



LIVESTOCK



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NEMC to sweep most plastic bags

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

NATIONAL Environment Management Council (NEMC) zonal managers have been given 30 days to start removing plastic bags from markets or face dismissal from their positions.

Dr Seleman Jafo (pictured), Union Affairs and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office, issued this directive in a statement on Wednesday regarding the plastic bags ban, asserting that despite the banning of carrier bags, there is a rampant increase in the use of such bags.

"There is a huge violation of regulations regarding the plastic bags ban by some manufacturers and distributors who have switched to soft nylon bags without handles. They use the same as carriers of purchased goods," he stated.

The entire public needs to stop using nylon packaging bags and appropriate steps will be taken on those found with them, in violation of the 2019 legislation on the prohibition of plastic carrier bags and regulations thereof.

"The situation contributes to the increase of environmental pollution especially in urban areas," he said, emphasizing that it is an offence to change the use of packing bags to

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CAG lists big flaws in plea bargaining



Controller and Auditor General Charles Kichere briefs journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on his audit report for financial year 2021/2022 after presenting it in the National Assembly. He is with Parliamentary Local Authorities Accounts Committee chairperson Halima Mdee. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

A SPECIAL audit on procedures for confiscation and forfeiture, along with handover, distribution and management of acquired assets by the National Prosecutions Office has shown serious violations of procedures.

Controller and Auditor General (CAG), Charles Kichere said at a press conference that the audit was conducted from July 2019 to March 2022 to verify compliance with laws and regulations related to asset confiscation through plea-bargaining agreements.

It was also tied with verifying procedures in cases where assets were seized in connection with criminal charges, to evaluate procedures associated with transfer, verification, management and condition of all confiscated assets.

This is a requirement set out in Sections 14 and 15 of the Proceeds of Crime Act (Cap 256) and Section 194B of the Criminal Procedure Act (Cap.20), he explained.

He reviewed the audit after tabling the annual report of his office for financial year 2021/22 in the legislature yesterday, noting that there is need to follow laws and procedures as far as the matter is concerned.



As a result, these logs are now unsuitable for auction, resulting in significant losses to the government

The National Prosecutions Service (NPS) seized and forfeited properties, including cash amounts totaling 16.02bn/- and \$7.75m during the period, he said, noting that the funds were subsequently deposited into assets forfeiture and recovery bank accounts held at the Bank of Tanzania.

However, the audit identified procedural violations and shortcomings in the management of confiscated assets, as the director of public prosecution (DPP) had confiscated assets without the requisite court orders or judgments.

Assets seized this way include four motor vehicles, 864.97 grams of gold plus 71,654.56 carats of diamonds worth \$29.51m altogether, he stated.

Upwards of 1.3bn/- was confiscated and handed over to the Treasury without complying with the prescribed procedure of transferring funds to special accounts designated for confiscated property, he said.

A sum of 355.48m/- derived from confiscated assets was deposited into the general revenue account in contravention of the legal requirement to transfer such funds directly to the special accounts for confiscated assets at the central bank, he further stated.

Moreover, the DPP did not maintain a register for recording details of confiscated funds and properties, with deficiencies noticed in the completeness of basic information for seized assets after court decisions were identified, the audit indicated.

"I recommend that DPP establish robust systems and controls for tracking confiscated assets and funds, including the use of standardised procedures for recording and reporting on seized assets

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'Global networking key to combating of disease outbreaks'

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has called for collective efforts among stakeholders in intensifying research to curb contagious disease outbreaks like Marburg, Covid-19.

Dr Stergomena Tax, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, told a gathering of foreign envoys in Dar es Salaam that the world is going through trying times, thus collaboration is vitally needed.

The meeting with diplomatic corps was aimed at briefing the envoys on steps taken to control the Marburg virus disease, where five people died in Kagera region.

"Research is a continuous process," she stated, affirming that special units for contagious diseases research are found in the country, "but as countries we need to gather our efforts on how we can collectively control pandemic outbreaks."

The government worked tirelessly to control the deadly disease, she said, assuring the diplomats that Tanzania was safe.

On March 21, the government confirmed the first-ever outbreak of the Marburg virus disease as Health minister Umyy Mwalimu, announced the deaths of five people.

A rapid response team was sent to Kagera, which borders Uganda, to probe the illness and offer treatment services for the highly contagious disease characterised by severe fever, often accompanied by bleeding and

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Cash management: Public agencies flout regulations

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Controller and Auditor General (CAG) had issued a long list of incidents of inept financial control performance in public agencies for the financial year 2021/2022.

CAG Charles Kichere told a press conference here yesterday that major public institutions need to comply with laws and regulations in accordance with relevant policies, ensuring effectiveness in delivering services to the public.

The report highlights significant



The govt did not release 161.88bn/- to 18 public authorities and other bodies as budgeted...

deficiencies in internal control systems, financial management and governance structures of various organizations, chiefly pointing at shortcomings in procurement and contract management.

Other key areas of compliance shortcomings are revenue and cash flow management, along with expenditure, budget and tax compliance. Management, the report noted.

Similarly identified inefficiencies in fiscal operations in sectors like health, tourism, water authorities and higher

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Puma Energy Tanzania managing director Fatma Mohammed Abdallah moves a vote of thanks to guests who honoured an invitation by the firm to iftar it hosted in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. They included Dar es Salaam Region's acting sheikh, Walid Alhad Kawambwa (2nd-R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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Cash management: Public agencies flout regulations

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learning, apart from training and research institutions.

Weaknesses were noted in managing accounts of state institutions, pension funds and in the performance of crop boards, aside from the extractive industry, he said.

Billing systems of the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) for 13.5bn/- involved drilling services not supported by detailed certificates of works, taking up 13.3bn/-.

At the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO), revenue collected outside the Government e-Payment Gateway (GePG) system amounted to 3.32bn/-, the report noted.

It also highlighted non-review or approval of rental charges on customers at the National Housing Corporation (NHC), Tanzania Review Corporation (TRC) and the Tanzania Telecommunication Co. Ltd (TTCL).

Similarly the annual audit noticed dormant bank accounts with cash balances pegged at 20.65bn/- held by various public entities, he said.

Transferred staff remained signatories at TPA bank accounts, with unsupported and unrecoverable receivables amounting to 7.51bn/- noticed at TTCL, he stated.

Audits on expenditure management in public organizations for the year ended 30th June 2022 found that 12 entities incurred nugatory expenditure amounting to 63.7bn/- comprising interests and penalties for delayed payments, it said.

A total of 21 entities incurred ineligible expenses amounting to 77.7bn/- mainly in allowances to unentitled staff or payments not supported by sufficient documentation, the report noted.

"At TANAPA I found payment of 1.95bn/- without supporting documents plus staff allowances of 38.72m/- paid above approved rates," he stated.

Railways infrastructure funds amounting to 195.99bn/- were used

for purposes not mentioned in section 68 (9) of the Railways Act, Cap 170, meanwhile as 99 public entities showed long outstanding payables amounting to 7.65trn/-, he stated.

A total of 31 entities had long outstanding imprests involving 3.51bn/- and 11 entities delayed remittance of their statutory contributions to the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF), the Public Sector Social Security Fund (PSSSF) and the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) at 131.8bn/- delayed for periods ranging from one month to one year and beyond, he stated.

The government did not release 161.88bn/- to 18 public authorities and other bodies as budgeted, while 50 agencies did not collect revenue amounting to 174.63bn/- as budgeted from their own sources, the report indicated.

Similarly, 13 public authorities showed deficiencies in the usage of PlanRep system for budget management, while seven other agencies had expenditure incurred above approved budgets totaling 118.04bn/- without approval, the CAG noted.

The review of the procurement and contract management found seven entities that signed contracts without being vetted by the Attorney General or a relevant legal officer with contract sums of 45.71bn/- and \$ 7.75m/- in specific cases, he said.

"Also, while procurement legislations require competition to obtain economical prices and quality, Tanzania Standard Newspapers conducted procurement of 7.49bn/- and \$48,480 by issuing local purchase orders to specific suppliers of goods and services without undertaking any such procurement processes," he further asserted.

At MSD, illegal arrangements in contract implementation had suppliers exchanging contractual obligations without contracts, resulting to a loss amounting to \$821,958.36 (1.89bn/-), he added.

Egypt, Cyprus agree to enhance cooperation in energy, defence

CAIRO

CYPRIOUS President Nikos Christodoulides affirmed his country's endeavor to strengthen relations with Egypt in energy, tourism, and defense.

Christodoulides announced plans to visit Cairo soon to meet his Egyptian counterpart, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, saying Egypt would be his second foreign trip after Greece.

Egypt, Greece, and Cyprus are in an expanded tripartite cooperation mechanism that includes the military and political fields and the coordination of interests in the eastern Mediterranean, which grew after natural gas discoveries in the East Mediterranean.

Cypriot president said he looks forward to visiting Egypt to discuss several vital files related to bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to enhance them.

He affirmed that his country has a role in supporting European-Egyptian relations.

Christodoulides said that his upcoming meeting with Sisi would touch on regional and international issues, namely the East Mediterranean Gas Forum, which would allow for more rapprochement between Cairo and Nicosia.

The president added that he would come to Egypt with a comprehensive agenda on bilateral relations, energy files, and the East Mediterranean, noting that there are suitable energy reserves in the region, providing development opportunities.

The Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum was established on an Egyptian initiative, which was put forward during the Crete summit, between the leaders of Egypt, Cyprus, and Greece, in October 2018.

The forum's charter entered into force in March 2021 with the membership of the founders: Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, and Jordan. Palestine and France

joined it later, and the US entered as an observer. Representatives of the World Bank and the European Union also joined the forum.

The Cypriot president expressed his aspiration to establish the permanent secretariat of the tripartite mechanism that includes Egypt, Cyprus, and Greece.

Cyprus hosted the tripartite summit of the Tripartite Cooperation Mechanism three times, and since 2014, nine meetings have been held periodically.

Egypt, Cyprus, and Greece have exchanged visits on several political, economic, and military levels over the past years.

After a meeting of defense ministers last year, the three countries agreed to support cooperation in the defense and security fields to face challenges and support stability in East Mediterranean.

The Cypriot president praised the reform process in Egypt, appreciating efforts to restore Egypt's pioneering and pivotal role and the "unprecedented" reforms Sisi is carrying out for the benefit of the Egyptians.

Christodoulides was sworn in as President of Cyprus at the end of February after winning the presidential elections.

The Egyptian president called his Cypriot counterpart, congratulating him on winning the presidential elections.

He said in an official statement that the Egyptian-Cypriot friendship is based on shared values and mutual interests, relying on a rich and diverse legacy of human and civilization exchange.

The Egyptian president expressed his aspiration for the continued development and strengthening of the strategic partnership between the two countries in a way that serves the aspirations of the two peoples and contributes to achieving stability, security, development, and prosperity.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Dr Stergomena Tax (L) bids farewell to members of the diplomatic corps shortly after having an audience with them in Dar es Salaam yesterday on cases of Marburg virus disease as spotted three weeks ago in two villages in Bukoba District, Kagera Region. The Health ministry announced on Tuesday that the disease has been contained. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

CAG lists big flaws in plea bargaining

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to ensure transparency and accountability in accordance with the law," the CAG declared.

There was similarly absence of guidelines for managing confiscated properties, leading to severe consequences as confiscated items such as minerals, logs and others were left idle for years without proper management, resulting in a significant loss for the government.

Additionally, various confiscated assets including chemicals, containers, beverages, oil, mattresses and slot machines were

not properly tracked, and there were no records of their location, he specified.

Several confiscated properties were not receiving regular maintenance, leading to their dilapidation, he said, citing three houses in Dar es Salaam and one house in Kagera Region.

Other such instances include 7,751 confiscated timber logs in Njombe Region, valued at 38m/- which were not properly stored, with 4,751 logs stored in a private garage without a formal agreement. The remaining 3,000 logs were left in Makambako where they were damaged by prolonged exposure

to rain and sun, the report intoned.

"As a result, these logs are now unsuitable for auction, resulting in significant losses to the government. I also discovered issues concerning the accuracy and legitimacy of confiscated assets, particularly vehicles," he asserted.

The registration and ownership details of some confiscated vehicles, such as four motor vehicles, two tractors and three motorcycles were not recognized by TRA, casting doubt on the accuracy of information taken for these assets, the report indicates.

Additionally, the legitimacy of

230 confiscated motor vehicles was brought into question as their registration and ownership information did not match the records at TRA, it said.

Some confiscated properties lacked evidence of transfer documents, raising concerns about the legality of their current ownership. For instance, out of the 17 plots, four farms and 36 houses confiscated by the DPP, only one plot, one farm, and seven houses had been officially handed over to the Treasury permanent secretary in accordance with the relevant transfer documents, the report added.



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba presents the Controller and Auditor General's annual report of the central government audit for financial year 2021/2022 in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

'Global networking key to combat disease outbreaks'

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organ failure.

It is part of the so-called filovirus family, including Ebola, which has wreaked havoc in scattered outbreaks in Africa, including in Uganda.

The World Health Organization (WHO) applauded Tanzania's rapid reaction to the outbreak, affirming that it stood ready to ensure there are no gaps in response.

Experts say that a key natural

source of the Marburg virus is likely to be the African fruit bat, which carries the pathogen but does not fall sick from it.

The minister also briefed the diplomats on the visit by US Vice President Kamala Harris, noting inter alia that the two countries were in final discussions to extend visa expiry period.

This will facilitate movement of people and goods and further improve investment flows, trade and tourism, she added.

NEMC to sweep most plastic bags

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carrier bags, as specified in the law.

NEMC zonal managers need to involve regional secretariats, district and municipal councils to control the use of plastic bags, he stated.

In June 2019, the government banned the production, supply and use of plastic carrier bags as a major source of pollution in

the environment, even in inland marine ecosystems. Importers and distributors of banned plastic carrier bags would be subjected to a 20m/- fine.

Delivering PMO estimates in 2019, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, announced May 31st 2019 as the last day to use plastic carrier bags. No one will be allowed to manufacture, import, sell or use the carrier bags, he had specified.



It's self-service for these delegates to the 12th Annual Editors Professional Conference organised last week in Morogoro municipality by the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) at iftar jointly hosted for them by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and SICPA Tanzania Company. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Qatar-based firm to invest in Tanzania's meat processing

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Qatar-based Widam Food Company has shown interest to invest in the country's livestock sector as result of last year's President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to the Arabic nation.

Abdallah Ulega, minister for Livestock and Fisheries revealed on Wednesday in Dodoma when he met and held talks with Al Noubay Al Marri, Widam Food company director general.

Ulega said that the decision for the Qatar-based to invest came after President Samia's visit to Qatar in October 2022.

The minister said the investor visited him to complete the steps to establish the meat processing in Tanzania.

Minister Ulega said the government is determined to improve the production of the livestock sector, so the arrival of the Widam Food Company supports the government's efforts.

"We welcome them here in Tanzania, Samia has already opened the way, what remains is for us to empower you so that your

investment can be successful," said Ulega.

The minister also pledged to offer the investor full cooperation stressing: "If the company's director feels any challenge, he should not hesitate to inform the ministry so that they can resolve it immediately."

"We thank President Samia for opening the doors for investments in Tanzania, and we see that Tanzanian meat has a good commercial future in Qatar," said Al Noubay.

Tanzania has some of the largest livestock herds and flocks in Africa, comprising 34 million cattle, 33 million sheep and goats, and 88 million chickens.

Increasing demand for consumption of meat, milk and eggs presents many opportunities for millions of livestock-rearing households to improve livelihoods, income, employment and nutrition. The main opportunity is to sustainably improve productivity and therefore increase livestock contribution to national GDP, which currently stands at just 7 per cent.

All foundational economic indicators point to a dramatic increase in national, regional, and global demand for Tanzanian livestock products as populations grow in number and affluence. Demand for meat in Tanzania is expected to triple by 2030.

Tanzanian with its geography linking east and southern Africa and interior nations to the coast is well placed to be a major player in regional livestock market investments.

Trade-in meat has increased significantly, with more and more countries seeking to close their supply gap through imports. Major meat exporters, especially in South America, face logistical challenges to supply new growth areas in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

Speaker Tulia calls upon government to prepare volunteers database on teachers, health workers

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

SPEAKER of the National Assembly, Dr Tulia Ackson has tasked the government to prepare a database of teachers and health workers who volunteer at public health facilities and schools so that they are given priority for employment.

Dr Ackson made the statement in the House yesterday in addition to a response by Deputy minister for Health, Dr Godwin Mollel when responding to a question from Special Seats MP, Felister Njau (CHADEMA).

She underscored the need for the Ministry of Health and President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government Tanzania

(PO-RALG) and the President's Office (Good Governance) to look into the matter seriously and make sure they are given priority when it comes to employment.

According to her, there are many teachers are volunteering at public primary and secondary schools.

"We need to consider them as they are doing a good job. It is unfair that they are not employed despite their professional qualifications. When recruiting servants in these cadres, you must give priority to those volunteering instead from colleges and

universities," she said.

She added: "Having a database will help reduce the shortage of health workers and teachers as a good number of them would want to volunteer."

In her basic question, wanted to know when the government would employ the volunteers offering services in hospitals.

Responding, Dr Mollel said the Health ministry is charting out modalities with good governance and public servants ministry to see how they will give priority to volunteers when the employment

opportunities are announced.

Dr Mollel said the move is meant to award and recognize the volunteer's contribution in the health sector development.

He said volunteers are doing great jobs in attached respective hospitals thus the need to give them priority when employment opportunities are available.

Elaborating further, the Deputy minister said they have issued guidelines to hospitals and health centres that the volunteers must be paid half of the respective cadre salary from their own revenues.

However, he said, the public hospitals in regions, zonal and national hospitals have managed to pay 40 per cent of all volunteers through their local revenues as a motivation for their time and services.

"We are working with the good governance and public servants ministry to see how those working in health facilities countrywide are given priority when it comes to employment opportunities compared to those who have chosen to remain idle regardless of their skills," said Dr Mollel.



BARRICK
NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

CORROSION PROTECTION OF STEEL STRUCTURE IN PROCESS PLANT

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following services:

Surface preparation and application of protective coating on Process Plant steel structure as per recognized corrosion protection standards NM0016/2023

Pre-qualification Criteria

- (1) Evidence of suitable HSE, OSHA compliance and site safety program.
- (2) Copy of registration and incorporation certificate.
- (3) Experience on similar projects by having list of clients with LPO/signed contract and certificate of completion.
- (4) Experiences on Surface Preparation, Sandblasting, Coating application and Quality Control Methodology.
- (5) Quality Control/Quality Assurance plan, Execution plan and express how effective/consistent are the execution plan.
- (6) Compliance with local content regulation by having local content plan approved by the Mining Commission
- (7) Evidence of suitable resources availability - Equipment, Systems, and Qualified Personnel (Applicators & Inspectors) on Corrosion Protection
- (8) Describe Detailed "Corrosion Protection" Method statement.

Expression of Interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com.

Applicants must quote the reference "NM Corrosion Protection" in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI **14 April 2023**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



Accelerated Market roll-out of Clean Cooking Solutions in Tanzania

SECOND CALL FOR FUNDING PROPOSALS

Summary

The CookFund Programme, funded by the European Union (EU), is a three-year programme (2022 – 2024) that seeks to accelerate market rollout of clean cooking solutions in Tanzania mainland, targeting five regions namely **Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Morogoro, Dodoma and Mwanza**. It is implemented by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Ministry of Energy. The programme aims at contributing to Tanzania's climate change commitment by increasing the share of the population with access to clean and sustainable cooking solutions. The CookFund is a performance-based programme that provides financial and technical assistance to address enterprise undercapitalization and end-user affordability.

The Call for Proposals

UNCDF is inviting interested and eligible enterprises and companies involved in the clean cooking value chain/technologies to apply for the second round of financial assistance to accelerate roll-out of clean cooking solutions in urban areas of targeted regions. Targeted cooking energy solutions are liquefied petroleum gas, natural gas, improved charcoal stoves, electric pressure cookers, bioethanol and briquettes.

Application: For detailed Guideline, Eligibility Criteria and Application Form, please visit the link below: <https://www.uncdf.org/cookfund>

Language: All proposals must be submitted in English.

Deadline for Submission: This second round of application is open from 6th April 2023 to 30th September 2023.

Pre-submission workshops: UNCDF will conduct one-day *Pre-Submission Sessions* to provide guidance on how to prepare funding proposals, increase the understanding on submission requirements and offer applicants an opportunity to raise questions. If you wish to participate, please send an email to cookfund.tz@uncdf.org indicating "CookFund Pre-submission Workshop" in the subject line of your email. Indicate your region of operation (*i.e., Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Pwani, Dodoma and Mwanza*). Specific dates and venue for the workshops will be communicated in due time to those who will request participation. Interested applicants will bear their own costs for attending these workshops.

Please note that attendance to the pre-submission workshop is not a prerequisite for responding to this call.

For further information and/or questions, please contact:

UNCDF Tanzania, Email: cookfund.tz@uncdf.org

Tel: +255 22 260 0911



'Investment at Tanga port brings in 5bn/- revenue in 3 months'

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

Atupele Mwakibete, the Deputy Works and Transport minister, has said investment at Tanga port the increased revenue to the tune of 5bn/- for the period from January to March, this year.

Mwakibete made the remarks during his one-day inspection visit at the port, saying the revenue was collected following the completion of the berth that has seen the increase of cargo ships to the port.

However, he said, such achievements stem from the nearly 429bn/- investment by the government at the port, which

had helped in increasing cargo ships to port.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister gave one month to Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) to make sure they build rail infrastructure at the port to ease transport of cargo offloaded at the port destined to other parts of the country.

Acting Tanga port manager Peter Milanzi said in the period of three months they had received five big ships that carried 130,000 tonnes of cargo.

He said arrivals of big ships at the port had helped employment of 100 workers in short time basis.

PM: FY 2022/2023 has seen govt sign 31 agreements on building, revamping of irrigation schemes

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government in the financial year 2022/23 has signed 31 agreements valued at 284.14bn/- for building and revamping irrigation infrastructure in the country.

Speaking in the National Assembly on Wednesday, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said the agreements were for the construction of eight dams, 13 new irrigation schemes and revamping of 17 other schemes that will bring the area under irrigation to reach 778,210 hectares from 727,280 hectares in 2021/22.

Majaliwa also said that despite climate challenge the availability of adequate food has continued to grow in many parts of the country.

"During 2022/23 farming season the production of food crops reached 17.4 million tonnes compared to actual demand of 15.1 million tonnes," he said, adding that the production assures the country of food sufficiency by 115 per cent for the 2023/24 farming season.

Regarding areas that faced challenges on food availability, Majaliwa said y January this year, 29,084.21 tonnes of maize was distributed in 59 districts that experienced food shortage in 2022/2023.

"The maize was sold below market prices in order to boost food availability in the said areas.

In addition the government has continued to monitor fertiliser availability as well as quality seeds and pesticides in time to spur agricultural production increase," he said.

The Prime Minister said by February 2023, the availability of fertiliser reached 407,333 tonnes or 58.33 per cent of the demand of 698,260 tonnes.

"The availability was contributed by 28,672 tonnes locally produced, 251,697 tonnes imported including 126,963 that remained from the 2022/23 season," he added.

He said the government continues to make sure the fertiliser remaining is made available and distributed to farmers in time.

In regard to production challenges on edible oil, Majaliwa said the government issued 591.1 tonnes of sunflower seeds to farmers in Singida, Dodoma, Kagera, Mbeya and Mwanza regions on subsidy basis.

He said the step will help to increase edible oil production and save much foreign currency used to import the commodity.

He further said the government provided 63,606 litres of pesticides in 15 regions countrywide in order to control destructive pests including quelea quelea.

"This step helped to save 159,016 acres of various crops including rice and maize," he added.

Acting Dar Sheikh hails Puma Energy Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Region's acting Sheikh, Walid Alhad Kawambwa has commended the oil marketing firm, Puma Energy Tanzania Ltd for uniting Tanzanians through its various commercial projects.

He said the company apart from caring for its activities, it has various commercial programmes which are business oriented geared at attracting more customers.

Sheikh Walid gave the remarks on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam during Iftar event organised by the company that was attended by various stakeholders including the company's director general, Fatma Abdallah and chairman of the board of directors, Dr Suleiman Majige.

He said that what Puma Energy Tanzania had done for the people during the holy month of Ramadan is commendable since the holy books instructs people to live together, emphasising the company cares about its work.

"Let me congratulate Puma Energy Tanzania for the good work is doing especially during the month of Ramadan, Allah orders us to do good things that impresses him," he said.

He stressed that the company cares about its work because it is a commercial entity and as part of its commercial programmes, it has been supporting the community in various aspects.

The company's chairman of the

board of directors, Dr Suleiman Majige said they will continue to work and care for Tanzanians because the firm is partly owned by the government.

Dr Majige thanked the management of Puma Energy Tanzania for the good work it has been doing to the community as well as bringing Tanzanians together through various events including Iftar.

"May I wish all Muslims a good fasting as they continue with Ramadan," he added, calling upon them to ensure they are close to God throughout the year.

Puma Energy is a globally integrated midstream and downstream energy company operating in the country since 2011.

The company is jointly owned by the government (through the Treasury Registrar) and Puma Investments Limited, each holding 50 per cent of the company's equity.

The principal activities of the company are the marketing and distribution of petroleum products in Tanzania.

It has a total storage capacity of 94 million litres, a network of 52 retail sites across the country and serves 8 major airports in Tanzania.

"Let me congratulate Puma Energy Tanzania for the good work is doing especially during the month of Ramadan, Allah orders us to do good things that impresses him"



Aron Group Tanzania Limited CEO Taeyun Kim (R) exchanges documents with Information and Communication Technologies Commission (ICTC) director general Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. It was shortly after they signed an MoU mean to help the government have proper data on small and medium enterprises. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

MPs urge government to prioritise investments in infrastructure, electricity and water projects

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament have advised the government to prioritise investment into road infrastructure, electricity and water projects to stimulate development and economic growth.

The lawmakers were concerned that the presence of good roads will not only facilitate smooth movement of people but also transportation of crops.

Contributing to the Prime Minister's budget estimates for the 2023/2024 financial year, legislators said improvement of water and electricity services will improve people's welfare and attract investors.

Mpanda Rural MP, Selemani Kakoso (CCM) said despite the good work, Katavi Region faces serious water problems. He said most of the residents in Katavi, especially Mpanda District, have no water services.

He accused government officials in the Ministry of Water for offering tenders to contractors with low capacity, stressing the need for serious scrutiny of the companies before they are given projects.

The MP urged the government to prioritise investment in road infrastructure to spur development. He said some contractors have been delaying completion of projects despite being fully paid.

Mohamed Kuchauka, Member of Parliament for Liwale constituency (CCM) complained over poor roads, calling upon the government to consider allocating funds for the construction of Nangurukulu-Liwale and Nachingwea-Masasi roads. He said construction of the roads will stimulate the economy and ease transportation of crops.

"We need to have proper roads to spur economic growth; the government promised to allocate funds for improvement of roads in Liwale through the EPC+F

arrangement, but nothing has been done so far," said the MP.

Chemba legislator, Mohamed Monni (CCM) said that one of the major challenges facing Tanzanians especially those in rural areas is water. He said still few rural dwellers get access to clean and safe water.

Monni urged that funds under the Covid-19 socio-economic response and recovery plan allocated for the water sector should be directed to Chemba since it is one of the districts in Dodoma Region with serious water problems. He said only 36 per cent of the residents enjoy water services.

He queried limited budget allocated for construction of roads, insisting that construction of the road from Handeni-Chemba-Singida would stimulate economic development and improve people's welfare.

He said the government allocated 2.3bn/- in the previous fiscal year,

saying the amount is too small for Chemba District which has a 700 kilometers road network.

Muharami Mkenge, Bagamoyo legislator (CCM) said most of the areas in the country including Bagamoyo District are not connected to power services.

"We still have electricity challenges; efforts should be made to ensure our people are connected to electricity services. We can hardly attain the targeted development without reliable power services," Mkenge said as he appealed to the government to start subsidizing gas and gas equipment to enable more people to use clean energy in cooking.

Nanyumbu MP, Ally Kihata said residents in the constituency face two major challenges of water and roads. He said although the number of people getting water services have increased in two years, there are some wards where residents struggle to get the precious liquid.



Angellah Kairuki (L), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), receives a Regional and District Education Officers Association (REDEOA) award in Mwanza city on Wednesday on behalf of President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Presenting the award is the association's chairperson, Germana Mung'aho, who said it was a gesture of recognition of the president's contribution to efforts to improve education in the country. The event was the closing ceremony of REDEOA's ninth general meeting. Photo: Correspondent Vitus Audax

Submit details of areas for investment - TIC

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

LOCAL councils in Njombe Region have been told to make sure that they submit to the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) details of all areas for investments.

The call was made here this week by TIC lands official, Jonas Chikawe during a training workshop for Njombe Region lands officers.

"We stress for the submission of the details of land areas for

investments because they will help the Centre to advertise them to investors, as you know many investors are currently flocking to the region needing areas for investments," said Chikawe.

He said that in regard to Njombe Region, many applications from investors are on avocado farming, tree growing as well as other farming activities according to soil fertility of the areas. "The availability of details on these areas

to be set aside for investments will attract and streamline investment activities," he added," he added."

Acting manager for southern highlands zone TIC Centre, Ajelandro Sindano called on investors to abide by the laid down government procedures to avoid fraudsters posing as middlemen.

"For good intentioned Tanzanians wanting to assist investors get land for investment should feel free to come with the investor to our offices

instead of giving them incorrect information," Sindano said.

Njombe acting regional administrative officer, Joseph Mutashubulwa called on land experts to understand that the issue of land is sensitive in regard to investments and called on them to find ways to solve challenges facing them.

Happy Mkalama, a Wanging'ombe District land officer said through the workshop, they will have the responsibility to make sure they mobilise investments in Njombe Region.



WILLIAMSON DIAMONDS LIMITED **PetraDiamonds**



Guest House Supervisor – Advertisement

Applicants are invited to apply for the existing position mentioned above.

Position Title: Guest House Supervisor

Location: Williamson Diamonds Limited, Mwadui, Shinyanga

Grade:

Report to: Guest House Administrator

Summary: Williamson Diamond Limited (WDL) is Tanzania's only large-scale diamond producer. The mine is an open pit operation based upon the 146-hectare Mwadui kimberlite pipe, which is one of the world's largest economic kimberlites. . For over 80 years, Williamson Diamond Limited has lived side by side and co-existed peacefully with the communities around Mwadui, while implementing a wide range of development programs for the last ten years, focusing on promoting the lives and livelihoods of the communities surrounding Mwadui Mine Site.

Role Description: To oversee, quality control and direction overall hospitality services and guest house supervision.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

- To conduct general administration tasks.
- Supervise working of all cooks and housekeepers and provide training practically to all to ensure effective guest services and maintain work schedule for all and allocate appropriate resources as per requirements.
- Develop and maintain all capital budgets and provide optimal level; of services to all guests and visitors coming to the facility.
- Monitor and maintain inventory of all guest house supplies and provide staff with all supplies as per requirement.
- Double checking guest house maintenance work and attending to guests personal requests.
- Report of any equipment or furniture in need of replacement and ensure that the housekeeping staff complies with all safety and sanitation policies/procedures.
- Ensure that the prescribed standards of cleanliness are met.
- Ensuring well maintenance of guest house premises as to provide clean, tidy and wholesome environment to its inhabitants and visitors.

Minimum Requirements for all applicants:

- Diploma in food and beverage/hotel Management. ,
- A minimum of 3 year's working experience in hospitality industry at Supervisory level.
- Basic computer skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication in English and Swahili

Other required Skills and Competencies:

- Excellent organizational, customer service and time management skills.
- Excellent guest house relationship and management skills.
- Professional discreet and calm demeanor.
- Comforting and patient personality.

Mode of Application:

Candidates meeting the requisite qualifications should submit their applications describing how they qualify for the positions. They should also send detailed CV, copies of certificates, three referees, daytime telephone numbers and e-mail addresses before 18th April 2023 at 16hrs00. Via the following address:

**Human Resources Manager,
Williamson Diamonds Ltd,
P. O. Box 23,
Mwadui-Shinyanga.**

Or drop the same through the following email, joseph.mokoro@petradiamonds.co.tz

NB: Please complete an external job application form available on <http://www.petradiamonds.com/careers/current-vacancies>

Williamson Diamonds Limited supports the Mineral policy (2009) of Tanzania and is committed to ensure adequate development of local technical capacity to service the mining industry; and to employ local experts available and develop succession plans for Tanzanians to take over expatriate positions. Pre-screening, profile testing, on mine assessments, medical and security clearances form part of the minimum requirement and selection process. Short listed candidates will be required to attend a panel interview. Employment of the successful candidate is subject to passing on mine induction and the aforementioned criteria.

If you do not hear from us after **30th May, 2023** please consider yourself unsuccessful. Williamson Diamonds Limited is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Please note that Petra Diamonds does not at any time require any form of payment for recruitment purposes. If you are approached in this regard, you should report the incident immediately via one of the following hotlines:

Phone **Call: +255 28 276 3872 +255 753 095 150 +255 767 744 617**; Email: wldhelpdesk@petradiamonds.co.tz.



WILLIAMSON DIAMONDS LIMITED **PetraDiamonds**



Cook – Advertisement

Applicants are invited to apply for the existing position mentioned above.

Position Title: Cook.

Location: Williamson Diamonds Limited, Mwadui, Shinyanga

Grade:

Report to: Guest House

Summary: Williamson Diamond Limited (WDL) is Tanzania's only large-scale diamond producer. The mine is an open pit operation based upon the 146-hectare Mwadui kimberlite pipe, which is one of the world's largest economic kimberlites. . For over 80 years, Williamson Diamond Limited has lived side by side and co-existed peacefully with the communities around Mwadui, while implementing a wide range of development programs for the last ten years, focusing on promoting the lives and livelihoods of the communities surrounding Mwadui Mine Site.

Role Description: Responsible for the preparation of high- quality food in a timely, efficient, sanitary and consistent manner.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Prepare specialized health food menu
- Serves meals by reviewing recipes, assembling, combining and cooking ingredients and maintaining a sanitary kitchen.
- Prepares ingredients by following recipes; slicing, cutting, chopping, mincing, stirring, whipping and mixing ingredients: adding seasonings; verifying taste and plating meals.
- Adheres to proper food handling, sanitation and safety procedures.
- Maintains cleanliness and sanitation of equipment, food storage and work areas.
- Ensuring that food portions and food presentation meet company standard.
- Ensuring food orders are completed in a timely manner.
- Ensuring that food health and safety regulations are followed.

Minimum Requirements for all applicants:

- Certificate in food and beverage/hotel Management. ,
- A minimum of 2 year's working experience in related field.
- Basic computer skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication in English and Swahili

Other required Skills and Competencies:

- Excellent organizational, customer service and time management skills.
- Creativity, innovative and willingness to learn.
- Good communication skills.
- Teamwork, problem-solving skills and ability to manage temper.
- Maintains strong and effective working relationships with co-workers.

Mode of Application:

Candidates meeting the requisite qualifications should submit their applications describing how they qualify for the positions. They should also send detailed CV, copies of certificates, three referees, daytime telephone numbers and e-mail addresses before 18th April 2023 at 16hrs00. Via the following address:

**Human Resources Manager,
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Govt advises Tanzania Law Reform Commission, stakeholders on fight on offences going against morality

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DR Damas Ndumbaro, minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs has called on the Tanzania Law Reform Commission and other stakeholders to look into laws that could help strengthen fight on offences against morality in the country.

He said there are increasing reported cases of immorality which include gender-based violence, sexual abuse and homosexuality and transgender issues, among others that shore serious rate of moral decadence in the society.

The minister expressed concern that there are some immoralities hidden in the so called 'human rights' which are championed by people from outside Tanzania.

Dr Ndumbaro argued that it is not right to copy things from other countries and paste them in the country, saying there is no universality in application of human rights.

Without mincing words, the minister said the government position is that Tanzanians should not embrace issues that are against the law, constitution, customs and traditions, calling on religious leaders to openly condemn them.

Dr Ndumbaro noted that there has been public out roar in the recent past on issues related to sexual immorality as well as gender-based violence in the country.

"It is important to critically look at the legal aspects to contain gender-based violence and other increasing forms of immorality that we witness in our country, Africa and the rest of the world" he said.

He made the statement while officiating at the opening of a conference on the evaluation of the implementation of laws on offences against morality in the country.

The conference convened by the Tanzania Law Reforms Commission brought together religious leaders, government officials, non-governmental organizations, among others to discuss the implementation of the laws.

The minister applauded the participants, saying, attending the meeting is a clear sign of commitment and support to the government in the fight against acts that lower human dignity such

as rape, sexual immorality, gender violence and homosexuality that are outlawed by customs, traditions and laws in the country.

He said contributions from the meeting will help the commission conduct research on how best to come up with laws that help end immorality in the country.

According to the minister, there are proposals to allow the commission conduct research before specific laws are amended, noting that there are some laws that are not easy to implement due insufficient research before they were approved.

He cited the Marriage Act, which provide for girl child aged 14 years to get married and boy aged 15 years to marry yet on the other hand people below 18 years of age are regarded as children and cannot enter contract, among others.

The minister went further saying there is a total of 447 laws in the country but not all are known to the public, thus the need for the commission to increase legal public education.

On his part, Law Reform Commission's Executive Secretary, Griffin Mwakapeje noted that the aim of the meeting was to go through and deliberate on how to improve laws on offence against morality in the country.

He said the commission, which is responsible for reviewing laws, has published 52 reports which have helped the government carry out different reforms since its establishment.

Christina Kamili, the Executive Director of the Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers (TANLAP) noted that cases of gender violence are on the increase.

She told the meeting that some six member organizations of the network recorded 632 of such cases in 2022.

Deo Wwire, a representative from the Legal Services Facility (LFS) observed that his organization provided support to some 4000 in the mainland and Isle which helped solve 50,000 legal cases in 2022

Out that number, he said 10,000 cases were on gender-based violence, adding some seven million people were reached on legal and human rights education.

Stakeholders arrive at agreement on 5 electrical appliances for minimum standards of performance on energy

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

ENERGY stakeholders in the country have agreed on five electrical appliances to be considered in the minimum energy performance Standards' (MEPS) and labeling validation in the country.

The selected list of appliances endorsed by key energy stakeholders were air conditioners (AC), refrigerators or freezers, televisions, fans and electric motors that benefit from reducing energy consumption, costs, promoting innovation and improving product quality.

The agreement was made in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the meeting held as part of a three years implementation of the Tanzania Energy Efficiency Action Plan by the Ministry of Energy, funded by the European Union (EU) in partnership with United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Joseph Njuguna, (UNDP), MEPS consultant urged that its time the government adapts MEPS just like what other countries in East Africa have done so as to increase the sale of efficient appliances and eliminate the inefficient appliances from the market. "Tanzania lets us push it hard towards adapting MEPS as soon as possible. Countries like Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda are doing the best when it comes to standard and labeling," he said.

Njuguna added: "There are so many inefficient appliances in the country's market that we need an alternative to control how consumers are suffering because of the high energy bills, yet not understanding that high energy bills are a cause of inefficient equipment used."

According to him, Tanzania needs standard and labeling because of the there is an increasingly growing demand for electrical appliances due to increased electrification, the general public has insufficient knowledge and guidance on making an informed energy efficient - purchasing decision and probabilities that Tanzania might be providing a market for dumping inefficient appliances.

EU energy programme manager, Massimiliano Pedretti, said the EU's part in the project is the provision of technical assistance and technical knowledge to ensure that it fully supports the energy ministry.

"This is part of comprehensive support to the energy sector. We are supporting the ministry of energy and TANESCO aiming to promote the use of renewable energy that's more productive, accessible and among all the support we want us to make it more efficient," he said

Pedretti added: "Our call to the government is that they should adopt MEPS just like what other nations like Kenya that at a great percent of their appliances are already labeled. We want them to fill the gaps that still exist."

Spiradson Kagaba, Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) standards officer said the organisation's part is to ensure setting of standards that will stand as laws on products that will not meet MEPS standard.

"Products below standard will not have an access to the market mandate. The other task will include enforcing standards in market, it's the strategy that TBS has been doing for long on looking whether products comply with TBS and those that don't are usually destroyed," he said, adding:



Minerals minister Doto Biteko (in blue) presents a certificate of appreciation to Son-Mak director Joseph Mbunda for being the main sponsor of the meeting of small-scale miners and industrial mining stakeholders held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Simbachawene to mobilise public servants to use working time well

By Guardian Reporter

GEORGE Simbachawene, minister of State in the President Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) has vowed to collaborate with his ministry staff and workers in mobilising public servants in the country to utilise well their working time to serve Tanzanians.

Simbachawene made the remarks to staff and workers who welcomed him soon after he was sworn in as new minister for the portfolio on Tuesday.

He said the issue of human

resources is important for the development of any nation, hence it is imperative for his office to make sure public servants perform their duties in accordance to the laid down laws, regulations, procedures, guidelines and the country's Constitution, the mother law.

He explained that people seeking service from public institutions were complaining of poor services, adding that some public servants engaged themselves in personal affairs at work places while people were waiting to be served.

"The working time for a public

servant is eight hours, but you will find a worker after entering his office is seen to be engaged in other activities, therefore if a health worker or teacher cannot be accountable, the after effects become monumental with the nation incurring great losses because the human resources are not being properly utilised," he said.

He cited an example of a worker who after entering his place of work starts chatting with people via WhatsApp groups and chatting as such with only one WhatsApp group he can spend three hours.

He noted that the government has invested its financial resources to a public servant so that he can serve the people during the eight hours at work, hence his office has the responsibility to look for a solution for what to do to ensure public servants deliver accordingly.

He said in some countries public servants are not allowed to use mobile phones during work time to enable them serve the people well, and added that some employers even take steps to confiscate the phones as they enter their offices and hand them back after they finish work.



Joseph Nzige (R), head of the Quality Control Department of Tanga city's Bombo Regional Referral Hospital, conducts capacity building training for the hospital's ICT staff yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Assenga

TANROADS-Mara to address factors blamed for flooding at Kusenyi village

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

ONLY days after more than 50 households at Suguti-Kusenyi in Musoma Rural constituency were hit by floods, the Mara regional TANROADS office has said it will demolish all ridges erected by farmers in their farms and believed to be behind the problem.

Regional TANROADS manager Vedatus Maribe said a recent survey had confirmed that the putting up of ridges meant to secure farms had indeed induced the flooding and subsequent destruction of some sections of the road running from Musoma municipality to Majita, including Suguti-Kusenyi.

"We have heard people associating the ongoing construction of parts of Majita Road to tarmac level to the destructive floods," he said in an interview with this paper on Tuesday. "However, the truth is that the construction work is not blame but the cause is farming activities, and we will demolish all ridges erected in farms and now preventing the water from following its natural course," he added.

According to Maribe, TANROADS supervises road construction works "very carefully and professionally" and will ensure that floodwaters in the area will revert to the original course to save the people from being affected by floods unnecessarily.

The village's chairman, Abel Wambwe, meanwhile gave the breakdown of the 52 households affected by the floods: 26 at Nyabweke, 24 at Kwikuyu and two at Mang'ombe.

He said: "This is the second time for the area to be ravaged by floods. In 2021 there were floods but these had little impact, with the situation made much worse by farmers who started diverting the water while the narrow passages under the bridges just could not adequately handle the floodwaters."

He advised those in charge of the ongoing construction of the Kusenyi-Suguti road section to tarmac level to explore the

possibility of widening the water passages under the bridges to let water flow faster.

One of the flood victims, Dismas Gombania, said the floodwaters heavily damaged two of his houses, killed 20 of his chickens and ten ducks, and destroyed four bags of maize.

Musoma Rural constituency legislator Prof Sospeter Muhongo visited the village on Tuesday, extending 25 bags of maize and 100 kgs of beans to the households in distress.

"I have extended the emergency assistance as the assessment of the destruction continues," he said.

He said the assessment would be completed "within this week", adding that most residents of the area blamed the flooding on problems with the ongoing construction of the five-km stretch of the road traversing the village.

Indian Diaspora in Tanzania urged to strengthen economic relations

By Beatrice Philemon

A member of the governing council of India Foundation based in New Delhi, Dr Ram Madhav has called on the Indian Diaspora in Tanzania to share their ideas and views they have with African countries including Tanzania to help strengthen economic relations.

Dr Madhav made the call in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday evening while speaking on 'Changing World Order and Africa' during the interaction meeting that was organised by Tanzania-India Business Forum (TIBF) in collaboration with the High Commission of India.

"Time has come to build the African continent, Africa is the top business region for India, we have good relations with African countries, we have many factories in Tanzania and other countries, if Tanzania needs IT experts, bring them and even provide expertise," he said.

Madhav is in Tanzania for a three days working visit to meet with the Prime Minister and invite him to attend the Indian Ocean Conference that will take place in Dhaka, India.

The Conference endeavours to bring critical states and principal maritime partners of the region together on a common platform to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for security and growth for all in the region (SAGAR).

"If you create investment in Tanzania, you create prosperity for this country, create employment and strengthen our relations in African countries," he said.

He lauded Indian former leaders who have added a huge development revolution for India; he said as Asians "We need to up-lift humanity for what you carry out at high level to be the happiest place."

Currently India has been able to maintain greater security, right now they are much stronger than we were before, we have a strong underground military and we have a stronger security in our borders and this kind of achievement has been possible through the strong leadership that we have in India.

Suresh Kumar, TIBF's secretary added that Dr Ram Madhav is an Indian politician, social leader, author and thinker.

Madhav is a founding member of the Governing Council of India Foundation (IF), a New Delhi-based think tank and in over a decade of India Foundation's existence, he has been the curator of major annual global and national multilateral initiatives like the Indian Ocean

Conference, the Dharma-Dhamma Conference and ASEAN-India Youth Summit.

Others include a counter terrorism conference involving heads of nations and leaders of governments besides academics, scholars and public-spirited individuals. Most recently, Dr Madhav has been instrumental in ideating the religion-20 forum (R20) as part of India's presidency of the G20.

Previously, Dr Madhav has served as the National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during 2014-20 responsible for handling the political affairs of Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and other North-Eastern states of India.

A renowned author and thinker, Dr Madhav has over 300 publications to his credit.

He has authored several books in English and Telugu that include "the hindutva paradigm - integral humanism and the quest for a non-western worldview"; "because India comes first: reflections on nationalism, identity and culture" and "uneasy neighbours: India and China after 50 years of the war".

His most recent book "Partitioned Freedom" explores the untold history of India's partition in 1947 and the birth of Pakistan.

He is a regular contributor to platforms like The Indian Express, The Hindustan Times and OPEN Magazine amongst others.

He had been the editor of Bharatiya Pragna, a monthly magazine in English published by Pragna Bharati, and associate editor of Jagriti, a Telugu weekly.

Widely regarded for his contributions in the field of strategic thinking, political philosophy and India's foreign policy, Dr Madhav has travelled widely and addressed forums like the Valdai Discussion Club in Russia, R20 Forum in Indonesia, Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Halifax Security Forum in Canada, Sochi Eurasian Integration Forum in Russia, BRICS Political Forum in China, and the World Peace Conference in Thailand.



We need to up-lift humanity for what you carry out at high level to be the happiest place

MAIPAC distributes books on traditional environmental conservation, water sources

By Guardian Reporter

Media Aid for Indigenous and Pastoralists Community (MAIPAC) has distributed books on traditional knowledge for environmental conservation, water sources and forests to directors of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the country.

The NGOs directors who are members of Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) and their representatives visited MAIPAC to learn about its activities led by the head of THRDC desk, Lisa Kagaruki.

The books on traditional knowledge on environmental conservation were prepared by MAIPAC in collaboration with Civic and legal aid organisation (CILAO) under UNDP sponsorship through Global Environment Fund (GEF).

The books launched by the Minister of state in the Vice president Office (Environment and Union Affairs), Dr Seleman Jafo were in high demand by various environmental stakeholders.

The books are part of the project to conserve the environment including water sources and forest area for traditional methods in environmental protection currently being implemented in Monduli, Longido and Ngorongoro districts.

MAIPAC director, Mussa Juma said MAIPAC is an institution for

journalists who have been writing news on the indigenous and pastoralists communities.

He said so far 86 journalists are MAIPAC members in Manyara, Mara, Dodoma, Dar es salaam, Coast, Kilimanjaro, Singida, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Morogoro and hosts Arusha regions.

Juma further said there are members who are not journalists but are stakeholders on land rights, environment and provide assistance to indigenous and pastoralists communities.

Speaking after receiving the books, the coordinator of THRDC Desk, Lisa Kagaruki commended MAIPAC for the good work it is doing.

She said MAIPAC is a long time of THRDC and has been doing good job in implementing its projects through media organs.

She said apart from books, MAIPAC has been implementing a good job in making follow ups on human rights in the country especially in regard to the indigenous and pastoralists communities.

Director of community hands foundation (CHF) based in Dar es Salaam, Paul Makoe lauded MAIPAC for the good job it is doing.

He said MAIPAC and CHF have big relationship including working together in various issues and sourcing for sponsors.



KCB Sahl Banking head Amour Muro (C) pictured yesterday presenting foodstuffs to Zainabu Maunga, chairperson of a Dar es Salaam orphanage, in the spirit of marking the Holy month of Ramadhan. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Zanzibar land ministry signs agreement with IGNFI on land registration system

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Ministry of Lands and Human Settlements Development yesterday signed an agreement with a French firm - IGN France International (IGN FI) for providing information and management of land registration in Zanzibar.

Speaking soon after the signing event, the Minister for Lands and Human Settlements Development Rahma Kassim Ali said working on the information on land management and registration will to a great extent help to remove land conflicts in Zanzibar.

She said as for now her ministry continues with the exercise for

identifying land plots whose information will be installed in the system, and added that already they have done so in 50 shehias (wards) and the government expectation is to identify all land plots in all the 388 shehias in both Unguja and Pemba.

"We have very high hopes with this system as many land conflicts will disappear by 95 per cent and those remaining will be the normal ones," she added.

Rahma said she believes that within one month, feasibility studies on the system will be finalised and that within this year, before 2024 the system will be officially operational.

Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dr Mngereza Mzee Miraji said once operational the system will be of great benefits including land ownership security for both investors and the people, reduce bureaucracy in serving customers regarding land issues, as both investors and other people have been complaining about bureaucracy.

He said the system will also reduce the time taken to inspect, rectify and to change or transfer land ownership to other people and investors, reduce illegal invasions on land, forest, road reserves and open areas, as well as reduce avenues for corruption especially

while in pursuit of land title deeds.

Dr Miraji said the signing of the agreement is a new revolutionary beginning in the country's land sector which is President Hussein Ali Mwinyi's goal to eradicate bureaucracy and land disputes in Zanzibar, hence, he said the use of new technologies is one way of solving challenges that had existed in regard to land sector in Zanzibar.

Earlier, Zanzibar Lands Registrar, Dr Abdul-Nasser Hikmany said the new system will help in the administration of land issues as well as providing better service to the community through the Commission for Lands

He said the system was not new in the world as it has been used in many other countries including Uganda, Sierra Leone and even Tanzania mainland where it has been in use for five years now.



Billionaire tanzanite miner Saniniu Laizer (2nd-L) of Mirerani in Simanjiro District makes an on-site inspection on Wednesday of preparations for the government-funded construction of a Saniniu Laizer Primary School dormitory in Naisinyai ward. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Mufti Zubeir lauds Exim for helping needy groups during Ramadhan

By Guardian Reporter

CHIEF Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir Bin Ally has congratulated Exim Bank Tanzania for being closer with the needy including orphans and other vulnerable children in the country, especially during this holy month of Ramadan

The Mufti's compliments were presented on his behalf by his representative Sheikh Hamid Masoud Jongo during an Iftar event organised by the Exim Bank Tanzania for its customers in Dar es Salaam yesterday, attended by various stakeholders of the bank

including customers, employees of the bank with various government officials.

Speaking at the event, Sheikh Jongo said the bank's move to use the holy month of Ramadan to help needy groups, including orphans and patients in hospitals, shows the bank's good will in being responsible to the community it serves.

"That's why I urge the customers of Exim Bank to keep on sticking to Exim bank because it has proven its sincere commitment in serving the society. Exim bank's relationship is clearly not

limited to those with income, that's why in addition to being closer its customers through events like this, they also think of orphans as well as poor patients... congratulations to you Exim," he mentioned.

Earlier, conveying greetings of the holy month of Ramadan to the customers, on behalf of the bank's chief executive officer, Jaffari Matundu, Exim's chief financial officer, Shani Kinswaga said he said the bank believes that the great success it continues to achieve is not only because of the professionalism in the provision

of its services but also because of the way it cooperates with its community.

According to Kinswaga, the bank has been organising iftar events with only one main goal, which is to use the opportunity to share the spirit of togetherness with its Islamic customers during this holy month of Ramadan.

Bank's customers through their representatives thanked the bank for proving its loyalty to them especially in matters related to their beliefs, a move that increases the strong connection between the two parties.

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Computing first pensions needs friendly resolution

COMPUTING retirement benefits is a problem that has refused to go away, after the government abandoned the 50 per cent formula for paying first or major instalments at the point of retirement. A regulation was approved in 2014 that the payments be pegged at 25 per cent of total eligible sums, but it was sure to attract intense displeasure from retiring public servants. Later it was put at 33 per cent but the problem has refused to go away, owing to loss of opportunities.

When a person retires he wishes to be in the best position of reorganising his or her life, not to be told to leave the cash or most of it, with government coffers. Eventually the person dies out and the amounts are supposed to be inherited, which frankly isn't the purpose of terminal benefits. When people retire they often still have extensive family responsibilities which they wish to put right in one 'lump sum' and organise a peaceful or profitable life, not postponing it.

The basic reason for changing the pensions' computation on the lump-sum aspect was basically that long term investments were not paying back fast enough. Those who approved the regulations of 2014 knew perfectly well they would not be in charge of those ministries by the time the regulations started applying. One has a feeling the plan was issued to please those seeking after a rebalancing of state payments, promising to rein in pensions to cut inflation.

How far this is a problem can't exactly be said but there is a measure of inequality in that direction, for instance there are

top cadres who are paid up to 80 per cent of their old salaries. One doesn't wish to be wiser than the government or at least during a certain period, promising lavish retirement treatment in order to accept democracy in that it won't cost them. In this situation payments are massive to a small number of people; imbalances arise.

It is unclear if there is sufficient political will to reduce those interminable big payments to say 40 per cent rather than 80 per cent, and with perhaps just the security detail being provided in case the fellow is of that rank. If any other employee is needed like personal staff it can be taken for granted that the fellow can pay such addition. This way plenty of cash may be diminished from the Consolidated Fund to be directed towards reasonable pensions for new retirees.

When the Finance minister told a gathering of the workers' council that he would seek a meeting of the Prime Minister's Office departments and those of the President's Office which are complementary in the issue, to chiefly sort out demands of Treasury officials, it was somewhat surprising. Can the issue be sorted out for a particular ministry as a privileged group, or was it rather a reference to reworking the formula? Earlier when that 80 per cent salary level was approved, close to 30 years ago, the number of beneficiaries was fairly low. Now with a regular output of officials into that cadre, it is an onerous burden, thus the poorer retirees are made to suffer so that the cream is not molested. As holding back inflation is vital, we can cut down some unnecessary privileges.

Genocide is threat to peace, calls for strong, united action

IN response to rising hate speech and discrimination worldwide, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has urged countries to take concrete steps to protect minorities and other communities at risk of genocide.

On 7 April, UNESCO commemorates the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003. The date marks the beginning of the genocide perpetrated against members of the Tutsi minority by the Hutu extremist-led government.

Guterres made the appeal in his message to mark the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime. "States have the primary obligation for preventing genocide, but religious and community leaders, civil society, the private sector and the media - including social media platforms, play an essential role," he said.

For the Secretary-General, the International Day is an opportunity to remember and pay tribute to the victims and survivors of genocides across the world.

"It is a day to reexamine our collective failure to prevent this crime in the past, and to redouble prevention efforts for the present and the future," he added.

Yet, more than 70 years after the international community adopted a convention on genocide prevention and punishment, "the threat of genocide remains present in many places around the world," he warned.

"Discrimination and hate speech, the early warning signs of genocide,

are on the rise everywhere," he said. Africa and the world as a whole must do more to promote strong political leadership and resolute action against these dangerous trends. We must do more to live up to our commitment to liberate humanity from the scourge of genocide.

"On this International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide, I urge all stakeholders to use all means at their disposal to prevent and end this crime."

Indeed, hate speech can be both an indicator of risk and a trigger of the atrocity crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"We saw this in the lead up to the Holocaust, the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and in Srebrenica where the narrative of 'the other' was used to dehumanize and vilify, contributing to exclusion, stigmatisation, discrimination, isolation, hate crimes and in the most serious instances atrocity crimes, including genocide."

The initiative has its genesis in the Eradicate Hate Global Summit organised by community leaders in the US city of Pittsburgh following the October 2018 assault on the Tree of Life Synagogue - the deadliest antisemitic attack in the nation's history.

One of the co-chairs of the UN-Summit Sport Working Group is Michele Rosenthal, a former head of community affairs for the Pittsburgh Steelers football team, whose two brothers were killed in the attack.

UN General Assembly President, Csaba Kőrösi, who also addressed the event, highlighted how sports can help to make the world a better place.

April the 7th, 2023

GOOD FRIDAY

KARUME DAY

WOW!

What a coincidence?

Automation versus artificial intelligence: What is it that publishers need to know?

By Peter Houston

FREEING up time with automation will deliver much better ROI (return on investment) than trying to chase the generative AI (artificial intelligence) genie, even if it is well and truly out of the bottle.

I've just finished writing a report on AI in publishing and, I have to admit, I was deeply confused when I started writing it. Is AI the same thing as automation? Is automation a subset of AI? What even is AI?

Here's the thing. After talking to people much smarter about AI than I am to write the practical AI report, I've realized that it doesn't actually matter, at least the automation versus AI part. The important part is that these technologies bring value to what you do as a publisher.

One of the biggest reasons for the confusion that surrounds AI is that it is not one technology.

In an excellent AI myths piece for The Washington Post, consumer tech reporter Tatum Hunter flags the fact that AI isn't one big thing but a 'collection of different technologies'. Charlie Becket at the LSE's Journalism AI project described it to me as a 'bundle of technologies'.

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is a public research university located in London, England, and a constituent college of the federal University of London.

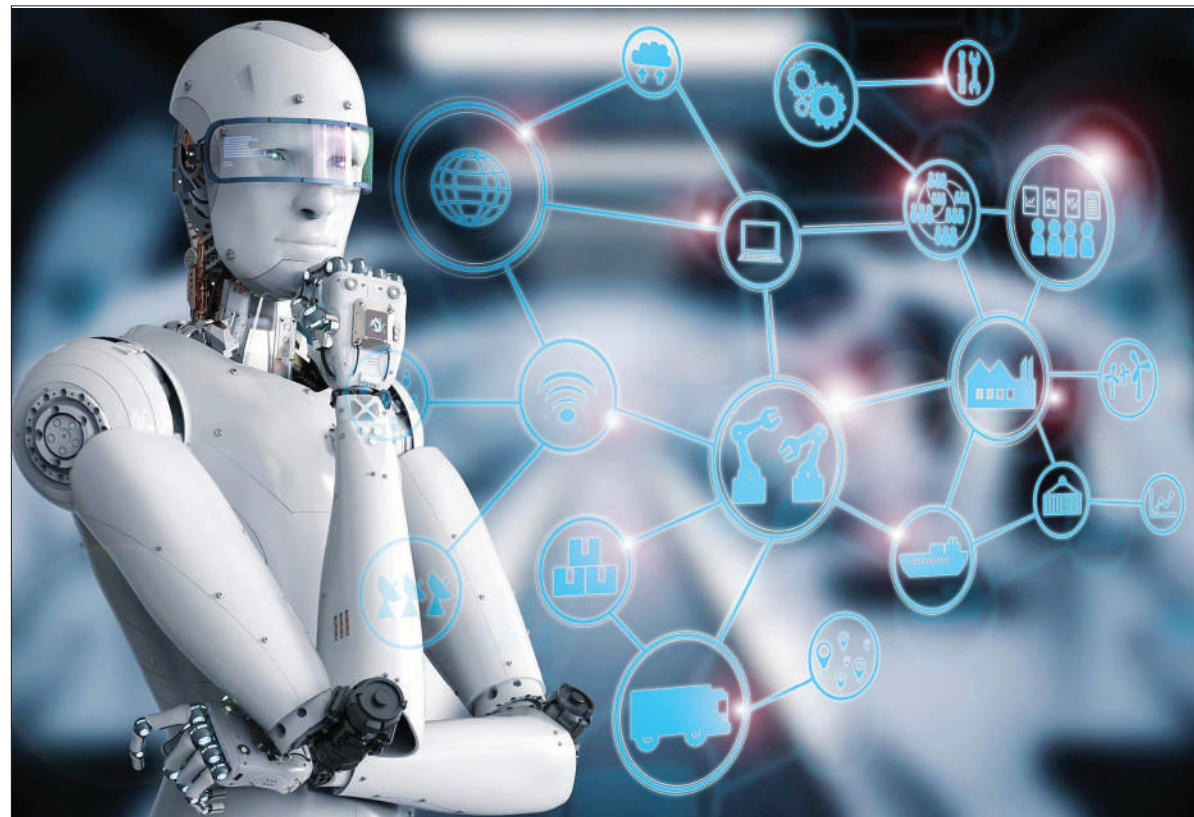
What ties this disparate collection of technologies together is their ability to process large volumes of information, to a greater or lesser degree, on their own. At the practical AI end of the spectrum that's algorithms that follow strict rules to filter, extract and format information from huge datasets. The secret is a well-structured spreadsheet.

At the sci-fi end of the AI spectrum, you're probably talking about machine learning. And that's where the popular perception of AI sits right now, headed into the 2nd quarter of 2023, with image generators firing out pictures of the Pope in a Balenciaga coat.

Indistinguishable from magic

Generative AI appears to be sufficiently advanced to invoke Arthur C. Clarke's third law that 'any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic'.

Of course, we know that being indistinguishable from magic does not actually make something magic. We know that there are all sorts



of rules and algorithms working behind the scenes. We just choose to forget.

People see the output of image generation technology like Midjourney and wonder what it can't do. But the hype has fuelled the popular misconception that all AI is generative AI. Ask the machine to create something and **hey presto**, there it is, from the Pope in a big coat to a PhD thesis.

Against that backdrop, a word like automation seems far too pedestrian. It conjures images of assembly lines or washing machines... industrial, repetitive, process driven. If generative AI demands a spell book, automation needs a flat-pack furniture manual.

But here's the thing, automation AI has proven to be far more useful for publishers at this point than generative AI.

There are an increasing number of experiments using generative AI in the newsroom. All are interesting, some for completely the wrong reasons; CNET was one of the first to announce the AI authorship of a series of almost 80 articles, 40 of which contained serious inaccuracies.

CNET is an American media website that publishes reviews, news, articles, blogs, podcasts, and videos on technology and consumer electronics globally.

Now, contrast that with the robot journalists used in newsrooms around the world to create automated content day in, day out without mishap.

has generated more than 600,000 articles since it was launched in 2018, each a local story extracted from a national dataset.

* Stavanger Aftenblad in Norway covers 10,000 junior league football matches a year using automated text and a single reporter.

* US newspaper group McClatchy provides details of hundreds of neighborhood property deals across several of its markets using just bots.

Where AI is generally thought to be software that is designed to simulate human thinking, these applications rely on software that follows pre-programmed rules to create highly formulaic content. And while it might not be as advanced as ChatGPT, it works.

Since 2021, Bloomberg has been using automation to help cover press releases and personnel announcements, using AI for the first draft of these stories. The time saved sees these types of stories published more quickly, but also frees up time for reporters to spend on more complex stories.

Commenting on Bloomberg's use of the technology, cofounder of Aging Media co-founder John Yedinak said on Twitter: "By freeing up their time using automation, it allows edit teams to get on the phone, dig deeper into trends, and frankly work on the hard stuff that people really want."

Going further than that, Jens Pettersson at Swedish newspaper group NTM Media told me that robots can automate story alerts for reporters, spotlighting trends and

exceptions in property sales that reporters can follow up on.

There is no doubt that AI will have an impact on how publishers work in the future. But right now, I'm staying away from the kind of AI trickery that should scare anyone that worries about misinformation.

This has already seen over a thousand tech leaders send an open letter calling for 'all AI labs to immediately pause for at least 6 months'. If Elon Musk is calling for a temporary halt to new generative AI releases, government regulation can't be that far behind.

Instead, I'm advocating for steady, reliable automated content bots that complement editorial efforts with stories reported from data at scale. Freeing up time with automation will deliver much better ROI than trying to chase the generative AI genie, even if it is well and truly out of the bottle.

* A dispatch by What's New in Publishing (whatsnewinpublishing). Peter Houston co-hosts the Media Voices Podcast. He is a writer, consultant and trainer working to help publishers build a sustainable multi-platform future. He has run Guardian Masterclasses, spoken at Google's ThinkPublishing conference and is a judge on several magazine awards. He has written about media for The New Statesman, The Drum, FIPP, InPublishing and Publishing Executive and researched and wrote the 'State of the Media, 2017' for The Media Briefing.

Understanding core duties and liabilities of corporate directors

IT is very common in our jurisdiction to hear certain people brag about their enviable positions as directors of certain big companies.

The pride is mainly because such companies are incorporated in the office of the registrar of companies with statutory requirement that their first directors be disclosed at the time of incorporation.

This article seeks to provide brief overview of the potential duties and liabilities of corporate directors. Emphasis shall be made on directors of incorporated companies and not other directors serving in such capacity in government institutions and non-governmental organizations.

Essentially, it is imperative to state at this outset that company is a legal entity distinct from its shareholders or directors or creditors. The company has a mandate to either sue or be sued at its own name.

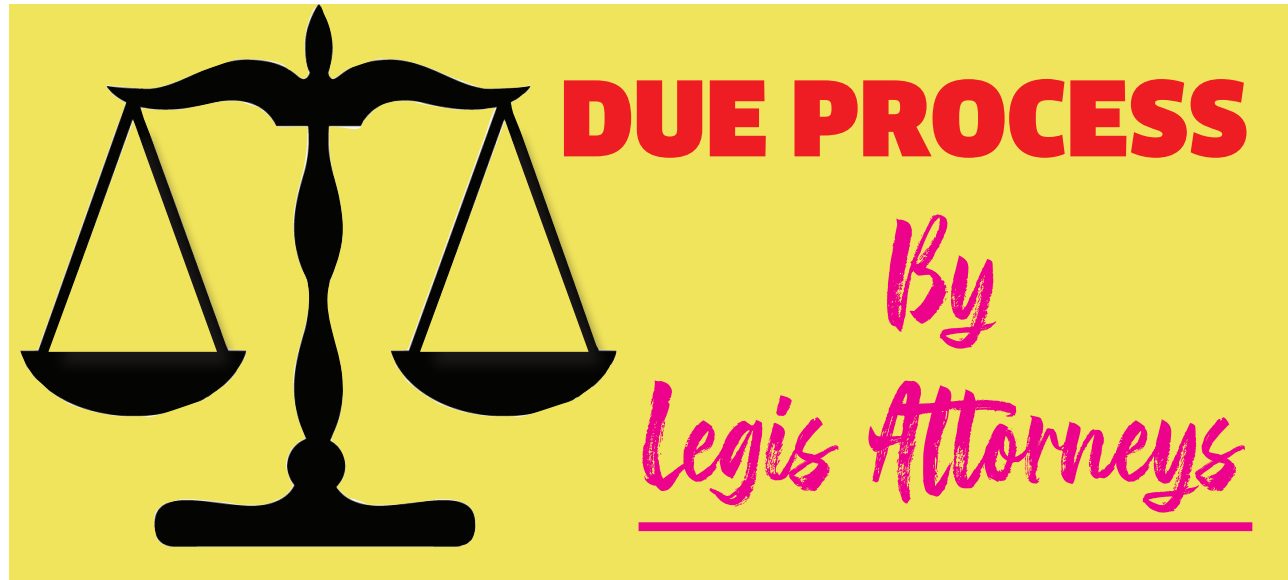
Further, it has responsibilities to clear its obligations such as payment of duties, payment of salaries, enter into commercial contracts among others. The case of *Salomon vs Salomon* (1897) AC 22, has been the point of reference as landmark case in all common law jurisdiction countries. Tanzania include, regarding legal entity of a company.

One may look at the various duties and responsibilities attached to a company being as good as a human being. However, the only major difference is that day-to-day business and affairs of a company are being managed by corporate directors.

As a matter of law, directors are appointed by the owners or shareholders of such companies. However, in discharging the above major tasks, directors have a mandate either to do themselves or through other appointed officers namely managing director or president of the company.

Due to broad authorities vested upon them by laws, sometimes directors may be referred as 'directing minds' of corporations because prospects or failure of companies entirely depends on how they run affairs of such businesses.

Section 181-213 of the Companies Act, Cap 212 R.E 2019 stipulates various duties of corporate directors. However, after thorough reading the same, we can categorize such duties (i) Fiduciary duty and (ii) Duty of care.



Directors own a fiduciary duty to the company. In the Court of Appeal case, in Civil Appeal No. 183 of 2016 between Joseph Shumbusho vs Mary Grace Tigerwa and two others described fiduciary duty to mean a person having a duty to act for the benefit of another in good faith and honesty. Directors are required to act in good faith and honestly at the benefit of the corporation and not to either shareholders or any other person with interest of the company.

The other one is that directors are required to exercise a duty of care in discharging their day-to-day activities. Duty of care has its roots from a landmark case of *Donaghue vs Stevenson* (1932) AC 562 which refers to the circumstances in which by virtue of relationship of the parties concerned, give rise to a duty to ensure other person is protected from any foreseeable harm likely to occur.

Also, directors have a duty of care to the corporation and other persons related to it. This duty of care can be broken down into several categories such as (i) duty to ensure either directly or indirectly that the business does not have conflict with their personal interest, (ii) ensure employees of the company are taken care of by making payment of their rights and (iii) duty to act with care, skills and diligence.

In the Supreme Court of Canada, in the case of *Peoples Department Stores Inc (Trustees of) vs Wise*, 2004 SCC 68 in paragraph 67, the court held that such duty does not require perfection

but rather, directors should be able to show that they acted prudently and diligently in discharging their duties. (iv) Duty to disclose age. The law demands that directors should have attained the age of more than 21 years and retire upon reaching 70 years unless further extension is granted.

With regard to liability of corporate directors, generally, directors cannot be liable for the acts done while discharging their duties as directors because, as stated earlier, a company is a legal entity that can be sued on its own name.

However, there are situations or as matters of exception when the above general rule is set aside and directors can be personally liable, particularly when the act or omission is contrary to the duties and obligations vested upon that particular director by the company.

In some circumstances, in case you want to deal directly with directors in their individual capacity, the law demands unveiling of the corporate veil of the company so that you may reach the directors on their personal capacity and mostly in execution of decree.

In the Court of Appeal of Tanzania, case of *Yusuf Manji vs Edward Masanja and another*, (2006) TLR 127, the directors deliberately concealed the assets and identity of the company for the purposes of obstructing execution process and the court for the best interest of justice opted to lift the corporate veil and held the directors of the company personally liable.

Apart from the above position, both provision

of the law and judicial authorities have established various circumstances which make directors of companies liable personally for acts done under the umbrella of the company.

First is liability to pay taxes. The law demands some taxes be paid immediately once commercial transaction is done such as withholding tax, failure of which the directors become personal liable.

Second is commercial agreement entered prior to the incorporation of a company. In some instances, promoters of a company may become directors of the company and during their tenure as promoter, commercial agreements may be entered. In such instances, failure to ratify the same, after incorporation of the company, then the said director can be personally liable.

Third is liability on tort, namely failure to exercise duty of care by taking reasonable precautions to prevent any negligent acts or omissions on the part of corporation.

The fourth one is acting contrary to court order of disqualification. Once a court of law disqualifies a certain director, he or she is not be allowed to discharge directorship duties otherwise any debts that shall accrue therein they must be personally liable for as stipulated in section 198 of the Companies Act.

In view of the above, what we can sum up herein is that despite some actions or omissions which may result in personal liabilities of the directors, in the modern mercantile world, incorporation of a company is a must to ensure continuity of transactions because serious business persons or government entities are not prepared to enter into commercial transactions with individuals in their personal capacity without limited liability.

What the directors are required to do is to familiarize themselves with the law and understand the extent of their fiduciary duty and duty of care to the company and other persons affiliated to the company.

Note: the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. They only provide either elementary or basic legal knowledge on the above subject. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case in question.

You can send questions or comments to our email info@legisattorneys.co.tz or postal address Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P.O. Box 3750, DSM. You can visit our website www.legisattorneys.co.tz

By Mark Mapambano

TODAY, Tanzanians mark Karume Day to commemorate the assassination of Zanzibar first President Abeid Amani Karume in 1972. Sheikh Karume, as he was popularly known among his peers, also goes down in history as the first Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, the position he held from April 1964 until his death April 1972.

Karume's success story is a quintessential example of the power of exposure. With reported moderate level of education, the career seaman capitalized on his overseas voyages to acquire knowledge which later saw him transform into a statesman.

Various sources indicate that Karume left Zanzibar in the early years of his life, travelling among other places to London, where he gained an understanding of geopolitics and international affairs through exposure to African thinkers. Before he knew it, political bug had bitten him.

The widely travelled and exposed seaman with burning desire to lead his people was apparently not amused on 10 December 1963 when the United Kingdom granted full independence to Zanzibar after the Zanzibar National Party (ZNP) and Zanzibar and Pemba People's Party won the elections with the Sultan retained as a constitutional monarch.

I understand the question of whether he was on the island on 12 January 1964—the night of the revolution—is debatable but what is not in doubt is the fact that Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume emerged as the President of the People's Republic of Zanzibar.

After sensing threats to his government from certain quarters, Karume engaged President of Tanganyika Julius Nyerere in secret talks which later led to the birth of the United Republic of Tanzania on 26 April 1964.

Presenting a paper entitled Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar: history, origin and foundation at the 58th commemoration of the union last year, retired Speaker of the National Assembly Pius Msekwa who was

Karume: The seaman who sailed to power and later became co-architect of our union



Clerk of Parliament of Tanganyika then, said Nyerere and Karume succeeded in keeping the matter under the wraps.

When Nyerere travelled to Zanzibar and the two leaders agreed to unite the countries on 22 April 1964 and put details on articles of the Union, the two agreed to keep it to themselves.

"On the day of signing, TANU-owned newspaper, The Nationalist reported that Nyerere was on a friendly visit to Zanzibar. It was only after the signing when a brief statement from State House announced the agreement," he said.

Msekwa said he thinks the secrecy was because of fear that if this was known before, the efforts would have been sabotaged by the enemies of the unity.

He said issues in the initial articles of the union included an agreement that Nyerere would be the union President and Karume Vice President. The document also stated that the union would be on 11 areas and that the constitution of Tanganyika would serve as interim union mother law awaiting its amendment to accommodate the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and its House of Representatives.

He narrated that on 25 April 1964, both Tanganyika Parliament and Zanzibar House of Representatives passed the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar act of 1964 and the Union of Zanzibar and Tanganyika Law of 1964 respectively.

"Before that, on Tuesday 21 April, Nyerere asked me as Clerk to summon MPs to Dar es Salaam and insisted that by Friday they

were supposed to be there," he narrated.

"He instructed me that the parliament must sit tomorrow (26 April) but when I asked him the agenda, he told me to do other things."

In the speech Nyerere read in the House, he asked the MPs to see the importance of uniting the sister countries and after that, he left.

"Head of government business in parliament Rashid Kawawa moved a motion under certificate of urgency, asking lawmakers to endorse it," he said.

"Nyerere had whispered to me that if the bill passed, I take it to him so that he assented to it without delay and after it was passed, I hurriedly hit the ground running with it. Upon receiving it, Nyerere smiled, sipped wine and signed it."

Msekwa said that on 27, the Union National Assembly met for the first time and Karume was sworn in as Vice President of the union government as well as MPs appointed from Zanzibar.

He said the main origin of the union was Zanzibar Revolution and the need to protect security of the isles.

"There was need to make Zanzibar secure because there was real threat that those who were ousted from power would reorganize and counter the revolution," he said.

"This was mainly because the new government in Zanzibar had no army to protect itself."

The author is a political analyst based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0655 522 922

The crisis is becoming chronic, fragmenting society in Argentina

By Daniel Gutman

IT is a Monday morning in April on Florida, a pedestrian street in the heart of the Argentine capital, and a small crowd gathers outside the window of an electronic appliance store to watch a violent scene on a TV screen. But it is not part of any movie or series.

The scene, broadcast live, is happening a few kilometers away, in a poor suburb of Buenos Aires: colleagues of a city bus driver who was murdered during a robbery throw stones and fists at the Minister of Security of the province of Buenos Aires, Sergio Berni, who had come to talk and offer the government's condolences in front of the cameras.

No one seems surprised among the office employees watching the scene on TV, and several make no effort to hide a certain sense of satisfaction that other ordinary people have decided to take action against a representative of the political leadership, the target of widespread discontent, as reflected by the opinion polls.

"This was bound to happen sometime, if the politicians earn a fortune for doing nothing and we work all day to earn a pittance... And on top of that you go out on the street and they kill you just to rob you," comments one of the viewers, as the rest listen approvingly.

The scene reflects the climate of tension and the sense of being fed-up that is felt in large swathes of Argentine society, in the midst of a long, deep economic crisis, which in the last five years has constantly chipped away at the purchasing power of wages, due to inflation that occasionally stops growing for a couple of months, only to surge again with greater force.

If there was room for modest optimism in 2022, as the result of a recovery in economic activity after the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it seems distant today, since the beginning of this year brought news that reflects the magnitude of the breakdown of the social fabric in this Southern Cone country.

On Mar. 31, the official poverty rate for the second half of 2022 was announced: 39.2 percent of the population, or 18.1 million people in this South American country of 46 million, according to the most up-to-date figures.

Since 2021 ended with a poverty rate of 37.3 percent, this means that in one year a million people were thrown into poverty, despite the fact that the economy, thanks to the rebound in post-pandemic activity, grew 4.9 percent, above the average for the region, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

But these data are already old and the figures for 2023 will be worse due to the acceleration of inflation, which is surprising even by the standards of Argentina, a country all too accustomed to this problem.

The price rise in February reached 6.6 percent, exceeding the 100 percent year-on-year rate (from March 2022 to February 2023) for the first time since 1991.

When you look a little closer, perhaps the worst aspect is that prices grew much more than the average, 9.8 percent, for food, the biggest expense for the lowest-income segments



The carts of "cartoneros" or garbage pickers stand in front of a merchandise purchase warehouse in the La Paternal neighborhood in the city of Buenos Aires. CREDIT: Daniel Gutman/IPS

of society.

To this picture must be added an extreme drought that has affected the harvest of soybeans and other grains, which are the largest generator of foreign exchange in Argentina. The estimates of different public and private organizations on how much money the country will lose this year in exports range between 10 and 20 billion dollars.

This is one of the reasons why the World Bank, which had forecast two percent growth for the Argentine economy this year, revised its estimates at the beginning of April and concluded that there will be no economic growth in 2023.

Soup kitchens

About 15 kilometers from the center of Buenos Aires, in the Loyola neighborhood, the cold statistics on the economy translate into ramshackle homes separated by narrow alleyways, with piles of garbage at the corners and skinny dogs wandering among the children playing in the street.

In a truck trailer that carries advertising for a campaigning politician, a dentist extracts teeth free of charge for local residents, who have increasing

problems accessing health services.

The neighborhood is in San Martín, one of the municipalities on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. Eleven million people live in these working-class suburbs (almost a quarter of the country's total population), where the poverty rate is 45 percent, higher than the national average.

"I have never before seen what is happening today. Before, only men went out to pick through the garbage (for recyclable materials to sell), because the idea was that the streets weren't for women. But today the women also go out," Luis Ángel Gómez, 58, born and raised in the neighborhood, who does building work and other odd jobs, told IPS.

Indeed, the carts of the "cartoneros" or garbage pickers, which used to be seen only in the most densely populated working-class neighborhoods of Buenos Aires after sunset, when the building managers take out the garbage, are now seen throughout the city and at all hours.

Gómez has been running a soup kitchen in Loyola for 10 years, where he provides lunch three times a week and afternoon snacks twice a week to more than 70 children and adoles-

cents. It is in a room with a tin roof, a couple of gas stoves and photos of smiling boys and girls as decoration.

"The municipality gives me some merchandise: 20 kilos of ground meat and two boxes of chicken per month. Besides that, I cook with donations," said Gómez. "This box was given to me by the company that collects garbage in the municipality," he added, pointing to cartons of long-life milk.

But the soup kitchen cannot meet all the needs of the local residents, said Gómez. "My concern was to give the kids a better future and I fed them until they were 14 or 15 years old. Today I also have to help their parents and grandparents."

The middle class on the slide

The crisis has picked up speed since 2018 and deepened with the pandemic, but Argentina is going through a period of stagnation, with low economic growth and very little formal private sector job creation for more than a decade.

A study recently presented by the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina (UCA) shows that since 2010 access to food, healthcare, employment and social security have steadily

worsened, despite social assistance, affecting five million households out of a total of 12 million.

"There is growing social polarization in Argentina, with an increasingly weak middle class. Each crisis leaves another part of society outside the system," sociologist Agustín Salvia, director of the UCA's Social Observatory on Argentine Social Debt, which is considered a chief reference point in the country, told IPS.

Salvia explained that the improvement in economic activity after the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic drove the creation of new jobs until the third quarter of last year, although poverty grew just the same because they were almost all precarious low-wage jobs.

"The post-pandemic recovery cycle is over. Since the last quarter of 2022 there has been no more job creation, which added to inflation will cause poverty to grow in 2023," added Salvia.

The expert said structural or chronic poverty used to be 25 or 30 percent in Argentina, but has now held steady at 40 or 45 percent, with a deterioration marked by the stagnation of quality employment, which has pushed many formerly middle-class families into poverty.

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	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIYA 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

Tunisia: The use of drinking water now banned in agriculture

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

SINCE March 31, 2023, the use of drinking water is prohibited in agriculture, for watering green spaces, cleaning streets and public spaces to reduce pressure on dams. This decision of the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries will be applied for six months.

In Tunisia, the drought imposes more restrictions in the use of water. Since March 31, 2023, farmers in this North African country are prohibited from using water for consumption to irrigate their crops. This measure taken by the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries aims to preserve the reserves of dams, with levels of filling now worrying due to drought.

The agricultural sector consumes more than 80%



of Tunisia's water reserves, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organi-

zation (FAO). Compliance with these regulations will make enough water available to meet

the needs of the population.

Penalties for violations

The restrictions on the use of drinking water recently announced by the Tunisian

Ministry of Agriculture will be effective until the end of September 2023. They also apply to activities such as watering green areas, cleaning streets and public spaces. The Tunisian authorities have stressed that individuals are not exempt from this regulation.

The Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture has designated the National Company of exploitation and distribution of water (SONEDE) to ensure compliance with this new measure in the water sector. Thus, the public company will be able without notice to stop the supply of drinking water to violators, then initiate legal proceedings that would lead to imprisonment of six days to nine months. The Tunisian government also foresees fines ranging from 60 to 1,000 Tunisian dinars, or 18 to 300 euros.

The impact on agricultural production

While the decision to ban the use of drinking water in other sectors of activity will reduce the pressure on Tunisia's 36

dams, with a total capacity of 2.988 million m3 according to the National Observatory of Agriculture (ONAGRI), this measure will have important consequences on agriculture, which represents about 10% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Among these consequences, the reduction of agricultural production, increased dependence on imports to avoid the food crisis. "Tunisia's grain harvest will be disastrous. With the drought, production is expected to be between 200 and 250,000 tons this year, compared to 750,000 tons in 2022," said Mohamed Rjaibia, a senior official of the farmers' union to the Reuters news agency.

The lack of water for watering green spaces will accelerate the drying up of lawns, impacting the beauty of urban landscapes, which are necessary for the development of the population. Urban sanitation will also suffer. This essential service depends largely on water.

AfDB facilitates 3rd structured dialogue platform meeting on Zimbabwe arrears clearance and debt resolution process

HARARE

ZIMBABWE moved closer to resolving its debt issues last week as it hosted the third debt and arrears clearance structured dialogue platform meeting with development partners and creditors.

In 2022, President Emmerson Mnangagwa appointed African Development Bank President Dr Akinwumi Adesina champion of the country's arrears clearance and debt resolution process.

Finance and Economic Development Minister Professor Mthuli Ncube chaired and led a team of senior officials in this third engagement with development partners and creditors, one of which is the African Development Bank, which is facilitating the overall dialogue. Thursday's technical meeting—which took place at Manna Resorts in Harare—followed two similar meetings held in Harare in December and February.

The meeting brought together three sector working groups: two that had earlier been established—one on macroeconomic growth and stability reforms, and another on governance reforms—as well as a third new sector working group on land tenure reforms, compensation of former farm owners and the resolution of Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPPAs).

Welcoming delegates, Secretary for Finance and Economic Development George Guvamatanga reaffirmed the Zimbabwean government's commitment to the arrears clear-

ance and debt resolution process. He also said the government was committed to delivering on the policy reforms arising from the three reform matrices of the three sector working groups.

Emphasizing the resolve of all partners to support Zimbabwe in working through its debt issues, Diogo said: "We are not here to talk about Zimbabwe, but rather with Zimbabwe."

Capturing progress, Andrew Bvumbe, head of the Zimbabwe Public Debt Management Office, said there was genuine interest and commitment on all sides. "We are together in this endeavor, and I think we can all agree that we have something to celebrate," he said.

Development partners expressed overall satisfaction with the process. They acknowledged the swiftness with which the sector working group on land tenure, the Global Compensation Deed and the resolution of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPPAs) was established.

The meeting brought clarity to the reform agenda of the three sector working groups. Participants agreed that an International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff monitored program was a key component of the economic reform sector working group.

Ncube told participants that realistically, this staff monitored program would be implemented after Zimbabwe's elections, expected later this year. He told the meeting—as did World Bank Country

Manager Majorie Mpundu, representing the economic reforms sector working group—that a funded staff monitoring program was necessary to ensure effective implementation of the program and reforms.

The Zimbabwean government has identified five priority areas that would require funding, namely education, social protection, health, agriculture, and climate change.

African Development Bank Country Manager for Zimbabwe Moono Mupotola said it was possible that the Zimbabwe Fund for Development could serve as a potential vehicle in support of the social sector.

"The African Development Bank is proposing to lead the process to map out the social sector development needs based on the implementation of an IMF staff monitored program," Mupotola said. She added: "The objective would be to understand where current social investments are being made and where the gaps are."

Mupotola proposed the setting up of a working group to pursue this initiative. She said the African Development Bank would count on input from all development partners, and the team would then develop a concept note on the purpose and structure of a new Zimbabwe Fund for Development.

Ncube said the government would willingly embrace this as an option along with existing resources to fund such a program. He said the Zimbabwean

government would continue to work closely with the African Development Bank.

The meeting also brought clarity on governance reforms, articulating the critical role of the Zimbabwean constitution and the six pillars contained in Zimbabwe's National Development Strategy 1 covering the 2021-2025 period.

In response to the indicators for the governance reforms matrix, participants agreed on the indicators in three areas—justice delivery, electoral reforms, and peace and security.

They reached consensus on the need to streamline the governance indicators and to focus on concrete, achievable, and deliverable sub-indicators. They also resolved to work towards rationalizing sub-indicators and dwell on scores rather than on indices themselves. Development partners committed to consult their capitals to conclude on this critical issue.

The sector working groups are made up of joint teams from both the Zimbabwean government and various development partners, including international organizations.

Commenting on progress with the sector working group on land tenure reforms, compensation of former farm owners and the resolution of BIPPAs, Mrs A. Tinarwo, chief director in the Office of the President and Cabinet, highlighted the group's three priorities, namely, the transferability and bankability of 99-year leases; implementing the global compensation deed; and producing a comprehensive data base of farms covered by BIPPAs to enable swift resolution.



ZANZIBAR REVENUE AUTHORITY

KARUME MEMORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



"MUNGU AILAZE ROHO YA MAREHEMU KARUME MAHALA PEMA PEPO NI AAMIN"

The Board of Directors, Management and All Employees of the Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA) Join All the Citizens of Zanzibar in the Commemoration of the Founder of Zanzibar, the Late Elder Abeid Amani Karume.

As we celebrate 51 years since the death of our Chief, ZRA joins all Zanzibaris in remembering him for his heroic leadership, and wisdom in leading Zanzibar. We continue to pray for him to rest in peace.

The Zanzibar Revenue Authority Continues To Urge Members of the Businessmen Community To Continue Using The Electronic Receipt System Whenever They Make Sales As Directed By Law.

In addition, the Zanzibar Revenue Authority reminds all citizens to refuse to sell products or services without being given electronic receipts so that the government can control loopholes in the loss of income, tax can be collected effectively and Zanzibar can reach the goals of the blue economy.

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By Hassane Koné and Fahriman Rodrigue Koné

Niger's counter-terrorism approach making positive inroads in subduing Sahel jihadists

ON 10 February this year, Niger suffered one of its deadliest attacks when gunmen with suspected links to violent extremist groups ambushed a military convoy in Banibangou, a community in the Tillabéri region. Seventeen soldiers died and 13 were injured, ending months of relative calm in the area.

Violence had diminished as a result of two special operations conducted in northern Tillabéri between July and October 2022 by Niger with reinforcements from 250 French troops. Codenamed Al-mahaou (whirlwind in Zarma) and Niya (will in Hausa), the offensives targeted groups linked to al-Qaeda and Islamic State. The February attack highlights the limits of such operations and lends credence to the country's use of dialogue as a key part of its counter-terrorism strategy.

In early 2022, Nigerien authorities recognised the need for dialogue with jihadist leaders in Tillabéri. This was inspired after several Nigeriens defected from their extremist groups, and violence in the Diffa region decreased after a disarmament and reintegration process launched in 2016. A total of 386 former Boko Haram fighters went through deradicalisation and professional training.

The use of dialogue in Tillabéri shows strong political will on



Community members convene with security and defence forces to keep peace in Niger. (Photo: Counterpart International)

the part of the government, which is keen to disincentivise engagement with extremist groups, and stabilise the region. Niger's approach, which combines dialogue and military action, starkly contrasts with the regional trend. Neighbouring countries have reinforced their military tactics through diversifying strategic alliances and employing armed civilians.

Niger has a long tradition of dialogue following its successful management of Tuareg rebellions. The country has strived to institutionalise this tradition to allow for a more holistic approach to addressing its security challenges. A core step has been establishing the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace, hosted within the Presidency, and the National Coordination Unit for

Stabilisation and Disengagement Programmes supervised by the Interior Ministry.

To prevent recruitment by terrorist groups, the government initiated several talks in 2022 to foster intra- and inter-communal dialogue for peace, reconciliation and social cohesion in various regions. These were followed by community mediation efforts, one of which led to the signing of a peace agreement between the Fulani and Zarma communities in Banibangou on 21 January 2023. The deal is important, as jihadist groups exploited decades-long conflicts between the two communities for recruitment purposes.

To build consensus around the process, president Mohamed Bazoum has involved a range of political, religious and civil society leaders, as well as security and administrative officials.

Ongoing dialogue and the personal commitment of Bazoum, supported by his ad-

visory team, have facilitated contact with several jihadists through community emissaries. Recent Institute for Security Studies (ISS) research provides evidence that roughly 100 ex-combatants are being gathered in the capital Niamey, pending transfer to the socio-economic reintegration centre in Hamdallaye, in Tillabéri. They will go through deradicalisation and receive toolkits for setting up their own trades as mechanics, welders, plumbers, carpenters or dressmakers.

The dialogue process does, however, face some challenges. Interviewees told ISS Today that some community emissaries facilitating contact with jihadists were not necessarily the most qualified. They said those with stronger credibility and social influence had been sidelined. There were also concerns about how to effectively integrate ex-combatants into communities following their release from the Hamdallaye centre.

To succeed, Niger should adopt a more inclusive approach involving various influential actors. Better coordination between the institutions involved is also essential to avoid the dispersion of efforts. The government should ensure that the dialogue process is not bogged down, and is informed by lessons learnt through the disarmament, demobilisation, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement process in Diffa. This will minimise the risk of recruitment by jihadist groups, including of ex-combatants.

By including dialogue in its counter-terrorism efforts, Niger is experimenting with an approach similar to those in Algeria and Mauritania, which underpin their decade-long protection against jihadist violence.

Niger's neighbours in the Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea that are affected by violent extremism should take inspiration from the country's strategy as they tackle the insecurity afflicting their populations. A coordinated regional approach would also exert pressure on terrorist groups and ultimately deprive them of human resources. DM

Hassane Koné, Senior Researcher and Fahriman Rodrigue Koné, Senior Researcher, Sahel Project, ISS Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin.

Privatization: Egypt's only weapon to survive repercussions of the war in Ukraine

By Hisham Allam

EGYPT intends to sell shares in 32 state-owned businesses within a year, including three banks, two military-owned businesses, and numerous businesses in the energy and transportation sectors. This is part of the administration's efforts to reduce the role of the state in the economy and attract foreign capital.

That also follows the government's December USD 3 billion deal with the IMF to resume privatization initiatives.

The IMF approved the USD 3 billion loan to strengthen the private sector and reduce the state's footprint in the economy.

Egypt planned to sell 23 state-owned enterprises in 2018, but the plan was postponed due to the worldwide crisis.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has put pressure on the Egyptian economy and currency, making the proposal more urgent.

According to Rashad Abdo, head of the Egyptian Forum for Economic Studies, Egypt had already received sovereign loans from many donors, including international institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and Gulf countries, and these parties either set harsh lending conditions or would be reluctant to lend due to increased



Egypt plans to sell shares in 32 state-owned businesses, including three banks. Credit: Hisham Allam/IPS

risks. The State Ownership Policy Plan, adopted by President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi in December, outlines how the government would participate in the economy and how it would increase private sector involvement in public investments. Egypt wants to increase the contribution of the private sector to

the nation's economic activity from 30 percent to 65 percent within the next three years. One-quarter of these enterprises will be listed by the government within six months.

Egypt announced the offering of these companies, intending to sell them to strategic investors, specifically Gulf sovereign funds. Egypt is expected to sell enterprises worth USD

40 billion within three years, including those held by the army.

Attracting foreign investment requires strengthening the investment climate, lowering inflation rates, and expanding anti-corruption efforts, Abdo told IPS.

The State Ownership document states that 32 Egyptian state companies will be listed on the Egypt Exchange (EGX) or sold to strategic investors within a year, beginning with the current quarter and ending in the first quarter of 2024. Stakes in three significant banks, Banco du Caire, United Bank of Egypt, and Arab African International Bank, are among the scheduled transactions. Insurance, electricity, and energy companies, as well as hotels and industrial and agricultural concerns, will also be on the market. Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouly announced that the first stakes would be offered in March and a quarter by June, and more businesses could be added over the next year.

Abdo pointed out that the Monetary Fund affirmed the Egyptian government's commitment to implementing the State Ownership Document when it agreed to grant it this

loan and the Egyptian government saw it as a favorable opportunity to implement the terms of the document set by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Mohamed Al-Kilani, professor of economics and member of the Egyptian Society for Political Economy, said the privatization effort seeks to eliminate the dollar gap in Egypt and thus provide indirect compensation in the form of services and benefits from the International Monetary Fund's debt.

The state would also send a message to foreign investors that it responds to the private sector and is willing to withdraw from certain sectors to benefit the private sector.

"The state is attempting to exploit this proposal to stimulate and revitalize the Egyptian Stock Exchange while taking into account the fair valuation of these companies in comparison to the global market. However, the state was unclear about the details of this offering and whether it is a long-term or short-term investment, and it has not clarified the size of employment or the percentages offered in terms of ownership and management," Al-

Kilani told IPS. "The state is trying to create new types of foreign investment to attract foreign currency due to the fluctuation in exchange rates and high-interest rates," Al-Kilani added.

According to external debt data published on the central bank's website in mid-February, Egypt's external debt fell by USD 728 million to USD 154.9 billion at the end of last September, but its foreign exchange reserves remain low, prompting renewed demand for state assets. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has further pressured the economy and local currency, prompting the proposal for new urgency.

Despite its relatively modest improvement in the latest data from the central bank at the beginning of February (USD 34.2 billion), it lost about 20 percent of the level of USD 41 billion at the end of February last year. Last January, the IMF suggested that the volume of the financing gap in Egypt would reach about USD 17 billion over the next 46 months in light of its decline in foreign exchange resources and the high cost of its imports as one of the largest countries in the world to import its food and the first importer of wheat in the world.

IPS UN Bureau Report



RAJIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 21.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 21.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One




MEDICAL RESEARCHES, BIOTECHNOLOGY BECOME NEXT PROPERTY OPPORTUNITY

AUSTRALIA

Property investors are familiar with retail, office and industrial space, but many overlook the opportunities in the life sciences sector.

Medical research and biotech is undergoing strong growth in Australia and globally after the COVID-19 pandemic attracted more government support for the research and development of new medicines and treatments.

The life sciences sector has grown by 43 per cent since 2019, according to AusBiotech's report Australia's Life Sciences Sector Snapshot 2022.

Life science properties are highly bespoke and usually a mix of office space and laboratories for research and development.

At the same time, there is a lack of supply of suitable property for these companies in Australia, which will support valuations in the next few years.

In an environment where the broader commercial property sector is facing a couple of years of volatility and subdued valuations, life sciences offers an opportunity for investors to ride out the downturn.

The life sciences sector has some



unique features that will likely help it outperform in the next year or two. Biotech and medical research companies have very specific property needs - the properties are highly bespoke and usually a mix of office space and laboratories for research and development.

As a result, most are leased on a build-to-suit basis, where the developer or landlord first secures a tenant and then fits out or builds the property to the tenant's specifications.

The purpose-built accommoda-

tion is an excellent retention tool, and life sciences tenants usually sign long leases with built-in rent increases as a result.

Their bespoke nature also constrains supply. Most life sciences companies want to be located in or near a university or hospital precinct.

And converting existing properties isn't always possible, because suitable properties need high ceilings and large floor plates to accommodate and fit equipment and ventilation systems.

Additionally, the space has to be adaptable. Early-stage biotech companies need a lot of lab space, but as they grow and start to manufacture and market their products, their need for office space increases.

In fact, as more and more research is carried out using advanced computer modeling, the need for lab space for some biotech has decreased.

Institutional investors are increasing their allocations to life sciences real estate, and individual investors risk being left behind.

Life sciences developments can run into hundreds of millions of dollars for large multi-tenant, campus-style accommodation, and even a small single-tenant property might run to \$5 million or \$10 million, so outright ownership will be beyond the means of many individual investors.

But there are several other ways the individual can gain exposure to the sector.

One option is to invest in an unlisted property fund that focuses on life sciences or has a high asset allocation to the sector.

Global investment manager Nuveen has been tapping Australian investors to put capital into life sciences and medical offices - a real estate asset class it expects to grow by two-thirds over the next two decades in response to the demands of ageing populations in wealthy countries.

Another option is to invest in commercial real estate debt to lend to developers of life sciences projects. The asset class is relatively new to Australia and can deliver returns of 5 to 8 per cent.

Alternatively, investors can make an equity contribution to a current project to own a stake of a life sciences property.

Those fortunate enough to own a property that is suitable for conversion have the option of partnering with a developer or even carrying out the project themselves.

Institutional property investors such as Dexis and Charter Hall have had exposure to the life sciences property sector for several years and many are looking to increase their holdings as a diversification strategy.

Russia's house prices still rising strongly

MOSCOW

Russia's house prices continue to rise rapidly, despite its struggling economy amidst the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Nationwide real house prices soared by 9.96 percent in 2022 from a year earlier, up from the previous year's 6.13 percent growth.

The past four quarters have been the highest year-on-year growth rates recorded since 2007. It is now its eighteenth consecutive quarter of y-o-y price increases.

During the latest quarter, nationwide house prices increased slightly by 0.7 percent.

In fact in nominal terms, house prices skyrocketed by 23.05 percent during 2022, as inflation surge amidst a volatile rouble and the unprecedented sanctions imposed by Western countries against Russia due to its invasion of Ukraine.

But most of the growth were from outside the city centres. In fact, Moscow's real house price growth slowed to 5.9 year y-o-y in 2022, from 7.48 percent in 2021. In St. Petersburg, real house prices actually fell by 15.28 percent in 2022 from a year ago, following an annual growth of 16.27 percent in the prior year.

Nationwide house prices plunged 29 percent (inflation-adjusted) from 2011 to 2018.

The housing market started to recover in 2019 and continued to strengthen in the past three years despite the pandemic and the war.

Housing loans continue to rise, but outlook is gloomy.

In February 2023, total housing loans outstanding rose strongly by 17 percent y-o-y to RUB 13.93 trillion (US\$181 billion), following growths of 18.1 percent in 2022, 25.2 percent in 2021, 21 percent in 2020 and 17 percent in 2019, according to figures from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

However, the outlook remains gloomy as hundreds of thousands of Russians have left the country in recent months and have been purchasing properties in other countries instead, such as Dubai.

The Russian economy shrank by 2.1 percent in 2022 from a year earlier, much less than expected despite its invasion of Ukraine and sanctions imposed by European countries and the United States, according to the Federal State Statistics Service.

This followed a 4.7 percent growth in 2021 and a 2.7 percent decline in 2020. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects Russia's economy to grow by a meager 0.3 percent this year.

By Mnaku Mbani

National Bank of Commerce (NBC) Limited recorded a net profit of 57.3bn/- last year, compared with 40bn/- recorded during 2021, thanks to increased lending, transaction activities and expanding agency banking.

According to audited financial statement for 2022 published yesterday, the bank's operating income increased to 81bn/- last year compared with 60bn/- recorded in 2021 due to increase in both interest and non-interest income.

Basic earnings per share also increased to 36,483/- in 2022 compared with 25,491/- recorded in 2021, good news to shareholders, as return on average shareholders fund also grew to 16.5 percent.

"The growth of profit resulted from our increased lending, mainly personal loans and financing of government strategic projects, specifically the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR)," said Joseph Lyuba, the bank's head of business finance.

Interest income increased to 215bn/- last year compared with 184bn/- recorded in 2021 as loans, advances and overdraft amounted to 1.7trn/- compared

Expanding lending, transactions spur NBC Ltd net profit increases in 2022



The increase in the number of National Bank of Commerce (NBC) agents stimulated banking transactions and deposit mobilisation File photo

with 1.3trn/- respectively.

The statement shows the bank's non-performing loans to total gross loans decreased to 3.5 percent, below the regulatory benchmark of 5 percent, compared with 4.1 percent recorded in 2021.

Speaking with the Guardian yesterday, Lyuba said another area which stimulated profit growth was increased transac-

tion activities, which fueled an increased non-interest income.

According to the audited statement, non-interest income amounted 93bn/- last year from 78.8bn/- in 2021 due to increased fees and commissions as well as foreign currency dealing and transactions gains.

The banks agents who increased to 9,200 countrywide last year, from 5,000 in 2021

also stimulated transaction activities as well as accounts opening during last year, he said.

"Our sponsorship to the Premier League also increased our market visibility by increasing more transactions during the reported year," he said.

Lyuba expects that the bank's performance during this year will improve more than what was achieved last year, citing strong performances during the just ended first quarter of 2023. "2023 will be good year for us and we expect the growth of our performances by least 50 percent of what we achieved during last year," he said, based on management accounts for Q1, 2023.

According to an audited statement, the bank's total assets went up to 2.9trn/- last year compared with 2.1trn/- in 2021 due to increased lending, investment in government securities, balance with Bank of

Tanzania (BoT), amid slight decrease in cash and balance with other banks and financial institutions.

Assets growth during the reported year was 23.8 percent last year, higher than the growth of 6.3 percent in 2021.

Total liabilities increased to 2.5trn/- compared with 1.9trn/- which translated into expansion of the bank's capital to 346.7bn/- last year compared with 303.1bn/- recorded in 2021 and 262bn/- in 2020.

Customer deposits also increased to 1.9trn/- last year compared with 1.5trn/- in 2021 which translated into deposits growth of 23.5 percent compared with 6.1 percent respectively, according to the statement.

The bank also created direct employment opportunities to Tanzanians as number of employees expanded to 984 last year from 955 in 2021 with number of branches remained unchanged at 47.

GF Trucks uplifts miners through heavy machine rentals

By Francis Kajubi

GF Truck & Equipment Ltd through its machinery rental company-Rental Machine has signed an agreement with the State Mining Corporation (Stamico) for the rental of mining machinery to small scale miners.

Stamico, which will be the guarantor in the agreement, has entered into the agreement to help small miners so that they have the ability to get heavy machines for their mining activities when they need it.

Stamico believes that the agreement will increase the morale among small miners who cannot afford the mining heavy machines.

GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd, who are the sellers of XCMG drilling rigs, has an arrangement of lending heavy machines to subcontractors for various government projects.

Speaking during the signing of the agreement held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday at the meeting of "Small-scale miners and stakeholders of industrial minerals", GF Marketing and Communications Director Salman Karmali said the company has discovered that many small-scale miners do not have the capital to buy the machines.

He said that the good intention of entering into an agreement with Stamico to rent specialized mining

equipment at a low cost, Stamico as guardians of miners in the country is easy to identify small miners in need.

"By doing so, we will reduce the number of accidents that occur in mines for miners to use natural methods. GF Trucks is coming to be the savior of small miners through XCMG, we will solve their challenges on a large scale," said Karmali.

Speaking on behalf of small-scale miners, one of the small-scale miners in Chunya mine in Mbeya region, Naumu Mwakasita said they have taken this as an opportunity to free them from the condition of using poor equipment in mining.

"I will be the first person

to take advantage of this opportunity and abandon mining using natural machinery which is dangerous," she said.

Stamico's Director General Dr. Venance Mwase said that GF Trucks intervention will lead to the majority of small scale miners benefiting from the sector.

"Though small scale miners are estimated to own an operating capital of less than 10bn/- most of them don't meet this threshold and thus they don't have financial muscles of procuring heavy machines for mining. This agreement is opening a new opportunity for them," he said.



UAE FIRM WINS DAR WASTEWATER PROJECT CONTRACT

By Guardian Correspondent

Dar Es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has awarded Metito, a leading provider of intelligent water management solutions, the contract to design, build and operate a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in Dar es Salaam region, Tanzania at Mbezi Beach area.

The project is expected to reduce environmental pollution through safe treatment of wastewater.

Located in the Mbezi Beach area, in Kinondoni District, of Dar Es Salaam, the 16,000 m³/day wastewater treatment plant will have state-of-the-art engineering and technologies to enhance operational and maintenance costs, improve sludge quality, and minimize the overall carbon footprint.

Additionally, the plant will be designed in almost half of the allocated area, optimizing land usage and maximizing savings.

Metito's scope of work involves three years of operation and maintenance for the wastewater treatment plant with the full participation of DAWASA staff members in all operational sections of the treatment plant.

Metito will utilize conventional activated sludge technology and implement anaerobic digestors to produce biogas followed by Combined Heat and Power (CHP) generation system which will re-



Waste water carrying truck

duce electric power consumption by almost 40 percent at ultimate plant capacity.

Metito will also use the sludge anaerobic digestion process in the first treatment phase to ensure the sludge is stabilized and the quality of the sludge is

maintained.

Tanzania has renewed its commitment to increasing access to clean water by adopting the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation for all) targets, which the UN set for 2030.

The Mbezi Wastewater Treatment

project will contribute to Dar Es Salaam region's sustainable economic and industrial development by creating skilled jobs and safeguarding the health and well-being of the community by providing efficient wastewater treatment.

Commenting on the new award, Karim

Madwar, Metito Africa Managing Director said, "The project is a true milestone towards modernizing Dar es Salaam's wastewater system and bolstering the resilience of its water infrastructure, all while safeguarding its natural ecosystems. Metito's founding principles are Impact, Sustainability, and Innovation, and this project ticks all the boxes. We are proud to be working with Dar Es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority on this project and are looking forward to making this a benchmark to similar projects in the region."

This project is being financed by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in collaboration with the World Bank.

"Access to water and sanitation in Tanzania can transform the economic outlook in Dar es Salaam and propel its social development and sustainable growth. We have trusted Metito, a world-leading provider, to develop the new WWTP in the Mbezi beach area and we are confident that the impact that will be created once the plant is operational is highly cost-effective and brings great value to the local community," Kiula Kingu the Acting CEO for Dar Es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority added.

The project award was signed on the 22nd of March, and construction is expected to commence in April 2023, with the commissioning date set for October 2024.

Development partners urged to support research projects

By Francis Kajubi

THE government has called for more financing of research projects that will facilitate the development of policies and strategies that can directly impact common people's lives.

Dr. Kenneth Hosea, Director of the Department of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology extended the call on Tuesday at the launch of the book written by the College of Social Sciences (CoSS) at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

The book titled: 'Contested Sustainability: The Political Ecology of Conservation and Development in Tanzania' published in collaboration with the nCopenhagen Business School and the University of Barcelona, is about contested sustainability and partnerships for conservation of natural resources in the forestry, fishing and wildlife sectors.

"The book volume we are celebrating is a completely Tanzanian affair. It is not only part of an international collaboration that

spans three continents but also by far the majority of the research team came from Tanzania, and indeed from this University," said Dr. Hosea.

He asserted that CoSS has an intellectual community which has fostered the book and which will critically receive it, and in the presence of a broad group of writers, thinkers and public intellectuals who will discuss it and reflect on its findings and implications.

"We are grateful for the support of the funders which made that possible. What makes me happier is that this is a Tanzanian book volume and it is entirely about the natural resource sector which I am leading," he said.

According to him, the research which produced this book supported three PhD students to graduate from CoSS.

UDSM Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Prof Bonaventure Rutinwa said the book has been derived from a research project funded by DANIDA dubbed 'New Conservation Partnerships for Sustainability

(NEPSUS)'.

He said the most important output of the project is rooted in four policy briefs that were discussed widely by national stakeholders from various fields at the University of Dar es Salaam.

"Without dissemination and public engagement, a lot of our research remains in shelves," said Prof Rutinwa.

"This event reminds us all of the responsibility to blow the trumpet about our publications. I therefore congratulate the editors for this initiative."

Prof Nelson Boniface, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research UDSM said the research the team published 12 working papers, six journal articles, three book chapter contributions as well as produced three PhDs and two postdocs.

"The University of Dar es Salaam encourages research dissemination through the office of DVC-R;

I take this opportunity to encourage other researchers to budget for wider dissemination of their research results for take-up," he said.



EU housing market boom ends with first quarterly price fall

BRUSSELS

House prices in the EU have suffered their first quarterly fall since 2015, as rising borrowing costs bring an end to an almost decade-long boom in residential property markets.

Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, said on Tuesday that house prices dropped 1.5 per cent in the final three months of 2022 after declines in 15 of the bloc's 27 member countries. The biggest declines were in Denmark and Germany, where house prices fell 6.5 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively.

Higher interest rates and the soaring cost of living are deterring many Europeans from buying a house, leading to a sharp drop in demand for mortgages, which is putting downward pressure on property prices.

More recent data published by individual countries indicate the decline is likely to have continued during the opening months of this year. Dutch house prices fell 1.5 per cent between January and February, according to figures from the national statistics agency CBS last month.

There were some bright spots, such as Croatia, where rising de-

mand from foreign buyers ahead of the country's introduction of the euro in January drove house prices up by 4.7 per cent in the final quarter of last year.

But the surge in house prices witnessed over the past decade has now gone into reverse in much of the EU.

Line chart of EU house price index (2010 = 100) showing Europe's housing market has turned

While prices remain more than 50 per cent higher than in early 2014, a series of interest rate rises by the European Central Bank and other rate-setters are expected to continue to affect the market.

"We expect a further deterioration in house price momentum in the coming quarters," said Anja Heimann, an economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, adding that a lack of investment from the construction sector would eventually stabilise prices by limiting supply.

The ECB last month raised its deposit rate by half a percentage point to 3 per cent, taking borrowing costs in the eurozone to their highest level since the 2008 fi-

nanial crisis and some policymakers have said another rise is likely in May.

Banks have tightened credit conditions in response and analysts think they could retreat further after the turmoil of the past month in the sector, triggered by the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in the US and the forced sale of Credit Suisse by its rival UBS.

"We are likely to see a further increase in banks' cost of funding, a tightening of credit standards and a deceleration in the growth of lending volumes," Luis de Guindos, vice-president of the ECB, said in a speech at the weekend.

Rents in Dublin were up by more than 14 per cent in the year to September, as rising housing costs across Ireland are leading young people to despair of ever being able to rent or buy.

Total lending by banks to eurozone customers fell for the third consecutive month in February, taking the total three-month decline to €72bn and ending nearly five years of consistent growth, according to figures published by the ECB last week.

SOUTH AFRICA: Trends driving the commercial property sector's resurgence

JOHANNESBURG

Despite the economic volatility and ongoing load shedding, the commercial property sector is experiencing heightened demand, according to Justin Thom, director at Galetti Corporate Real Estate.

This resurgence, he says, is being fuelled by workers returning to the office and the resumption of normal operations across industries.

With this in mind, Thom says that commercial landlords need to keep pace and adapt to the shifting demands of tenants in a post-Covid-19 era.

What's trending in the office sector?

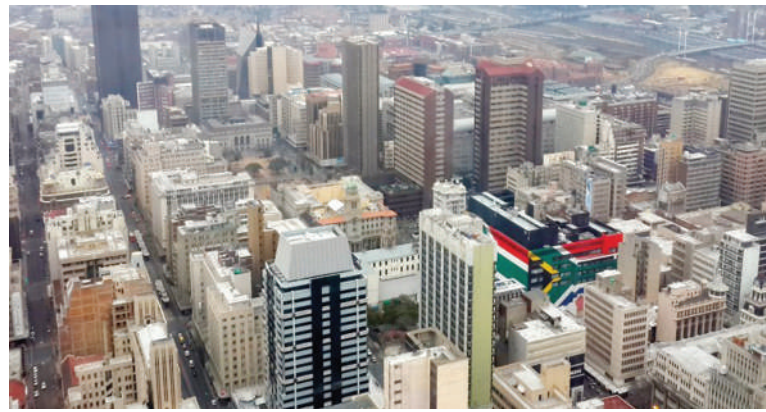
Looking to the office sector, Thom says: "Johannesburg was the economic node that suffered

the most during the pandemic, but we're now seeing tenants who previously downscaled or terminated their leases heading back in search of prime real estate to accommodate their fully-fledged workforce."

He adds that continued load shedding has played a key role in bringing people back to the office. "While some employees do have long-lasting alternative energy backups at home, many still don't largely due to affordability."

In areas where there is heightened demand for A-grade space, such as Rosebank, Johannesburg and the Cape Town CBD, landlords have the upper hand due to a scarcity of supply.

"This has given rise to a natural progression in the price of rentals, offering landlords some reprieve post-Covid-19 and given the rising costs that we currently



face. Tenant incentives previously offered are also starting to fall away."

Speaking to sectors driving demand for office space, Thom comments that the financial, legal, insurance and healthcare sectors are some of the major players taking up 'space' across the country.

"The Johannesburg prime of-

face market has been regaining significant ground over the past three quarters with vacancies dropping substantially. The finance, legal and insurance industries are heavily reliant on in-person work for regulatory and security reasons, hence the need for spaces large enough to accommodate many employees."

What's trending in industrial

property?

Industrial property continues to crank as the commercial real estate frontrunner in South Africa. This property sector reported the least amount of vacancies during the pandemic due to the increased focus on logistics, supply chains and warehousing.

Thom explains that the company has seen an uptick in demand for spec-build properties in areas such as Linbro Park, Longmeadow, and Jet Park. "The vacuum left by landlords not developing in the Covid years has created demand for good quality distribution centres coupled with the rise of e-commerce."

"Prominent Reit (real estate investment trust) Fortress has completed 20,000m² worth of spec-build properties in the area, while Equites and Zenprop have completed 8,300m² and

3,000m² respectively," he adds.

Tenants are driving demand in this Gauteng hotspot with the majority seeking A-grade warehouse space. "The demand for industrial property means that landlords have the upper hand in this property class," he continues.

"Developments are being built and tenanted in strategic positions for long-term growth. Here, tenants can easily upgrade from mini units to mid-sized units and thereafter free-standing buildings, making it an attractive area for investment."

Thom concludes by noting that the prices of rentals have jumped considerably, with build costs increasing by over 50% in the last few years. "This property class has essentially outpriced itself and cannot compete with the price of existing properties."

CONSTRUCTION

THE EMIRATES SUPPORTS EGYPT'S PORT DEVELOPMENT

CAIRO

The Egyptian government has signed an agreement with the Emirati country to improve logistics and port management at its commercial maritime gateways in the Suez Canal area.

The cooperation in logistics and port management between Egypt and the United Arab Emirates is part of the Egyptian government's objective to modernise its port facilities and improve the competitiveness of its ports.

In this way, Cairo hopes to increase the efficiency of port services, which will contribute to an increase in the country's economy.

With the help of Abu Dhabi Ports, Cairo hopes to improve its access to global maritime trade markets through the modernisation of its existing port facilities. This includes improving security services, quality control and increasing operational efficiency.

The work will also involve the extension of the ports' existing wharves and inland transport services, and the agreement will allow Cairo to develop new business areas such as maritime tourism, logistics and marine energy.

The Emirati group's investment in Egypt represents a great opportunity for the country of the Nile. The move helps the North African country harness the potential of the 10 ports and terminals to increase foreign investment,



Container ships sail through the Suez Canal

upgrade existing infrastructure and increase trade and capital inflows.

This will be a step forward in the modernisation of the Egyptian economy and for the Emirates as well, as they will be able to offer professional advice and services, which will help ensure that investments are efficient and profitable.

Cairo is capitalising on the strategic location of the Suez Canal region to expand its maritime trade. Ports around the canal,

such as Port Said, Adabiya, Arish, Sokhna and Al-Tur, are being upgraded to improve infrastructure, with an expansion of the container terminal and an improved road and rail network.

The Egyptian government is also working to attract investors to start up the superstructure, management and operation of the ports. These improvements, together with a competitive pricing policy, will enable Cairo to become a major transit port and a gateway for international

trade.

Abu Dhabi Ports' Khalifa Port has been positioned as one of the most innovative and profitable seaports in the world, according to port performance indices from Standard and Poor's Global Market Intelligence Unit and the World Bank.

This is because the terminal offers world-class infrastructure, efficient maritime traffic management and minimal waiting time for loading and unloading containers. And therefore the

port has become one of the top five globally in the world container rankings.

Ahmed al-Shami, a member of the Suez Investors Association, said that local ports have suffered from poor management and service delivery over the years. The partnership with Abu Dhabi Ports is a step forward to improve investment in the ports.

The Safaga 2 terminal is expected to start operations in the second quarter of 2025, handling general and dry cargo of 5 million tonnes and liquid cargo of 1 million tonnes. Abu Dhabi Ports is investing \$200m to upgrade its infrastructure so

the money will be used for the construction of superstructures, outfitting equipment, buildings and other real estate facilities, as well as for the utilities network within the concession area.

The Emirati group recently signed two 15-year agreements with the General Authority for the Development of the Suez Canal Economic Zone to establish two bulk cement handling terminals at the ports of Arish and West Port Said.

These investments total \$33 million and are expected to be operational in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Egypt Holding Company for Maritime and Land Transport accepted Abu Dhabi Ports' offer, and an agreement is expected to be signed to acquire an influential stake in the Port Said and Damietta container and cargo handling companies.

Fouad Thabet, a member of the Port Said Investors Association, explained that Egypt's economic crisis was one of the main reasons for attracting Arab investment led by Abu Dhabi Ports.

The concession agreement at Safaga port is a long-term project, however, Abu Dhabi Ports believes it is a good time to achieve a good return on investment. The agreement includes the development, management and operation of new cruise terminals at Sharm El-Sheikh and Hurghada, Ro-Ro vessels and multi-purpose terminals at Sokhna Port.

Ports and the services they offer are critical to international trade and it is therefore important for authorities to ensure that ports meet international standards and are able to offer the right services to meet the demand from neighbouring countries.

BRUSSELS

Criminal networks are misappropriating container reference codes to smuggle hundreds of tonnes of drugs and illegal goods into the EU, and Antwerp, Rotterdam and Hamburg are the ports most targeted for criminal infiltration.

That's according to a newly released Europol report that looks into the risk and challenges for law enforcement posed by criminal networks in EU ports.

The report was prepared in conjunction with the Security Steering Committee of the ports of Antwerp, Hamburg/Bremerhaven and Rotterdam.

The analysis states that the use of misappropriated container reference codes (or so-called PIN code fraud) is gaining traction among criminal networks as a modus operandi for extracting illicit goods from ports. Criminal networks arrange the infiltration of ports by coordinating local networks of corrupted port insiders.

The drug traffickers promote corrupt actions and practices sometimes by bribery, sometimes by intimidation. As a side effect of the criminal operations in ports and the rivalry it entails, violence often spills out of major transportation hubs onto the streets of surrounding cities, where competition for distribution takes place.

Europe's three biggest ports, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Hamburg, are among the most-targeted by criminal infiltration. The main way criminals do this is through the corruption of shipping companies' personnel, port workers, importers, transport companies, and representatives of national authorities, among other actors, whose actions are necessary to secure the entry of illegal shipments.

This approach requires corruption of a large number of accomplices, so organised criminals are seeking new modus operandi that require the corruption of far fewer individuals. The misappropriation of container reference codes only requires the corruption of one person, along with either the corruption or a Trojan horse style infiltration of extraction teams, who are then paid between 7 and 15%



Criminals targeting Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg ports

of the value of the illegal shipment.

The misappropriation of container reference codes is an example of how criminal networks continuously look for loopholes in port procedures and gaps in security. Criminals infiltrate the companies involved in the logistics process and procure the reference codes of the containers where their drugs are concealed, preferably without the knowledge of the lawful owner.

The codes are given to the driver of a transport company working for the criminal network, who retrieves the containers from the port terminal while pretending to be the legitimate client. Outside the port, the drugs are extracted from the container. Often the containers are then left along the roadside or they disappear.

The report states that one of the

most effective measures to close loopholes/gaps in the logistics process is the principle of access to data and data systems on a need-to-know basis. Logistics companies limiting access to container reference codes has already proven to be an effective solution.

Other preventive measures to be taken by ports and port related actors include logging and traceability of database access to sensitive data, warning systems to detect irregularities, and increased checks of truck driver credentials at the terminals to strengthen container release procedures.

The report recommends that further enhancement to the international information exchange on the criminal networks' activities in ports between Europol and EU Member States. Continuous attention must be paid to the

integration of security features in the design of port infrastructure, and public-partnerships should be implemented to tackle the infiltration of criminal networks in EU ports.

Europol's Executive Director Catherine De Bolle said: "Criminal networks work closely to evade security at land borders and at air and maritime ports. They have one thing in mind - profit. An effective response is closer collaboration between the public and private sector; this will make both sides stronger."

Maritime ports in the EU handle some 90 million containers each year, but authorities are only able to inspect between 2% and 10% of them. Meanwhile, it is estimated that in the last few years, at least 200 tonnes of cocaine have been trafficked through the ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam alone.

Controversy over Zambia's divided highway project

LUSAKA

The Zambian government has announced plans to rebuild the 327-kilometer (203-mile) road connecting the capital Lusaka with the northern commercial hub of Ndola (pictured above) into a divided highway.

The project is expected to cost more than \$577 million (€528 million).

The plan, long in the works, was first conceptualized by former President Edgar Lungu for \$1.2 billion. Lungu was heavily criticized for the exorbitant amount, and he was unable to realize it due to Zambia's increasingly high external debt.

Last year, current President, Hakainde Hichilema canceled a \$1.6-billion loan from Chinese banks after Zambia defaulted on its foreign debts. Funds to reconstruct the road were essentially part of the loan.

Hakainde Hichilema addresses supporters. Hakainde Hichilema addresses supporters.

Instead, Zambia has now opted for a different financing model — a public-private partnership. "We are not going to borrow a cent



President Hakainde Hichilema (pictured) has criticized the former government of President Edgar Lungu for its heavy borrowing from China

for this road," said Zambia's Finance Minister Situmbeko Musokotwane.

He later announced that the Chinese consortium Macro Ocean Investment had been awarded the contract to rebuild, manage and maintain the road.

The Macro Ocean Investment consortium includes equipment maker AVIC International Project Engineering, road-building specialist Zhejiang Communications Construction Group and China Railway Seventh Group.

Musokotwane also said that two Zambian pension funds would provide the funds to Macro Ocean Investment.

The partnership is expected to recover its investments under a 22-year concession following a three-year construction period. The road is one of the landlocked country's most important connections, carrying more than 10,000 vehicles daily and almost all of the mineral exports from the Copperbelt region in Zambia's north to a seaport in Tanzania.

"We cannot underestimate its potential as the main aorta of the economic engine of this country," said Transport Minister Frank Tayali.

Despite the long delay, many Zambians have welcomed the announcement. "I am even afraid to go that side because there are too many potholes to the Copperbelt," Andrew Njobvu, a Lusaka resident originally from Ndola town, told DW.

When the highway is complete, the auto electrician said he will be the first to go and visit his mum in Ndola on the very first day. Njobvu hopes the divided highway will reduce congestion and fatal accidents once complete.

WORLD

Robert F Kennedy Jr to challenge Biden for White House

WASHINGTON

ROBERT F Kennedy Jr has filed election paperwork to run for US president in 2024 as a Democrat.

The 69-year-old is the son of assassinated Senator Robert F Kennedy and nephew of President John F Kennedy.

The environmental lawyer's campaign treasurer, John E Sullivan, confirmed the filing on Wednesday.

Kennedy is an outspoken anti-vaccine campaigner. Instagram removed his account in 2021 for "repeatedly sharing debunked claims", the company said.

Both Democratic and Republican parties hold their own contests - called primaries - to find their presidential nominee. Kennedy will be a rank outsider for the Democratic nomination.

President Joe Biden has indicated he will run for re-election, though he has not yet

formally declared his candidacy.

He was previously expected to launch his campaign in early April, but aides say his timeline has shifted.

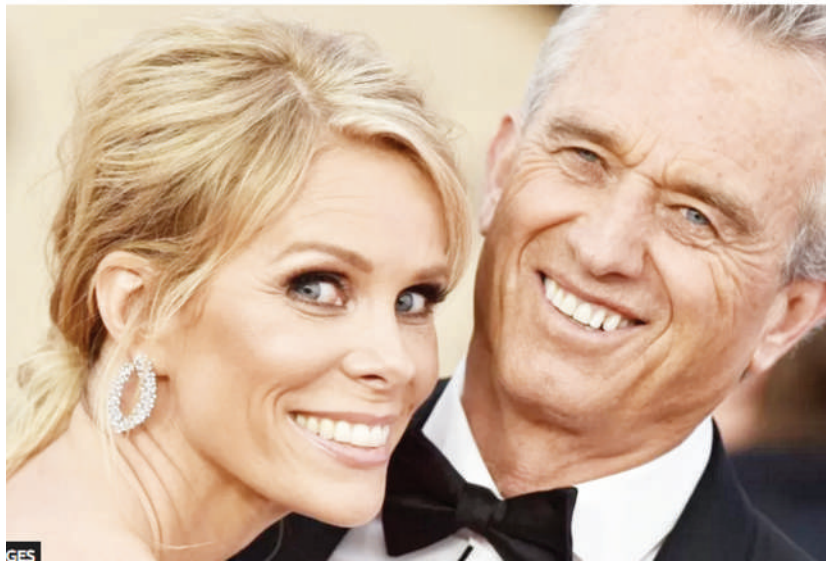
CBS News, the BBC's US partner, has reported that he is expected to formally announce a run in early summer.

Last month, another Democrat, Marianne Williamson, joined the presidential race.

On the Republican side, Donald Trump was first to declare his candidacy and he has been joined by others including former US ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley.

In March, Kennedy said on Twitter he was considering a run for president.

At the time, he said: "If I run, my top priority will be to end the corrupt merger between state and corporate power that has ruined our economy, shattered the middle class, polluted our landscapes and waters,



Robert F Kennedy Jr and his wife, Cheryl Hines

poisoned our children, and robbed us of our values and freedoms."

Kennedy told a New Hampshire crowd in March that he had "passed the biggest hurdle" - his wife greenlighting the run.

As the co-founder of an environmental law firm, Kennedy won plaudits for campaigning on issues such as clean water, including working to clean up the Hudson River in New York.

But his anti-vaccine views go back years and have provoked a strong backlash, including from his own family. In 2021 his sister, Kerry Kennedy, called him "very dangerous" on the issue.

In 2019, three other family members penned an op-ed in the news outlet Politico, denouncing Mr Kennedy's anti-vaccine views.

His sister Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, brother Joseph P Kennedy II and niece Maeve Kennedy McKean said his views were "tragically wrong" and have "deadly consequences".

In 2022, Facebook and Instagram removed accounts for an anti-vaccine group founded by Kennedy, Children's Health Defense, for "repeatedly" violating company policies on medical misinformation.

Although Kennedy's vaccine scepticism long predates Covid, he found a new audience during the pandemic, when revenues to Children's Health Defense doubled to \$6.8m (£5.5m).

Anti-vaccine views wrong - doctor

Kennedy also published a book, *The Real Anthony Fauci*, in which he accused the former US infectious disease chief of "a historic coup d'etat against Western democracy".

He also invoked Nazi Germany during an anti-vaccine speech in Washington, DC last year.

Kennedy has a voice disorder, spasmodic dysphonia, which affects the muscles in his voice box.

He married actress Cheryl Hines in

Exonerated Central Park Five man lampoons Trump ad

A man who was cleared in the 1980s rape of a woman in New York's Central Park has lampooned an ad Donald Trump placed at the time calling for the return of the death penalty in the state.

Yusef Salaam's post ridicules Trump for his arrest in Manhattan on Tuesday when he pleaded not guilty to 34 felony counts of business fraud.

Salaam was one of five boys dubbed the Central Park Five. Their convictions were quashed in 2002 after another man admitted the rape.

In 1989, the beating and sexual assault of a 28-year-old white investment banker who was left for dead in a bush in Central Park shocked New York City.

In the aftermath, Trump placed full-page adverts in major New York newspapers calling for the return of capital punishment in the state.

"Over 30 years ago, Donald Trump took out full page ads calling for my execution," Mr Salaam tweeted on Tuesday night. "On the day he was arrested and arraigned, here is my ad in response."

"Now, after several decades and an unfortunate and disastrous presidency, we all know exactly who Donald J Trump is - a man who seeks to deny justice in fairness for others while claiming only innocence for himself," he wrote.

"You were wrong then, and you are wrong now," he continued, adding that he would not "resort to hatred, bias or racism - as you once did".

Trump denies allegations by Manhattan's district attorney that he falsified business records over hush money payments to a porn star.

Will Trump face a gag order, and what happens next?

Trump wins legal fees in Stormy Daniels tweet case

Last week, when news broke that Mr Trump would face charges, Mr Salaam, now a candidate for the New York City Council, tweeted: "Karma."

Salaam, who appears in the Netflix documentary *When They See Us*, has previously said Trump "put a bounty on our heads".

The former defendants, now known as the Exonerated Five, initially confessed to the crime but later recanted saying their admissions were the result of police coercion.

They were imprisoned for between five and 13 years - but their convictions were ultimately overturned in 2002 after a serial violent offender named Matias Reyes confessed to the attack and DNA linked him to the crime.

In 2014, a \$41m (£32m) settlement was reached between the five men and New York City.



Time is ripe for NATO to retire – Russian Foreign Ministry

MOSCOW

NATO is trying to make the world a more dangerous place and in doing so it is resisting the emergence of alternative centers of power and increasingly asserting its global role and the ambition to spread its influence beyond the Euro-Atlantic area, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said, adding that "time is ripe for the alliance to retire."

In this way Zakharova commented on the meeting of the NATO foreign ministers held the day before to mark the alliance's 74th anniversary.

"We hear the alliance's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg speculate ever more often about a global role of the alliance. Everything is being done



Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova

to make the world even more dangerous, to prevent the existence of alternative centers

of power capable of undermining the hegemony of the West.

In general, one can state with certainty that security and NATO are incompatible.

In this regard, there is only one conclusion that readily offers itself - at 74 years of age it is time for the North Atlantic bloc to retire," Zakharova said in a commentary the Foreign Ministry released on Thursday.

She believes that NATO is trying to "usurp the entire system of European security through Finland's accession."

"Finland has become another victim of the North Atlantic Alliance.

The Finnish government decided to give up its longstanding neutrality in exchange for turning the country into a frontline zone, a bridgehead for deterring Russia in the Northwest.

As we can see, NATO does not intend to stop there," she added.

Agencies

Brazil court backs crackdown on illegal gold mining in Amazon

BRASILIA

A Supreme Court judge backed a government move to crack down on illegal gold mining in Brazil, suspending a legal practice of buyers accepting the origin of the precious metal with paper receipts based on the "good faith" of the seller.

The injunction by Justice Gilmar Mendes gave the government 90 days to adopt a new regulatory framework for the gold trade to stop the sale of gold mined illegally from indigenous lands and other environmentally protected areas.

"This spurious consortium formed

by illegal miners and criminal organizations must be stopped as soon as possible," Mendes said in his ruling late on Tuesday.

The decision, which goes into effect immediately but needs approval by the full court, gives support to leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who is facing pressure from right-wing politicians to drop a crackdown on wildcat gold miners.

The presumption of "good faith" in the gold supply chain since 2013 helped to obscure the true origins of Brazilian gold exports, roughly half of which are now estimated to be mined illegally.

The previous government of President Jair Bolsonaro eased environmental protections and encouraged wildcat mining in the Amazon rainforest. A surge in illegal mining on the Yanomami indigenous reservation caused disease and malnutrition that led the Lula government to declare a humanitarian crisis.

The government has moved to establish stricter rules for the gold trade, proposing to end the "good faith" practice and new legislation that would require electronic tax receipts for the buying and selling of the metal.

Justice Minister Flavio Dino told

Reuters on Wednesday that the text for the government's new regulations of the gold industry should be ready next week for Lula's final review.

Last week, Brazil's tax authority mandated electronic tax invoices for the trading in gold that is declared a financial asset or a foreign exchange instrument, helping to curb the trade in illegally mined gold when it takes effect on July 3.

In 2021, 54 percent of Brazil's gold production, or 52.8 tonnes, had clear signs of having illegal origins, according to Instituto Escolhas.

Agencies

THE Boao Forum for Asia (BFA)'s annual conference, held from March 28 to 31 in Boao, a coastal town in China's island province of Hainan, has attracted global attention.

As world recovery remains sluggish, Asia, the world's most dynamic and promising region, is seeing greater endogenous growth momentum and will inject a strong impetus into the recovery of the global economy.

The BFA Asian Economic Outlook and Integration Progress Annual Report 2023 points out that as a major engine of the world economy, Asia is expected to accelerate its pace in overall economic recovery in 2023. This report estimates that the weighted real GDP growth rate of Asia in 2023 would be 4.5 percent, an increase from 4.2 percent in 2022, making it a standout performer in view of the global eco-

Asian economies inject strong impetus into global recovery

nomical slowdown.

China will unquestionably be the largest driver of Asia's economic growth this year. After the country optimized its COVID-19 response measures, it has witnessed a rapid recovery of its economic and social vitality.

The Chinese government has launched a series of policies that accelerated the pace of economic pickup and boosted market confidence. Many international organizations have lifted their forecast on the growth of the Chinese economy, which they believe will also spur the growth of Asia as a result.

Given the uprising of unilateralism and protectionism, the global trade dependence on Asia has remained stable overall, with trade dependence

between Asian economies standing at a relatively high level.

Trade and economic relations between Asian economies have become closer with the active participation and promotion of China.

According to statistics released by the General Administration of Customs of China, the country's total trade in goods hit a record high of 42.07 trillion yuan (\$6.11 trillion) in 2022, topping the world for six consecutive years.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) remained China's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade in goods reaching 6.52 trillion yuan, up 15 percent from a year ago. South Korea, Japan, India and other

Asian economies were important trading partners of China as well.

China is accelerating the establishment of a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. This provides new impetus and opportunities for strengthening China's economic and trade cooperation with other Asian economies.

The country's high-quality implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership also creates more dividends of institutional opening up for regional economic integration.

Last year, the 17th Group of 20 Summit and the 29th Asia-Pacific

Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting were held in Indonesia and Thailand, respectively. This mirrored a more active leading role played by Asia in global economic governance. In terms of trade and investment governance, Asian countries proactively safeguard multilateralism, advocate trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, support the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core, and work for positive progress in the reform of the system.

In monetary and financial governance, Asian countries actively promote the construction of regional and global financial security networks, push for the settlement in local cur-

rency and currency swap within the region, and support the reform of international financial institutes.

With regard to improving global development governance, Asian countries have actively responded to the Global Development Initiative, promoted the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative through joint efforts, and implemented the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to steer global development toward a new stage of balanced, coordinated and inclusive growth.

It is the solidarity and cooperation between Asian countries and their peoples that leads Asia to prosperity. The "Asian Miracle" calls for the endogenous impetus of Asia's development. As the largest Asian economy,

People's Daily

African judicial officers reaffirm commitment to delivering climate justice

NAIROBI

Senior judicial officers from Africa on Wednesday resolved to utilize legislative tools as a means to strengthen action on the climate crisis devastating the continent.

The judicial officers said in a communique issued at the end of a three-day symposium held in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi that they will be on the frontline of promoting Africa's green transition, by leveraging progressive policies, laws, and public education.

Kenya hosted the Third Regional Symposium on Greening Judiciaries in Africa under the theme "Strengthening the Role of Judiciaries in Addressing Climate Change in Africa."

Among the delegates who participated in the symposium were chief justices and their deputies, judges, magistrates, heads of judiciary training institutions, researchers, and green campaigners from the sub-Saharan African region.

Kenyan Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, in his remarks during the closing ceremony of the forum, underscored the critical role of African judiciaries in strengthening climate response.

"A robust judicial system is key to countering the threats posed by climate change in our continent. We, therefore, count on the judiciary to issue precedence-setting judgments that protect communities on the frontline of the climate crisis," Gachagua said.

He added that African judiciaries should utilize local and global legislative instruments which seek to compensate victims of climate disasters while obliging industries to limit the emission of planet-heating gases like carbon dioxide and methane.

During the symposium, the judicial officers shared knowledge and best practices that would revitalize action on the climate crisis that is taking a heavier toll on the continent's vulnerable communities.

Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya Martha Koome said judicial officers, in their resolution, pledged to play a proactive role in supporting national and transboundary efforts aimed at promoting climate resilience.

Koome added that as custodians of the rule of law, Africa's judges and magistrates have an obligation to enforce legislation that protects women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, herders, and subsistence farmers from the ravages of climate change.

In their joint communique issued at the end of the symposium, the judicial officers pledged fidelity to the constitution, supreme laws, statutes, and international conventions in their bid to deliver justice to communities battered by climate disasters, including droughts, floods, cyclones, and wildfires.

UN Women chief blasts Taliban ban on female Afghan UN staff

UNITED NATIONS

SIMA Bahous, UN undersecretary-general and executive director of UN Women, on Wednesday condemned the Taliban's decision to ban Afghan women from working with the United Nations in Afghanistan.

"We stand in full solidarity with our colleagues, and all women who every day put their lives at risk to serve their country and we salute their dedication, professionalism, and bravery.

We re-assert their inalienable, fundamental human rights as enshrined in the UN Charter," said Bahous in a statement. "We will not replace our female workforce with men," she said, adding that UN Women is determined to continue in every way possible to deliver vital services and support, so no woman or girl will be left out or left behind.

Afghanistan is in a humanitarian crisis with 28.3 million people, two-thirds of the population, needing humanitarian assistance to survive. Almost a quarter of households in Afghanistan are female-headed, she noted.

The removal of skilled women aid workers decreases access by women and girls to critical life-saving services, and increases their risks when they have to seek assistance from men instead, said Bahous.

The de facto authorities' denial of women's and girls' rights to education and to engagement in society and the economy of Afghanistan is a self-inflicted wound on the country.

This damage to future recovery and resilience deepens with every woman and girl whose horizons have been forcibly shrunk to her home's four walls, she said.

UN Women joins UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in calling on the Taliban to immediately revoke this latest decision and reverse all measures that restrict women's and girls' rights to work, education and freedom of movement, she said. UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said Wednesday that the world body is instructing all its Afghan national staff -- men and women -- not to report to the office for now.

In addition, UN national female staff in Afghanistan will not see their posts to be backfilled by men. Ramiz Alakbarov, the UN secretary-general's deputy special representative for Afghanistan, said the Afghan UN national staff -- Afghan men and women -- are in solidarity.

Russia open to global partnership; has no intention to isolate itself – Putin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is open to constructive cooperation with all countries and has no desire to isolate itself, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday.

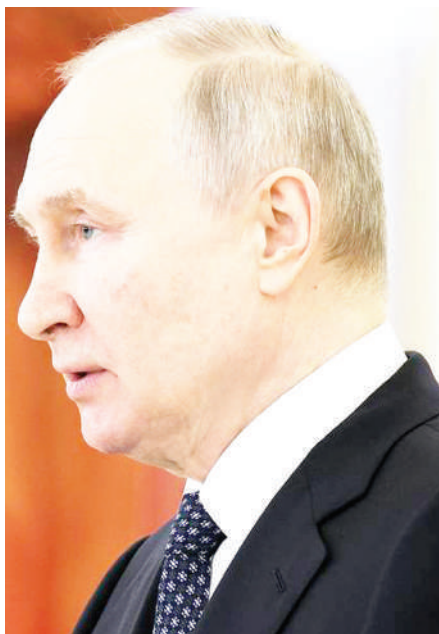
"I would like to stress Russia is open to constructive partnership with all countries; we do not intend to isolate ourselves from anyone, we have no preconceived or what's more hostile intentions towards anyone," Putin said.

"We hope that our partners will adhere to the principles of equality and mutual benefit in their relations with us," the president stated.

According to him, such approaches are laid out in the Russian Foreign Policy Concept that was adopted on March 31.

Putin said that this document envisions Russia's national interests in the context of a complex, dynamically changing world, and provides for the basic aims and objectives as well as key areas regarding Russian diplomacy.

"The most important thing is that Russia, as a sovereign and self-sufficient state, will be actively pursuing a balanced, multi-course foreign policy prioritizing our domestic development and with particular awareness to the responsibility to maintain stability and security at the global and regional levels," the Russian president added.



Agencies

USA like 'rogue state' in unlawfully freezing Teheran assets

HONG KONG

THE International Court of Justice's ruling that Washington unlawfully froze Iranian assets and owes compensation to Teheran not only exposes the United States as a rogue state but brings to light its foreign policy failure, analysts said.

They were reacting to an ICJ ruling on March 30 that Washington had violated international law by illegally enabling its courts to freeze the assets of the Central Bank of Iran, or CBI, and that it owed damages to Iranian companies.

However, the court also said it did not have jurisdiction over an estimated \$1.8 billion in frozen assets that the CBI - also known as Bank Markazi - held in a Citibank account in New York.

The analysts said the verdict helps shed light on other countries, like Afghanistan, Russia, Venezuela, and Cuba, whose assets were also being held in similar circumstances.

This legal battle was pursued by Iran on June 14, 2016 after it accused the US of violating the Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations, and Consular Rights signed between Teheran and Washington on Aug 15, 1955. Though the US withdrew from the treaty in 2018, the ICJ ruled that it was still valid.

Both Iran and the US welcomed the outcome and both claimed victory.

Dina Yulianti Sulaeman, director of the Indonesia Center for Middle East Studies, said this situation "shows the absurdity of the existing international structure" and that improvements must be made.

She noted that the ICJ stated that the confiscation of Iranian money violates international law but the ICJ also said it has no jurisdiction over most of the funds because they came from Iran's central bank, which is not a commercial bank and therefore not part of the treaty.

"Isn't the Central Bank of Iran part of the Iranian nation?" Sulaeman asked. "The critical question is, why can the US seize other nations' money at her will?"



Judge and Vice-President of The International Court of Justice Kirill Gevorgian (second, right) starts reading the verdict of the Court, which issued its judgment in a dispute between Iran and the United States over frozen Iranian state bank accounts in The Hague, Netherlands, March 30, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

Sulaeman said not only Iran but also Afghanistan, Russia, Venezuela, Cuba and others have been victims of an "unfair international structure", which needs to be reformed so that no state can "arbitrarily" take the money of another.

"The US claims victory because in reality most of Iran's money is still in their hands. Iran claimed victory from a legal aspect, for them proving that the US is violating international law is a victory," she added.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry claimed the ICJ ruling was "proof of the Islamic Republic of Iran's righteousness" and "the violations by the US government", in a series of tweets on March 31.

"The fact that court's ruling requires the US to make reparations for the losses is the key reason for the legitimacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran's demand. In this important verdict, the ICJ correctly rejected all the fake defenses of the US," one of its tweets stated.

In 2016, the US' Supreme Court ruled that Iranian assets worth almost \$2 billion frozen in the US must be paid to American families of the victims of attacks blamed on Iran, including the bombing of a US Marine Corps barracks in Beirut in 1983. Teheran has repeatedly rejected all such allegations of involvement.

Seyed Mostafa Khoshcheshm, a former professor at the Ira-

nian Foreign Ministry's Faculty of International Relations, said that the ICJ has not issued any verdict against Iran but two verdicts against the US, which means that "Iran has won the case".

US President Joe Biden's administration "feels very much empty handed" with regard to its foreign policy, Khoshcheshm said. It is "completely understandable why they do not want to acknowledge and admit another failure in foreign policy", he added. Now we need to wait and see if the US would comply with the rule of law, which is very much unlikely," Khoshcheshm said, citing the "American exceptionalism" of former president Barack Obama and "America first" attitude of former president Donald Trump.

Khoshcheshm said it is not expected for the US to play by the rules or abide by the law. "The US has proved to be a rogue state," he added.

Boao Forum for Asia to carry forward multilateralism, promote cooperation

THE Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2023 held its first press conference on March 28, on which the "Asian Economic Outlook and Integration Progress Annual Report 2023" and the "Sustainable Development: Asia and the World Annual Report 2023" were officially released.

Noting that uncertainty remains a prominent character of today's world, BFA Secretary General Li Baodong said that the annual conference hopes to carry forward true multilateralism, practice open regionalism, explore certainty in an uncertain world and promote solidarity and cooperation among countries to better meet challenges through discussions.

The recovery of the world economy remains weak at present, which makes for a volatile external environment for Asia's economic growth. However, as an important engine driving global economic growth, Asia is speeding up its recovery this year and becoming a reliable driver of world growth and an important pillar for multilateralism.

According to the Sustainable Development: Asia and the World Annual Report 2023, the weighted real GDP growth rate of Asia in 2023 is estimated to be 4.5 percent, an increase from 4.2 percent in 2022.

The International Monetary Fund predicted that China and India alone would contribute about half of the world's growth this year. For every percentage point of higher growth in China, activity in other economies rises on average by 0.3 percentage point.

Anil Kishora, Vice-President and Chief Risk Officer of the New Development Bank, believes that the Asia-Pacific region, which accounts for 1/3 of the world's population, over 60 percent of the global economy and close to half of global trade, is the most dynamic growth belt in the world.

As the manufacturing center of the world, the region will play a more important role in driving global growth and safeguarding stable industrial and supply



Photo taken on March 14, 2023 shows a busy scene at a container terminal of the Haikou Port, south China's Hainan province. (Photo by Yang He/People's Daily Online)

chains, he said.

Lee Hyuk-joon, President of Hyundai Motor Group (China) told People's Daily that China, as the second largest economy in the world, is a stabilizer and booster for the world economy, adding that China is the world's largest consumption market, and the upgrading of this market will exert positive impacts on global trade and economic growth. As a major manufacturing center, China will also create more opportunities for the manufacturing industry of other countries, he noted.

The Asian Economic Outlook and Integration Progress Annual Report 2023 said Asia has played a more proactive and leading role in global macroeconomic policy coordination, and the world has entered the "Asian Moment" for global economic governance.

Zhang Yuyan, director of the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the world today is facing uncertainties, but peace and development still remain the general trend. He believes China and Asia will make the world a more certain place.

Asia's regional economic integration continues advancing despite the rise of geopolitical conflicts and anti-globalization. Asia is still a staunch supporter of multilateralism and an active promoter of global economic governance.

Lin Guijun, former vice president of China's University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), told People's Daily that most major economies in Asia had seen increasing dependence on Asian produc-

tion between 2001 and 2021, which indicated a higher level of regional economic integration.

He said digital economy is one of the two engines driving Asia's regional economic integration. According to him, the share of Asia's digital service trade in the world has steadily expanded, reaching 25.6 percent in 2021. The other engine, according to Lin, is the demand of Asian countries to jointly cope with climate change and tackle environmental issues.

Institutional opening up mechanisms have been constantly releasing dividends since the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) took effect a year ago.

Sang Baichuan, dean of UIBE's Institute of International Economy, said the RCEP has effectively lowered the cost of trade and investment among member countries, and there has been a higher level of economic integration.

As the world's largest regional free trade agreement, the RCEP will continue releasing its dividends, promoting the integration of industrial and supply chains among member countries and becoming an important engine driving economic growth in Asia and the world.

Development is of important significance for poverty elimination, promoting economic and social progress and advancing regional economic integration in Asia.

However, the sustainable development of the world is threatened. The official assistance provided by the developed world is less than half of what it has promised, and the scale of aid from a few countries is even shrink-

ing. Challenges are ahead against realizing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This year marks the third year for the BFA to release the Sustainable Development: Asia and the World Annual Report. The report calls on Asian countries to take immediate actions to cope with the crisis threatening sustainable development.

All parties relevant need to make huge efforts to restore peace and narrow divides, governments and the society should take joint actions to mobilize resources and build a global partnership for development, Li said.

China proposed the Global Development Initiative in September 2021, and in less than a year, the High-level Dialogue on Global Development was held. Asian countries are working with other countries in the world to make development a priority on the international cooperation agenda, forge a united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development partnership, and bring the world back to the track of achieving the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

People's Daily

Netball coaches and umpires course ends in Dar

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NETBALL coaches and umpires in Tanzania have been urged to embrace the sport's modern standards if they are to excel in their careers.

Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta)'s secretary-general Rose Mkisi made the call in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday at the closing of the 10-day coaches and umpires course organized by the association.

The course which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Indoor Stadium attracted 66 participants from both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, with Christopher Eliakim and Grace Siuhi serving as instructors.

Rose urged the participants to translate what they have learned into action, saying through them netball in the country can wear a new face.

"You move with the changing world by adapting to modern coaching and umpiring standards, use technology so that you can do well in your careers," Rose stated.

"Coaching and umpiring are all about practicing and we hope that you will impart the knowledge that you have acquired to the players, fellow coaches, and umpires as this course is different from the previous ones because the modules have been upgraded," she said.

The course was part of Chaneta's efforts to uplift Tanzania's netball standards.

She said the grades in the course will help a lot as they will give Chaneta a benchmark when asking the national association for netball coaches and umpires for people to take charge of national teams.

According to Rose, there should further be well-trained coaches set to oversee high-

profile tournaments, noting that the cream of coaches and umpires stand a chance to earn International Netball Federation grading.

Recently, Chaneta had through its president Devotha Marwa said to promote the sport in the country, the association will host the coaches and umpires course.

She lamented that her association has been organizing umpiring courses but the results have not been good as many participants perform well in practicals but fail in theory.

The Chaneta boss said so after local umpires missed out on the list of 23 officials appointed by the World Netball to officiate this year's Netball World Cup in Cape Town, South Africa from July 28 to August 8.

She said Tanzania has no umpire with either a license or qualification recognized by the World Netball governing body and, due to this, none of the

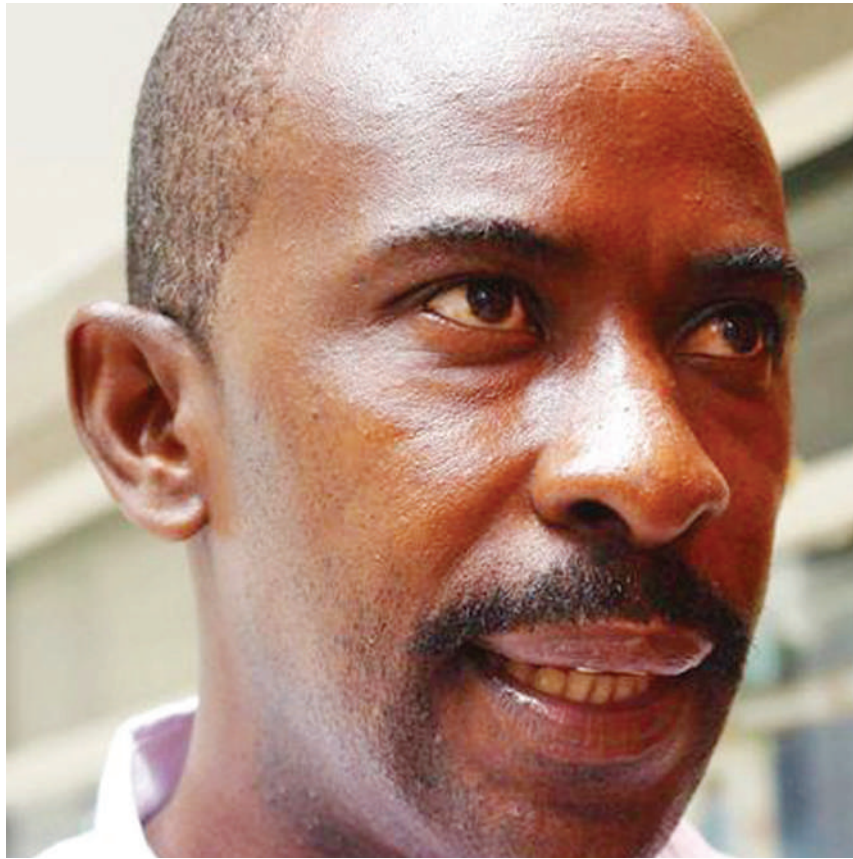
country's umpires have been considered for either the World Cup or any other prestigious tournament, except for East Africa Netball Championships.

Last year, Chaneta organized the netball coaches and umpires course at Filbert Bayi School in Kibaha, Coastal Region.

The 10-day course attracted 53 participants (25 in coaching and 28 in umpiring) from more than 15 regions of the country with Malawians Mary Waya and Rebecca Dulanya operating as instructors.

Mary is a former head coach for Tanzania's national netball team, Taifa Queens, and Filbert Bayi Secondary School's netball team.

The course, which was sanctioned by the INF, witnessed those who perform well being presented with Gold (Africa Level A), Silver, and Bronze certificates.



Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) secretary-general Makore Mashaga.

BFT unveils 22 boxers for Africa Zone Three Championships

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) has unveiled the names of 22 boxers who will represent the country in the oncoming Africa Zone Three Championships that will be held in Dar es Salaam from April 18-22.

The championships will involve boxers from 14 member countries of Zone Three and will take place at the National Indoor Stadium.

According to BFT secretary-general Makore Mashaga, the announced boxers are 16 male and six female pugilists, adding that they were chosen among 56 who were made public earlier to prepare for the championships.

Mashaga said the 22 boxers performed well during their preparations which involved pugilists from Ngome, Prisons, and JKT Mgulani boxing teams.

He added that the boxers will now camp at the JKT Mgulani which, according to Mashaga, has good infrastructure to enable them to train efficiently for their last preparations.

Apart from the hosts Tanzania, the championships will involve boxers from Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Somalia, DR Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Central Afri-

ca, Gabon, Cameroon, and Equatorial Guinea.

The announced boxers and their weight in brackets are male boxers Karim Juma (Minimumweight), Yohana Kenneth (Flyweight), Abdallah Salum (Bantamweight), Hassan Waziri (Featherweight), Rashid Mrema (Lightweight), Alex Isendi and Mohamed Swalehe (Light Welterweight), Athanas Ndiganya (Welterweight), Joseph Phillip and David Chanzi (Light Middleweight), and Joshua Shadrack (Middleweight).

Yusuf Changarawe and Nizza Abdulrahman (Light Heavyweight), Alphonse Abel (Middleweight), Geoffrey Peter (Cruiserweight), and Alex Sitta (Super Heavyweight) are the other pugilists.

Female boxers selected for the national squad are Rahma Maganga (Minimumweight), Mariam Richard (Light Flyweight), Shakira Abdallah (Flyweight), Aisha Iddi and Leila Yazidu (Bantamweight), and Beatrice Ambrose (Lightweight).

The boxers will be under coaches Samwel Kapungu (IBA 1 Star), Hassan Mzonge, Mussa Mohamed, Rogata Damian (IBA 1 Star), Undule Lang'son, and Haji Abdallah.

The Technical Committee will involve Michael Changarawe from Mwanza and Robert Sululu from Dar es Salaam.

Don Bosco to host Rapid Chess Tournament next week

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona



Junior chess players battle it out in a recent tournament that took place at Don Bosco Chess Club in Dar es Salaam.

MORE than 50 chess players are expected to battle it out in the Don Bosco seventh Anniversary Rapid Chess Tournament to be held at Upanga, Dar es Salaam next week.

One of the tournament organizers, Kara Louis, said preparations for the showdown are going on very well. He said the tournament will comprise six rounds with 25+10 time control and there will be merged U-8 & 10 and merged U-12 & 15 categories.

The official pointed out that there will also be a category of upcoming players, as well as 15 & rated which is open to adults.

"We will, next week, have a Don Bosco 7th Anniversary Rapid Chess tournament, 50 chess players are expected to take part in it, and the tournament is expected to be more interesting and competitive," he said.

Louis said there will be awards to be handed over to top winners, the top three winners in the boys' and girls' categories will get gold, silver, and bronze medals respectively.

According to the official, trophies will be presented to the overall winner of the merged category while cash prizes will go to performers who will finish in the top three in 15+ & rated open adults.

Louis noted that the top-placed competitor will rake in 100,000/-, the runner-up gets 75,000/-, and the third-placed contender will be presented with 50,000/-.

He disclosed that they are still looking for a sponsor so that they can successfully host the tournament.

Louis said in the past seven years of Upanga Don Bosco Chess Club's existence, the outfit has managed to produce some of the top chess players who have represented the country in international events.

He mentioned some as Cleophas Charles who won the African Schools Chess Championships in 2019 and the current holder of the African Schools Championship's girls category, Mahi Shah.

Charles had also represented the country in the previous Olympiad in Chennai, India.

Sikinde Original Band composes four tracks

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

NEWLY formed Dar es Salaam music troupe, Sikinde Original, has composed four songs titled 'Mchepuko', 'Hila za Ndugu', 'Tonge la Mwisho', and 'Moyo'.

The troupe is made up of a section of artists that formed the famed Mlimani Park Orchestra Band.

Abdallah Hemba, the band's leader, said in an interview recently there is already a video for the 'Mchepuko' track, adding they are planning to as well produce videos for the remaining tracks.

"We also continue to organize ourselves so that our band can operate efficiently via having musical instruments instead of hiring the equipment as is the case now," Hemba noted.

Hemba, a famous vocalist, explained that they are seeking to, in cooperation with fellow artist Fresh Jumbe, import musical instruments from Japan.

Jumbe, a popular Tanzanian dance musician now living in Japan, had also worked for Mlimani Park Orchestra Band in the past.

The vocalist noted that Jumbe made his way back to Japan in the past few days and will facilitate the acquisition of the musical instruments.

"Jumbe is based in Japan but he is also one of our band's members, he left for Japan to facilitate the acquisition of the musical instruments," he noted.

He said while waiting for the instruments, they continue to organize themselves by composing songs, recording and shooting videos for the songs to help introduce the band which was launched last year.

"There are some people who have been predicting the demise of our band simply because it uses hired musical instruments, but I tell you that we are strong given we did not start this band by chance," Hemba said.

The leader mentioned some of the musicians making Sikinde Original Band as Beno Villa, Mjusi Shemboza, Adolph Mbinga, and Mbaraka Othman, adding Jumbe is also a band member but he is based in Japan.

In another development, Town Classic Band, also based in Dar es Salaam, has secured two

new musicians that are currently being assessed.

The troupe's manager, Andrew Sekidia, mentioned one of the musicians as a rapper, Pic Mesha, adding another artist as a singer whose name will be mentioned later.

"Town Classic Band is a great troupe though it has one year of existence, we want to have a sizable number of musicians in every department so that there is no deficiency when one has an emergency," Sekidia noted.

The manager further said the band has now reduced its weekend shows, noting the troupe will, during the holy month of Ramadhan, perform twice every weekend while continuing with the rehearsals.

"We are currently performing every Friday at TTG Kimara Korogwe hall and every Saturday at Mwasiliano Park Ubungu until the fasting ends," he said.

He explained that before the fasting Town Classic Band was holding a bonanza every Sunday at the Masasani Beach hall but the troupe has suspended the bonanza for the remainder of the month.



Some of the artists making the newly formed Sikinde Original Band are pictured during the troupe's recent rehearsal in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Re-elected UEFA president Ceferin goes on offensive against Super League rebels

LISBON

ALEKSANDER Ceferin railed against the rebel clubs backing a breakaway European Super League, likening the project to "Little Red Riding Hood", as he was re-elected unopposed for a third term as UEFA president on Wednesday.

The 55-year-old Slovenian lawyer, first elected in 2016 following the downfall of Frenchman Michel Platini, will now remain in the role until 2027.

"I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your unanimous support. It really means a lot to me," Ceferin told delegates after being re-elected by acclamation at the UEFA Congress in Lisbon.

"It is a great honour but mainly it is a great, great responsibility, towards you and towards football."

The UEFA Congress came just a few weeks after Gianni Infantino was re-elected as president of the sport's world governing body FIFA, also unopposed.

Ceferin recently successfully opposed proposals by Infantino to hold the World Cup every two years, and his re-election comes after he also fought off the breakaway Super League project during his second term.

He will now oversee the introduction of a new format for the Champions League starting next year.

However, the Super League is not dead yet, with Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus continuing to pursue the project.

A lawsuit has been launched against UEFA and FIFA at the European Court of Justice, accusing the governing bodies of abusing their power by threatening to expel clubs and players interested in joining a breakaway league.

A final ruling is expected in the coming weeks, although the court's advocate general, whose opinions are often followed by judges, provided a first ruling favourable to UEFA in December.

"Those who promote this project are now claiming that they want to save football," Ceferin said before evoking one of the most famous European fairy tales.

"In the space of a few months the so-called Super League has turned into a character in Little Red Riding Hood, a wolf disguised as a grandmother ready to eat you up.

- 'Opposing world views' -

"Is anybody fooled? Here we have two opposing world views, cynicism over morality, selfishness over solidarity, greed over benevolence, shameful lies over the truth, cartel over meritocracy and democracy, the quest for profit over the quest for trophies.

"Domestic leagues must remain the foundation of football," added Ceferin, who also thanked the powerful European Club Association, presided over by Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser al-Khelaifi, for backing UEFA against the Super League.

AFP

Rashford fires Man Utd into top four, Newcastle hit West Ham for five

LONDON

MARCUS Rashford sent Manchester United back into the Premier League top four with the winner as the Red Devils beat Brentford 1-0 on Wednesday, while Newcastle won 5-1 at West Ham to stay third.

Callum Wilson and Joelinton each scored twice for the Magpies, who remain above United on goal difference.

Both sides now have a three-point lead over Tottenham and a game in hand on Spurs in the race for a place in next season's Champions League.

United had slipped to fifth after a run of three league games without a win and cup commitments that meant they had not registered a Premier League win since mid-February.

Erik ten Hag's men also had a score to settle with the Bees after a humiliating 4-0 defeat when the sides last met in August.

The Dutch coach was stinging in his criticism of his players' attitude and desire in losing 2-0 to Newcastle on Sunday and got the response he was looking for.

"Hopefully we can build on that and get back to where we were a couple of weeks ago," said Rashford. "Everyone's clear on the fact that we're not going to play our best football every week, but we have to maintain our standards."

Rashford started through the middle as Ten Hag's patience with Wout Weghorst finally ran out and that decision bore fruit when the England international was perfectly placed to side-foot home Marcel Sabitzer's knockdown for his 28th goal of the season.

Brentford had lost just one of their previous 16 Premier League games to rise to ninth in the table.

Thomas Frank's men had offered barely anything of an attacking threat for the first hour but were nearly gifted an equaliser when Ivan Toney charged down David de Gea's clearance and the ball flew inches wide.

AFP

Benzema now hits treble as 'complete' Madrid smash Barca to reach Copa final

MADRID

KARIM Benzema struck a hat-trick as Real Madrid hammered Barcelona 4-0 at Camp Nou to reach the Copa del Rey final on Wednesday, progressing 4-1 on aggregate.

Vinicius Junior opened the scoring just before the break as Carlo Ancelotti's side mounted a spectacular comeback from their one-goal semi-final first leg deficit, with Benzema adding a second-half treble.

After netting three at the weekend against Real Valladolid in La Liga, Benzema repeated the trick to humiliate Barcelona on a painful night for coach Xavi Hernandez in front of almost 95,000 distraught fans.

Los Blancos trail their arch-rivals by 12 points in La Liga and were beaten by Barca in the Spanish Super Cup final in January, but triumphed here to reach the Copa final for the first time since 2014, where they will face Osasuna.

"It was a complete game -- when you play a complete game, you win 4-0 like that," said Ancelotti.

"This is the most important moment of the season and when we're at the right temperature (like this), we're good."

"We created more



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema in action during Wednesday's Copa del Rey semi-final second leg away to Barcelona. AFP

Madrid turfed out the record 31-time cup winners with a muscular performance on a spiky night in Barcelona, where they also ended a demoralising run of three consecutive Clasicos defeats.

Barcelona's Sergi Roberto said letting in Vinicius' goal on the stroke of half-time was a huge blow.

"Their goal at the end of the first half killed us, we didn't deserve to let in that goal. I think we were better in the first half," the midfielder told RTVE.

"We created more

chances that we didn't put away, and that goal hurt our morale. In the second half they scored the second and we couldn't play our game."

The Catalan said defeat would not damage Barcelona's title bid in the final weeks of the season.

"Now we have a considerable points distance, it will not affect us, we have to continue and go for the league," he added.

- Lethal Madrid -

Xavi was without injured quartet Ousmane Dembele, Pedri, Frenkie de Jong and Andreas

Christensen, and eventually it told.

The game started at a furious pace and intensity, both teams keen to reach the final, but absolutely desperate not to be knocked out by the other.

Barca coach Xavi was booked for protesting a foul as tempers boiled over, while Gavi and Vinicius were also issued yellow cards as they scrapped.

Thousands of Barcelona fans chanted Lionel Messi's name in the 10th minute, amid speculation he could leave Paris Saint-

Germain, and they would have dearly loved some of the Argentine's magic.

Los Blancos took the lead in stoppage time at the end of the first half, when they showed their prowess on the counter-attack.

Thibaut Courtois made a fine save to deny Robert Lewandowski and exactly 20 seconds later, Vinicius struck at the other end.

Rodrygo cut the ball back to the forward, who squeezed a shot home despite Jules Kounde's best attempt at a goal-line clearance. Benzema

was on hand to make sure, but Vinicius's effort had already crossed the line.

The French forward soon was able to pounce though, finishing lethally from the edge of the box in an ocean of space after Luka Modric easily skipped away from Sergi Roberto.

Barcelona collapsed after that -- Benzema slotted home his second from the penalty spot before the hour mark, sending Marc-Andre ter Stegen the wrong way after Franck Kessie clumsily fouled Vinicius.

Ter Stegen denied Marco Asensio and then Benzema completed his hat-trick with a cool finish after a fine dribble and pass by Vinicius.

"Congratulations to Real Madrid, they had a great second half and compete very well," said Xavi.

"If you let Madrid off the hook, they don't forgive you. It's not by chance they have won the Champions League -- they have a great team."

Madrid have lifted the Copa del Rey on 19 occasions, while their opponents Osasuna have never won it, securing passage to their second final after beating Athletic Bilbao on Tuesday.

AFP

Lampard's back - and there's method in Todd Boehly's madness

JEREMY WILSON

AFTER 10 months, two managers and £600 million, Todd Boehly appears finally to have put his foot on the ball.

Asking Frank Lampard to take charge until the end of the season may seem like an act of desperation but, after yielding the 'scattergun' in the transfer market alongside the axe that has fallen on two managers, this feels like an unexpected moment of logic.

Chelsea clearly now wish to conduct an in-depth recruitment process of the very best coaches in Europe and, with their options only likely to widen over the next two months, why dive in and risk another costly error?

There also remains plenty still to play for this season and so the distant chance that a fresh face can galvanise a sudden impact should not be simply given up on. Climbing back into a Europa League position is feasible and, as utterly fanciful as it might sound, Chelsea are also only four games away from another Champions League final.

Their two previous triumphs - in 2012 and 2021 - each followed mid-season managerial change and while it is difficult to make a cogent case for Lampard as the long-term solution, the feelgood presence of a club legend might at least inspire an instant upsurge in mood.

It might sometimes be



Frank Lampard

a cliché to talk up the relevance of a manager 'knowing the club' but, amid all the turmoil of the past year, a certain reassurance really will be taken from fans, staff and players at the steady sight around the place of the club's all-time record goalscorer.

This unlikely renewal of vows probably makes even more sense for Lampard himself.

Yes, his pride will no doubt recall the hurt at being sacked by Roman Abramovich back in 2021 and then seeing Thomas Tuchel so instantly improve the same group of players.

His ego may also balk at the suggestion of a contract until only the end of the season at the same time as his employers are talking to other managers.

But Lampard must also be realistic about where he is now in his still fledgling managerial career and the low-risk 'free hit' that is being offered.

Lampard will surely back himself to improve upon the dreadful recent sequence of results under Graham Potter but, even should he fail, most fingers will rightly still point at all the mistakes and misjudgements that have preceded this moment.

And yet succeed in stimulating even a brief upturn in form - something that

this Chelsea squad is surely well capable of achieving - and Lampard will go a long way to re-establishing himself as a credible appointment by other Premier League clubs.

That status is surely highly questionable just now and there is currently no certainty at all about the level at which he might be offered a route back into football management

following decidedly mixed results at Derby County, Chelsea and Everton.

No shop window in world football attracts more eyes than the Premier League and it is a brave manager that rejects any opportunity to return from the shadows after falling off that stage.

Yet while this most left-field appointment can mutually work in the short-term, it is almost impossible to imagine it providing the right long-term solution for either Chelsea or Lampard.

One is instantly reminded of other supposed interims like Roberto Di Matteo at Chelsea in 2012 or Ole Gunnar Solskjaer at Manchester United in 2018. They both rode the waves of early impetus but were never destined to convincingly lead the club forward with sufficient long-term gravitas. But that should be the least of either side's concerns just now.

For Lampard, an unexpected springboard has been placed back in his path after being sacked only 10 weeks ago by Everton.

For Chelsea, there is now a time to take stock and reflect. To speak in depth to men like Julian Nagelsmann, Luis Enrique and Mauricio Pochettino. To think carefully about the type of club that they want to become and the sort of manager that will best fit with this vision.

Boehly should also use this period to look both at himself and the characteristics of the most successful owners and chairmen in football. He must learn from the past 10 months. For he is in a business and sport like no other. And it should be evident that a repeat of the methods and interventions that have been employed so far are likely only to lead to further cycles of upheaval and underachievement.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

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Simba SC continues pursuit of Federation Cup glory



Ihefu SC's center-back, Lenny Kisu (L), challenges Simba SC goal-getter, Habib Kyombo, during this season's NBC Premier League match which took place in Dar es Salaam in November last year. The clash ended with Simba SC garnering a 1-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

the best-attacking record in this season's league with 58 goals scored across 24 games

Outside of the ASFC, Simba SC has an excellent record against Ihefu SC having remained unbeaten in the former's last three encounters, but the Msimbazi Street side's boys are all too aware of the difficult game that lies ahead.

The Brazilian coach will have to manage his squad as the fixtures keep coming.

The last time the two sides met Simba SC walked away as victors with a solitary Pape Sakho goal being the difference on the day in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League in November last year.

On the other side, Ihefu SC booked the squad's place in the last eight with a 2-0 victory over Championship League side Pan Africans. They had dispatched Namungo FC and Mtama Boys in the earlier rounds.

With 24 points separating second-placed Simba SC and sixth-placed Ihefu SC in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League table, the hosts are favoured to advance but the visitors head into this clash on the back of a five-game unbeaten run that includes four victories.

Having beaten Azam FC and Yanga this season, coupled with their recent good form, Ihefu SC can fancy doing an upset against Simba SC to book their place in the semi-finals.

They will have to count on the good form of striker Andrew Simchimba, now the tournament's leading goal scorer with seven goals.

By Correspondent Michael

Mwebe

THE games are coming in thick and fast as Simba SC is back in action, this time a place in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) quarterfinals is up for grabs as the club faces Ihefu SC at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam this afternoon.

Fresh from acquiring a quarterfinal berth in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League, Simba SC, nicknamed 'Msimbazi Reds', is aware the ASFC presents the most realistic chance of silverware this season though it is still competing on two other fronts.

Standing between head coach Robert Oliveira and his first domestic tournament trophy with Simba SC will be a tricky Ihefu SC that comes into proceedings off the back of an impressive 1-0 home league victory over Azam FC.

To reach this stage, Simba SC held nerves and ensured the squad progressed to the next round when the squad did the business against Coastal Union, securing a 1-0

win.

A low volley from midfielder Sadio Kanoute proved the difference on the day. In the last 16, they made light work of Championship League side African Sports with a comprehensive 4-0 victory.

Robertinho's troops have plenty of pedigree in this competition, having gone all the way to lift the Federation Cup trophy on five different occasions.

Last season they got as far as the semi-final before falling 1-0 to their age-old rivals

Young Africans (Yanga) in Mwanza.

They have plenty of weapons capable of exploiting Ihefu SC's defense. The likes of Moses Phiri, Jean Baleke, Clatous Chama, and Said Ntibazonkiza are still part of a side that boasts

Young Africans (Yanga) in Mwanza.

Azam FC plays catch up, hosts Mtibwa Sugar

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THERE are two matches to be played in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League today, including the meeting between Azam FC and Mtibwa Sugar, a repeat of this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) game played just over a week ago.

The game will be played at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam and, at the time of writing, the hosts are positioned fourth in the NBC Premier League with a two-point gap to make up over third-placed Singida Big Stars.

With five games to go, Azam FC's long-time top-three status is, once again, under threat.

The gap could potentially extend to five, depending on the Singida Big Stars' results in an earlier kickoff today thus making this a must-win game for Azam FC.

Azam FC comes into the match having lost 1-0 against Ihefu SC in their most recent NBC Premier League fixture.

That said, they are fresh from beating Mtibwa Sugar 2-0 in the ASFC quarterfinal game.

Azam FC assistant coach Kally Ongala will be pleased with the results especially because it came after they were forced to play with 10 men for over 60 minutes, although he believes the performances can improve.

On top of that, their form in their backyard is something they can count on. In 12 home games this season, they have dropped just four points and will surely look at this fixture as another opportunity to bank three points at Azam Complex Stadium.

On the flip side, visitor Mtibwa Sugar is currently in ninth place in the top-flight table after an inconsistent recent run of league form.

They are still three points clear of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League's relegation zone. Last time out, coach Salum Mayanga's team suffered a 3-0 loss to Simba SC.

The 2-0 defeat to Azam FC last weekend, means they have lost each of their past three matches across all competitions.

The Millers' last victory came in the ASFC last 16's round against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in early March.

Coach Mayanga was disappointed with his team's performance, having failed to capitalize on their numerical advantage to get something out of their game against Azam FC last weekend.

This time around, he expects a much-improved performance to avoid the embarrassing scores they have suffered in previous Dar es Salaam visits this season.

In head-to-head stats, Azam FC and Mtibwa Sugar have met in 25 Premier League matches since 2010/11.

The Dar es Salaam side has claimed 13 wins compared to five for their Morogoro counterparts, while seven matches have ended in draws.

Mtibwa Sugar has a mixed record at home to Azam FC with four wins and five losses from 12 matches as hosts.

In the reverse fixture played at Manungu, Idris Mbombo's second-half brace decided the encounter and Azam FC are yet to lose to Mtibwa Sugar in the recent four league meetings dropping zero points.

Cedric Kaze confident Yanga can overcome Rivers United in CAF CC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Yanga assistant coach Cedric Kaze has reacted to the draw for the quarterfinals of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup pitting his club against Rivers United of Nigeria.

The draw of the quarterfinals was conducted in Cairo on Wednesday evening.

Yanga faces Rivers United in the first leg in Nigeria on April 24 before setting the return leg a week later in Dar es Salaam.

For the Burundi-born coach, he believes they have a big chance of progressing into the last four of the CAF Confederation Cup.

Speaking after the draw, Kaze made it clear that Yanga is a big team that has the qualities needed to battle the outfit's opponents at this stage of the competition.

Kaze pointed out: "It's nor-



Yanga's assistant coach Cedric Kaze. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

mal, all teams that reached this stage are good, well prepared, and have done well to get here. To be honest, we

see and we know fate is in our hands and there is something we can do in this matchup."

The quarterfinals ties will

be a rematch of the 2021/22 CAF Champions League First Preliminary Round where Rivers United emerged as the better side, winning 1-0 home and away to dump Yanga out of the competition.

However, Kaze believes both sides have changed and things will be different this time.

"We know we have played there, they have played here but I believe they will have a different squad," the coach noted.

The tactician disclosed: "We have a lot of confidence in ourselves, we don't expect to say that we are playing against a weak team, we know ourselves, that our abilities are great, that's why we believe there is a big chance to go past the quarterfinals."

To reach the quarterfinal stage of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup, Yanga finished top ahead of Tunisia's

US Monastirienne in Group D.

The Tanzanian side is the only team from the CECAFA region that has reached the knockout stage of the CAF Confederation Cup this season.

Rivers United finished second behind Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas in Group B of the continental showdown.

They were edged out 1-0 in a top-of-the-table last fixture of the group against ASEC Mimosas which moved to 13 points, while the Nigerians remained second with 10 points.

Rivers United's Paul Acquah, Aubin Kramo of ASEC Mimosas, and Ranga Chivaviro of South Africa's Marumo Gallants were the top scorers of the group phase with four goals each while Yanga's Fiston Mayele finished with three goals in the Group Stage campaign.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

