Once they reached the cremation ground, things took a bizarre turn.

The men built a pyre on the ground. Then, one of them laid himself down on the pyre, covered himself with a white shroud and closed his eyes. The other piled more wood on until only the first man's head was visible outside the cage of sticks.

Two photographs of these scenes were taken. It is not clear who took the pictures or if a third person was present.

The "dead" man was apparently Niraj Modi, a 39-year-old government school teacher. The other man was his father, Rajaram Modi, a wiry, sixty-something farmer.

Rajaram Modi then travelled to a court, some 100km (62 miles) away, with a lawyer and swore a signed affidavit that his son Niraj Modi had died on 27 February at their village home. He also supplied two pictures from the cremation and receipts of the firewood bought for the ritual as evidence.

This was six days after police had framed charges of rape against Niraj Modi. Modi was accused of raping a 12-year-old girl, who was also his student, in October 2018. The girl had been set upon when she was alone in a sugarcane field and her attacker claimed he had filmed the assault and would release the footage online.

Modi had been arrested soon after a complaint was lodged by the mother of the girl, and was out on bail after spending two months in prison.

Things moved swiftly after Niraj Modi's "death" last year. Two months after his father informed the court, local authorities issued his death certificate. In May, the court closed proceedings as the "only accused in the case" was dead.

Only one person suspected that the teacher had faked his death and had gone into hiding to avoid conviction - the girl's mother, a frail woman who lived in a shack in the same village as the Modis.

"The moment I came to know

that Niraj Modi was dead, I knew it was a lie. I knew he was alive," said the mother when I met her recently.

Seven in 10 deaths in India occur in the country's nearly 700,000 villages, and in villages far more deaths occur at home than in the case for deaths in cities. A 54-year-old law requires compulsory registration of the facts of births and deaths - but not causes of death.

When a person dies in a village in Bihar, a family member of the deceased has to submit his or her unique biometric identity number, and obtain the signatures of five residents of the village who attest to the death.

These need to be then given to the local panchayat or village council. Its members, including a local registrar, examine the papers and - if everything is in order - issue a death certificate within a week. "Our villages are dense and closely-knit. Everyone knows everyone else. A death is never unnoticed or unheard of," says Jai Karan Gupta, the lawyer of the victim.

Rajaram Modi had submitted signatures and biometric identity numbers of five villagers and the affidavit saying his son was dead, and obtained his son's death certificate. The document did not mention the cause of the death. The receipt from the firewood shop said the death was caused by "disease".

One day last May, the mother came to know from a lawyer that the case against Niraj Modi had been closed because he had died.

"But how come nobody knew of the teacher's death? Why were no rites held after the death? Why was there no talk about the death?" she asked me.

She said she went from home to home checking from people whether Niraj Modi was dead. Nobody had heard the news. Then she went to the court with a plea to investigate the matter, but the judges asked for evidence to prove the teacher was alive.

In mid-May, the mother petitioned a senior local official, saying that the village council had issued a death certificate based on forged documents, and that it should be investigated.

Things began moving quickly thereafter.

The official ordered an investigation and informed the village council. Its members sought more evidence from Rajaram Modi about his son's death: photos of the "deceased after his death, of the cremation, of the burning pyre, the last rites and [fresh] testimony of five witnesses".

Village council members met residents of the village of some 250 homes. Nobody seemed to have heard about the death of Niraj Modi. Head shaving is a Hindu mourning tradition usually reserved for the death of a close relative. Yet none of the Modi family members had shaved their heads.



Niraj Modi (right) was sentenced to 14 years in prison for raping the girl

"Even the relatives of Niraj Modi had no information about his death or his whereabouts. They kept saying if there had been a death the final rites would have been held at home," said Rohit Kumar Paswan, the investigating police officer.

Village council members quizzed Rajaram Modi again. He had failed to provide fresh evidence of his son's death. "When we asked him more questions, he didn't give any satisfactory answer," said Dharmendra Kumar, the secretary of the council.

Investigations concluded that Niraj Modi had faked his death and both father and son had forged documents to get a death certificate.

The police found that the school teacher had taken biometric identity numbers of parents of five of his students and forged their signatures on a paper seeking his own death certificate. He told the parents that he needed their identity numbers for scholarships he was arranging for the students.

On 23 May, officials cancelled Niraj Modi's death certificate. Police arrested his father and charged him with forgery. "I have never quite investigated a case like this in my career," said Mr Paswan. "The plot sounded perfect, but it was not."

In July, the court re-opened the case, saying it had been "deceived and misled" so the accused could "escape punishment". The mother, relentless in her battle to track down the teacher, went to the court seeking his arrest.

In October, Niraj Modi gave himself up to the court, nine months after he had been declared dead.

During the trial he had defended himself, denying the allegations of rape. Now he walked out of the court, downcast and restrained by a rope.

Last month, the court found Niraj Modi guilty of raping the girl and sentenced him to 14 years in prison. It awarded compensation of 300,000 rupees (\$3,628; £3,009) to the victim. Rajaram Modi is also in jail facing charges of cheating and dishonesty, which carry a maximum sentence of seven years in jail. Both father and son are now facing charges related to the death certificate.

"For more than three years I travelled to the court to make sure the man who assaulted my daughter would be punished. And then one day his lawyer told me he was dead. How could a man vanish into thin air just like that?" the mother says.

"The lawyer told me it will cost a lot of money to fight a new case to prove that the death was faked. Others told me that the accused would come out of jail and take revenge."

"I didn't care. I said I will arrange the money. I'm not afraid. I told the judge and the officials: 'Find out the truth!'"

We drove for hours on potholed roads past open sewers, shanty huts, yellow mustard fields and smoky brick kilns to reach the victim's higgledy-piggledy village, deep in the interior of Bihar, one of India's poorest states.

A narrow, paved street snaked through a warren of squat brick homes covered with satellite dishes. The mother lived with her two school-going sons and her daughter in a small windowless

brick room with a corrugated tin and tile roof. Her eldest child, a daughter, was married and lived elsewhere.

The gloomy, dark room had bare belongings: a rope and wood cot, a steel vessel to store grains, a clay stove sunk in the ground and a tatty clothes line. The family had no land to live on.

The village had piped water and electricity, but no jobs so the girl's father had migrated to a southern state, more than 1,700km (1,056 miles) away, where he worked as a loader and sent money home.

In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that 100% of India's villages had declared themselves free of open defecation after a massive toilet-building programme by his government. Yet many homes - including the mother's - still lack a toilet.

That was why her daughter had gone to use a nearby sugarcane field as a toilet. That was when Niraj Modi had walked up to her from behind, shut her mouth and forcibly raped her, according to Judge Law Kush Kumar in his verdict. He had also told her to keep silent as he had recorded a video of the act and threatened her he could make the video viral, the judge said.

Ten days after the assault, the frightened girl told her mother about it. Her mother went to the police: over the next few days, her daughter gave evidence. "Niraj Modi would often beat me up at school," she told the police.

The girl resumed going to school after Niraj Modi was arrested, but stopped when he came out on bail. She hasn't been to school in four years now. Her school books have

been sold off to a scrap dealer.

A pale and nervous figure, the girl now spends most of her time in the dark room. "Her life as a student is over. I am too scared to let her go out. I hope we can get her married," her mother said.

Many questions remain unanswered. How did the village council issue the certificate without checking the papers properly? "When I challenged them later, they said they had made a mistake," the mother said.

Prabhat Jha, a professor at the University of Toronto who conceived one of largest studies of premature mortality in the world, said the case of Niraj Modi was "very unusual and rare". "In our work, we have not come across a single such case," he said, referring to the ambitious Million Death Study in India.

"The misuse is very likely rare, and we'd have to be more careful to put more restrictions or barriers for the death registration as they may make matters worse," Mr Jha said.

Reason: since more women than men, and more poor than rich are undercounted in death and medical registration in India, it makes the transfer of assets and other efforts more difficult, and "likely contributes to poverty traps".

Back home, life appeared to have unravelling for the mother, by turns feisty and stoical, plagued by anxiety.

"I lobbied the village and officials to get to the truth. I am glad that the man who violated my girl and scarred her life is in jail."

"But my daughter's life has shut down. What will happen to her?"

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 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 MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Latest Tanzanian National Panel Survey shows education progress

By Akuffo Amankwah

THE state of education in a country has cascading impacts across multiple facets of development. In line with SDG 4, providing equitable quality education remains a key mission for countries, especially those with low literacy rates. Zooming in on Tanzania, results from the National Panel Survey (NPS) show that while the country has made progress in providing quality education, improvements are still needed.

The NPS is part of the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) project, a collaboration between the World Bank and the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The latest waves (4th and 5th) of the NPS conducted in 2014/15 and 2020/21 contain detailed information on different aspects of education, including literacy, enrolment, and drop-out rates.

Results from the NPS show an increase in enrolment and literacy rates in Tanzania, coupled with reduced barriers to children's access to school across the two survey waves. These are all reflective of the government's policies and interventions that have allowed the country to move towards greater access to education, especially in the most underserved areas.

Some key findings include an increased school enrolment, whereby the net enrolment rate (NER) is a measure of the percentage of a given demographic enrolled in school per the total population of that demographic.

This is usually measured for the school-aged population, which includes children under 18 years of age. Between 2014/15 and

2020/21, the NER in Tanzania increased by 9.5 percentage points in pre-primary, by 8.4 percentage points in primary, and by 14.3 percentage points in secondary education.

The most significant improvement in net enrolment was observed in secondary schools; with a national increase of 14.3 percentage points (from 24.7 per cent to 39.0 per cent) in rural areas, followed by an increase of 25.6 percentage points (from 41.4 per cent to 67.0 per cent) in urban areas.

Another issue is the improved literacy rate, whereby literacy is the ability to read and write with an understanding of the subject. Around 76 per cent of Tanzanians were literate in 2020/21, compared to 69.8 per cent in 2014/15, exhibiting improvements across all strata, particularly in Rural Mainland and Zanzibar.

Individuals in Dar es Salaam, who have better access to educational services, continued to have the highest literacy rates in the country with 93.9% literacy in 2020/21. The largest improvement was displayed in Zanzibar where the literacy rate increased by 11 percentage points from 74.3 per cent in 2014/15 to 85.3 per cent in 2020/21.

The findings also show decreased travel time to schools in Zanzibar, whereby distance to school is a key marker of school attendance.

While the data shows a decline in travel distance in Zanzibar from 25 minutes to 21 minutes across the two survey waves, children in rural areas continued to spend more time traveling to school than those located in cities and other urban locations.

The longest travel times were in rural Mainland and Tanzania rural (including rural



Zanzibar), where it took more than 30 minutes for students to reach their schools in 2020/21. These gaps reinforce the need to better target infrastructure development in rural areas.

Some of the reasons for Tanzanians choosing not to attend school include more than 39 per cent of individuals who did not attend school in rural Tanzania cited "satisfied with the level of education acquired" as a reason for not attending school. "Having to work/look-

ing for work" (23.3 per cent) is the second most cited reason; more men (30.6 per cent) than women (16.3 per cent) chose this option. Similarly, the reason for marriage also shows a gender difference, where more women (23.9 per cent) cited it as the reason for not attending school as compared to men (5.1 per cent).

Overall, the results show Tanzania's demonstrated commitment to making progress across multiple indicators of

SDG 4. In terms of a data-driven policy prescription, it is important to understand the drivers of the progress and identify the challenges that remain, including potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These can be achieved by leveraging the rich information contained in the NPS in conjunction with other data sources to present a broader picture of the state of equitable and quality education in Tanzania.

World Vision project improves food diversification in Mkinga

By Correspondent George

Sembony, Mkinga

A 4bn/- project implemented by World Vision Tanzania in Mkinga District, Tanga Region has helped improve food diversification in the area which has been experiencing dry spells for the last two years.

The Mkinga Water Security Project, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan through World Vision Japan was officially handed over last weekend at a ceremony

held in Mkinga by the Japanese ambassador, Yasush Misawa.

According to Riho Kotoku, project coordinator for World Vision Japan said the project has been implemented in six villages targeting 8,924 beneficiaries in the six villages of Mkinga District since January 2020. The programme is aimed to improve the nutrition status of children in the targeted area by increasing access to clean and safe water citing several accomplishments, including providing clean and safe water to over

7000 villagers. "The project was able to reduce the time spent fetching water from one to two hours to just 10 to 15 minutes, as well as improve children's nutrition status from 20-percent to 50-percent," Kotoku said. She went on to say that 30 farmer groups had been helped.

However, she noted that the drought had a significant impact on farming activities such as fish and potato farming, with only a few farmers in some areas able to harvest some water in ponds/water pans for small scale irriga-

tion and fish farming activities (Mwakikoya, Parungu Kasera and Manza villages used up well the opportunities).

The project collaborated closely with RUWASA and Mkinga District Council to archive expected project deliverables during the implementation period (2020-2023). Its goal was to increase access to clean and safe water.

And it underscored World Vision's mission of investing in children, stating that any development that does not make a difference in the lives of children is not a proper develop-

ment approach.

"At World Vision, we look at how to improve children's lives and effect change through projects," he explained. In response to Mkinga residents' pleas to continue supporting project activities, he stated that the organisation does not come only to leave the next day.

The Japanese Ambassador was impressed by reports that the initiative had reduced the time and distance required to get water.

Misawa, on the other hand, expressed his admiration for the Mkinga people's energy,

efforts, and intentions for self-management. "I am convinced that Tanzania will become a strong country economically in the next 30 years looking at efforts towards that goal," he stated.

The Ambassador stated that what was required was for everyone to have a dream and vision of working hard together to achieve that goal.

"I hope for the country to have tremendous brevity for self-reliance rather than relying on outside support," he stated, emphasizing the importance of Tanzania ensuring that the

next generation believes itself reliance.

The district commissioner, Maulid Surumbu, directed the Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) to make efforts to find alternate water sources in order to deal with the effects of climate change. Surumbu, who was representing Regional Commissioner Omari Mumba at the occasion, then urged RUWASA to continuously monitor the water infrastructure installed as part of the project to ensure that people continue to have access to water.

Kenyan rice farmers battle quelea quelea in Kisumu

KISUMU

ROSE Nekesa's rice field in western Kenya has been invaded by huge swarms of the voracious red-billed quelea bird.

Thousands of farmers like her near the lakeside city of Kisumu fear they will reap their worst harvest in five years.

"I'm losing my voice because I spend all day shouting, to chase the birds away. These birds are not afraid of anything," she tells the BBC, holding a huge lump of mud in one hand and a stick in the other.

"They are already used to us and everything we throw at them."

She pelts the birds with mud to scare them away from her crop. Her small, wiry frame often allows her to run across her paddy field as more swarms descend.

"When there are no birds, I can work alone. Now, I need at least four people to work for me. It's very expensive. We are pleading with the government to intervene. This rice is the only source of income that we have."

Lawrence Odanga, another small-scale farmer, is also at the mercy of the world's most populous wild birds.

"I can hear them. They are coming to destroy us," he shouts in his mother tongue, Dholuo.

Even for the five people he has hired to protect every acre of his crop, chasing the birds away is an impossible task.

Scarecrows, the occasional blaring of vuvuzelas and bird traps have all proved ineffective.

"The birds have destroyed nearly all four acres of my farm. I won't earn anything. How will I take my children to school?"

Sometimes referred to as "feathered locusts", queleas are considered as pests across East and Southern Africa.

An average quelea bird can eat around 10g (0.35 oz) of grain a day. Not a huge amount, but as the flocks can number two million they can collectively consume as much as 20 tonnes of grain in 24 hours.

Chemical spraying

In 2021, the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimated that \$50m (£41m) worth of



crops were lost to the birds annually, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa.

The latest quelea invasion in Kisumu, amounting to some 10 million birds, has already decimated 300 acres of rice fields. According to the county government, another 2,000 acres are still at risk during the harvest season.

Other parts of the country have been worse hit. Millions of the birds invaded wheat farms in the southern Narok County, destroying an estimated 40% of the harvest.

The prolonged drought in the Horn of Africa, which has meant fewer seeds from wild grasses, a primary source of food for queleas, may be behind the invasion of cultivated land as the birds look

for an alternative, some Kenyan scientists have suggested.

Paul Gacheru, from the environmental organisation Nature Kenya, however argues that climate change-induced drought is not the main driver.

He points the finger at land-use changes as "intensive farming and settlement means that we are losing space for natural vegetation to grow. The quelea species are adapting to the current land use".

Increased cereal crop production throughout Africa may have also increased the quelea populations as there is a larger source of food for their super-nomadic populations.

Added to this is the fact that the birds breed very fast - three times

a year with as many as nine chicks - allowing for a huge explosion in the population.

As mud, sticks and vuvuzelas have not worked to protect the crops, the authorities have turned to a mass cull through chemical spraying.

In 2019, the Kenyan government is thought to have killed eight million quelea which had invaded the Mwea Irrigation Scheme, the country's largest rice-growing project.

Another two million were killed at Mwea in the same way last year.

This year the authorities in Kisumu began an aerial control operation aimed at killing at least six million birds. Drones are used to target the birds' roosting grounds,

where they rest and breed, with the pesticide fenthion.

Ken Onyango, in charge of agriculture in Kisumu county, said the chemical spraying was the only way to save the rice fields at risk.

Fenthion is highly toxic to other species which are not the main target. As a result, environmental scientists and animal group activists are warning that the spraying will have severe consequences on the ecosystem, other plant and animal species, as well as human health.

"The question is, how do you plan to coexist with the birds? Because you can't kill everything, so that human beings remain," argues Raphael Kapiyo, a professor of environment and earth science at Maseno University.

"But more than that, we are saying the act of trying to control the birds with the chemicals is so dangerous."

The professor wants more traditional, environmentally friendly methods - such as scaring or trapping and eating the birds - to be employed instead to contain the quelea.

Chemical spraying, he feels, just offers an easy way out. The alternatives, though, are seen as expensive and time-consuming.

Onyango, who oversees the Kisumu spraying operation, says that the correct procedures were followed, and approved by the National Environment Management Authority.

"We cannot be so careless to carry out anything that has any adverse environmental impact," he adds.

Collins Marangu, director of crop protection services, acknowledges that killing the birds is not desirable but says it is necessary.

"What we are doing is precision agriculture," he says.

"We spray the roosting grounds at night, precisely where the birds are. After that, we collect and burn them." Two out of the three roosts have been sprayed.

But whatever method is used, for the farmers affected the control measures have come too late as some of the crop has already been eaten. Harvests are down by more than a half.

Those near Kisumu say that the queleas are still causing a problem.

Rice farmer Rose Nekesa is bracing for the worst. She had hoped that she would harvest at least 50 bags of rice during the season. Now, she expects to gather only 30.

"We just want the government to take these birds away," she says in desperation.



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MONETARY POLICY

BoT: We're keeping close eye on inflation

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has said will continue to keep the close eye on rising prices, through implementation of monetary policy measures that will ensure stable inflation, the Monetary Policy Statement (MPS), mid-year review 2022/2023, published last week says.

It says during the reminder of current financial year, BoT will to continue implementing monetary policy that is geared towards lessening monetary policy accommodation, in order to tame second round effects of global shocks on inflation expectations, while safeguarding growth of economic activities.

The global shocks undermined economic activities and contributed to rising inflation in the country in the first half of 2022/23.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the annual headline inflation rate for the month of January, 2023 has increased to 4.9 percent, the lowest in East African region, from 4.8 percent that was recorded in December, 2022.

NBS data shows annual inflation of food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 9.9 percent in between January 2022 and January 2023, while transport inflation went up by 6.2 percent.

Markets survey shows the prices of foods commodities have increased by 100 to 200 percent over the last one year, crowding consumers spending.

However, BoT maintains that inflation is projected to remain within single digit in the second half of 2022/23, below the target of 5.4 percent.

In the second half, BoT expects the spillovers of the ongoing war in Ukraine to continue affecting economic activities and inflation, but the impact will be less than in the preceding period.

This is due to easing of global supply-chain constraints and falling of commodity prices.

According to BoT, the expected increase in domestic production, especially food, will ease inflationary pressures and also contribute to growth.

Meanwhile, in implementing the monetary policy stance for the remaining half of the year, the BoT says will employ a mix of instruments, while ensuring market stability.

The policy stance is also consistent with attainment of monetary targets, which are set forth in the IMF Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement.

"The BoT will also maintain surveillance of global economic trends and associated risks to the domestic economy, and take additional policy actions if needed to ensure macroeconomic stability," it says.

"In this context, the Bank of Tanzania is optimistic that the monetary policy targets outlined in the Monetary Policy Statement for 2022/23 will be achieved."

To ensure financial market stability, the BoT will therefore continue to fore-



The prices of food commodities have increased by 100 to 200 percent over the last one year (File photo)

cast and monitor liquidity and enhance transparency regarding monetary policy actions, while taking into account the existing global economic challenges and their ramifications to the domestic economy.

In addition, the BoT says will continue engaging with stakeholders to address existing structural and regulatory issues in the financial sector and address any new challenges that might arise.

Through implementation of monetary policy, the central bank says will continue improving model framework and supportive financial market infrastructure for transitioning to an interest rate-based monetary policy framework.

Other activities to be pursued in the remainder of 2022/23 and beyond include, putting in place operational guidelines for interest rate-based monetary policy framework and broadening awareness to stakeholders.

Interest rate policy

The BoT says will continue to monitor developments of domestic markets to ensure that interest rates are determined by market forces for a smooth financial intermediation.

In addition, the central bank says will continue with initiatives to develop domestic money markets by enhancing price discovery and improving monetary policy transmission.

The consumer protection initiatives through

enforcement of the available guidelines and framework, while enforcing professional ethics are also on focus during the next five months.

Furthermore, the BoT says will continue with public awareness on financial matters and improve supportive infrastructure for efficient functioning of the financial markets.

Exchange rate policy

The BoT says will maintain a market-determined exchange rate and continue to participate in the interbank foreign exchange market (IFEM) primarily for liquidity management, managing foreign reserves and ensuring orderly foreign exchange market operations.

In a bid to cushion the economy from external shocks, exchange rate flexibility will continue to be allowed, while maintaining adequate level of foreign official reserves for balance of payment purposes.

Economic outlook

GDP growth in Mainland Tanzania is expected to be around 5.3 percent in 2023, reinforced by strong growth of credit to the private sector, rebound in tourism, and government investment.

In Zanzibar, the economy is forecast to grow by 6.1 percent in 2023, attributed to the revival of activities in the blue economy and resumption of tourism.

In addition, supportive monetary and fiscal policy actions, as well as enhancement of measures to improve the business climate, will contribute to the growth prospects to both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

ECONOMY:

Improved water, sanitation, hygiene access set to reduce economic losses

By Guardian Reporter

PROVIDING universal access to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) could reduce Tanzania's economic losses by \$1.9 billion per year by 2030, and the country could potentially generate more than \$2.4 billion each year in savings on excess medical costs and lost productivity due to inadequate access, according to a new World Bank report.

The just published 18th edition of the Tanzania Economic Update: "Clean Water, Bright Future: The Transformative Impact of Investing in WASH" shows that while the country has made significant progress in recent years in improving access, only 61 percent of households have access to basic water supply, 32 percent to basic sanitation, and 48 percent to basic hygiene (per the Sustainable Development Goals' definitions).

More than nine percent of the population continues to practice open defecation which entails serious health risks. In addition, rural areas lag behind urban centers in all dimensions of WASH.

"For Tanzania to ensure universal

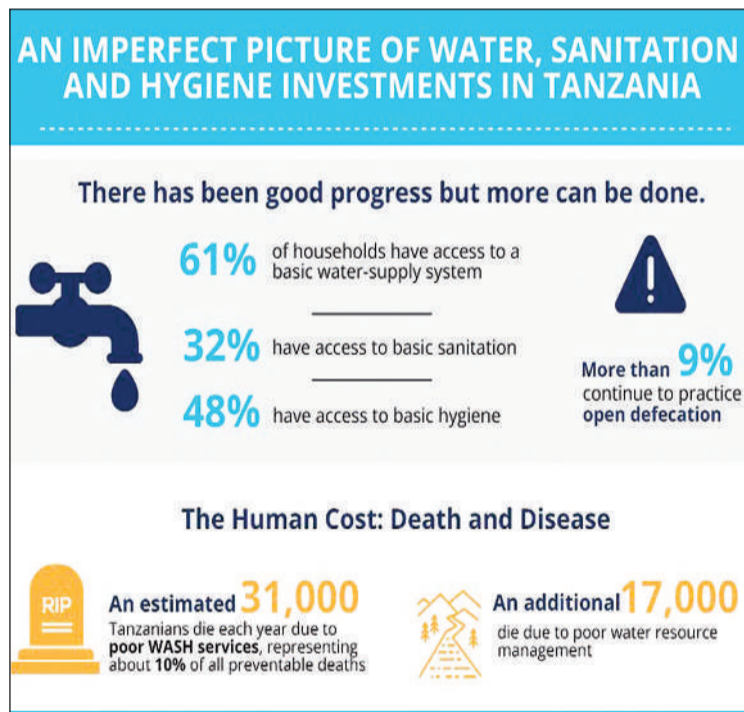
WASH access, considerable upfront investment is required to avoid the devastating consequences of inadequate services," said Nathan Belete, World Bank Country Director.

"Achieving WASH goals can support the jobs agenda while mitigating the adverse effects on workforce productivity and advance Tanzania's objectives for inclusive growth and poverty reduction."

Death and disease are the most immediate consequences of inadequate WASH services- being responsible for 31,000 deaths (10 percent of preventable deaths) -- and cost the economy more than \$2.4 billion each year in excess medical costs and lost productivity.

The heaviest toll is being borne by women, children, and the poor and vulnerable. For example, WASH-related illnesses lessen the educational attainment of students and impair the cognitive development of children.

To achieve and sustain universal WASH access, the report recommends a combination of policy measures, institutional capacity building, and new financial arrangements at the national, subnational,



and community levels.

It calls for prioritizing the cross-cutting impact of WASH on the government's larger policy agenda and urges policymakers across sectors to advocate for WASH investments and develop collaborative solutions to address their shared challenges.

"The implementation of Tanza-

nia's third Water Sector Development Program (WSDP) requires an estimated \$6.5 billion in total," said Ruth Kennedy-Walker, World Bank Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist and report co-author.

"On the other hand, providing near universal WASH access would cost the government just

\$16 per capita per year, which is less than half the \$38 per capita that inadequate WASH services cost Tanzania each year. The WSDP-3 implementation therefore would generate benefits equal to its initial investment of \$4.1 billion, for WASH related activities under the program, within five years."

On the overall economy, the 18th Tanzania Economic Update shows that strong macro fundamentals allowed Tanzania to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic in good shape, though economic recovery has been relatively modest due to strong headwinds created by the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, tightening global financial conditions, and global economic slowdown.

For 2022, GDP growth was 4.6 percent, marginally higher than 4.3 percent growth in 2021. The economic recovery in 2022 nevertheless remains broad based with most sectors rebounding to pre-COVID activity levels.

Headline inflation continued to edge up during 2022 as a result of rising international commodity prices and severe drought, reaching 4.2 percent in the first nine months of 2022 compared to 3.5 percent in the same period the previous year.

This is concerning as food makes up about thirty percent of the consumer price basket.

The pandemic caused an increase in the poverty rate, from 26.2 percent in 2019 to 27 percent in 2021, with only a minor reduction in the overall poverty rate anticipated in 2022.

The report noted that reversing this pandemic effect could prove challenging amidst considerable development and reform challenges that have been exacerbated by the pandemic shock and spillovers from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The report highlights that strengthening the country's capacity to build resilience, supporting productivity-enhancing private sector-led inclusive growth, attracting new foreign and domestic investment, and expanding fiscal space while maintaining debt sustainability remain key priority reforms over the short- and medium-term.

OIL PRICES

Oil prices fall on short-term demand worry

SINGAPORE

OIL prices eased around 1 percent on Monday after rising in the previous session, as investors focused on short-term demand concerns stemming from crucial upcoming US inflation data and refinery maintenance in Asia and the United States.

Brent crude futures fell 86 cents, or 1 percent, to \$85.53 a barrel by 0715 GMT after a 2.2 percent gain on Friday. US West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$78.83 a barrel, down 89 cents, or 1.1 percent, after rising 2.1 percent in the previous session.

"Crude prices are softening

as energy traders anticipate a potentially weakening crude demand outlook as a pivotal inflation report could force the Fed to tighten policy much more aggressively," said Edward Moya, senior analyst at OANDA, referring to US consumer price data due on Feb 14.

"This week could deliver a make or break moment in how bad of a recession Wall Street prices in."

The US Federal Reserve has been raising interest rates to rein in inflation, leading to concerns that the move would slow economic activity and demand for oil.

Additionally, the resump-



A container ship sails along Nakhodka Bay near the oil terminal in the port city of Nakhodka

tion of Azerbaijani oil exports on Sunday at Turkey's Ceyhan terminal also relieved supply concerns, said analyst Tina Teng at CMC Markets.

The terminal had been dam-

aged in the devastating earthquakes that hit Turkey and Syria last week. It is the storage and loading point for pipelines which carry oil from Azerbaijan and Iraq.

Oil prices gained on Friday after Russia, the world's third largest oil producer, said it would cut crude production in March by 500,000 barrels per day (bpd), or about 5 per-

cent of output, in retaliation against western curbs on its exports that were imposed in response to the Ukraine conflict.

On a weekly basis, both the Brent and WTI contracts rose more than 8 percent last week, buoyed by optimism over demand recovery in China, the world's top crude importer and No. 2 oil consumer, after COVID curbs were scrapped in December.

China's oil demand recovery is curbing its gasoline exports in February although its refiners are maintaining diesel shipments at above 2 million tonnes.

Stefano Grasso, a senior

portfolio manager at 8VantEdge in Singapore, said the 500,000 bpd cut would bring Russia back in line with its OPEC+ quota as Moscow is currently over-exporting.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and their allies including Russia, a group known as OPEC+, in October agreed to cut production by 2 million bpd, about 2 percent of world demand.

Oil prices may resume their rally back to \$100 a barrel later this year on China's demand recovery and limited supply growth due to a lack of investment, OPEC country officials told Reuters.

Digital Marketing; shift in data and purpose

By Alley Mtatya

BY The world is dramatically changing driven by technology, a deluge of data and tectonic shift in cultures across the world. These re-necessitate us to rethink marketing to re-imagine marketing and to do it in a different way which is the fifth model of marketing and the way we do marketing is now defined as quantum marketing. Quantum Marketing is simply the application of quantum mechanics to marketing strategies.

What is getting on the front line principle? For me it means get very close to consumers. There are three principles to it as a marketer. First, get real - take a good combination of data and empathy, be close to the true reality of the world and try to solve the real problems and the real touch points of the consumers. Second, do good - how can you put "the purpose" at the heart of the brand and then really spur positive change for society and the environment, and the third one is, be admissible - how can your brand stand out in culture and be effortless to buy. In everything that we do we want to be first in mind, first to find not matter what country no matter how global a brand is.

That is a good framework to get back to if you cut out the clutter of what to do, just, get real, get on the frontline and do good with your brand because that is one of the attractions of being a marketer just so you can impact the world as well as be noticed. You need to be admissible - first to mind and first to find.

Data in the form of sustainability is embedded across the entire value chain. It isn't just about marketing, sustainability is the way you do business,



the how you do things and therefore the purpose which is more of a challenge in marketing. Purpose is one of the levers to grow brand power and this correlation to counter (table) research. It runs across more than one hundred and twenty two thousand brands and we know purpose drives brand power and brand power drives markets with sharing growth. There is a way to use purpose as a fly wheel for growth. What we have also learnt in marketing is that you always need to start with a very good value proposition; a superior product against the right price. That is where it all starts; if you do not have that purpose it does not make it any better. Once you have a value proposition then values come into play. The second thing is that it isn't just any purpose, purpose needs to be really close to the authenticity of the brand it also needs to stand for the category benefit, it needs to be memorable for the people logically as well as connected, and then you need to invest in it.

After three months on you cannot say you have established a purpose it needs three years or longer and that is why it is hard to get it right. There is a lot of learning to be made in purpose as well as choices but do not get me wrong sometimes brands are built and as they evolve they find their purpose later on.

A good example, is a Mayonnaise brand I know of (I won't mention the name) it started like all other brands in the market with a purpose to be used as a salad dressing or a general ingredient to already prepared food. As the brand evolved they found a purpose and niche.

Data published on the food disposal market within their market showed that there was a huge volume of food wastage per year per household so they established their purpose, to turn their Mayonnaise brand into an ingredient/product that helped to prepare a decent meal from food that could be thrown away by households (recycled food) simply by educating/advertising via Television and social media. The videos and recipe notes explained how it is done in a few easy steps. Now the brand is iconic in that niche making incredible profits and with a new found purpose. Nonetheless, a need to be a brand with a purpose and have a correlation between purpose and growth in the long-run which ever route a brand may take.

When something is purpose driven it also provides measurable results in terms of Return on Investments (ROI) you get real time data. Take for example a bank that issues debit cards to its customers and the bank tests its ROI on real time hypothesis. The bank has branches

in two cities but then runs a campaign in one city but does not advertise in the other city. The increased number of card swipes in that city (where the campaign is running) one can see in real time the impact which is translated to real time marketing. Another way to do this is or capture this more modernly is through digital marketing specifically lead generation, say for example, the same bank wants to increase or issue more debit cards to their clients (they may run a digital campaign) on social media using the lead generation approach as one client clicks on the link their diverted to a landing page where their details or information will be registered. One may go further to access the registration data vis-a-vis the number of debit cards issued which will also translate to real time data on the impact of the campaign.

The big question and the most difficult thing in marketing is; how much money should you invest in performance marketing to drive short-term sales and how much do you invest in building a real brand equity and how much is the overlap between the two. These days we build brands that convert to sales at the same time. Building a brand takes much longer than performance marketing does.

There needs to be ethics and higher standards towards data as well as look beyond regulations and champion the ethical use of consumer data to achieve marketing goals. In the end we have a responsibility to inspire trust in our brands. In our industry or in our profession these days, we want to do the right thing and we can only do that if we rise to the highest standards only then can we inspire or drive positive change within the society.

There are predictions in business for the coming months or years that there could be a recession, inflation etc. of all that, more of a dark cloud in the horizon, so marketing investments are under pressure and CEO's and CFO's are a little bit conservative in terms of marketing budgets. Working with a very limited budget one needs to think about the message your brand wishes to portray and how to set yourself up to be a force for good. The world will always remain overly dynamic and we live in an information age, my old boss would always say to me in such a situation, "think and work like an entrepreneur."

Alley Mtatya (pictured) is the founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics based in Dares Salaam. He can be reached through email. alley962003@gmail.com

(buses, trucks, tractors, motorcycles etc.) agriculture (chemicals), pharmaceuticals/healthcare, power and energy (electrical equipment and items), machinery (industrial and agricultural), education, information and communications technology (ICT), etc in these areas I can see potential synergies between Indian and Tanzanian stakeholders for mutual benefit and better future prosperity.

For the businessmen, I would suggest traders to abide by their obligations consented in their business contracts because cheating, fraud and any other form of malpractice done by one businessman tend to tarnish the image of general business community and whole country, which in the long run affect the business trust between the two countries, as the traders may opt for alternative sources.

Q: What Tanzanian government and business community should do to benefit from opportunities available in India?

A: My advice is mainly to Tanzanian business community that nowadays there are so many scams in international business.

In this regard they should avoid taking contacts from unreliable sources instead they should contact the High Commission of India in Dar and High Commission of Tanzania in Delhi for the genuine sources before they can enter into business agreement.

Tanzanian Government may make long term policies for the investors and resolve their issues expeditiously.

Q: What are your comments on the trend of business development in Tanzania since you came here?

A: Like I said earlier that Tanzanian business is in the right track. This is supported by the Tanzania's government initiatives of restructuring for 'ease of doing businesses in Tanzania'.

The efforts made by Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and Tanzania's Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) of encouraging foreign investors to come and open-up new investments and establishing Export Processing Zones, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Industrial parks will make a rapid business development in Tanzania.

The incentives provided by the investors and improving immigration process especially on availability of working permits, resolving tax issues would further improve business.

Q: How would you describe your time in Tanzania?

A: It was a wonderful experience living in Tanzania for the last 3 years. Tanzania is a country of immense beauty with peace, stability and tranquility.

During my stay, I tried my best to promote India Tanzania vibrant economic and commercial relations. I reached out to Tanzania chambers and trade bodies in Dar and other regions to promote India Tanzania trade and investment.

With pro-activeness of Indian High Commission and support of Tanzanian chambers and trade bodies India Tanzania bilateral trade reached at \$4.58 billion in 2021-2022 and expected to cross \$6 billion during 2022-23.

Q: What are your most notable achievements?

A: Mainly the improvement in bilateral trade of US\$2.76 billion in 2020/2021 to US\$ 4.5 billion in 2021/2022 and expected to cross US\$ 6 billion during 2022/2023.

With the opening up of Tanzania and its policies, Indian investors are interested to invest in Tanzania in Pharmaceutical, agro processing, setting up of manufacturing units in Agri-machinery and processing.

This achievement is the result of pro-activeness of the mission, Tanzanian trade bodies and vibrant India Tanzania economic and commercial relations.

I reached out to business community and trade bodies of India and Tanzania to un-tap the opportunity available and connected each other to promote bilateral trade and tap the potential sectors of investment in Tanzania by Indian companies.

I am proud of bonding Indian and Tanzanian business community for increasing business activities between our two countries.

During 2022, eight big serious business delegations and many small delegates with 700 businessmen visited Tanzania to explore opportunities for business cooperation and investments.

Some of them have made new investment and others signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for joint ventures.

These include Hester Biosciences, which invested US\$20 billion in animal vaccines, Mahashree Agro in processing of pulses, Purandare Industries for production of sugar and TanZIndia in manufacturing of agro machinery and many small investments were made.

Also another MoU was signed recently between Apollo Hospitals and Eclipse Group Africa (Tanzanian company) to set up a state-of-the-art diagnostic and Cancer Centre in Tanzania.

Q: What are some of the issues would you like the Indian High Commission to continue working on?

A: The Commerce Wing of the Mission has traditionally aimed at promoting business and investments between our two countries and this will continue to take it forward at a greater height.

However, interactions with local business community and stakeholders are of great importance. The interactions are through Business Roundtables, Exhibitions, bilateral visits of business delegations, Buyer Sellers Meet etc.

The interactions should not only be in major cities like Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mwanza, Morogoro, Arusha and Zanzibar but also to other regions like Mbeya, Iringa, Mtwara, Songea, Kigoma etc. to tap the opportunities available in these regions.

Q: How did India High Commission help to strengthen business relations while you were serving as the Secondary Secretary in Tanzania?

A: Mainly by linking business houses and stakeholders of both countries and guide them for opportunities available for doing business.

These includes attending trade queries from both countries and complaints, coordinating business delegations from India to Tanzania and from Tanzania to India, facilitating and conducting business meetings, interactions with various stakeholders, dissemination of economic and commercial information, facilitating market surveys and etc.

Closer cooperation and collaboration with local trade bodies like Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Tanzania Trade Development Authority [TanTrade], Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), Tanzania Investment Centre, (TIC) and Tanzania Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA).

Tanzanian Renewable Energy Association (TAREA), Small Industries Development (SIDO), Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA), Medical Stores Department (MSD), Tanzania Association of Pharmaceutical Industry (TAPI), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC), etc.

I would like to commend them all for their cooperation extended to the Mission. This cooperation and collaboration helped a lot to strengthen business and investment between our countries and should be sustained for prosperous bilateral economic and commercial relations between India and Tanzania.

Q: What will you miss most about Tanzania?

A: Of course, I will miss my professional and personal friends and their warmth love, hospitality and collaboration made during my tenure here. I wish this will continue to take India Tanzania economic relations to greater

INTERVIEW

Raj Ganger: Tanzania-India economic relations have assumed greater heights

THE commercial representative, Indian High Commission RAJ GANGER (pictured) ended his three years tenure in Tanzania last month. Before his departure, our correspondent BEATRICE PHILEMON interviewed him about his experiences while serving at the Indian High Commission in Tanzania and how he managed to coordinate commercial relationship between the two countries. Excerpts:

QUESTION: How do you assess the economic relations between Tanzania and India and what reforms need to be undertaken to strengthen this relationship?

ANSWER: India and Tanzania share robust economic, commercial and business ties. I have noticed a very great economic and commercial future prosperity between two countries.

This is due to the fact that Tanzanian economy which holds a lot of potential - with its GDP growth rate averaging 7 percent per annum, stable and peaceful environment, large and very fertile land, strategic geographic location which provides an absolute advantage to serve several landlocked countries that altogether contain large population.

Tanzanian ambition to become a semi-industrialized economy opens up investment and trade opportunities which India can become a suitable partner. Both India and Tanzania have unique strengths and comparative advantages.

Indian strengths are in the potential sectors which Tanzania needs to achieve her goals in economic and business growth.

Sectors like transport, automobile





SMART ASSET:

How often should you speak with your financial advisor

By Christine Williams

FINANCIAL planning and management are personalized services, and advisor meetings can vary depending on the degree of help needed. Complicated financial affairs will likely need to be managed and reviewed anywhere from daily to monthly, while individuals with straightforward investments may only need occasional advice.

The ideal frequency depends on the client. Many financial advisor clients track their investments through apps and the web, so meeting too frequently can be more burdensome than useful.

West Michigan Advisors recommends meeting more when you first open an account so your advisor can get a better feel for your needs. Over time you can meet occasionally to review, and then you should ramp up the frequency as you approach retirement.

At the bare minimum you should expect to speak with a financial advisor once a year. Experts recommend meeting at least annually to review

your financial strategies as your living circumstances change. These reviews can be in person or via video calls, and many advisors choose to text or email more frequent updates as necessary.

Although some individuals only need to speak with their advisors once a year, your specific circumstances may dictate more frequent communication. Some firms offer two meetings within a year, and others prefer to meet clients quarterly. It is always recommended to speak clearly with your advisor about your expectations.

However, there are certain times that you should ask to meet your financial advisor in spite of your scheduled frequency. These include:

- A change in lifestyle. Marriage, birth, death, divorce and moving can all impact your taxes and debt significantly. These are ideal moments for consulting your advisor.
- Purchases financed through debt. Buying a new car, a house and launching a business can also heavily influence your financial plan. An advisor can help outline the financial pros and cons of such decisions.
- Receiving additional funds. Financial advisors can provide insights and recommendations for investing your inheritance or asset sale proceeds, helping you build your wealth smartly.

Communication is Key

In the end, you are choosing a specific financial advisor because that person or firm offers the services you feel you need. Fee-only financial advisors are preferable, as you can be assured that they are not recommending investments to you in order to pad their bottom line. These professionals charge hourly, monthly or flat fees to advise you and manage your assets, and more frequent meetings may mean more consultation time to be paid.

Regardless, you should feel free to contact your advisor before making important decisions that may impact your finances. For example, investors understandably feel nervous during market downturns, especially when account balances fall, but you should speak to your advisor before panic-selling. Financial advisors are there to guide you through major financial decisions, keeping you on track with your financial goals, so you should always feel comfortable speaking about your finances when the occasion calls for it.

Experts recommend that you meet at least once a year with a financial advisor to discuss your investment plan and review your risk tolerance and cash flow objectives. You should always be clear with your advisor on how often you expect to communicate, as this may vary depending on the financial professional and your specific circumstances.

What is at stake for investors in Nigeria's election?

JOHANNESBURG

VOTERS in Nigeria go to the polls on Feb 25 and international investors are cautiously hopeful that whoever is elected as the next president of Africa's largest and most populous economy will be more market-friendly than the current government.

While there are also parliamentary elections, the focus is on the presidency. With incumbent Muhammadu Buhari not on the ballot, the main contenders are ruling party veteran Bola Tinubu, former vice president Atiku Abubakar, and third party candidate Peter Obi.

Multiple exchange rates, widespread insecurity and low oil production due to massive crude theft are all problems that worry investors. Another focus is soaring fuel subsidy costs that devour government revenues and drive up debt.

Reform of the foreign exchange market is the number one concern for international equity investors, said Steve Pollicino of US brokerage Auerbach Grayson, adding that uncertainty over how long it takes to get money out of Nigeria was a big deterrent.

"No investor's going to want to buy into a market where you can't sell stock and get your money out," he said. Foreign investors held 16% of shares on Nigeria's stock exchange last year, sharply down from 58% in 2014, Nigerian Exchange Group data showed.

Removing petrol subsidies, which cost \$10 billion in 2022, is also key but a "hard sell," said Babatunde Ojo, emerging markets equities portfolio manager at Harding Loevner.

"This is the short-term pain you have to take in a long-term game," he said.

Strong and clear regulation is important for international oil and gas companies, which are pivoting to cleaner gas, said Amaka Anku, head of Eurasia Group's Africa practice.

Nigeria's debt-to-GDP ratio is low compared to



Tinubu,

Obi

Atiku

countries with similar credit ratings. However, its debt servicing burden is among the highest globally according to ratings agency Fitch. In 2022, the federal government spent 96.3% of its revenues paying interest, the IMF said recently.

Abubakar plans to seek "debt forgiveness", while Obi has said creditors will be "engaged for debt restructuring and possible cancellation / forgiveness".

"I believe that he used that word in a very liberal sense that is not the same sense that the markets give to that word," Carlos de Sousa, an emerging market debt portfolio manager at Vontobel, said of Obi's use of the word "restructuring". "If the question is, 'Is Nigeria's debt sustainable today?' Absolutely yes, nobody has any doubt about that. Is it in a sustainable path? No it is not," said de Sousa.

The next president will need to ramp up government revenues from a very low base to make debt manageable and provide citizens with services, said de Sousa, noting that none of the major candidates had pledged to raise taxes.

Many investors, however, were cautiously

optimistic that Nigeria would see improvements, whoever wins on Feb. 25.

"President Buhari has set such a low bar," said de Sousa. "It's really not difficult to do things better."

Few investors expressed a strong preference for who wins. All three main candidates propose variations of similar policies - FX reform, fuel subsidy removal or phase-out and boosting the economy. A peaceful outcome is key for Nigeria which has suffered violence around elections in recent decades.

If Tinubu emerges as the winner, there would likely be "a smoother transition," said Joe Delvaux, a portfolio manager at Amundi, which holds Nigerian sovereign bonds.

A victory for Atiku would probably mean more uncertainty as power shifts, said Delvaux. Many analysts see Atiku as more pro-business.

"If you have a candidate like Peter Obi coming in, the challenge will be that (the) machinery isn't there," said Delvaux. "So I cannot judge what capacity will be there on implementation."

youths in Tanga to acquire business, innovation skills

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANZANIA Open Innovation Organization (TOIO), a non-profit, in collaboration with Swiss philanthropic Fondation-Botnar have embarked to train about 900 youths on innovation and entrepreneurship skills into various health, social and economic sectors.

TOIO founder Shaukatali Hussein explained that the training is currently undergoing at Tanga Technical School venue whereby 170 youths are trained on poultry keeping, chicks' cages making, modern incubation making and how to make electric motorcycle.

He explained that the training target to reach youths in all 27 wards in Tanga city, with the aim of empowering them economically.

Hussein has therefore called for more youths to attend this beneficial training programme which will also promote job creation and self-employment.

He said; "during this era of science and technology and technological competitiveness, innovation is the only weapon that will help youths to remain competitive".

"Innovation becomes potential for every step of life from economic, social and education, henceforth; i would like to insist you to attend this train-

ing provided free of charge," he explained.

"As Tanzania is currently implementing various development projects, we need to equip our youths to sustain their lives through these entrepreneurship skills to enable them to create income generating projects and jobs," he said.

The skills trained including smart farming (agriculture), health sector, education, electric motorcycle mechanics, solar powered lights and other innovations.

For his side Sedrick Samwel a form four student at Tanga Technical school expressed optimism on the training by saying it will help to equip them with innovative skills.

"Frankly speaking, these training will widen our scope of skills that will make us to be the most dependable innovators in the agriculture sector because we are taught on how to make incubators, modern incubating and more in the poultry sector," he said.

He also said that the NGO equipped them with e-health connectivity that enables them to directly communicate with physicians while at home, which will reduce number of people attending at health centres and hospitals.



Tanga Technical school students learn how to make a modern electric incubator during the training provided by TOIO and Fondation Botnar (Photo by Cheji Bakari)

Youths in Singida trained on how to produce high-quality honey bee products

By Beatrice Philemon

OVER 3500 youth in Singida Region have been trained on how to produce high quality bee products to address youth unemployment and cope with climate change.

Former secretary of the Singida Beekeeping Youth Entrepreneur and Consultant Cooperative Society (SIBEYECCOS), Yerima Masifia said yesterday that the training was offered free of charge since 2017 to January 2023.

Bee products include bee venom, honey, royal jelly, beeswax, bee pollen, propolis and others.

"We are very glad for what has been achieved so far, because through the knowledge and skills gained from SIBEYECCOS's, we're seeing youth from different villages across the region are massively engaged in beekeeping industry for both domestic and export markets," he said.

"Although more youth have been able to set up their own beekeeping projects, lack of modern beehives, protective gears include bee hive smoker, bee suit, honey extractor, modern beehives, beekeeper gumboot, queen excluder, helmet, glove and Apiary site are the main challenges facing youth to benefit from what they planned to do," he said.

Beekeeping has also positive ecological advantages such as pollination of many flowering plants, thus increasing the yield of certain crops such as sunflower and various fruits.

"In a bid to help more youth benefit from what we offer, so far a total of 5000 acres of land has been set-aside for producing high quality bee products," he said.

Presently about 75 per cent of honey produced in Tanzania is consumed within the country, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, UK, Italy and other African countries are the main buyers of honey in Tanzania.



We are very glad for what has been achieved so far, because through the knowledge and skills gained from SIBEYECCOS's, we're seeing youth from different villages across the region are massively engaged in beekeeping industry

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

WTO chief says dispute settlement reform a 'priority'

DUBAI

THE World Trade Organization's director-general said yesterday that reforming the body's dispute settlement system is a "priority".

When asked whether reforming the process would be a focus of the remainder of her term, which ends in 2025, WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said "Absolutely. And I hope we can deliver that."

She was speaking on stage at the World Government Summit.

The WTO's trade dispute arbitration system, which rules on top disputes, has been stalled for more than two years due to Trump-era blockages of adjudicator appointments.

Under President Joe Biden, Washington has resisted calls by WTO members to approve appointments and has instead been leading negotiations on how to reboot the WTO's



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), attends a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Jan 17, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

dispute system.

The United States has criticized the WTO's alleged overreach and lengthy processes and it has strongly contested some of its recent rulings against the United States.

The United States is entering the third phase of talks with countries to reform the hobbled arbitration system and aims for it to be fully functioning by the end of 2024.

"It's not only the US that has problems. Developing countries, especially the least developed, find it hard to access the system and costly," Okonjo-Iweala said.

On Monday, she also reiterated that global merchandise trade is expected to grow by one percent in 2023.

"There seem to be glimmers of hope on the horizon," she said.

Agencies

CE says visit to Middle East yielded fruitful results

HONG KONG

JOHN Lee Ka-chiu, chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), said his visit to the Middle East has yielded fruitful results.

Lee wrote in an article published yesterday in the Hong Kong newspaper Ta Kung Pao that his visit, which concluded on Friday, is a journey of friendship, and also a journey to promote Hong Kong's advantages and to explore opportunities.

He noted that 13 memorandums or letters of intent were exchanged between Hong Kong and enterprises and organizations in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), covering areas such as finance, innovation and technology,



Chief Executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) John Lee (left) and Saudi Arabian Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih attend the Saudi Arabia-Hong Kong Investment Forum, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Feb 5, 2023. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

commerce, construction professions, transport and energy.

The HKSAR government and the Saudi Arabian government

have agreed to start formal negotiations on investment promotion and protection agreements.

Meanwhile, the financial hub has also agreed with the UAE to initiate discussions on the signing of a memorandum of understanding on green and sustainable finance, Lee said.

He said that Hong Kong will continue to deepen and follow up on the achievements and progress made in this Middle East trip.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority will organize a high-level financial delegation to the Middle East in the first half of this year to further expand business opportunities.

The Dubai Chambers has decided to set up a new office in Hong Kong, while the Hong Kong

Economic and Trade Office in Dubai of the HKSAR government will deepen, broaden and promote the good relations that are already established, and further expand and consolidate the network of contacts, Lee said in the article.

Lee said that the aim of choosing the Middle East as the destination of his first overseas visit this year was to showcase Hong Kong's active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative and to promote win-win collaborations and people-to-people bonds.

Lee stressed that deep cooperation between Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia and the UAE will create unlimited value for Hong Kong's high-quality development.

Xinhua

Emirates launches humanitarian airbridge to transport emergency aid to victims of the Turkey-Syria earthquake

DUBAI

IN the wake of the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, Emirates is setting up an airbridge with the International Humanitarian City (IHC), to transport urgent relief supplies, medical items and equipment to support on-ground aid efforts and search and

rescue activities in both countries. The first shipments were made February 10 th consisting of high thermal blankets and family tents from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), followed by World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Food Programme (WFP) relief cargo of medical kits and shelter items, co-ordinated by the IHC in Dubai.

In the coming days, more consignments of blankets, tents, shelter kits, flash lights, water distribution ramps and trauma and emergency health kits will be transported on Emirates.

Emirates SkyCargo plans to dedicate cargo space for around 100 tonnes of humanitarian relief goods over the course of the next two weeks across its daily flight operations to Istanbul. The critical emergency supplies carried on Emirates will then be delivered by local organisations to affected areas in south-



ern Turkey and northern Syria, supporting on-ground responders and providing much needed aid to the hundreds of thousands of people impacted by the earthquakes.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Emirates' Chairman and Chief Executive, said: "We stand with the Turkish and Syrian people and are working with experts like the International Humanitarian City to help provide urgent relief to those affected and displaced by the earthquakes, as well as support the complex recovery efforts on the

ground. Emirates has extensive experience in supporting humanitarian relief efforts, and through its three daily flights to Istanbul will offer regular and consistent widebody capacity for relief items and medical supplies. Emirates also supports the UAE's ongoing humanitarian efforts to support Turkey and Syria, and Dubai's unique position as the world's largest international aid logistics hub means that we can efficiently reach disaster stricken areas and the most vulnerable people as quickly as possible."

His Excellency Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani, Chairman of the Supreme Committee for the Supervision of IHC. "The IHC remains committed to providing the people affected by the earthquakes with the humanitarian support and resources they need. We are taking urgent action

by facilitating airlifts of vital medical supplies, shelter items and other relief goods from the UNHCR, World Health Organization (WHO) and World Food Programme (WFP) to address the pressing demand for aid in the affected regions."

The freight division of Emirates has a long-standing partnership with the IHC, enabling the airline to nimbly and quickly lead on numerous relief missions, deploying humanitarian supplies to communities around the world impacted by natural disasters, medical emergencies, global outbreaks and other crises.

In 2020, the airline facilitated relief efforts to Lebanon in the aftermath of the Port of Beirut blasts. In 2021, Emirates set up a humanitarian airbridge between Dubai and India to transport urgent medical and relief items to support the country in containing the COVID-19 outbreak.

Agencies

Zimbabwean President hails robust progress made in stabilising economy

HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S economic activity remains robust, as evidenced by strong foreign currency receipts, Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa has said.

Writing in his weekly column Sunday in the state-run Sunday Mail newspaper on his reflections on the Reserve Bank's 2023 Monetary Policy Statement, Mnangagwa said the country's balance of payment position remains in a surplus position, driven by robust export performance and remittances.

"Our foreign currency receipts of more than 11.6 billion U.S. dollars serviced our external payments of about 8.6 billion U.S. dollars, thus leaving us with a healthy surplus of 305 million U.S. dollars," said Mnangagwa.

"Amidst all this good news, there are issues and concerns which we must continue to keep an eye on, and even address as an economy.

First, the more than 300 million U.S. dollar positive balance between our foreign exchange receipts and our external payment commitments must continue to be monitored so they do not upset the applecart."

He said the exchange rate has largely stabilized, putting aside temporary instability triggered by payments to farmers late last year. "Month-on-month inflation, which peaked at 30.7 percent in June 2022, decelerated to less than 2.5 percent by end of 2022.

The upward trend of inflation has now been checked, with current efforts focusing on bringing it down even much further," said Mnangagwa.

In addition, he said Zimbabwe's foreign currency receipts reached 11.6 billion U.S. dollars in 2022, the highest ever in Zimbabwe since its independence.

As the bulk of the transactions is now in foreign currencies as compared to the local dollar, Mnangagwa said, there might be a need to relook at the method that is used to calculate inflation to avoid stoking up negative expectations on prices.

"As the Monetary Policy Statement admits, a mere 30 percent of national transactions are reckoned in local currency. Yet our conceptualization and reading of inflation tends to be based on this small segment in the total matrix of national economic activity," he said.

Mnangagwa noted that every gain made in stabilizing and growing the economy should translate into a better operating environment for businesses and improved welfare for Zimbabweans.

He predicted that the good rains expected this season is expected to further consolidate the economic gains made so far. "This, alongside the extensive climate-proofing measures we have adopted as an agriculture-led economy, means we are set to have a good season, itself a key factor to our overall growth," said Mnangagwa.

"The mining and tourism sectors are doing very well, thus making our growth prospects not just good, but also quite sustainable." Xinhua

Russian energy official slams Ukrainian sanctions as waste of time

MELITOPOL

KIEV'S sanctions will not affect the work of Russia's Rosatom state nuclear energy corporation, Renat Karchaa, an advisor to the chief executive of Russia's Rosenergoatom nuclear power plant operator, told TASS.

"Sanctions make sense only if they influence some processes.

First, the Zaporozhye Region and the city of Enerгодар are part of Russia.

Second, Russia's ownership of the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant is a settled matter, enshrined in the Russian president's decree.

Third, Russia ensures nuclear security at the facility. The sanctions can affect neither of the three aspects," he explained. "Will they affect my work? They won't. It is a sign of frustration and a waste of time," Karchaa (pictured) added.

Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky earlier enacted the National Security and Defense Council's decision to impose sanctions on 200 individuals, including Karchaa and the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant's Director Yuri Chernichuk, as well as other Rosatom employees.



Australia marks anniversary of 'Stolen Generation' apology

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA yesterday committed about \$300 million to improve life outcomes of its Aboriginal people, as the country marked 15 years since a national apology for forcibly removing Indigenous children from families under old assimilation policies.

The government announced A\$424 million (\$293 million) would go towards "Closing the Gap", which includes providing safe and reliable water for remote Indigenous communities, building of new homes, making essential food affordable and accessi-

ble, and supporting families impacted by family violence.

Australia's roughly one million Indigenous citizens have inhabited the land for roughly 60,000 years but track well below national averages on most socio-economic measures and suffer disproportionately high rates of suicide, domestic violence and imprisonment.

As many as one in three Indigenous children were removed from their families between 1910 and the 1970s in a bid to assimilate them into white society, an action described by former prime minister Kevin Rudd as a "great

stain" on the nation's soul during a formal apology to the so-called 'Stolen Generation' in 2008.

In November last year, the country was still failing to meet almost half its targets for improving the lives of Indigenous people, including the problems of adult incarceration and suicide.

Speaking in parliament, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the gap between life outcomes of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous people not only persist, but some are getting bigger.

"These are not gaps, they are

chasms. It is clear that not enough support has been directed towards organizations to deliver for communities, Albanese said.

"It will be a long time before we can say we have done enough, but we have to do this work together. Day after day, week after week," he said.

Opposition leader Peter Dutton apologized for boycotting the national apology in 2008.

"I've apologized for that in the past and I repeat that apology again today," Dutton told parliament in his speech.

"I failed to grasp at the time the symbolic significance to the Stolen

Generation of the Apology."

Albanese is seeking bipartisan support for a landmark referendum this year to recognize Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the constitution.

The referendum will establish a so-called Indigenous "Voice", that can make representations to parliament on policies affecting them. There is no mention of the Indigenous community in Australia's constitution at the moment.

"For all of us, I am optimistic about the success of the referendum because I am optimistic that Australians

will support this embrace of truth, justice, decency and respect," Albanese told parliamentarians in the speech.

Australia's First Nations people were not included in the census and recognized as part of the Australian population until 1967.

It will be a long time before we can say we have done enough, but we have to do this work together. Day after day, week after week

Israel president floats plan to spare constitutional collapse

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S president floated a compromise plan on Sunday to spare the country what he described as a "constitutional collapse" and possible violence, over a contested judicial overhaul sought by the hard-right government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The rare prime-time television speech by President Isaac Herzog (pictured), whose figurehead role is designed to unite an often fractious society, included an appeal to coalition lawmakers to hold off on initial legislation steps in parliament which some had planned to begin this week.

But Justice Minister Yariv Levin poured cold water on the idea of postponing, saying in a statement responding to Herzog's speech that while he did not oppose dialogue this "should not be linked to progress in the legislation proceedings".

The centre-left opposition, accusing Netanyahu of seeking greater control over the court system even as he himself is being tried on corruption charges, have mounted demonstrations and called for nationwide protest strikes at the Knesset on Monday.

Netanyahu - who denies wrongdoing in his trial - says the reforms are aimed at restoring balance between Israeli authorities.

"We are on the brink of constitutional and social collapse," Herzog said. "I feel - we all feel - that we are barely a moment away from a collision - and even from a violent collision."

There was a similar if more veiled call by the White House, which generally shies away from discussing Israel's internal affairs.

"The genius of American democracy and Israeli democracy is that they are both built on strong institutions, on checks and balances, on an independent judiciary," U.S. President Joe Biden said in a statement quoted by the New York Times on Sunday.

"Building consensus for fundamental changes is really important to ensure that the people buy into them so they can be sustained."

Recent polls have shown relatively little support for the proposed judicial changes as they stand.

Herzog urged immediate talks between the government and the opposition, based on five principles. These would include legislating a process for enacting Israel's quasi-constitutional basic laws and barring any Supreme Court interference in them.

Another principle would more clearly define the authority of the Supreme Court, which the government has accused of overreach. Herzog also called for a shake-up of the committee for selecting justices - but differed with the government on the format, arguing that "no side should have a built-in majority".

Opposition head Yair Lapid said that Herzog's proposal was a worthy one but that until understandings are reached "the struggle will not be halted and the protest will not stop".

Israel's five main banks, Bank Hapoalim, Bank Leumi, Israel Discount Bank, Mizrahi-Tefahot and First International Bank of Israel, in a rare such statement voiced support for Herzog's bid to reach broad understandings, which they said would benefit Israel's economy.

Legal experts, economists and former security and economic officials, who include Netanyahu confidants and appointments, have warned his government's judicial proposals could have serious diplomatic and economic fallout.

Agencies

Truth about explosions at Nord Stream Pipelines must be made public

THE explosions at the Nord Stream pipelines, which once shocked the whole world, made a bigger headline on February 8.

Renowned American journalist Seymour Hersh, who covered the Watergate scandal, said on the U.S. portal Substack that last June, U.S. Navy divers planted the remotely triggered explosives under the cover of a NATO military exercise, which destroyed three of the four Nord Stream pipelines three months later. According to Hersh, the explosives were triggered by a sonar buoy dropped by a plane of the Norwegian navy.

In this article titled "How America Took Out the Nord Stream Pipeline," Hersh explicitly accused the U.S. military of involvement in the incident and blamed the Biden administration for approving the operation.

People's Daily Quick News Review noted that Hersh's article exposes two important factors about the explosions - motivation and capability. With detailed materials and complete evidence, it reveals Washington's decision to destroy the Nord Stream pipelines, how the U.S. managed to cover the truth, and how "highly skilled deep-water divers" executed the explosions.

People's Daily Quick News Review believes that the article has triggered worldwide questions for the U.S. Sabotage and attacks on vital civil infrastructure are dangerous practices of a terrorist nature, which is equivalent to waging a war against European countries and not acceptable for every person that expects a peaceful life on this planet.

The countries involved should maintain a high level of concern, invest important resources in it, and reactivate the investigation mechanism led by the United Nations to find the ultimate truth.

People's Daily



Quake toll nears 34,000, rescuers dig for three survivors in Türkiye

ANTAKYA/ELBISTAN

RESCUERS pulled a woman alive from the rubble of a collapsed building in Türkiye yesterday and another team was digging a tunnel to reach what was believed to be a trapped grandmother, mother and 30-day-old baby, broadcaster CNN Turk reported.

A week after a major earthquake struck Türkiye and Syria, the toll of dead rose to nearly 34,000 and looked set to keep increasing as hopes for finding any more survivors faded.

But CNN Turk reported that Sibel Kaya, 40, was rescued in southern Gaziantep province, some 170 hours after the first of two major quakes struck the region.

Rescue workers in Kahramanmaraş had also made contact with three survivors, believed to be a mother, daughter and baby, in the ruins of a building, the broadcaster reported.

The deadliest quake in Türkiye since 1939 has killed 29,605 people there. More than 4,300 people were reported dead and 7,600 injured in northwest Syria as of Sunday, said a UN agency.

In Kahramanmaraş, the rescuers hoping to reach the three survivors consisted of a Turkish military team, miners and Spanish firefighters who were first alerted to there being life in the rubble by a search dog, said engineer officer Halil Kaya.

A thermal scan signaled that there were people alive, about five meters within the building, and then a muffled sound was detected, Kaya told the broadcaster.

The miners have excavated around three meters through a neighboring building that is still



Relatives of three people killed in the earthquake pray as they are buried at Sehir cemetery in Malatya, Türkiye, on Sunday. AP

standing, putting up support beams as they go.

"When we said knock on the wall if you can hear us, we heard faint tapping," he said.

"Our colleagues are all here working for 24 hours without sleeping ... We will all be here until we get those people out of there."

On Sunday, rescue teams from Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Belarus pulled a man alive from a collapsed building in Türkiye, about 160 hours after the quake struck, Russia's Ministry of Emergency Situations said.

Security worries

In a central district of one of the worst hit cities, Antakya in southern Türkiye, business owners emptied their shops on Sunday to prevent merchandise from being stolen by looters.

Residents and aid workers who came from other cities cited worsening security conditions, with widespread accounts of

businesses and collapsed homes being robbed.

Amid concerns about hygiene and the spread of infection in the region, Türkiye's Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said at the weekend that rabies and tetanus vaccine had been sent to the quake zone and that mobile pharmacies had started to operate there.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has said the government will deal firmly with looters, as he faces questions over his response to the earthquake ahead of an election scheduled for June that is expected to be the toughest of his two decades in power.

The quake is now the sixth most deadly natural disaster this century, behind the 2005 tremor that killed at least 73,000 in Pakistan.

A father and daughter, a toddler and a 10-year-old girl were among other survivors pulled from the ruins of collapsed build-

ings in Türkiye on Sunday, but such scenes are becoming rare as the number of dead climbed relentlessly.

At a funeral near Reyhanli, veiled women wailed and beat their chests as bodies were unloaded from lorries - some in closed wood coffins, others in uncovered coffins, and still others just wrapped in blankets.

Some residents sought to retrieve what they could from the destruction.

In Elbistan, epicenter of an aftershock almost as powerful as Monday's initial 7.8 magnitude quake, 32-year-old mobile shop owner Mustafa Bahcivan said he had come into town almost daily since then. On Sunday, he sifted through rubble searching for any of his phones that might still be intact and sellable.

"This used to be one of the busiest streets. Now it's completely gone," he said.

Syria aid complicated by years of war

In Syria, the disaster hit hardest in the rebel-held north-west, leaving homeless yet again many people who had already been displaced several times by a decade-old civil war. The region has received little aid compared with government-held areas.

"We have so far failed the people in north-west Syria," United Nations aid chief Martin Griffiths said on Twitter from the Türkiye-Syria border, where only a single crossing is open for UN aid supplies.

"They rightly feel abandoned," Griffiths said, adding that he was focused on addressing that swiftly.

The United States called on the Syrian government and all other parties to immediately grant humanitarian access to all those in need. Earthquake aid from government-held regions into territory controlled by hardline opposition groups has been held up by approval issues with Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) which controls much of the region, a UN spokesperson said.

An HTS source in Idlib told Reuters the group would not allow any shipments from government-held areas and that aid would be coming in from Türkiye to the north.

The United Nations is hoping to ramp up cross-border operations by opening an additional two border points between Türkiye and opposition-held Syria for aid deliveries, spokesperson Jens Laerke said.

UN Syria envoy Geir Pedersen said in Damascus the United Nations was mobilizing funding to support Syria. "We're trying to tell everyone: Put politics aside, this is a time to unite behind a common effort to support the Syrian people," he said.

Türkiye said on Sunday about 80,000 people were in hospital, and more than 1 million in temporary shelters.

Agencies

India aims to triple defence exports to \$5 billion by 2024/25



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (center) releases a commemorative stamp during the inauguration of the Aero India 2023 at Yelahanka air base in Bengaluru, India yesterday. AP

BENGALURU

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday set out ambitions to more than triple annual defense exports to \$5 billion over the next two years, as arms firms flocked to a major air show for a slice of the nation's massive import budget.

The country is looking to sign defense deals worth 750 billion rupees (\$9 billion) at the biennial five-day Aero India event, its biggest ever, as its airlines try to complete jetliner purchases to meet civilian demand and press global aircraft manufacturers to produce more locally, mainly through partnerships.

India has been one of the world's biggest importers of defense equipment for decades, but it has punched below its weight in the global arms export market.

New Delhi's export ambitions are a sign of its growing clout as it uses the leverage of huge imports to attract investment in its domestic industry.

"Today, India is not just a market for defense companies, it is also a potential defense partner," Modi said in a speech at the show. "I call on India's private sector to invest more and more in the country's defense sector."

India exports defense products to 75 countries, he added.

Past Indian exports include Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) Dhruv helicopters to the Philippines, Mauritius and Ecuador and Russia-India venture BrahMos Aerospace's supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines. HAL has also offered its Tejas light fighter jet for sale to Malaysia.

India has also exported other items such as offshore patrol vessels, coastal surveillance systems, avionics, chaff rocket launchers and spares for radars.

The air show aims to promote exports of indigenous air platforms such as Tejas, Dhruv, HTT-40 training aircraft, Dornier light utility helicopter and the light combat helicopter.

India also wants smaller domestic companies and start-ups to make parts for large defense products globally as well as to attract foreign investment for joint product development and production.

At the Aero India event, held at the Air Force Station of Yelahanka near Bengaluru, officials cheered aerobatic displays by aircraft including Tejas and Russian-made Sukhoi 30 fighter jets.

Sharing borders with its nuclear-

armed rival Pakistan, India's Soviet-era air force fleet is in desperate need of modernizing. Suppliers in the European Union and the United States have been lobbying for a bigger share of the market.

Russia supplied India with around \$13 billion of arms in the past five years, Russian state news agencies reported late on Sunday, and suppliers in the European Union and the United States have been lobbying for a bigger share of the market.

Exhibitors at the show include Airbus, Boeing, Dassault Aviation, Lockheed Martin, Israel Aerospace Industry, BrahMos, SAAB, Rolls Royce, Larsen & Toubro, HAL and Bharat Electronics Ltd.

India's airlines are also expanding, with Tata Group's Air India expected to announce a potentially record deal to buy nearly 500 jets from Airbus and Boeing, worth more than \$100 billion at list prices.

Although unlikely to be announced at the air show itself, the deal coincides with India's largest industry gathering where suppliers hope to win spin-off contracts from the country's defense and civil aviation expansion.

Lavrov finds new opportunities for Russia in Africa

MOSCOW

FROM February 7 to 9, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visited Mali, Mauritania and Sudan and earlier, on January 23-27, he was in South Africa, Eswatini (former Swaziland), Angola and Eritrea.

Lavrov's African tour was perceived as a significant international event both in Russia and abroad, notes Russian International Affairs Council Director General Andrey Kortunov.

According to him, Moscow is actively participating in the battle for the hearts and minds of the "global South" because for world powers these countries are important due to their sheer number and their activity on the global stage.

Undoubtedly, Lavrov's visit also had a practical goal, namely, laying the groundwork for the Russia-Africa summit. Nevertheless, Lavrov individually discussed with the countries he visited matters covering technical cooperation as well as major economic projects.

According to Kortunov, nowadays, Africa is a "continent of opportunities" with a rapidly growing demographic potential. The US, the EU and China are also vying for influence in that region so Moscow

simply cannot stay on the sidelines, the expert concluded.

Russia has had a comprehensive approach to working with Africa since 2019, according to Senior Instructor of African Studies at St. Petersburg State University Alexander Zdanevich.

Moscow's current stepped-up activity in the region is apparently related to the upcoming Russia-Africa summit, so with his visit Lavrov was preparing the groundwork for a detailed conversation at the highest level.

According to the expert, the discussion will be generally focused around the so-called "troika": energy, "soft power" and military and technical cooperation.

The latter is particularly important, given the African countries' need for security and Russia's strong positions in this sphere.

The expert added that Russia has earned a good reputation in Africa as a force that is capable of ensuring the security of African countries at a distance and under various political conditions without meddling in their domestic affairs.

As a result, concerning security issues, Moscow commands respect which surpasses even that of China, the expert concluded.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

SPORT



Tanzania Kabaddi Sports Association (TKSA)'s Chairman, Abdallah Nyoni (sitting L), and St. Joseph University In Tanzania (SJUIT) professor, Elias Zephania (sitting R), sign a contract between the two parties at the National Sports Council (NSC) offices in Dar es Salaam last week. The SJUIT has put its weight behind the national kabaddi teams' camp for World Cup, which will be played in India this year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA KABADDI SPORTS ASSOCIATION

National kabaddi squads to begin preps for World Cup

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA'S national kabaddi squads are expected to enter the camp soon to prepare for the World Cup that will be held in India this year.

Tanzania Kabaddi Sports Association (TKSA) Chairman, Abdallah Nyoni, disclosed the national squads will begin preparations immediately after the National League that will get underway in Dar es Salaam on February 22.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam last week, Nyoni said through the National League his association will get national women's and men's teams that will enter the camp to prepare for the World Cup.

"On February 22, we expect to have a National League which will aim to find a national women's and men's teams that will compete in India," Nyoni revealed.

Nyoni moreover pointed out they have signed a one-year contract with St. Joseph University In Tanzania (SJUIT) to support the national teams which will be preparing for the World Cup in

India.

"We thank St. Joseph University In Tanzania for deciding to cooperate with us to enable our national teams that will be preparing for the World Cup that will be held in India," the TKSA Chairman noted.

He said the contract will cover all costs for camps, food, accommodation, and transportation when the performers will be shaping up for the World Cup, as well as providing various training for coaches, referees, players, and journalists.

He said it is a great opportunity for them to work with the college and promised to honour the contract.

The SJUIT's professor, Elias Zephania, said they are focused on academics as well as social activities including developing sports.

"We are grateful to TKSA for agreeing to work with us, we will help you with expenses such as food and accommodation as well as provide you with a good office that will be in Dar es Salaam," Zephania disclosed.

Simba Queens SC moves to top position in Women's Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

A 4-1 win over Baobab Queens has enabled Simba Queens SC to climb to the top of this season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (WPL) table for the first time, surpassing JKT Queens who had occupied the place for a long time.

Two goals netted by midfielder Vivian Aquino and two scored by forwards, Opah Clement and Jentrix Shikangwa, were enough to have Simba Queens SC recording 19 points after eight matches.

Simba Queens SC's win has left JKT Queens falling to second place with 18 points followed by third-placed Yanga Princess SC which has notched 17 points.

Simba Queens SC as is the case with JKT Queens, Yanga Princess SC, Fountain Gate Princess, and Ceasia Queens have one match left to complete the first round.

The previous weekend's win was Simba Queens SC's sixth out of eight matches, with the league leader scoring 25 goals and conceding five goals.

The club's head coach, Charles Lukula, said that his side has improved after bringing in three experienced players Mwanahamisi Omary, Asha Rashid, and Danai Bhoobho.

Lukula said his squad lately boasts depth due

to the number of experienced players in the outfit, adding the footballers offer him options according to the respective matches.

He said Mwanahamisi is especially talented when the team attacks due to the experience she has.

Lukula revealed: "Mwanahamisi has been leading colleagues and she is helpful when she is on the pitch... Asha has not been used for a long time, she lacks physical fitness but, in the coming rounds, she will help the team."

"If you look (at our squad) after battling it out in the CAF Women's Champions League, we didn't have time to rest."

"We play matches every weekend, which probably contributed to a bad start, including losing the first game against JKT Queens," Lukula noted.

Simba Queens SC is the reigning champion of the Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League with Opa leading the race for the showdown's golden boot with nine goals followed by teammate Jentrix with seven goals.

The league leader has scored the most goals in the league, 25, allowing only five in the process, with rivals Yanga Princess, occupying third place with 17 points, scoring 18 goals.

JKT Queens have scored 17 goals, whilst sitting second with 17 points in the league standings.

“

The league leader has scored the most goals in the league, 25, allowing only five in the process, with rivals Yanga Princess, occupying third place with 17 points, scoring 18 goals

SPORTS

Dar to host Eastern Africa Junior Athletics Championships in March



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

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has been given a chance to host the East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships (EAAR).

The championships have been scheduled to take place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam early next month, according to AT Acting Secretary-General Jackson Ndaweka.

Ndaweka said they expect to host more than 10 countries from the region. The event will feature U-18 and U-20 athletes.

He said they are now in preparations ahead of the event, adding that AT's Technical Committee will meet soon to select the coaches who will be in charge

of the two national teams.

The AT official disclosed: "We are doing well in preparations, gearing up for hosting such a major international event. It is a top honour to host an international competition that will help us gauge the skills of our runners."

"We expect the event will be very competitive with young runners aiming at posting good records," Ndaweka revealed.

He said the local runners who will feature in the championships are now in intensive training.

"We expect that local runners will fare well in the championships, much as the showdown is very competitive," he said.

According to Ndaweka, they have already sent an application to Azam Television to broadcast the championships live for two days.

"We are yet to receive a reply, but we hope to get a

positive answer from them, the live coverage of the two-day event will enable more athletics fans to watch it in their homes," he said.

Ndaweka called on junior runners to sharpen their skills ahead of the showdown.

He noted that Tanzania has so many young talented runners, who can make the country proud internationally.

"We need to scout them and improve their standards," he said.

Minister pledges to renovate Mkwakwani Stadium

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANGA'S Member of Parliament, Ummu Mwalimu, has pledged to ensure that Mkwakwani Stadium is undergoing a major renovation including laying artificial turf to turn it into a modern stadium that meets international standards.

Ummu (pictured), who also doubles as Health Minister, said that since Azam Media Limited had, in collaboration with Mkwakwani Stadium management, installed floodlights at the venue, it is the region's responsibility to make sure important areas in the venue are being renovated.

The minister stated so at the official launching of the floodlights at Mkwakwani Stadium.

The launching was graced by Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdullah, with a friendly duel between Coastal Union and African Sports as well taking place on the day.

According to a statement issued by Tanga Regional Football Association (TRFA), the association decided to organize the friendly match because the two sides, for a long time, have used it as a home venue.

Coastal Union is battling it out in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League and African Sports is one of the competitors in this season's Championship League.

Ummu also applauded former Tanga Regional Commissioner, Adam Malima, and the Tanga regional leadership for the ruling party, CCM, for negotiating with Azam Media Limited and agreeing to install the floodlights.

"Now Tanga residents especially soccer fanatics have got another place for night outings to refresh their minds and souls, so it is my responsibility as their Member of Parliament to make sure this stadium meets international standards by putting artificial turf as well as doing the renovation," she stated.

Meanwhile, the event was accompanied by a blood donation exercise that took



place at Bombo Referral Hospital, with 500 people volunteering to donate blood and being presented with Coastal Union and African Sports jerseys.

Conte's future uncertain as erratic Spurs head to AC Milan

LONDON

HUMBLED by Tottenham's trashing at Leicester, Antonio Conte's future looks more uncertain than ever as the Italian leads his spluttering side into today's Champions League clash against AC Milan.

Conte is back in Italy for the last 16 first leg tie just two weeks after undergoing gallbladder surgery in his homeland and his return is likely to be just as uncomfortable as his previous visit.

The Tottenham boss has looked increasingly unsettled this season and, with his contract expiring at the end of the campaign, it would be little surprise if he decided to quit the Premier League club in May.

Conte has expressed unhappiness at Tottenham's transfer dealings, while repeatedly making it clear he believes it is unrealistic to expect his side to compete with their big-spending Premier League rivals.

Tottenham are still waiting for a first major trophy since 2008 and the team's dour displays under Conte have hardly convinced frustrated fans that he is the man to end the drought.

The nadir in Tottenham's spluttering season came in a 4-1 rout at Leicester on Saturday in Conte's return to the dugout after his operation.

It has been a week from hell for Tottenham since Harry Kane became the club's all-time leading scorer with the winner against Manchester City, a match Conte missed while recuperating.

Already rocked by an injury to France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris that will rule out the Tottenham captain for six weeks, Conte has also had to deal with injuries to Yves Bissouma, Ryan Sessegnon and Rodrigo Bentancur in the last seven days.

In the circumstances, perhaps it wasn't surprising that Conte cut a subdued figure at Leicester, rarely rising from his seat on the bench in

contrast to his usual animated personality.

Conte's health problems have precluded him from speaking in public, which might be just as well after Tottenham's wretched capitulation.

- 'A long process' -
The 53-year-old ceded media duties to his assistant Cristian Stellini, who bemoaned Tottenham's surrender.

"The team has to change something. Not only individually. It's about the desire," Stellini said.

"There is not an explanation because if you know what happens, you can change this. It happened also last season when we beat Manchester City, then lost to Burnley.

"To be consistent is a long process, a mental process. You have to be better mentally, better in the approach."

Having Conte at less than 100 percent is not helping Tottenham find a way out of their predicament.

"We spoke before the game and during the game but Antonio feels the difference. He takes care of his health so he knows he has to be careful," Stellini said.

"He wants to be back because he's our manager and with his passion he can transfer as well but he needs to be careful in this moment."

Fifth in the Premier League at present, Tottenham were fortunate fourth placed Newcastle could only draw at Bournemouth and sit just two points clear of Conte's men.

Even so, Tottenham are far from certain to return to the Champions League next season.

Failing to finish in the top four would raise questions about whether Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy would want to keep Conte even if the former Chelsea, Juventus and Inter Milan boss signals he wants to stay.

Against that troubled backdrop, making a long run in this season's Champions League could be the only way to salve Tottenham's wounds.

AFP

Pioli hoping for Milan revival on return to Champions League knockouts

MILAN

STEFANO Pioli is hoping that AC Milan have broken out of their damaging downward spiral as his team prepare for their first Champions League knockout tie

Milan host Tottenham Hotspur today night having snapped a seven-match winless streak in all competitions which left their Serie A title defence in tatters and threatened to completely derail their season.

The San Siro breathed a heavy sigh of relief on Friday night when Olivier Giroud headed Milan to a 1-0 win over Torino and Pioli wants that tight victory to be the turning point after two Milan derby defeats and heavy league losses to Lazio and Sassuolo in just over a fortnight.

Pioli said that Friday's win should be looked at as a "rebirth" as it ended a run which had left fifth-placed Milan not only miles behind runaway league leaders Napoli but also in a real fight for a place in next season's Champions League.

"We need to keep going, playing the Champions League next season would be a good finish at this point, but we need to be more consistent," he told DAZN.

The 57-year-old knows a lot about unexpected renaissances as after his arrival in October 2019 he went from almost being replaced by Ralf Rangnick to stewarding Milan's rise from the doldrums to the top of the Italian game.

Pioli replaced Marco Giampolo, the latest in a long line of managers the Rossoneri churned through in the largely miserable eight years since they had last won the league.

He took over a team which had won three and lost four of their opening seven matches, and only managed three more wins between his appointment and that season's winter break.

Milan's 5-0 humiliation at Atalanta - who nearly made the last four of that season's Champions League

-- in their final fixture of 2019 was probably the nadir of Pioli's reign, but after the arrival of Zlatan Ibrahimovic that Christmas something clicked.

- **Crowning glory** -

Last season's Scudetto, dethroning local rivals Inter Milan on the final day, was the crowning glory of an up-and-down career in which the most significant moment had previously been the death of Davide Astori in 2018 while he was Fiorentina coach.

He has credit in the bank with Milan as he has dealt with losing big players like Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and Franck Kessie as free agents in consecutive seasons without kicking up a fuss and taken Milan to the Champions League last 16 for the first time since 2014.

Pioli will be hoping for a better result than nine years ago, when Milan were thrashed 5-1 on aggregate by Atletico Madrid and became also rans for a tournament which they have won more times than any other club apart from Real Madrid.

He will be boosted by the return of both Ismael Bannacer and Fikayo Tomori from injury and a public rebuttal of rumours of a major dressing room bust-up which was given as a reason for Milan's collapse in form.

After beating Torino France left-back Theo Hernandez and his club captain Davide Calabria jokingly posed in a boxing stance together for a picture on Instagram.

It was an attempt to brush off talk widely circulated via a WhatsApp voice note that the pair had exchanged punches following a row over a woman, talk which led to Calabria lamenting people's capacity for "imagination and malice".

"We accept criticism and we're the first to not be happy and want to turn things around," said Calabria.

"What we don't accept are the endless lies about me and my teammates."

AFP

Challenged at home, Bayern Munich's season faces true test in Paris

PARIS

BAYERN Munich travel to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League last 16 today knowing defeat in the tie will represent a failed season regardless of domestic triumphs.

After Saturday's home defeat of Bochum, Bayern manager Julian Nagelsmann cut a frustrated figure and looked anything but a coach who had just masterminded another week atop the Bundesliga table with a comfortable 3-0 home win.

"There was too little movement" the 35-year-old said, promising "if we play like that on Tuesday, we won't go any further (in the Champions League)."

Nagelsmann even threw a little warning to his starting XI on Saturday, saying his team "only got better after the 60th minute (when) the substitutions brought fresh momentum."

"That's when we earned the result, not before. We have to improve before Tuesday."

- **Battle of superclubs** -

The reality of the super-club era is that domestic success will matter little for Nagelsmann -- just like his PSG counterpart Christophe Galtier.

Other managers have been shown the door at Bayern for less.

Niko Kovac was fired the year after winning the league-cup double with the side still in Champions League contention -- Bayern eventually lifted the trophy later that season under Hansi Flick.

Even big-name European specialist Carlo Ancelotti was sacked by Bayern after the club lost 3-0 away at PSG in 2017 -- and that was



in the group stages.

Despite romping to their 10th-straight title in 2021-22 Bayern's season was viewed internally as a failure due to the shock Champions League quarter-final elimination at the hands of Villarreal.

Nagelsmann, then in his first season at Bayern, may have escaped most of the blame, but the situation will be different should the side be eliminated at the round of 16 stage this time, regardless of the quality of the opposition.

Bayern have struggled since the resumption of the league after the winter break as three successive 1-1 draws allowed surprise challengers Union Berlin to cut their lead atop the league table to one point.

However, Nagelsmann has maintained a steadfast focus on their French opponents.

When PSG announced Kylian Mbappe could miss the first leg after the star striker went down with injury, an unusually testy Nagelsmann accused the French champions of mind games.

"What it says on the (PSG) website is vague. If it's not a structural injury, I can't imagine him missing the game. I'm preparing for the match as if he is going to play," he said.

- 'It's finally time' -

Nagelsmann's players have talked a different game ahead of the crucial clash by expressing their enthusiasm for the tie and doubling down on Bayern's European pedigree.

Midfielder Leon Goretzka said he was glad the wait to face PSG was over.

"We've been buzzing since the

release of the draw... all of Europe is hot for this game (and) now it's finally time."

Two-time Champions League winner Thomas Mueller backed his side "to show up, to be there".

"When the tension rises, that's when it matters."

Former Man City winger Leroy Sane said his side would not be overawed by the "big names in their ranks", saying simply "we know what to do".

"I am always optimistic. Bayern has always delivered in this competition.

"We know our strengths and we have to call on them. Our team consists of great footballers. We are defensively stable and up front it's all about one thing - attack."

AFP

Bayern v PSG - key Champions League battles

PARIS

BAYERN Munich take on Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League last 16, a heavyweight clash between clubs who faced off in the 2020 final.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key match-ups which could determine where the tie is won and lost ahead of today's first leg:

* **Christophe Galtier v Julian Nagelsmann** -

After a strong start domestically, PSG's form has dropped off considerably since the turn of the year and coach Galtier finds himself entering a critical stretch of the season without Kylian Mbappe.

The France star, the joint-leading scorer in this season's Champions League with seven goals, will miss the first leg with a thigh injury and there are concerns over Lionel Messi too after the Argentine hurt his hamstring during Wednesday's 2-1 loss to Marseille in the French Cup.

With Neymar yet to rediscover his best form since the World Cup either, Galtier must devise a plan that will allow a diminished PSG -- whose squad was also hit by a stomach bug at the weekend -- to avoid another European disappointment.

Bayern appeared to have turned the corner after going through what their coach Nagelsmann called a "results crisis" following three straight draws last month.

The 35-year-old Nagelsmann has also been hindered by injuries to key players but the club brought in cover in January and expectations remain as high as ever in Bavaria.

* **Gianluigi Donnarumma v Yann Sommer** -

The Italy goalkeeper made a costly error as PSG were dumped out by Real Madrid in the last 16 a year ago but is now entrenched as their first-choice goalkeeper.

PSG twice reached at least the semi-finals with Keylor Navas in goal before the arrival of Donnarumma, whose signing was intended to help the French champions win Europe's biggest club prize.

Bayern have signed Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer as a replacement for Manuel Neuer, who will miss the rest of the season after breaking his leg while skiing in December.

Sommer, 34, has past Champions



League experience with Borussia Moenchengladbach and Basel but the scrutiny will be much sharper with the six-time European champions.

* **Germany trio v Verratti** -

Bayern figure to have the advantage in midfield with Germany internationals Joshua Kimmich and Leon Goretzka patrolling the central areas and the impressive Jamal Musiala in a more advanced role.

Musiala, not yet 20, is Bayern's leading scorer with 14 goals while there are few midfielders in the world as complete as Goretzka and Kimmich.

However, it is a longstanding area of weakness for PSG, heavily reliant on Marco Verratti, whose fitness is again in question with the Italian receiving treatment for a sore hip.

Fabian Ruiz and Carlos Soler have not settled since arriving in the summer, Vitinha's form has dipped and Renato Sanches is likely ruled out of

both legs with a hamstring problem.

* **Eric-Maxim Choupo Moting v Sergio Ramos** -

Choupo Moting was on the losing side after coming on late for PSG in the final three years ago, his final appearance in an underwhelming stint in the French capital.

Bayern seemed an unlikely next destination for the Cameroon striker, but his contribution this season for a team coming to terms with the departure of Robert Lewandowski and absence of Sadio Mane cannot be understated.

His 13 goals are second only to Musiala and his ability to occupy defenders affords Bayern's more dynamic attackers like Serge Gnabry and Leroy Sane extra space to do damage.

Ramos was signed to bring extra depth and experience to PSG, but the 36-year-old has played far more regularly than perhaps expected with

Presnel Kimpembe sidelined by injury.

* **Lionel Messi v Dayot Upamecano** -
Less than two months on from the World Cup final, Dayot Upamecano will again be tasked in part with shutting down Messi -- assuming he plays, as Galtier insists he will.

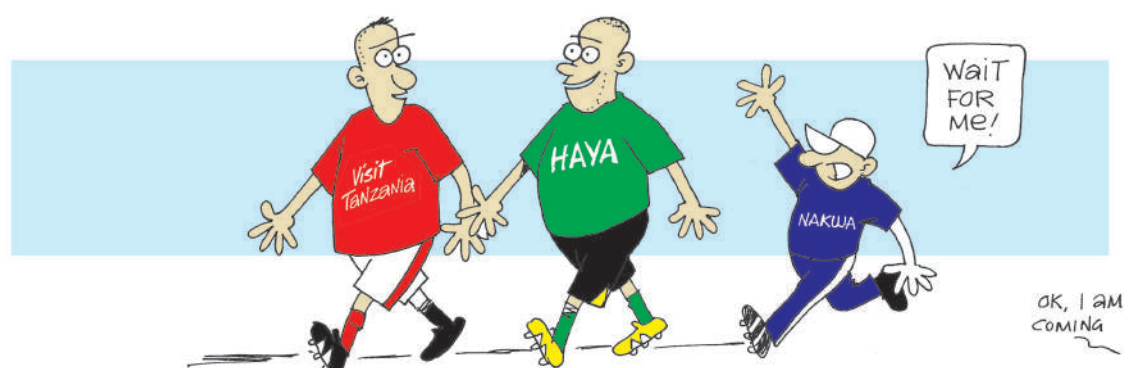
Seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi had the last laugh in Doha with two goals and a helping hand in the other, before converting in the shootout.

Upamecano has started every game for Bayern in the league this term, growing in stature after an up-and-down first season in Bavaria.

PSG's attack is not the same without the blazing speed of Mbappe, but Messi and Neymar can still pose plenty of problems for a Bayern defence reinforced by the recent signing of Joao Cancelo.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



OK, I AM COMING

SPORT

Challenged at home, Bayern Munich's season faces true test in Paris

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Kilimanjaro's Moshi Khalsa Club's players and officials are pictured upon the conclusion of the 2022 Uhuru Cup hockey tournament held at Sikh Union Club in Arusha in December. Moshi Khalsa defeated Arusha's Black Mambaz 3-1 in a penalty shootout of the final. PHOTO: COURTESY OF THA

Moshi Khalsa eyes success in Africa Club Championship

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S hockey champions, Moshi Khalsa, were yesterday expected to open their campaign in the men's category of this year's Africa Cup for Club Championship (ACCC), coming up against Nigeria's Police Machine squad at Sikh Union Club in Nairobi, Kenya.

Moshi Khalsa is taking part in the continental tournament for the second time after failing to make it to the showdown for almost 10 years, as revealed by Tanzania Hockey Association (THA) Chairman, Kaushik Doshi.

Doshi noted according to the tournament's fixture released by Africa Hockey Federation (AfHF), Moshi Khalsa has been placed in Pool B of the men's category that is also made up of Kenya Police, Nigeria's Police Machine, Egypt's Sharkia, Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) Men's squad, and Hippo of Zimbabwe.

The category's Pool A is made up of Kenya's Butali Sugar and Western Jaguars, Uganda's Weatherhead, Kada Stars of Nigeria, Ghana's Exchequers, and Egypt's Zamalek.

Six clashes were expected to be held on the opening day of the showdown's men's category, as per the tournament fixture. The games were to be followed by the championship's opening ceremony at 7 pm.

In yesterday's other duels that were to be held in the morning, Kenya Police were set to confront Hippo, Western Jaguars were to face compatriots, Butali Sugar, whereas Weatherhead had a date against giants, Zamalek.

The day moreover saw GRA Men's squad come up against Sharkia, and Kada Stars locked horns with Exchequers.

On Tuesday, Moshi Khalsa takes on Kenya Police in the encounter set to begin at 7 am, Butali Sugar will face Exchequers, whereas Police Machine is, thereafter, confronting GRA Men's outfit.

Doshi noted Moshi Khalsa has traveled to Kenya with a total of 15 players and a team manager, with THA's official Zuenah Hassan as well making the contingent.

Zuenah, the THA Chairman revealed, will serve as a judge in the women's category of the championship.

The players making the team are Anganile Kapuku, Damas Kimaro, Adam Tingo, Salum Kibwana, Issa Kavtille, Saleh Kihaiyo, and Athuman Kitundu.

The side's skipper, Sultan Kondo, Paul Kuriani, Yohana Mamuya, Rashid Kondo, Peter Mkozi, Said Madevu, Innocent Mramba, and Themison Kalitus complete the list. Varinderpal Singh Bhamra is the club's manager.

According to Doshi, Moshi Khalsa's trip to Nairobi to battle for top honours in the ACCC is sponsored by a Moshi-based company Charan Singh & Sons Ltd.

Moshi Khalsa's participation in this year's ACCC is an opportunity for the squad to make its presence felt in the more challenging showdown.

The Kilimanjaro squad has enjoyed enormous success at the domestic level, with one of its recent achievements being a triumph in the 2022 Uhuru Cup hockey tournament which took place at Sikh Union Club in Arusha in December.

The Kilimanjaro squad emerged as the Uhuru Cup tournament's champion with a 3-1 victory over Arusha's Black Mambaz in the penalty shootout of the final.

Eight teams took part in the prestigious Uhuru hockey tournament that was organized by the Sikh Union Club of Arusha in conjunction with THA.

They are Arusha Twigas, Dar es Salaam's TPDF squad, Kili Vijana, Arusha Legends, Moshi Khalsa, Tanga Stars, Zanzibar Nyuki, and defending champion Black Mambaz.

This year's ACCC, taking place from February 13-19, constitutes both men's and women's categories, with the men's showpiece marking the 33rd edition, and the women's tournament is the 24th edition.

Seven sides are battling for the top honour in the women's category, with West African big guns, Nigeria and Ghana, fielding two teams apiece, the hosts Kenya have lined up three clubs.

Dar athletes target medals in World Cross Country Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S national athletics team's head coach Dennis Malle has expressed confidence that his charges will win medals in the World Athletics Cross Country Championships slated for Saturday in Bathurst, Australia.

The East African country will be represented by four athletes, namely Josephat Gisemo, Mathayo Sombi, Inyasi Sulle, and Fabian Nelson.

Malle pointed out in an interview last weekend the runners are ready for the championships.

The tactician stated so at the end of the 10-day camp for the four athletes organized by Athletics Tanzania (AT) in Arusha.

He noted: "We have finished the camp well, we are on the way to Dar es Salaam and will depart for Australia on Tuesday."

"I'm confident that we will do well, my charges are ready and the morale is high among them... what gives me more confidence is that the team has many experienced and determined athletes," he said.

About seven athletes were in the residential camp for the World Athletics Cross Country Championships set to take place on February 18.

The athletes selected for the national team heading for the Australia showdown had excelled in trials which were conducted by Arusha Regional Athletics Association.

Apart from hosts Arusha, the trials involved athletes from other regions, namely Dar es Salaam, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Dodoma, Singida, and Tanga.

Cross-country running is a sport in which teams and individuals run a race on open-air courses over natural terrain such as dirt or grass.

The course, typically 4-12 kilometers (2.5-7.5 mi) long, may include surfaces of grass and earth, pass through woodlands and open country, and include hills, flat ground, and sometimes gravel road and minor obstacles.

It is both an individual and a team sport, runners are judged on individual times and teams by a points-scoring method.

Both men and women of all ages compete in cross country, which usually takes place during autumn and winter, and can include weather conditions of rain, sleet, snow, or hail, and a wide range of temperatures.

Cross-country running is one of the disciplines under the umbrella sport of athletics and is a natural-terrain version of long-distance track and road running.

Although open-air running competitions are prehistoric, the rules and traditions of cross-country racing emerged in Britain.

The English championship became the first national competition in 1876, and the International Cross-Country Championships was held for the first time in 1903.

Since 1973, the foremost elite competition has been the World Athletics Cross Country Championships.

Kili Marathon organizers announce race number collection schedule



Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Irene Mutiganzi.

By Guardian Correspondent

THE organizers of the 2023 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon have announced the race number and running vests' collection schedule which starts the coming weekend in Dar es Salaam.

This comes after they recently announced the closure of the registration exercise last week as the entry capacity had been reached for the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42km and Tigo 21km races even before the February 6 deadline that had been set by the organizers.

According to the statement, the number collection will take place at the Mlimani City Mall in Dar es Salaam on February 18 and February 19 from 12 pm to 6 pm.

After Dar es Salaam, the exercise will move to Arusha at the Kibo Palace Hotel on February 21 and February 22 from 2 pm to 7 pm.

The last collection point will be Moshi on February 23 (12 pm to 5 pm), February 24 (10 am to 6 pm), and February 25 (from 9 am to 5 pm) at the Moshi Cooperatives University (MoCU) Stadium.

The organizers called on the participants to observe the announced times to avoid inconveniences and also called on those collecting numbers for either their friends or relatives to ensure they have copies of their identity cards or consent letters allowing the representatives to collect on their behalf.

"We hope that the participants will turn up in numbers at the collection points in Dar es Salaam and Arusha to reduce congestion in Moshi," the organizers said.

The organizers also issued a stern

warning against those selling numbers online illegally, saying that legal action will be taken against them.

"This is illegal and we will take legal action against them," the organizers noted.

Also targeted are those intending to run with fake numbers as they will be withdrawn from the races, their results nullified, and banned from participating in Kilimanjaro International Marathon.

This year's sponsors include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km (main sponsor), Tigo- Half Marathon (21km), Grand Malt - 5km Fun Run, water table sponsors TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies and official suppliers Kibo Palace Hotel, CMC Automobiles, KK Security and Keys Hotel.

Kili Marathon is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and nationally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kili Za Wana
13:55 Dandoo Za Michezo
14:00 SSPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dandoo Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kili Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 Club Bangers

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planef Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM