



Guardian BUSINESS TCDD counsels govt on best debt management approach

Credit risks decline, loan approvals rise

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Call to end sexual corruption in varsities



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Foundation donates sanitary pads



'More opposition inputs likely to strengthen GNU'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE ruling party has welcomed contributions from opposition parties on how to improve the performance of the isles' Government of National Unity (GNU) led by President Dr Hussein Mwinyi.

Khamis Mbeto Khamis, CCM deputy secretary for Ideology, Publicity and Information for Zanzibar, made this remark in a ceremony to unveil ACT-Wazalendo election promises for the next civic and general elections titled 'Brand Promise' here at the weekend.

He said the party's doors are open for advice and constructive criticism for improved service delivery. "If the GNU partner identifies any inadequacies they should explain so instead of complaining on the sidelines. The doors are open to receive complaints," he declared.

As the GNU is made up of CCM and ACT-Wazalendo, Zanzibar will attain substantial development gains if enhancing

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Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Dr Stergomena Tax (R) receives diplomatic credentials from Zambia's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Mathews Jere, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo courtesy of Foreign Affairs ministry

PM praises NACTVET, ATE vocational drive

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has commended current efforts between the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) and the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET) to build a solid foundation of skills among the youth.

He saluted these efforts when officiating at an event to award employers making

large contributions in developing skills for the youth in technical colleges, where ATE chief executive officer Suzzane Ndomba said ATE was backing government efforts in enhancing skills to spur employment growth, mobilising employers to participate in the national apprenticeship programme.

ATE was working with various stakeholders in the country mission of GIZ, the German development agency and the Danish association of employers to implement skills projects in the country especially

in Lindi, Manyara, Dodoma, Morogoro and Dar-es-Salaam regions, she said.

The aim is to provide the youth with skills for them to be employed, and through the project run in collaboration with GIZ, upwards of 4,500 youth in Lindi, Manyara and Dodoma regions will be trained in domestic and industrial plumbing, and out of these a total of 1,800 will be connected to various firms for

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Samia sidelines Ndaki, brings back Kailima to oversee polls

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday removed Mashimba Ndaki as Livestock and Fisheries minister, while appointing Ramadhani Kailima as director of elections.

Kailima, who served in the past during the Dr John Magufuli presidency, replaces Wilson Mahera Charles, who becomes deputy permanent secretary in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments).

Chief Secretary Dr Moses Kusiluka said in a statement yesterday that the president made changes of ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and their

deputies, along with regional commissioners.

Abdallah Ulega takes over as minister at Livestock and Fisheries replacing Mashimba Ndaki, working with David Silinde, moving from Regional Administration and Local Governments docket in the same portfolio.

Four officers of the President's Office, the Director of Elections and the manager of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) in the central zone, become deputy permanent secretaries.

The Investments docket shifts

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A Dodoma resident (in wheelchair) is attended to at a free eye care camp run at the weekend at Makole Hospital in the national capital by Dar es Salaam's Mzizima Lions Club. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

Tanzania attains 30,000 products with barcodes

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 30,000 products made in Tanzania have barcodes and Tanzania is now internationally identified using number 620.

Jumbe Menye, the GS1 (T) board chairman, made this observation at a breakfast meeting of members of the business community hosted by Geostatic International (T), a product identification company, in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Dr Zainabu Chaula, the Social Welfare, Community Development and Gender permanent secretary, gracing the meeting, said goods put on the market without barcodes are considered to be highly suspect, especially at international market level.

Goods put on the market without barcodes are nameless goods, she said, affirming that

it is absolutely necessary for Tanzanian manufacturers and traders to acknowledge that in the present world goods can't sell without barcodes.

"It is synonymous to selling goods that bear no names," she told roughly 300 delegates, elaborating that barcodes have packed information, one element being to show the proper origin of the products.

GS1 (T) CEO Fatma Kange told the gathering that the company institution uses digital methods to carry the message on the importance of barcodes. Greater outreach is still needed to achieve overall coverage, he stated.

Local producers and exporters have to use barcodes for their goods to be valued locally and

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Tanzania attains 30,000 products having barcodes

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abroad, now and in the future, she stated, pointing out that so far some 30,000 products produced in Tanzania are known to have barcodes.

Founded in 1995, GSI Technology, Inc. is a leading provider of static random access memory (SRAM) that retains data bits in its memory as long as power is being supplied. GSI Co. is a manufacturer's representative firm set up in 1979, prolonging previous work as a solutions provider for food, agriculture, plastics, minerals, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other process industries, an entry online says.

Without barcodes, the origin of such goods cannot be affirmed, and consumers may rightly think that they have been deceitfully put on the market, the top ministerial official noted.

She lauded efforts by

President Samia Suluhu Hassan to ensure the private sector faces no challenges and problems as it grows, noting that non-use of barcodes undermines the good intentions of the sixth phase government.

She was similarly upbeat about GSI (T) efforts in helping manufacturers and traders, as these efforts have reduced stress on producers and traders in exporting goods, plus making business inclusive and friendly.

Saadi Ahmed Mtambule, the Kinondoni district commissioner sitting in for the RC, hailed the firm for organising the meeting as a helpful platform for entrepreneurs to learn.

He described "Tanzania beyond barcode's as a good slogan, vowing to promote the use of barcodes in the district, as it would add market visibility to the products.

PM praises NACTVET, ATE vocational drive

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practical training. The training goes in tandem with inking 50 contracts between employers and the vocational training body to steer further collaboration even after the project, she stated, underlining the wish to facilitate Tanzanian firms to fully participate in East Africa's competitive market.

That is also true for the wider continental and global market so "it is essential to take deliberate steps in enhancing skills especially for the youth," she stated, airing the view that employers have a part to play in the country's ability to arrive at these goals.

Employers are aware of the need to demonstrate what they are doing in relation to the third five-year development plan, to reduce unemployment from nine per cent in 2019 to eight per cent in 2025/26, she pointed out.

"Enhancing skills is among plans identified by the government, to

increase the number of graduates who received on-the-job training, as one way to enhance skills for the youth," she said.

At a similar event last year ATE submitted a request for relief to employers to enable them participate fully in pushing the growth of skills, pointing at the Skills Development Levy (SDL). It could be relieved for employers receiving anticipated graduates from universities and technical colleges, she stated.

In his remarks, the premier said it is important to extensively invest in the development of human resources for the nation to attain its targeted development goals.

The development of human resources was vital as skill is needed in all productive sectors and without skills there won't be significant development. All countries experiencing fast growth succeeded after giving priority to skills development, he added.



Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollé (3rd-R) cuts a cake at celebrations held in Moshi yesterday to mark the 25th anniversary of the municipality's rehabilitation centre of Dar es Salaam-based CCBRT Hospital. He is with, among others, CCBRT Hospital CEO Brenda Msangi (to his left) and CCBRT Hospital Board of Directors president Willibrod Slaa (to his right). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'More opposition inputs likely to strengthen GNU'

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peace and national unity continues to be the focus of all political actors, he said.

He stressed that ministers in GNU were working hard, including those from ACT-Wazalendo like Nassor Ahmed Mazrui, Omar Said Shaaban and First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman.

Being in GNU, opposition ministers are implementing the 2020 CCM election manifesto, espousing various development plans for a five year period, he

said.

"Our partners want to take over the government," he said, noting that CCM is already leading it, and vast development gains are discernible in education, water and other infrastructure in both Unguja and Pemba islands.

The major objective is to see each Zanzibari live a better life "and hence we must maintain the existing peace and national unity in seeking to attain that goal," he emphasised, an event which sparked extensive debate in Zanzibar after attending a

rally called by ACT-Wazalendo.

Introduced as representing the CCM deputy secretary general for Zanzibar, he said political parties will come and go but the country will remain, urging members of the public to protect the foundations of peace and solidarity.

Going over issues taken up in ACT's pledges at the time of the 2020 polls, he said many such issues are reflected in current development plans and arrangements of others are being addressed.

He said the eighth phase gov-

ernment was building modern hospitals in every district and regions along with 20 storeyed schools, while old schools are being refurbished.

There are modern markets being built at Mwanakwerekwe, Jumbi and Mbuguzini areas, he said, pointing at the massive water project as the government injected 34bn/- to the Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA).

ACT-Wazalendo leader Zitto Kabwe said that pledges by his party seek to provide Zanzibaris better lives, to see Zanzibar attaining full authority to make

decisions, by reducing the list of Union Affairs, especially in economic issues.

"We want a new Zanzibar with the new Constitution and accountability. These are issues that hastens people's development," Zitto said.

First Vice President Othman said the opposition's plan shows the way to attain development in Zanzibar. The party is a vessel to relieve Zanzibaris from poverty and give them better lives, via better social services in particular, he added.



Mashimba Mashauri Ndaki (2nd-R, front), until the weekend Livestock and Fisheries minister, has a first-hand account of fish feeding during a visit to a tilapia farm in Bagamoyo District. Left is the farm's manager, Riddim Saha. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Samia sidelines Ndaki, brings back Kailima to oversee polls

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to the President's Office, with the position of Fisheries permanent secretary scrapped. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries will have one permanent secretary and two deputies.

Muheza MP Hamis Mwinjuma (a Bongo flavour artiste) becomes deputy minister for Culture, Arts and Sports, replacing Pauline Gekul who shifts to Constitutional and Legal Affairs the same position.

She replaces Godfrey Pinda, shifting to Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development, in place of Ridhiwani Kikwete, appointed to the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance).

He replaces Deogratius Ndejemi, shifting to the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local

Governments).

Christina Mndeme moves to Shinyanga as regional commissioner in place of Sophia Mjema, lately appointed to head the Ideology and Publicity department in the CCM Secretariat, the statement indicated.

Dr Francis Michael moves from the post of permanent secretary in Education, Science and Technology docket to Songwe as RC, with ex-RC Waziri Kindamba moving to Tanga to replace RC Omary Mgumba, now dropped.

Dr Tausi Kida, a veteran researcher, will serve in the President's Office (Investment) as permanent secretary, while Juma Mkomi takes over at the President's Office- (Public Service Management and Good Governance) as permanent secretary. Ambassador Samweli Shelukindo takes over as Foreign Affairs

and East African Cooperation permanent secretary.

Others are Prof Carolyn Nombo (Education, Science and Technology), Gerald Mweli (Agriculture), Dr Seif Shekalaghe (Health), Nadiha Kemikimba (Water), Kheri Mahimbali (Minerals) and Mohamed Abdulla Khamis (Information, Communication and Information Technology).

Prof Riziki Shemdoe moves from the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) to Livestock and Fisheries as permanent secretary. Dr John Jingu moves from the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Coordination) to Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups in the same post.

Dr Jim Yonazi moves from Information, Communication and Information Technology

to the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Coordination) as permanent secretary, while Adolf Ndunguru shifts from Minerals to the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments). Anthony Sanga shifts to Land, Housing and Settlements Development from Water as permanent secretary.

New deputy permanent secretaries appointed include Wilson Mahera, the ex-director in the National Electoral Commission (NEC), becoming deputy permanent secretary in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) for the Health docket. Dr Franklin Rwezimula being appointed as PS in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Primary and secondary education)

Others are Dr Hussein Omari, then senior officer in the Vice

President's Office, becomes deputy permanent secretary in Agriculture. Cyprian Luhemeja, ex-CEO for the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) becomes Water deputy permanent secretary.

Lucy Kabyemera, former director at Land, Housing and Settlements Development becomes deputy permanent secretary in the same docket, while Andron Mutatebwa, a senior officer in the State House, becomes deputy permanent secretary at Natural Resources and Tourism.

Athuman Mbutuka, the government's internal auditor general, takes over as deputy permanent secretary at Energy, while Dr Daniel Mushi, the Registrar for the Tanzania Meat Board (TMB), becomes deputy permanent secretary at Livestock and Fisheries.

Agnes Meena, ex-director in the

President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) becomes deputy permanent secretary at Livestock and Fisheries, while Selestine Kakele, senior officer at Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, becomes deputy permanent secretary for Information, Communication and Information Technology.

Dr Grace Magembe, deputy permanent secretary in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) moves to Health in the same position, with Nicholas Mkapa, deputy permanent secretary at Land, Housing and Settlements Development moves to Culture, Arts and Sports in the same position.

All the newly appointed officials will be sworn in later today at the Chamwino State House, the statement added.

'68,813 visitors entered Z'bar in January 2023'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

A TOTAL of 68,813 visitors entered Zanzibar in January 2023, a 3.1 per cent increase compared to 66,720 guests who came in December last year.

This was revealed here at the weekend by the Head Services Division in the Bureau of Statistics, Bakari Khamis Kondo when submitting statistics regarding foreigners entering the Isles.

Kondo said the total also shows an increase of 62.1 per cent compared to 42,443 visitors who entered the Isles in January 2022, the situation that reflects the continued strengthening of the tourism sector after the Covid-10 pandemic.

He mentioned Italy at the leading foreign country for bringing in 10,338 tourists, or 15 per cent of all visitors, followed by France with 1,658 visitors or 12.6 of all foreign visitors.

Other nations are Poland (6,102 visitors), Germany (4,364) and Scandinavian countries with 3,588 visitors or 5.2 per cent of the total.

He added that 52.3 per cent of all visitors were female and 47.7 per cent male where

as 89.7 per cent of the visitors came to the Isles for vacation.

Senior Bank of Tanzania (BoT) economist Dr Ulrick Mumburi said the increasing number of tourists will be a boon for Zanzibar's economic growth as tourism has been its economic mainstay.

He said the increasing number of tourists means the opening up the country economically.

He added that for the month of January Zanzibar total tax collection was 89.6bn/- or 92 per cent of the collection target, reflecting that the number of tourists has been increasing.

For his part, Maabad Jaffar Mwadini, Tourism Research Officer from the Commission for Tourism said global relief from the Covid-19 pandemic has contributed to the boosting of world tourism and that according to World Tourism Organisation (WTO) more than 900 million tourists travelled to various countries.

He said it is estimated that in 2023 tourism growth will attain an increase of between 50 and 70 per cent while Zanzibar will benefit from that growth.



Selemani Jafo, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), cuts ribbon to launch a solar energy system at an Oryx filling station in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Next to him is Oryx Energies Tanzania Limited managing director Kalpesh Mehta. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister Jafo commends Oryx Energies' services

By Guardian Reporter

IT is indispensable for Tanzanians as a nation to join other nations on the use of clean and safe energy, said Dr Selemani Jafo, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment).

In doing so, Tanzanians will be abiding by President Samia Suluhu Hassan's call in requiring public and private institutions to make sure they create plans that aim to fight climate change.

Jafo made the remarks in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when he launched a solar energy initiative

by Oryx Energies Tanzania Limited (OGTL) at Mwenge. The initiative is part of the firm's strategies to begin using solar energy at its fuel stations countrywide as well as other areas including fuel storage facilities.

He lauded OGTL for the steps it is taking in supporting government's efforts against the effects of climate change.

"I commend you for the big step, and personally I am proud of Oryx Energies Tanzania because since I held I became the minister in the VPO, my big responsibility is to make sure we fight challenges from climate

change.

"Severe drought conditions in various areas, reduction of water levels in many hydro-power dams and as you can recall, just recently our country faced big power shortage challenges," he said.

He said in sustainable development the Seventh Sustainable Goal calls for the use of modern forms of energies for producing various energies; hence Oryx energies have decided to make implement it and praised its managing director, Kalpesh Mehta for the bold step.

He added that Oryx Energies has become then example to be

emulated as they have stated that they produce 21 KWh of electricity for their own use that now stands at 9 KWh and injects the surplus to the national power grid.

He also used the occasion to call upon other oil firms to use alternative energy sources as Oryx Energies does as they reduce the effects of climate change.

In regard to the use of wood fuel and charcoal for cooking, Jafo said the practice has created great disaster as nearly 400,000 acres of forest land a year is lost due to use of firewood and charcoal.

"I therefore appeal to you, and other firms that it would be better to loans consumers gas cylinders and claim the money in instalments whenever they come to buy cooking gas," he said.

He also directed all petrol stations that are being built to make sure they allocate a special area for installing gas plants for motorists, and this will be the main condition before a petrol station is built.

Kalpesh Mehta said they are glad that their Mwenge fuel station has started using solar power and this was the first step as they will do that at other fuel stations

they own in the country including their fuel storage facilities.

"We will also upgrade our facilities to use renewable energy to power their operations. Our deposits, blending and filling plants will soon be solar powered. This is over 666.631KWh, equivalent to over 260.1 tonnes of Carbon dioxide emission avoided which translates to over 9,000 trees saved," stated Mehta.

The managing director added: "Oryx Energies globally believes that success can only be achieved by becoming a pan-African leader on environmental, social and innovative leader in the industry."

Govt reaffirms commitment to assist CCBRT operations

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government has reaffirmed its commitment to continue working with the Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) and other partners to build rehabilitative care capacity and meet the greater need for assistive devices and other services.

Dr Godwin Mollé, deputy minister for Health made the reaffirmation yesterday during the commemoration of the 25th anniversaries CCBRT Maohi centre of providing rehabilitation services to people with disabilities in the wider northern zone and other regions.

He said: "In the past 25 years, you have touched the lives of thousands of Tanzanians with disabilities and their families. People living with disabilities require rehabilitative services as well as appropriate assistive devices and care," he said.

Dr Mollé said with the proper devices and rehabilitation services provided by CCBRT and its partners, thousands have gained mobility, self-sufficiency, self-confidence, and ultimately con-

tribute to a healthier and more productive country.

The deputy minister urged local partners to build a culture of contributing to the services provided to fellow Tanzanians instead of relying on external aid.

CCBRT's chief executive officer Brenda Msangi, said that the CCBRT Moshi was established in 1996 and since then it has been Kilimanjaro's sole community based rehabilitation service provider. "We built a rehabilitation centre, the "House of Hope", in 2005 and has been providing intensive therapy, as well as clinical and social support to children with disabilities in the wider northern zone of Tanzania and beyond," she said

"our special thanks to our partners, the government, clients and staff for offering intensive training on disability care for parents, providing high-quality rehabilitative care to children with disabilities, and conducting home visits to ensure that clients are living healthy lives after treatment" she added.

Brenda requested their continued support as the centre faces many challenges despite the suc-

cess that has been reached in the past 25 years.

CCBRT Moshi works to ensure the longevity of each device by providing repairs to damaged parts and making adjustments to the device as the child grows.

She said the majority of children who receive care during the weeks of intensive treatment are children living with cerebral palsy, but weeks of intensive treatment are also held for children living with spina bifida and Hydrocephalus.

The week of intensive treatment focuses on lifelong care, bowel and bladder management, as well as rehabilitative and post-op care to ensure that parents can provide for their children's needs. CCBRT Moshi also hosts a seating clinic, which creates custom fitted assistive devices and wheelchairs for children with physical impairments.

During the week, families of children that receive assistive devices are asked to pay a small, affordable fee, which helps to offset the high cost of production of these devices and ensures that families view the devices as important investments.



Ado Shaibu, Secretary General of the opposition Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo), addresses the party's members in Zanzibar at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Background information

China Dasheng Bank Ltd is a fully fledged commercial bank acquired a license to operate as a commercial Bank on 25th November 2017. It is the first bank in Tanzania established jointly by Chinese state-owned and private companies. The Bank has two branches, one located at ground floor, Extelecoms House, Samora Avenue and the second located at Kariakoo business area along Aggrey street.

The Bank Head office is located at Mezzanine Floor, Extelecoms House, Samora Avenue.

China Dasheng Bank is seeking to engage the services of suitably qualified firms which is also registered by Bank of Tanzania (BOT) to submit proposals for External Audit services in respect of 2023 financial year.

Audit Objective

The objective of the China Dasheng Bank Ltd audit is to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements reflect a true and fair view of the financial position of the China Dasheng Bank Ltd. The audit will be performed in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") and International Standards of Auditing ("ISA").

Scope of work

The audit report will include an Independent Auditors Report (Opinion) on the financial statements.

The successful External Auditor will cover the headquarter and 2 branches both are in Dar es salaam.

The audit will be in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") and International Standards of Auditing ("ISA"). The findings and recommendations shall include an action plan for China Dasheng Bank organizational and accounting improvements depending on findings and its implications and shall accommodate management comments.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Audit firm should meet the following criteria:

1. Approved by Bank of Tanzania and NBAA
2. Compliance with legal requirements of registration
3. Experience of the audit firm with audit reporting under International Financial Reporting standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA)
4. References for similar audits performed within the Bank
5. Provide Audit Methodology, Proposed Work-plan, Curriculum Vitae for the partner, manager and key staff proposed for the audit team
6. Audit firm and staff must be independent of China Dasheng Bank Ltd and affirm their independence in the engagement letter.
7. Any actual or potential conflict of interest in taking up this role should be highlighted

Deliverable

The key deliverables will be:

1. Audited Financial Statements indicating if accounting standards have been applied and whether they reflect a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group
2. Management Letter where matters that are not material to the financial statements, but which the auditors wish to communicate to China Dasheng Bank Ltd may be reflected for management action

Communication and Reports

All audit reports and accompanying statements of financial condition shall, at a minimum, be presented in English.

Submission guidelines

The proposal should be addressed to: **The Chief Executive Officer, China Dasheng Bank Ltd, P. o. box 388, Dar es salaam**

Physical address:
Mezzanine Floor, Extelecom house
Samora avenue, Dar es salaam

Also, application can be done electronically via following email: info@cdbbank.co.tz
The deadline for submission of the proposal is: **10th March 2023**

Only shortlisted bidders will be invited to present themselves for interview at China Dasheng Bank offices at a date to be communicated. For any questions, info@cdbbank.co.tz



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presents a trophy to Kiula Makala (2nd-L), acting CEO of the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa), in recognition of the agency's contribution to the national skills development effort. This was at a gala dinner co-hosted in Dar es Salaam on Friday by the Association of Tanzania Employers and the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education. Right is Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda and left is Ilala district commissioner Edward Mpongolo. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Burundians charged as illegal immigrants

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

FIVE Burundian nationals appeared before the Kisutu Resident Magistrates Court on Friday facing two charges including illegal entry into the country.

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

Ngwijo told the court that the accused committed the offences on February 15th this year at Michikichini in Ilala Municipality, Dar es Salaam Region.

Ngwijo told the court that on the first charge, the accused entered the country without having a valid passport or any other legal documents.

On the second charge, it was alleged that on the same day and place, the accused committed the offence after they were found in the country without having valid passports or any other legal document or Visa.

He mentioned the accused as Migisha Mirubabalira, Abbas Swai, Michael Manoa, Frank Zarbon and Alex Fanuel.

The accused agreed to have committed the offence and were given bail conditions which included having two sureties to sign a 1m/- bond each.

All accused could not fulfil the bail conditions and were taken to remand prison.

On the second charge, it was alleged that on the same day and place, the accused committed the offence after they were found in the country without having valid passports or any other

Stakeholders call for combined efforts to end sexual corruption in universities

By Getrude Mbago

WOMEN and girls rights stakeholders have called for combined efforts to end violence and sexual corruption in schools especially in universities.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend during the conference to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Women Fund Tanzania - Trust (WFTT), the stakeholders said that the recent efforts taken by the government and stakeholders to ensure that girls study well were not enough as many of them are still facing violence in schools.

Sabina Seja, director of corruption prevention at the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) said in a recent study conducted by the Bureau in collaboration with WFTT-Tanzania, it was found that majority of university students and some

in secondary and primary schools were facing violence including being forced to have sex.

She said that PCCB has been working with WFTT to fight sex corruption and this has been well campaigned in the last five years.

"We started in two universities which University of Dodoma (Udom) and Dar es Salaam (UDSM), the study however didn't only end up questioning the students and community but also educate them on how and where to report acts of violence, we also facilitated establishment of special desks to deal with the challenges," she explained.

Theo Sowa, former CEO of the African Women's Development Fund, underscored the need for organisations and stakeholders to continue working in unity to empower women and girls uplifting them from poverty and vari-

ous challenges.

"This therefore is an important celebration of the power of dreams, vision, hard-work to channel goals into reality and collective effort towards change of women. African women heroes are not mentioned enough. We do not acknowledge the stories of change championed by our African sisters," she said.

She noted that despite bilateral institutions directing most of their funds in women's organizations, only 1 percent goes to support women's work emphasizing that adoption of feminist policies such as FAP by bilateral institutions like Canada has promoted resourcing women rights organisations (WROs) to 7 percent.

UN Women Country Representative, Hodan Addou said: "It has truly been inspiring to see how the WomenFund Tanzania has

been able to grow from strength to strength ensuring women's human rights & voices are contributing in all of the policies that are important in Tanzania."

The Fund's executive director Rose Marandu said beyond celebrating the impactful work that has been done, the three-day event is also aimed to share knowledge, to engage, and to inspire other civic and uncivic actors to understand what role feminist funds have played around the world, with a particular focus on what role WFTT-Trust plays in Tanzania, and how others can be part of this new feminist funding model.

She said WFTT has reached hundreds of non-government organisations, platforms and thousands of individuals with financial and idea expansion support to enable

them implement various social and economic projects that impact the society.

She said the Fund employs two innovative strategies in grant making. First it provides funding to locally based Women and Girls' rights organisations which demonstrate or show potential of effecting transformative changes in the lives of women and girls in their respective communities.

The second level of funding goes to national networks, platforms and coalitions which direct efforts in transforming legal frameworks, policies, plans and budgets. At this level, we have seen enhanced debates which interrogate discriminatory legal frameworks, policies, plans and budgets. One key achievement at this level is strengthened women rights movements, collective voice and sustained feminist agenda.

In addition to grant making, WFTT has catalysed a dialogue and debate challenging conventional philanthropic approaches which fail to reach out the majority of those in need of such funding particularly women and girls in community level settings," she said. Maria Rusimbi, WFTT co-founder said despite a huge step that has been witnessed in uplifting women, the majority of them are denied their rights due to oppressive systems in the society.

"As we celebrate the court case, WFTT realizes that there are hundreds of girls and women who are subjected to various acts of violence, who need the support of women and men in this country to stand up and say, "enough is enough" let our girls and women remain safe in their own home, in their communities and in this nation."



George Venanty (C), Vodacom Tanzania Plc's North Zone head of sales, pictured with colleagues in Moshi municipality at the weekend serving a three-wheeler rider refuelling via M-Pesa to get back an instant ten per cent of the amount paid. It was all part of a campaign by the company meant to promote a digital payments culture. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt sinks in funds for improvement of Tanzania-Zambia railway services

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania-Zambia Railways Authority (TAZARA) is improving economically after the government started refurbishing its infrastructure including permitting the private sector to invest in the transportation of goods between the two neighbouring countries.

TAZARA director general, Fuad Abdallah made the remarks at the weekend during the visit by deputy works and transport minister, Atupele Mwakibete at Mbeya Railways station to inspect the government's directives.

Abdallah said in 2015 the government decided to pay salaries of TAZARA workers after it failed to operate by itself, a step that brought relief in its operations.

He added that in 2017 the government provided 10bn/- for the rehabilitation of seven locomotives that had broken down as well as the purchase of plants for the production of aggregate at Kongoro-Maswiswi mine where there is also a plant for the production of railway sleepers.

He noted that before 2015 the authority had little capacity in moving cargo but after the government's injection of funds, the capacity increased.

He said the railway has the capacity to transport five million tonnes of cargo a year but in 2014 it moved only 80,000 tonnes. "After the government injected funds its

capacity increased and we now have the capacity to transport more than 200,000 tonnes of cargo per year and we view this as a great development," he said.

He added that as for now, the Authority has entered into contract with three firms that have invested in cargo transport along the railway line, two of them have already started and another is in the last stages of doing so.

He named the firm as Karabash LTD of Zambia and Africa Inland Container Depot LTD from Tanzania while BRFAVO Ltd from Tanzania is yet to start operation.

The Governing Chairman for Mbeya TAZARA District, Betwel Kamugisha said Mbeya Station is among stations that are in the refurbishment plan.

He said as for now they have already painted over the walls of various buildings and repaired seats for waiting passengers.

Deputy works and Transport Minister Mwakibete commended the Authority for establishing the joint venture plan with the private sector for using its infrastructures.

He said the procedure is good and is used all over the world hence the government plans to also use it in its own railway lines to enhance cargo transport.

He instructed TAZARA officials to insert in its next financial year's budget funds for purchase of seats for passengers to sit at various stations while waiting for trains.

KIGALI

African airport industry experts meet in Rwanda

THE 69th edition of the Airports Council International (ACI) Africa Board Meeting, Regional Committees, Conference, and Exhibition, started in Kigali on Saturday, February 25, to discuss the future of the continent's airport industry.

Leaders and experts in the African airport industry have attended the conference, which runs until March 3 with the theme "Shaping up a Sustainable African Airport Industry: Time for Action."

According to the organisers, the conference comes at a time Africa has a unique opportunity to craft a new vision for an efficient, resilient, and sustainable air transport industry that meets growing expect-

tations in airport safety, security, service level, technology, and environment, while remaining economically and financially sound.

With over 250 airport leaders, professionals and stakeholders expected to be in attendance, the organisers said, this conference promises to provide the participants with unparalleled opportunities for networking, knowledge sharing, and business growth.

The post-pandemic era has called for all stakeholders of the African airport ecosystem to step up from commitment to implementation.

The ACI Africa Secretary General, Ali Tounsi, has thanked the event's host, Rwanda Airports Company (RAC), and local and international sponsors, and exhibitors, who will showcase the latest range of products, services, and technologies aimed at strengthening the airport business in Africa.

Tounsi said: "ACI Africa has crafted a fitting program that addresses the industry's most pressing needs and invited some of the best subject matter experts to share their vision of the new norms for a sustainable future of the African airport industry."

The Rwanda Airports Company Managing Director, Charles Habonimana, said: "We are pleased to welcome African airport executives to Rwanda for the ACI Africa Meeting and Exhibition.

"As we continue to recover from the setbacks caused by COVID-19, this feels like a perfect time to discuss matters close to our calling and shape a better future for the airport industry in Africa," Habonimana said.

Leading companies such as Dufry, Aviation Travel and Logistics, SITA, Bugesera Airport Company, and Flemingo International are among the sponsors of the con-

ference which has drawn the participation of over 35 exhibitors.

On February 25, the conference participants had the opportunity to participate in Umuganda, Rwanda's national-wide community work, in Rwamagana District, offering a unique opportunity for delegates to give back to the community while immersing themselves in Rwandan culture.

More than 200 delegates of the ACI Africa Meeting took part in the community work that was held at Mwilire Genocide Memorial in Mwilire Sector.

Rwanda Airports Company donated Rwf21 million to support the construction of a house for vulnerable Genocide survivor and the renovation of the Genocide memorial.

Foundation offer sanitary pads to 100+ girls in need

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Asma Mwinyi Foundation (AMF) through the 'Afiya Yangu' project has donated sanitary pads to 118 vulnerable girls in Mkuranga district, Coast Region.

AMF is Tanzanian NGO focusing on helping and supporting the underprivileged, deprived and vulnerable people such as orphans, widows, children, men and women

The foundation implements 'Afiya Yangu' in Mkuranga district to help and support adolescent girls to realise their dreams especially in education. The girls will be getting sanitary pads every month.

Asha Salum showered praises to the project sponsors over the weekend during a function to receive the sanitary pads from AMF which was held at the Mkuranga district hospital.

She said the donation came at the right time and had inspired them to attend learning classes throughout the month.

She said most of them remained home during the menstruation period over lack of pads; the thing affected their academic performance.

"It is indeed a bigger support to us since it enables us to stay in class during menstrual periods," said Salum, adding the foundation has made them feel happy as other girls. A nurse in-charge for Youth Service, Care and Treatment and 'Afiya Yangu' project at Mkuranga district hospital, Sweet Ndyerumaki said girls

and women face a number of challenges including shortage of finance to buy the pads. She said the project supported by AMF has come at the right time adding that initially they started with 70 girls and they have now reached 118 girls aged between 10 and 18.

"We are delighted to be part of the AMF family through the donation given to our young girls and adolescents," she said.

Representing the hospital management, Angela Malugu thanked AMF for the donation, calling upon other institutions to also volunteer to support the girls. She appealed for more collaboration from the foundation to ensure more vulnerable girls are reached with the support, especially those who cannot afford to buy pads.

Asma Ali Mwinyi, AMF director said the foundation has been supporting vulnerable girls for three consecutive years.

She said the foundation donates sanitary pads to vulnerable girls and women every end of the month adding that it was looking forward starting supporting boys.

"The donation has helped most girl students in Mkuranga district to stay in school. Our target is to support more deprived and vulnerable girls in the district to ensure they are happy and enjoy life as other girls," she added.

The foundation is also implementing a project dubbed 'Nistiri Nisifedheheke'—a friendlier service to adolescent boys and girls in Mkuranga district.



Asma Mwinyi Foundation director Asma Mwinyi (L) presents sanitary pads to Mkuranga District hospital nurse Sweet Ndyerumaki (R) and nurse-in-charge Angelina Malugu for use by needy girls seeking medical services at the facility. Photo: Correspondent James Kandoya

Zanzibar targets 1m tourists over for the next two years

By Guardian Correspondent, Longido

ZANZIBAR, a leading island destination in Africa, is aiming to attract almost one million visitors in the next two years, banking on its rich heritage and historical sites, plus warm beaches and marine resources, a report said.

Zanzibar government is now upgrading tourism infrastructure including expansion of roads and improvement of Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (AAKIA) to-

gether with other projects.

Zanzibar President, Dr Hussein Mwinyi, has outlined various development programs undertaken by the island's government to strengthen tourism, aiming to attract 850,000 tourists over the next two years. President Mwinyi had opened the first premium Zanzibar Tourism and Investment Forum late this week with the aim to connect the tourism investors from East Africa, Africa and other tourist market sources in the world.

Branded as 'Z - Summit 2023', this international tourism summit took place February 23-24 at Zanzibar Airport's Golden Tulip Convocation Centre, and attracted over 300 participants.

The Z-Summit 2023's goal was to connect key players and stakeholders in the tourism industry from East Africa, Africa and international investors, to meet and chart out strategies that would raise the number of visitors in Zanzibar and the rest of Africa, together with more

investments in tourism.

Dr Mwinyi said that the construction of Pemba Airport is expected to open up tourism opportunities in the island as one among the efforts under the island's government to promote the growth of tourism.

He said Zanzibar is cherished with old buildings including the Stone Town which is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Centre. Stone Town is a hub for most tourists landing on the island.

Zanzibar president used the chance to invite more tourists and investors to the island and said the doors are open to investors from around the globe to invest in Zanzibar.

Dr Mwinyi said his government has taken steps to implement the Blue Economy Policy with an emphasis on its sustainability through its "Tourism for All" concept.

Zanzibar's Blue and Green economies had a unique chance to attract about 81% of global travelers preferring sustainable destinations.

Zanzibar has experienced a gradual and positive growth in room numbers, with an average of 2,000 rooms per year since 2019, and the opening of new internationally-branded hotels and resorts.

The Island's Minister for Tourism and Heritage, Simai Mohamed Said, noted that Zanzibar has been attracting tourists all the year round. Zanzibar is among the leading tourist destinations in the Indian Ocean in Africa together with the Seychelles and Mauritius.



JICA celebrates the completion of the second Next Innovation with Japan in Tanzania (NINJA2) –Supporting innovative and impactful start-ups in Tanzania–

Next Innovation with Japan (NINJA) is a start-up support initiative designed to support entrepreneurs and start-ups in developing countries which are creating innovative business models and technologies to solve social issues. NINJA's support includes entrepreneurship development activities, business matching, promotion of venture/impact investment, and policy recommendations to strengthen the ecosystem.

JICA Tanzania launched the second NINJA competition in January 2022 (NINJA2) to continuously support start-ups in Tanzania, and is pleased to announce the successful completion of NINJA2.

As a first selection stage of NINJA2, 3 Tanzanian start-ups emerged from a total of 162 applicants whereby JICA had provided capacity building program for them for 5 months. Then, as a final selection stage 2 out of the 3 start-ups were selected as a winner i.e., EcoAct Tanzania Limited, Agripoa Company Limited. JICA provided cash award for these 2 start-ups to support their Proof of Concept (PoC) activities.

As part of the Initiative, 3 start-ups selected at a first selection stage took a capacity building session based on their identified technical capacity building needs through Deloitte Consulting Limited. The technical assistance included monitoring their progress, mentoring, and guiding them on the execution of their PoC, revision of their PoC plans and evaluation of their business operations. Through the technical assistance they have mobilised/brushed up their business and managed to improve their organisational capacity by refining business models and defining business strategies, as well as optimising marketing approaches. Furthermore, three start-ups received opportunities to make a presentation to Japanese stakeholders (e.g., Japanese companies, Japanese investors, etc) and

Tanzanian stakeholders including Tanzanian start-up ecosystem players.

Based on the brushed up their business model and strategy through capacity building session, 2 awarded companies implemented PoC activities for 5 months. They improved their business operation and expand their business through PoC. In February 2023, JICA published their documentary videos of their activities in order to promote their entrepreneurship and also to raise awareness of NINJA.



1. EcoAct Tanzania Limited



Figure 1: Capacity Building session of EcoAct

<Company Profile>

Established in 2018, EcoAct Tanzania is a social enterprise that focuses on addressing the challenges of post-consumer plastic pollution, waste management, ocean pollution, deforestation, and climate change. EcoAct uses an innovative plastic extrusion technology called "Waxy 2" to recycle waste plastics and turn them into plastic lumber. Plastic lumber is an affordable alternative to wood, reducing the need for building and furniture materials made from wood.

EcoAct uses 100% recycled post-consumer plastic waste to manufacture durable, affordable,

and environmentally friendly plastic lumbers for use in applications ranging from building, construction, furniture making, fencing to landscaping. Bringing the most environmentally conscious products on the market today with unique features, EcoAct's technology ensures that its manufactured plastic lumbers do not rot, are termite resistant, are waterproof and last more than 40 years without replacement whether used in dry or wet areas.

<NINJA Initiative>

The capacity building session has enabled EcoAct to document a strategic plan to guide long-term organisational planning and operations to achieve its long-term goals and define its goals and aspirations in measurable commercial terms. As a result, the organisation will be able to have structured quarterly and annual plans linked to its business strategy. Moreover, EcoAct is developing a marketing strategy that will provide more clarity around customer profiles, effective marketing channels, key stakeholders to engage and what digital platforms will be more effective to better target its customers. Through the capacity-building sessions, the company has identified a clear direction in terms of being able to attract an investor portfolio to help scale the business.

[Documentary video of EcoAct]



2. Agripoa Company Limited

<Company Profile>

Agripoa is a Farm Management Software that uses Artificial Intelligence to help African poultry farmers to plan, monitor and analyse farm



Figure 2: Promenade utilizing plastic lumbers manufactured by EcoAct

activities with a help of data-driven insights to make the right decisions at the right time. Agripoa started operations with Poultry farmers but plans to expand other livestock, horticulture and crops.

The app is used by farmers to detect poultry disease and provides advice on the course of action to take, including medication and best practices. The app also allows a farmer to chat with a farm expert and allows a farmer to record daily farm activities and expenses. Currently, the Agripoa App works on the Android platform. Users with Android Cell phones can download the app through Google Play Store.

The app enables farmers to do the following:

- 1) Get Market Information including market connections, determine the product with high demand in the market, the quality of products needed in a given market and the demands and standards of buyers.
- 2) Get Farm Data Insights and Analytics to be able to know the development of the farm, get the Vaccination Calendar, know the quantity of food to feed animals and get informed about new outbreaks and how to treat them.

- 3) Gain Knowledge from Professionals through communication with veterinarians, get solutions to poultry diseases and exchange of ideas with other farmers.
- 4) Revenue and Expenditure Management by tracking the money spent on purchasing animal feeds, medicine and other farm inputs and receiving alerts when there is overspending.



Figure 2: Farm Management Software of Agripoa

<NINJA Initiative>

Through the capacity building session, Agripoa has been able to identify strategies to increase traction and guide its operation and planning so that it can commercialise its other services to increase revenue. The company has also been able to develop a three-year strategic plan to guide its operations and planning. Furthermore, Agripoa successfully partnered with Jubilee Insurance Company to provide insurance services to farmers who are registered via its app.

[Documentary video of Agripoa]



Bank promises to continue supporting Tanzania SMEs

By Guardian Reporter

BANK of Africa Tanzania has expressed its commitment to continue empowering Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) so that they can and contribute to the country's economic growth.

Adam Mihayo, bank's managing director and CEO during the Bank of Africa Tanzania which took part in the EU-Tanzania business forum that was held on the 23rd and 24th of February 2023 in Dar es Salaam.

"This form is part of the bank's strategic objective in supporting the Government of Tanzania's vision on a financial inclusion agenda focusing on the SME segment and women empowerment", he said.

Mihayo said that Bank of Africa has had a programme to provide small and medium-sized businessmen (SMEs) with training to run their businesses efficiently in parallel with providing them with loans to develop their businesses.

The EU-Tanzania business forum 2023 aimed to showcase Tanzania's opportunities and competitive advantage as a strategic destination for

direct investment to businesses and investors from Europe and Tanzania.

The forum attracted high-level participants from Europe and Tanzania, including political leaders, heads of international financial institutions, executives of distinguished companies, and prominent business delegates.

Bank of Africa through its tailored products and services with a robust network across 18 African countries and a strong group synergy, pledge its full support in the financial inclusion through partnerships and collaborations.



This form is part of the bank's strategic objective in supporting the Government of Tanzania's vision on a financial inclusion agenda focusing on the SME segment and women



Nandi Mwiombella (L), Bank of Africa Tanzania's head of marketing and communications, exchanges greetings with Energy minister January Makamba at the bank's booth at an exhibition held in tandem with the two-day (Feb 23-24) EU-Tanzania Business Forum 2023 held in Dar es Salaam. They are with the bank's marketing officer Beatrice Mirigo and trade finance manager Jessica Mizambwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

EFFORTS by Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) to build the capacity of university graduates by providing them internship programme have continued to be seen after the company emerged as the first runner up in the awards organized by the Tanzania Employers Association (ATE) and the National Council for Vocational Education and Vocational Training (NACTVET).

GGML has emerged as the first runner up in the group of large employers due to its contribution for supporting skills development

GGML shines at ATE, NACTVET awards

in Tanzania through apprenticeship, internship and workplace training.

The move comes a few days after the company received 50 graduates from various universities who have enrolled in the GGML internship programme. Among them, 30 are women and 20 men.

Last year, a total of 26 youth graduated from the training within GGML. Speaking after receiving the award, in an event held at the weekend in Dar es Salaam, GGML's human resources officer Charles

Masubi thanked the government for recognising the company's contribution to the production of excellent young people who are accepted in the labor market.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, who was an official guest at the event, said the government will continue to cooperate fully with the private sector in providing vocational education and training to generate professionals with sufficient skills needed in various sectors.

He also commended the em-

ployers for providing opportunities for practical training, apprenticeships, internships and the way they participate in preparing the curricula used in colleges and institutions of technical education and vocational training.

He called on all employers in the country to continue to cooperate with the government in ensuring that the goals of developing skills and increasing the labor market are successful for the future of the nation's development.

"The development of the econ-

omy of any country is highly dependent on the level of skills of the labor force that it has. Therefore, the contribution of stakeholders is important," he said.

He added that cooperation is important in developing skills for building an industrial economy. "I want to use this opportunity to congratulate you but the Government recognizes and appreciates the efforts in providing employment to our graduates, we congratulate you very much."

Commenting on the year's slo-

gan that says "strengthening vocational education and vocational training for the production of skilled workers in Tanzania," the Prime Minister said that the slogan is strong as it emphasizes the building of skilled human resources.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, minister for Education, Science and Technology said the government will continue to manage the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Skills for the Year 2016/17-2025/26, one of the objectives of which is to have cooperation between employers, stakeholders and colleges or educational institutions.

UAE and Tanzania sign pact on strategic delivery, storage of fertiliser for food security

DUBAI

THE Office of Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum, member of the Dubai Royal family, United Arab Emirates, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, to provide strategic supply and storage of fertiliser in the country for food security.

The MOU outlines the commitment to providing a reliable and consistent supply of high-quality fertilizer to Tanzania, which will help to support the country's agricultural sector and improve food security.

Under the terms of the MOU, The Private Office along with its partners will develop and operate a state-of-the-art fertilizer storage facility in Tanzania, which will have the capacity to hold up strategic supply of fertilizer products.

The government will facilitate in providing existing infrastructure at desired locations. The facility will be strategically located to ensure that farmers across the country have access to the fertilizer needs at competitive prices.

The government has agreed to offtake fertilizer quantities for distribution to farmers across the country. This partnership will help to ensure that Tanzanian farmers have access to high-quality fertilizer, which is essential for the growth of crops and the overall success of the agricultural sector.

Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum said: "We are thrilled to be partnering with the Tanzanian government to help support the country's agricultural sector."

He added: "This MOU represents a significant step forward in our efforts to provide



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farmers in Tanzania with high-grade fertilizer they need to grow healthy crops and improve their livelihoods."

This strategic partnership will help to drive economic growth, improve food security, and promote sustainable agriculture prac-

tices in the country.

He said the private office is committed to working closely with the Tanzanian govern-

ment to ensure the success of this initiative and looks forward to a long and productive partnership..

Tanzania, France sign new pact to boost airline links

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

IN an era marred with international flight restrictions, based on widespread visa bans, and Covid-19 protocols, Tanzania and France have agreed to a Bilateral Air Services Agreement (Basa), expected to increase air travel and commerce between the two countries.

According to the Tanzanian National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), France had 100,371 immigrants from outside of Africa last year, trailing only the United States, which received 100,600.

The Basa, which aims to boost Tanzania's tourist sector, was signed by Olivier Becht, France's minister for foreign trade and economic attraction, and Prof Makame Mbarawa, Tanzania's minister of works and transportation.

The signing of agreements with other nations gives Tanzania a bigger market to tap into with its tourist services, according to Prof Mbarawa, who spoke today at the Basa signing ceremony at the Tanzania-European Union (EU) Business Forum.

"This will also enhance trade and eco-

nomic opportunities for the country across the globe," he said.

According to official statistics, trade between Tanzania and France in 2021 was \$81.1 million (roughly Sh186.5 billion). Tobacco, beans, avocados, fish, cotton, vegetables, raw hides, and skins are some of Tanzania's top exports to France.

On the other hand, the country's top imports from France include laboratory reagents, veterinary medicine vaccinations, and equipment for animal feed.

The Basa pact is anticipated to pro-

vide the nation's desire to increase the geographic reach of its airlines, which will make it easier to transfer people and goods.

After signing the Basa, the Civil Aviation Authorities of Tanzania and France will work together to determine the date of entrance into effect, according to the acting director general of the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) Daniel Malanga.

The opening of Paris and Marseille to Tanzanian airlines with defined long-haul routes, as well as long-haul freight

between the two nations is also included in the new Basa, he continued.

Also, they decided to have Mayotte and Reunion, which are outside the former Basa's list of entry sites for Tanzanian authorized carriers.

"The new Basa also provides a room for code-sharing arrangements between airlines from Tanzania and France and those from third countries," Malanga added.

"We have increased the points of entry (airports) from two to three. In the current Basa, there is also the inclusion of provision on cargo service," he added.

Bank assures continued support for Zanzibar's tourism industry

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

EXIM Bank Tanzania has pledged to support Zanzibar's tourism industry to attain its target of increasing the number of visitors to 850,000 annually come 2025.

Jaffari Matundu, the Bank chief executive officer (CEO) made the pledge to the Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi who visited the bank's pavilion at the just ended Tourism Summit for Zanzibar Tourism stakeholders dubbed: "Z-Summit Zanzibar 2023 held in Zanzibar.

During his statement to the President, Matundu highlighted Exim's commitment to the industry saying the lender has further set up plans to boost inclusive, sustainable development in the sector, and help local tourism entrepreneurs, including women and youth, adopt digital platforms to grow their businesses.

"Exim Bank has, through various initiatives, given tourism development a new focus. By interacting with our dedicated team at the bank's Tourism Desk in Zanzibar, tourism stakeholders have been exposed to true specialists in the fields of tourism banking operations and financial needs within the tourism industry," he said.

Exim Bank Tanzania was the main Sponsor of the Z-Summit, which was the first international tourism summit to be held in Zanzibar. The Summit, which is organized by Kilifair in collaboration with the Zanzibar Association of Tourism Investors (ZATI), was attended by over 300 delegates from the tourism industry, including government senior officials, a number of international tour operators and hotel owners.

According to Matundu, partnering with ZATI, just a year ago, saw the bank providing number financial solutions to all ZATI members such as Corporate and SME Loans, Structuring Loans according to cash flows, dedicated treasury sales dealer, competitive pricing in TZS/USD and all other currencies.

Other solutions also include preferential treatment at the branch, Dedicated Relationship Manager, Cash Delivery or Pick-Up upon agreement, concessions in tariffs, insurance services and payment machines (POS) to

make it easier for tourists to make payments and not have to worry about carrying or walking with money.

"The partnership is an example of the long-term and large-scale support that Exim Bank provides to strategic sectors of the economies in the country in this case, the Zanzibar tourism industry." He mentioned.

In his opening remarks, Dr Mwinyi thanked the private sector and other tourism stakeholders for collaborating with the government to promote the islands.

He said that tourism significantly contributes to Zanzibar's economy, accounting for nearly 30 percent of its GDP, and that his government is committed to meeting market demands and matching supply to host 850,000 tourists by 2025.

In the course, the head of state informed the audience at the Z-Summit that Zanzibar has experienced a gradual and positive increase in room numbers, with an average of 2,000 rooms per year since 2019, and the opening of new international branded hotels and resorts in both Unguja and Pemba, adding: "As a result, we are gradually meeting the demand and offering a unique international experience to our tourists without losing our authentic Zanzibari identity."

Simai Mohamed Said Zanzibar's Minister for Tourism and Heritage said: "We must work together to promote sustainable tourism and ensure that the sector's economic benefits are shared by all while preserving the islands' natural and cultural heritage for generations to come."

Commenting on the existing relationship between tourism stakeholders in Zanzibar and the Exim bank Tanzania, ZATI chairman Rahim Bhaloo said the bank was the right partner as it is highly respected for its excellent service delivery, robust infrastructure driven by innovation, and operating on an advanced banking technology platform.

"Joining forces with Exim Bank was a natural choice for ZATI and the agreement and cooperation was intended to help strengthen the platform for the Tourism Stakeholders of Zanzibar and to help unlock the whole sector's full potential," he said.

1,500 in Dodoma receive diverse free eye treatment

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

MORE than 1,500 residents in Dodoma have received diverse free eye treatments, thanks to the Dar es Salaam-based Mzizima Lions Club for staging a two-day free clinic camp in the region.

Held at Makole hospital under financial support from M-BET, the humanitarian camp has been organized by the Dodoma lawmaker Anthony Mavunde with a prime vision to assist patients with eye complications in his constituency to receive high-medical treatments on free bases.

Speaking during the event, the secretary of Mzizima Lions Club, Ragib Hassanally expressed that apart from eye treatments, the two-day clinic also offered free diabetes diagnosis as well as blood pressure.

"Out of the so far eye patients that turned out at the camp to get free treatments, 50 undergone different minor and larger surgeries, whereby the majority were given spectacles together with numerous eye medicines," he briefed.

He also MP Mavunde (pictured) for organizing the useful camp, appealed to M-BET to continue dishing out more support to enable them to stage similar eye camps in more regions because eye treatments are very expensive to the extent that most of the patients are failing to afford.

He said the camp has established that most of the patients in the regions are the elders who are facing several eye complications due to their ageism, but some are troubled with trachoma.

"We're determined to extend this camp to more areas of Tanzania to serve more people who are facing myriad eye complications but can't afford treatments," he added.

Jamal Ngalya, Dodoma City Deputy Mayor who represented MP Mavunde said the government in the region will work over possibilities to assure a similar clinic is conducted after at least two months.

"Experience proves that Dodoma stands among regions with a huge number of people with eyes complications and most people are being crowded out from getting deserved treatments due to the high costs involved," he observed.

Tatu Hamisi, one of the residents who turned out to get free treatments at the camp said she was partly blind for three eyes due to high eye complications and she attended several hospitals from within and outside the region with no good avail.

"Yesterday (Saturday) when I came here I was totally blind, but thanks to the doctors here they operated on both of my eyes and I can currently see like others," she appreciated.



Govt sets aside 440bn/- per FY to boost road infrastructure

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has been setting aside more than 440bn/- every financial year, since FY 2021/22 to boost road infrastructure both in urban and rural areas in Tanzania mainland.

Tanzania Road Fund Manager Eliud Nyauhenga made the remarks when addressing to the Zanzibar road fund delegation who recently visited his office in Dodoma.

He said the government has done great refurbishment of road infrastructures in the country by increasing funds thereto.

"This has contributed to the strengthening of the country's rural road network, including opening up many roads that had been impassable in the past

These improvements have enabled people to benefit from both social and economic services from various projects implemented by the government," Nyauhenga said.

Nyauhenga, who is also the retired chairman of road funds repair association for East Africa zone told the visiting delegation that collection of funds for road refurbishment has increased by 27 per cent from 806.7bn/- in FY 2019/20 to 1,027bn/- in FY 2021/22.

He added that the decision to allocate road funds has enabled the refurbishment of roads hence protecting the government's investment in its infrastructure.

He said the government established the Tanzania

Road Fund in 2000 via the Road and Fuel Toll Act (Cap 220) with the aim of repairing all roads in Tanzania Mainland.

He said the main source of the Road Fund is levy on fuel, set at 363/- per litre of petrol and diesel.

He mentioned other sources as levies on foreign vehicles that use the country's roads as well as fines charged on overweight trucks.

He called on the people to take care of the road infrastructure in their areas including desisting from throwing trash into the drainage trenches.



For his part, the chairman of the committee for preparing guidelines regarding road use in Zanzibar, Bakari Rashid, said the Zanzibar government established the committee in order to improve road use and that the committee visited all roads in both Unguja and Pemba before they decided to visit Tanzania Road Fund.

The committee for preparing guidelines for use of roads in Zanzibar and that for reviewing the strategic plan for Zanzibar Road Fund are on a two-day visit in Dodoma to learn about the functions of the Tanzania Road Fund.

This has contributed to the strengthening of the country's rural road network, including opening up many roads



Deogratius Kwiuyukwa, TCB Bank's Director of Marketing and Business Development, pictured in Dodoma city at the weekend addressing various other officials of the bank including branch managers at a meeting called to discuss strategies to improve performance. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES)**

**MULTINATIONAL TANZANIA - BURUNDI - DR CONGO SGR
PROJECT PHASE I**

**[THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TANZANIA/BURUNDI (UVINZA - MUSONGATI
- GITEGA) SGR SECTION]**

TENDER NO.: PA/154/HQ/AFDB/202-23/C/01

FOR

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR REVIEW OF DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF
WORKS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A ELECTRIFIED STANDARD GAUGE
RAILWAY (SGR) UNDER DESIGN AND BUILD ARRANGEMENT**

1. The Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Burundi have applied for financing from the African Development Bank toward the cost of The Construction of the Tanzania/Burundi (Uvinza - Musongati - Gitega) SGR Section which is the Phase I of the Tanzania - Burundi - DR Congo SGR project and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this loan to make payments under the contract for Consultancy Services for Review of Design and Supervision of Works for Construction of a Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) under Design and Build Arrangement.
2. The Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Burundi have entered into a bilateral agreement and appointed the Tanzania Railways Corporation as the implementing agency for this multinational project.
3. The services for which this EOI applies and included under this project are Consultancy Services for Review of Design and Supervision of Works for Construction of a Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) under Design and Build Arrangement.
4. The scope of works will be the design and construction of about 282 km of an electrified Standard Gauge Railway line from Uvinza in Tanzania (off the Tabora - Kigoma SGR line), across the international border along Malagarasi river to Musongati and onwards to Gitega (both in Burundi).
5. The two Governments of Tanzania and Burundi have entered into a bilateral agreement to implement this multinational project as a single project within Tanzania to Burundi territories. There will be a single works contractor and a single supervising consultant for the whole project. However, for purposes of administration, the project is divided into two (2) lots: Lot 1 consist of the 156km Tanzania Section to be implemented in one package, and Lot 2 consists of the 126 km Burundi section to be implemented in 2 packages as described below.
6. The project is divided as follows:
 - a) Lot 1: Tanzania section from Uvinza to Malagarasi border (156 km) to be implemented as one package.
 - b) Lot 2: Burundi section from Malagarasi to Musongati and Gitega (126km) to be implemented in two packages
 - a. Lot 2-Package A: Malagarasi - Musongati (80km) section.
 - b. Lot 2- Package B: Musongati - Gitega (46km) section.
7. On behalf of two Governments of Tanzania and Burundi, TRC a government entity formed under Railways Act No. 10 of 2017 and incorporated in the United Republic of Tanzania under the Companies Act No. 10 of 2017 will facilitate all procurement on behalf of parties. TRC is wholly owned by the Government of United Republic of Tanzania and is under the Ministry of Works and Transport. The major responsibilities of TRC as provided in the Act are principally, to develop, promote and manage the railway infrastructure assets in Tanzania Mainland. TRC in collaboration with ARTF (Burundi Corporation in charge of Railways) intends to Construct an approximately 282 route-kilometre Railway line between Uvinza and Gitega via Musongati in Burundi and other railway facilities enroute to Standard Gauge, based on American Railway Engineering Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA) and UIC standards. The project will be implemented for period of five (5) years.
8. The Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) as Implementing Agency now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services.
9. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services such as (i) Company profile, Registration and Incorporation certificates, (ii) Proven technical capability and experience to carry out supervision of an Electrified UIC standards Railway Construction Works with ERTMS Level II systems, and review of contractor's designs of at least 1,000 km, at least five (5) years' experience and having worked in more than two (2) projects with similar nature and scope, (iii) Present detailed description of similar successfully completed assignments/projects, include track record demonstrating experience in similar conditions, (iv) Availability of appropriate skills among staff/team, (v) Brief methodology towards implementation of the project. Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.
10. Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's **Procurement Policy Framework dated October 2015**, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>. Borrowers are under no obligation to shortlist any consultant who expresses interest.
11. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 0900 to 1630hours.
12. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by **24th March, 2023 at 1030hours** and mention "Tender No. PA/154/HQ/AFDB/202-23/C/01 for **CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR REVIEW OF DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF WORKS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY (SGR) UNDER DESIGN AND BUILD ARRANGEMENT**".
13. EOI will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of EOI's representative who choose to attend the opening ceremony **TRC HQ Conference Room**
14. Electronic, telegraphic, telefax will NOT be accepted. Late submission of EOI shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances and will be returned to sender unopened.

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**Taking A New Look
At The News**
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Reshuffling key CEOs, regulatory heads vital for policy follow-up

APPOINTMENTS to plum public sector positions are events followed closely by a wide section of the public, more so when there are preliminary events that signal a chance in this or that direction. That is likely to have been the case when President Samia Suluhu Hassan picked three new CEOs for major public agencies, the National Housing Corporation (NHC), the Treasury Registrar and the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC). Each of the appointments has its reasons, but finally it is the wider strategic goal that matters, as to whether there is sufficient direction and zeal to implement existing policies, or resist them.

While inward ethics of public agencies are vital, for instance their respective performance in financial administration, as reviewed each year by the Controller and Auditor General for that matter, there are other aspects. One is the ability to fruitfully interact with the private sector as a whole, with a specific complement arising with regard to fair and positive interaction with foreign investors. It need not be emphasised that there are hard patches of disenchantment with the foreign private sector, when they appear to encroach on public sector 'hunting grounds,' non-disposed to the whole idea of joint ventures, conducting interminable negotiations, etc.

Different issues surface on the basis of the sort of changes being carried out at the same time, as it may also suggest that within this kind of weakness at an economic entity or parastatal organisation, there may be little pressure to go forward from the Treasury Registrar, as custodian of interests of the government interest. Yet there

is a difference between ministerial direction in that regard and the Registrar's role, whether it is via advice or approval of a certain course of action. And again there is a difference between the board and management. So there is likely to be a lot of guesswork or conjuring of circumstances when such changes occur but with an effort one can 'make the sense of it all,' as a famous business chronicler on US television usually puts it. In a sense though, it can be said that there is a gradual shift from closed mentality of career public service or public agency officers with preconceived ideological propensities, to a more diverse mix of top public agency chief executives. Several recent appointees have been drawn from the private sector, a rather uncharted policy path.

At times analysts or casual observers make out too huge a difference between the public sector and private sector immediate background, whereas at times the two can easily be collapsed. A number of key investors, those who are captains of industry at present and those who did in the past, had prolonged public agency backgrounds, at times joining the private sector only on retirement. When it comes to their training backgrounds the difference is even less noticeable. Only family circumstance, or early career niche, makes one a private sector acolyte for most of his or her life. They don't quite differ in their sentiments, but have varied exposure, sympathies.

When the issue is reduced to that level, it follows that the more significant difference is one's perception of current policies and readiness to follow them, put them into action.

Taifa Gas LPG facility project cements Kenya-Tanzania ties

AN air of new 'glad to meet you' scenario was visible as Kenyan President William Ruto graced a foundation stone laying ceremony for a 30bn tonnes liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) handling facility at the coastal city port of Mombasa, lately. His remarks sought to underline a new era of trust between business operators and public institutions in the two countries, precisely what was happening in Dar es Salaam at the European Union-organised business forum. The Kenyan leader welcomed Tanzanians to invest across the border in greater numbers, affirming that his government was pursuing a mindset changing direction, to end perennial mistrust.

Admittedly efforts in that direction started a long way off, from the height of animosities in 2014 where a motion surfaced in the legislature to take Tanzania out of the East African Community, after three partner states (out of five at the time) formed a 'coalition of the willing' to take forward common market objectives. Fourth phase president Jakaya Kikwete has to draw deep into his career foreign service experience to dissuade MPs on the intentions of our EAC partner states, etc. The fifth phase president, Dr John Magufuli cultivated visible affinities with the Kenyan leadership at the time, removing roadblocks to grain exports and uplifting law enforcement across the common border, etc. Still it is during the sixth phase that the bulk of non-tariff barriers were swept aside, which illustrated the mistrust President Ruto castigated at length.

The \$200m (450bn/-) handling facility was inspired by Taifa Gas chairman Rostam Aziz, a local businessman who had high ranking roles in politics before leaving that field mid last decade as the triumphant intra-CCM alliance of 2005 split up. This investment is an illustration of

the competition for investments that the EAC common market entails, as chances are that the Taifa Gas Group can distribute cylinders in the local market without a problem. If it thinks of major investments in areas where a major public agency has interests, it may feel squeezed, etc.

When faced with risks of losing investments to our neighbours now that we have a borderless EAC market and an increasingly institutionalised African Continental Free Trade Area, it is likely that regulatory authorities and ministerial executives will start playing the tune, and even be more proactive, enabling rather than frustrate investments. We usually think of the big problem as attracting foreign investors, while this is a whitewash for taking local investors for granted. That attitude is increasingly untenable as trade barriers fall all around us.

This event also raises the bar for local regulatory institutions to formulate clear strategies, definitely involving the private sector, as to what it will take to "be part of the desire by (East African states) to ensure there is clean and affordable energy for the majority by 2025," to use the words of the Kenyan leader. So far LPG is the most promising alternative to enable the public to evacuate charcoal, but the gas cylinders are not freely available as yet, and refilling cost is still too high. It is another area which validates a minimum of government subsidy, using the carbon credits UN initiative to actually ban the production of charcoal. There is a task force charged with providing ideas in that direction but as it is usually the case, it may have neat public sector dominance ideas, not new ones, whereas to be effective plenty of other orientations are needed, checked with the private sector, and involving a whole host of new investments,

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One small step for a man,
One giant leap 'year' for mankind.



Wanted: An African as World Bank chief

By Wole Olaoye

While all our attention was focused on the Saturday's Nigerian presidential elections, events of global proportions are shaping up elsewhere in the world. Since time will not wait for anyone, and considering that we all have to live with the consequences of those other events whether we pay attention or not, the wise thing to do is take both the local and the foreign in our strides.

In a little over one week -- all things being equal -- the world will know who among the contending candidates the next Nigerian President is. Apocalyptic naysaying futurologists will turn their attention to the next set of elections. But as always, elections will come and go; the swindled voters and their problems will always be here to provide material for researchers interested in finding out why a bird born in a cage thinks flying is a disease.

Please join me in looking far afield at one global development that could affect our fortunes for good or for ill. Last week, like a bolt out of the blue, the man who has been the President of the World Bank since 2019, David Malpass (pictured), announced his intention to step down on 30 June, one year before the end of his term.

The World Bank's membership comprises 187 nations with the United States of America as the largest shareholder. It lends money to developing countries to facilitate development (hopefully) and help reduce poverty. The United States has always enjoyed the privilege of appointing the bank's president from among its citizens.

"It has been an enormous honour and privilege to serve as President of the world's premier development institution," said Malpass in a statement announcing his decision to quit. "With developing countries facing unprecedented crises, I'm proud that the Bank Group has responded with speed, scale, innovation, and impact." Although he scored his performance high, he declared that institutions deserve to have new energy and that this was a good time for the World Bank to do that.

The World Bank under Malpass' leadership faced a number of challenges, notably the global pandemic and the War in Ukraine. It tackled the problem by implementing record financial surges and focused attention on policies to drive economic growth, reduce government debt burdens, and help reduce poverty.

However, Malpass' tenure was dogged by controversies, especially the perception that he was a climate change denier. He had faced criticism from climate activists last year after he refused to confirm during a discussion session whether he accepted the scientific consensus that burning fossil fuels was dangerously warming the planet. Indeed, many opponents



called for his resignation at the time.

The World Bank has noted that it more than doubled its climate financing to a record \$32 billion last year. The outgoing president recently restated the World Bank's commitment to reducing debt payments for developing nations so they can instead fund crucial projects like climate adaptation.

"The reason this is important is because the governments and the people of the countries need the money for food, for health, for education, for nutrition and for climate adaptation. These are all pressing needs," he said.

The perspective of African countries is hardly considered when the big industrialised nations sit at world fora to make unctuous pronouncements. Take the climate change issue, for example. The industrialised world is responsible for most of the pollution while Africa is badly hit by the consequences. The continent's climate has warmed more than the global average since the 1850s. The sea level rise along African coastlines is faster than the global average, contributing to frequent and severe coastal flooding, erosion and salinity in low-lying cities.

The world's top 10 polluters who need to take action to reduce their carbon emissions and also offset their despoliation of the planet by supporting environmental projects around the world, are as follows:

China (More than 10,065 million tons of CO2)
United States (5,416 million tons of CO2)
India (2,654 million tons of CO2)
Russia (1,711 million tons of CO2)
Japan (1,162 million tons of CO2)
Germany (759 million tons of CO2)
Iran (720 million tons of CO2)
South Korea (659 million tons of CO2)
Saudi Arabia (621 million tons of CO2)
Indonesia (615 million tons of CO2)

It is becoming increasingly clear to the world that the much desired global prosperity and sustainable development will continue to be a mirage until Africa is brought into the scheme of things at the topmost level. The ridiculous state of affairs in Africa is best exemplified by the flaring of gas by Western oil drilling companies who destroy the environment and then preach to the local population not to use firewood for cooking!

It is now generally agreed that Africa is the new frontier of development. Smart politics on the part of the top industrialised countries demands that they bring the continent to the table through an assimilation of its highly skilled technocrats on the global stage. That will be a win-win situation, especially considering that Africa has been at the receiving end of global greed for centuries.

I advocate that the African Union, for once, quits being a mere passenger in the global train and rises to its responsibility of pursuing a continental agenda. The exit of the World Bank president is a great opportunity to push for an Af-

rican as replacement for the first time in the history of the bank. Granted that the US is the largest shareholder of the Bank with 16.57 per cent of its capital shares (which accounts for why every World Bank president since inception has been a US citizen), perhaps, to ensure that the US remains the number one influencer in Africa, this is a strategic sacrifice worth making.

To qualify for appointment as President of World Bank, a candidate must have a proven track record of leadership; have experience managing large organisations with international exposure, and a familiarity with the public sector; ability to articulate a clear vision of the Bank's development mission; a firm commitment to and appreciation for multilateral cooperation; effective and diplomatic communication skills, impartiality, and objectivity.

Africa is spoilt for choices but the primus inter pares in my opinion is the man who currently runs the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina.

My reasons are legion, but they can be distilled as follows:

Adesina is a globally well-respected development economist with ability to work very effectively with diverse shareholders and to galvanise pragmatic actions to deliver development impacts at scale. Under his leadership at the African Development Bank its work has impacted on over 335 million people.

The Africa Investment Forum which he pioneered brings together investors from around the world, including institutional investors, and has so far mobilised over \$150 billion of investment interest to Africa within three years.

Global leadership on climate change adaptation for developing countries, and a global leader on green growth and renewable energy for developing countries. He helped to launch the \$25 billion African Adaptation Acceleration Program, together with the Global Center on Adaptation, the largest climate adaptation program in the world.

Under his leadership the African Development Bank's general capital increased from \$93 billion to \$208 billion. The African Development Bank was ranked by the Washington-based Center for Global Development as the Best Multilateral Financial Institution in the world in 2022.

Solid financial and development economics experience. Impeccable academic and professional credentials. Recipient of several global recognitions, including the World Food Prize. Strong ability to work effectively with the IMF to optimise the global financial architecture to accelerate the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

Premium Times

We need to invest more resources to keep both boys and girls in school

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE recently-released results for the Standard Four National Assessment (SFNA) and Form Two National Assessment (FTNA) conducted in October and November last year should serve as a wakeup call for us as a nation to invest more resources in education.

According to data from the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA), a total of 1,718,896 pupils were registered to take the SFNA exams, including 870,999 girls (equal to 50.67 per cent) and 847,897 boys (equal to 49.33 per cent). Out of the registered pupils, 1,592,600 equal to 92.65 per cent, took the test while 126,296, equal to 7.35 per cent did not take the test.

On the other hand, a total of 690,341 pupils were registered to take the FTNA exams, including 367,013 girls, equal to 53.16 per cent and 323,328 boys, equal to 46.84 per cent. And according to NECTA, 635,130 students equal to 92.00 per cent of the registered candidates took the test, including 342,210 girls (93.24 per cent) and 292,920 boys (90.60 per cent).

The trend shows that at pre and primary level, girls are always more than boys but as they progress to ordinary and advanced secondary as well as colleges and universities, things reverse with more boys and less girls. Experts have pinned these changes to a number of factors but chiefly entrenched traditional patriarchal systems that favour boys at the expense of girls.

This is sad reality despite studies showing that investing in child girls'

education transforms communities, countries and the entire world. For, girls who receive an education are less likely to marry young and more likely to lead healthy, productive lives. They earn higher incomes, participate in the decisions that most affect them, and build better futures for themselves and their families.

Girls' education strengthens economies and reduces inequality. It contributes to more stable, resilient societies that give all individuals - including boys and men and that it's the opportunity to fulfill their potential including their dreams.

But education for girls is about more than access to school. It's also about girls feeling safe in classrooms and supported in the subjects and careers they choose to pursue - including those in which they are often under-represented.

The government has made various efforts in supporting girls' education by making good learning environments, availing studying materials accessible by building more girls' schools and libraries.

When officially opening one of the girls' secondary schools in his Ruangwa Constituency recently, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said that the government is committed to investing more resources in girls' education for the purpose of making them reach their desired goals.

Despite the government's efforts in supporting the girl child's education, various stakeholders in the country including HakiElimu have been at the



forefront by collaborating with the government in many areas in different projects including Champion Project.

The project was established in some primary and secondary schools across the country whereby a total of 127 Champion Clubs were initiated and they aimed at educating girls on gender and protection to enable them thrive academically.

Many girls in the country face challenges while in school which block them from reaching their potentials and dreams as significant number drop out of schools due to early pregnancies, early marriages, lack of enough supportive teachers and inadequate learning materials including books as

well as uniforms.

Nasra Mkonga (12) who is standard seven pupil at Mitenga primary school in Kilwa District, Lindi Region, who lives with her single mother and her two siblings says she has a dream of becoming a doctor but has been facing numerous challenges that threaten her dream.

He fears emanate from the fact that she has been witnessing her fellow pupils drop out of school due to early pregnancies, something which she says she does not wish to happen to girls her age yet the same happens and several dreams like hers come to an end.

Mkonga said that after joining Champion Club, many things have changed

in her studies but chiefly behaviour change, thanks to awareness she has which enabled her to focus only on studying hard and avoiding temptations which have led many girls into early pregnancies and hence out of school.

She said that through Champion Club, she and her fellow girls have been learning female reproductive system and how to avoid getting into the trap that has ended many dreams - relationship at your age. She said that self-awareness is one of the topics she has really liked from the club.

"Self-awareness is to understand your self-worth and keeping off distractions that can end your dreams," she said.

Mkonga joined champion club when she was in standard six after being informed by her teacher on the importance of the club in reaching her goals.

Through Champion Clubs, Mkonga says she has learnt a lot that help her in her journey towards reaching her dream of becoming a doctor, including studying hard at school and helping her mother with house chores after school.

"I want to be a doctor because I like helping people and there is no bigger help one can give than god health," she said.

"My dream started when she joined standard one and with the awareness I got at the club, I don't see myself falling into the same temptations that ended dreams of my fellow young girls."

Trends show that girls outnumber boys in primary and lower secondary schools but this becomes vice versa in high schools and universities. File photo

Nigeria's post-election reset needs accountable youth-centred leaders

By Cecilia Russell

YOUTH have already transformed the narrative of the 2023 elections, and it would be crucial for Nigeria's newly elected president to consider their issues as he takes on the enormous task of rebuilding the country, says CIVICUS' Advocacy and Campaigns Lead David Kode.

Speaking on the eve of today's Presidential election, Kode told IPS there had been an 11 percent increase in registration since the 2019 elections, and youth have shown more interest in these elections than any other since 1999.

Youth eager to see change

Youth activism which established itself as a political force during the 2020 #EndSars protests against police brutality and impunity, has continued on the trajectory of demanding change in the troubled country. The demand for change has gone far beyond just a change in government and leadership, but affected institutions like the church too, says Kode.

It would be necessary for the Nigerian president to tackle youth unemployment and ensure that those looking for jobs can access them. Going hand in hand with this, the civil society organization CIVICUS would like to see accountable and democratic leadership emerging during the election season, one that takes into consideration the concerns of the people.

Kode refers to the recent saga with the recall of the old naira currency, where people protested after the Central Bank of Nigeria imposed a deadline for swapping old notes. The bank was forced to extend the deadline, but it's clear that decision-making was an example of a government and administration out of touch with its people.

"In general, as civil society organizations, we can facilitate between decision makers and the people - and that wasn't done, and the views of the majority of Nigerians were not taken into account," Kode said.

"And that's a big problem for a society like Nigeria because once the decision makers are in positions of authority, it's like they're far removed from the lived experiences of ordinary Nigerians. They don't access the schools that ordinary Nigerian access; they send their kids to schools in Western nations. They don't access the hospitals when they are sick, they go out of the country, so they don't experience these challenges on a day-to-day basis and do not really take time to consult the people about big decisions."

He says it would have been logical to consult extensively before changing a currency.

No matter if it is the candidate that seems to have caught the imagination of the youth - Peter Obi - or another of the front runners, Bola Tinubu or Atiku Abubakar, that wins the election, it's clear that the country needs a reset. No matter who wins, he hopes Nigeria responds in a way that strengthens the democratic process and doesn't end in violence.

If there are protests, he hopes that they are not violently repressed - and that a free flow of information remains sacrosanct.

"If you have a leader who really has a vision for the country and prioritizes inclusivity, that might be the beginning of the change that is needed."

"Nigeria is a very, very complex, society with a huge population. And so much needs to be done, and it will take years to fix the system."

Kode believes many challenges today are tied to the



Youth involvement in Nigeria's election is at an all-time high. Here the top three candidates, Peter Obi, Atiku Abubakar and Bola Tinubu take to the campaign trail in a country where there are 93 million registered voters. Credit: Photos Twitter/Graphic: Cecilia Russell



current president, Muhammadu Buhari, especially those concerning the economy and security exacerbated by his "ambivalence to the plight of citizens."

The advantage that the new president will have, for the first time since 1999, is that the leader is not tied in some way to the country's military dictatorship. Within the country's constitution, there are structures available for wide consultation - from the federal to national level, where people have direct access to representatives at the national level. However, ordinary people's concerns were not considered.

"So, we had leaders that are far removed from the lived realities of the ordinary people. And that's why somebody like Peter (Obi) resonates very much with the youth and many Nigerians, particularly because he's seen as somebody who is not really part of the establishment. Many people think he might be that person who could start instituting change."

Kode believes youth activism is exciting for Nigeria and the continent; after all, youth drove many liberation movements. Con-

versations around the continent prioritize youth, including the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The youngest presidential candidate is 38 years old, and it is almost as if the youth are saying: In the past, they "stayed away because they are ambivalent, but it's not led to change." Youth apathy is an issue because "in Africa, there are more elections (than before), but the same leaders are being recycled."

With youth involvement, Kode believes Nigeria can perhaps lead the continent in encouraging "active participation."

"Irrespective of the outcome, I think the call from civil society to the new leadership will be to respect the constitution and democratic institutions. If people want to protest about the outcome, allow them to - it's their constitutional right," Kode says. "And I think it's the responsibility of the state to ensure security and also allow diverse voices to be able to express themselves."

He points out that elections are exciting because nobody knows who the winner will be. The other good thing is that this is the

first election since the return to democracy in 1999 where the incumbent isn't contesting.

"That provides in itself an opportunity for change, right, because you haven't got people who may have been tied to some of the vices of the past ... but it is the democratic process that should be built upon, and the rights of citizens need to be respected. Because there will be another election in the next few years, and if you kill certain institutions now, you could set Nigeria a few steps back." Nobody can predict an election, and while not everybody will be happy, it would be important for the post-election period to be carefully managed.

"Don't disrupt the internet. Allow the information to flow as necessary. Be conscious of security issues. There are still some uncertainties; people in rural areas may not be well connected. Security or insecurity might prevent many people from voting. We know there are about 93 million registered voters, but some may not be able to vote because of security issues or even because of technical challenges. So irrespective of the outcome, I

think the call from civil society will be to respect the rule of law."

Finally, Kode says they are "encouraged that the youth are actively involved in this process, from what we see from the statistics, many are willing to vote...let's hope this is the beginning of a new dawn for Nigeria. A lot of countries on the continent would benefit from a democratic Nigeria.

"When Nigeria is safe, sound secure. Many other African countries will be safe, sound, and secure as well."

Lessons from initiative that empowers adolescent girls in Africa

By Naureen Hossain

BRAC'S Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (ELA) has benefitted tens of thousands of girls, and its recently released report shows an organization willing to adapt to the circumstances to continue to ensure adolescent girls and young women receive meaningful sexual and reproductive health rights support.

The report titled Adolescent Empowerment at a scale: Successes and challenges of an evidence-based approach to young women's programming in Africa was launched on February 15, 2023, at a BRAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly hosted event. The report was written with the support of the Spotlight Initiative, an UN-led, multi-partner initiative that aims to respond to and eliminate violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on family and intimate partner violence, sexual and gender-based violence, and harmful practices.

The history of BRAC's Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (ELA), which was designed to provide sexual and reproductive health education and livelihood training to adolescent girls and young women, is covered in the report. The programme was launched in Uganda in 2006 and has since been implemented in Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Liberia. During the program's peak from 2013 to 2015, BRAC hosted over 1800 clubs with over 80,000 members.

"The reason that we partnered with BRAC, [and] have partnered with them in the field... is because of the incredible work that they do in this very efficient, kind of way," said moderator Satvika Chalasani, a Technical Specialist for UNFPA who oversees programmes for adolescent girls and ending child marriage.

Chalasani observed that BRAC had gotten to tens of thousands of women on the African continent through their programme, Empowerment, and Livelihood for Adolescents, and it was important to learn from their experiences of 15 years in the field.

Willibald Zeck, UNFPA's Chief of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, also noted BRAC's record with youth empowerment programmes in his opening remarks while adding that demographic changes in certain regions have influenced how such programmes must be designed and implemented. It is estimated that over 60 per cent of Africa's population is under 25.

"As you know, in UNFPA, we really work across the continuum of sexual reproductive health and rights... And we see in certain regions around the globe the new demographics that are showing that there will be more adolescents in the population, but especially on the African continent, which is a great opportunity in so many ways, but it also brings more challenges."

Sarah Tofte, a research and policy consultant, and the report's primary author, presented her findings, breaking down the program's initial model and implementation and its eventual reset and adaptations.

The report includes findings from academic evalua-



A girl reads a story book with lessons on life skills at an ELA club in Uganda. Credit: Uganda/BRAC

tions conducted by experts, randomized control trials (RCTs) conducted in the regions where ELA programs were hosted, and nearly 100 field interviews with participants and ELA staff.

The findings reveal an overall positive reception and impact on participants and their communities.

Tofte, the co-founder of Understory Consulting, a research and policy consulting firm, noted that the interviewees reported a greater, newfound sense of self through the ELA program, which they connected to making well-informed decisions and contributing productively to the community.

"So based on these positive academic results, and then what I was hearing from field interviews and what participants have been saying over many years, ELA really became a model for other adolescent and youth empowerment programming around the globe, including at the World Bank and at USAID."

As the report explains, implementation challenges would surface as the program continued. Tofte, the co-founder, noted that while the program's initial results had been positive, it had slowly ceased to achieve its intended impact.

"By 2017, anecdotal reports had emerged within BRAC about lagging performance of ELA clubs in several countries, including drops in attendance and gaps in the deliv-

ery of programming," she said.

The decline in the program quality and the resulting challenge of sustaining the program over long periods of time also made it difficult to secure funding that would have gone toward addressing the decline. The program had become repetitive for some participants and staff, and issues of deeper community engagement had presented a hurdle for the program's success.

In 2020, ELA would undergo a "reset" significantly through making fundamental and necessary changes to the curriculum. This would not only update the discussions on reproductive health and livelihood training but would make it more relevant to the economic and social circumstances of the girls they were intended for - while placing more emphasis on providing vocational and livelihood training and financial literacy. Other changes to the curriculum included adjusting the weekly ELA club meetings to optimize engagement and a new graduation model for students to leave the program after one year of completion. The resets were applied at a reduced scale to approximately 140 clubs in the countries where ELA programs were already present.

"Early feedback from this curriculum revamp from the participants suggest that the new curriculum is well received by par-

ticipants and is driving a positive outcome in attendance and program impact," Tofte said.

The ELA program adjustments are critical to modernizing the curriculum. What should be of note were the considerations taken to improve community engagement.

"Another big focus of the reset was to deepen community engagement. Prior, a lack of formalized mechanisms for community engagement resulted in some pushback at times from parents of community members who may not have fully bought into the ELA model," Tofte said. She added that in some cases, the pushback was targeted at the sexual and reproductive health components when the content went against community norms around matters such as child marriage and sexual health.

In response, BRAC, through ELA, has taken measures to establish formal channels with community stakeholders and parents of the participants. By directly engaging with the community's village elders, religious leaders, and other respected community members, ELA staff members can obtain their support before establishing a program. Formal community leadership committees are also formed, working with ELA staff to ensure smooth operations.

Rudo Kayambo, Regional Director of Africa for BRAC International, pointed

out how the findings through field research and the trials were able to be synthesized and focused enough that they could be incorporated into the new program structure, which included paying attention to community members and groups that BRAC did not commonly work with in the past.

"One of the DNAs of BRAC is being able to learn and adapt it quickly," she said. "...We have now managed to integrate all the lessons into a bigger multicultural program, and some of the key lessons were that they need to support the frontline workers."

When asked to elaborate, Kayambo added that BRAC would provide technical training and the infrastructure to help monitor and use digital technology. "[Frontline workers] are the heart of delivering the value of the ELA program and all its components."

Another significant change to the rollout of the new ELA program was the introduction of sexual and reproductive health programs targeted at adolescent boys. Boys were included in the program partly to fill a gap in youth-empowerment programs that had thus far been only directed at adolescent girls and women. Through a series of RCTs conducted in 50 rural communities, trial programs similar to ELA were conducted with boys and young men, targeting them specifically.

"[There was] the need to also incorporate adolescent boys and young men, because that formalizes our commitment to getting community buy-in," said Kayambo.

Manisha Shah, a professor of public policy at UCLA who worked with BRAC to conduct the randomized trials, elaborated that the rationale was to include boys since they were already involved in the decisions and issues that girls and women had to contend with when it came to their health.

"Unless we get these boys on board with the agenda, it's going to be really hard to think about how we improve the outcomes related to female sexual reproductive health," she said.

Beyond zero discrimination: A new social contract for health workers

By Roomi Aziz

WHILE its origins may be rooted in the discrimination faced by people living with HIV, Zero Discrimination Day has evolved to celebrate commitments to the fundamental human right of being treated equally in law and in practice.

Within the context of global health, the day is an opportunity to examine discrimination from the perspective of health and care workers, who face barriers based on their race, gender, and other socio-economic and cultural factors.

In the context of a global health workforce under siege from the threat of the great resignation in health, it is especially important to examine the impact of discrimination on health systems at global, national and local levels.

It is widely recognized that Human Resources for Health (HRH) play a crucial role in achieving Universal Health

Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. According to the World Health Organization, there is an anticipated shortage of 10 million health care workers globally by 2030, with the greatest demand in low and lower-middle income countries where the burden of disease is higher.

In recent times, recognition of the gender pay gap in health of 24% and its impact on national and regional economy has spurred greater research into the unequal treatment of women, taking into account their specific contexts and locations. Despite efforts to address these issues, progress has been uneven.

Mounting evidence around gender inequities in the health workforce, specifically at the leadership level underscores the problem of gender bias in health decision-making. Women who make up 70% of the overall health workforce and 90% of frontline staff continue to be marginalised in leadership, occupying just



one-quarter of the decision-making roles in health.

Furthermore, occupational segregation and the clustering of women into low-earning professions and settings further limit their career advancement. Their experiences in the health workforce are further compounded by various forms of discrimination, such as harassment, violence, assault and discrimination at several levels. Gender is not the only factor at play. As health workers migrate from rural and remote areas to

well-resourced urban centres, or from developing to developed countries, new forms of barriers and biases emerge in a global context where high-income nations wield most of the socio-economic power.

These include the need to undergo resource-intensive accreditation and licensing exams, encountering anti-immigrant hostility and changing patient-provider dynamics, limited options from smaller job pools, and being affected by global events and geopoliti-

cal shifts.

This "brain drain" of health workers also has negative implications for the understaffed health systems that they leave behind. In addition to gender and migrant status, healthcare workers may also face discrimination based on their race, ethnicity, language and dialect, marital status and sexual orientation, amidst other factors. These experiences affect the health workforce in different ways, resulting in inefficiencies, demotivation and burnout at the local, national and regional levels.

Healthcare systems that fail to acknowledge and address latent discriminatory actions may unintentionally perpetuate these inequalities, further exacerbating the biased experiences of healthcare workers, despite the need for a diverse health workforce to better serve their diverse populations.

While we talk about zero discrimination, dignity, de-

cent work, fair pay, and the importance of endorsing diversity and practising inclusion at the macro level of health systems, are we also 'seeing' and 'acknowledging' where this discrimination exists and understanding the negative consequences on health workers and population's health? Are we collecting and analysing the data that give us the full picture? More importantly, discrimination in healthcare settings not only violates the fundamental human right to be treated with respect and equality, but also severely limits the chances of achieving the SDGs by 2030. The 2017 UN statement succinctly framed this understanding in their call to end discrimination in healthcare settings.

Equal opportunities and experiences for health and care workers must be ensured at every stage of their career, including recruitment, promotion, growth and advancement, particularly in the post-

COVID era of globalisation.

Gender and race are the primary drivers of inequality, around which most of the structural discrimination in health revolves. Therefore, policies and practices must be devised to study and address this discrimination and their underlying drivers, to fully exploit the available talent and potential of the health workforce and to ensure equitable opportunities for growth and leadership and strategically achieve UHC.

Now more than ever, it is urgent that leaders in global health take bold action by committing to a new social contract that prioritises the rights of health and care workers. This step will not only ensure a more equitable and just health workforce, but also provide better health outcomes for communities worldwide.

Roomi Aziz is Technical Lead of the Pakistan Chapter, Women in Global Health IPS UN Bureau

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

UN refugee agency seeks \$1.3 bn to support South Sudan refugees

By Guardian Reporter

THE UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and 108 aid organizations Friday requested \$1.3 billion to assist 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees throughout 2023.

Two-thirds of South Sudan has been submerged by persistent floods for four years, causing damage to tens of thousands of homes, farms and cattle.

The money, requested in the South Sudan Refugee Response Plan, will benefit local host communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. The five nations were among UNHCR's most under-funded operations last year.

The request comes as the region's economic situation continues to deteriorate amid rising gasoline and food prices as well as rising unemployment brought on by the COVID-19.

High levels of underfunding, a protracted drought and acute food shortages have put a strain on refugee host nations.

Furthermore, the appeal aims to help refugees and local communities produce revenue, meet their basic requirements, and live in dignity by offering digital financial support, as well as other activities that build resilience, like access to finance and training. Eighty percent of the South Sudanese refugees in the area are women and children, so financing for initiatives to address gender-based violence must also be given top priority.

Host governments will also receive assistance to improve efforts to integrate refugees into national social protection systems and increase their access to essential services. To lessen the effects on the environment, initiatives to enhance the use of clean and sustainable energy in refugee-hosting areas will also be strengthened.



African leaders meet in Zimbabwe for first FAO regional workshop on national water roadmaps

HARARE

"WE clearly need to rethink how we use the water we have in a sustainable and equitable way - with innovations in agriculture being at the forefront", the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, told African leaders and experts during the high-level opening of the first FAO regional workshop on National Water Roadmaps in Zimbabwe.

Qu explained that the National Water Roadmaps - strategies that will help to strengthen water resources management - are an important tool to address the growing challenges around water, helping to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The first FAO regional workshop, held in-person in Harare

and virtually, aims to inform African countries about the overall role of water in sustainable development and to provide a platform for governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia to discuss and develop country-specific water plans.

The FAO Director-General reminded participants that water is one of the world's most precious resources and it is central to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals.

"Because water is food, and food is water, food is life... Over 95% of the food we eat is produced on land, from soil and water", he underscored. "Yet we are facing severe water challenges: droughts and water scarcity, floods and pollution", he warned.

Indeed, the climate crisis is increasing the frequency

and intensity of droughts and floods, which has an impact on food production.

In Africa, 289 million people - 21% of the population - still suffer from hunger or food insecurity, and more than 300 million in the continent live in areas affected by low and irregular rainfall, resulting in droughts and water scarcity.

"These extremes - of too much or too little water - impact farmers, crop production, livestock, food security, economies and livelihoods", Qu emphasized.

The Director-General, underlining that Agriculture is responsible for 70% of global freshwater withdrawals, told the workshop that it is crucial to increase water productivity with innovations in the sector being at the forefront.

"More crop per drop", he explained, adding that it is also necessary to cut greenhouse

emissions from agriculture through the sustainable management of soils, to prevent further disruption to the water and climate cycle.

He also invited African countries to look at "the big picture" of integrated water resources management to deal with increasing competition and trade-offs between sectors, and increasingly work in partnerships.

"Integrated water-related strategies and policies, with concrete actions and strong political will, are crucial to managing water across sectors in a holistic and efficient way", the FAO Director-General underscored.

Anxious Jongwe Masuka, Minister for Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development of Zimbabwe, in representation of the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa,

said that the meeting will provide Africa with a platform for the development of a shared vision and voice at the UN 2023 Water Conference.

"It is my hope that this collective position shall demonstrate a great deal of collegiality, a great deal of unity in our diversity and most importantly, will consider the needs and aspirations of the citizenry of Africa", he underscored.

On 22-24 March 2023, the UN will convene the UN 2023 Water Conference at the UN Headquarters in New York to review the progress made in the UN Water Action Decade.

This will provide an opportunity to keep the momentum and raise awareness of water's role in economies, societies and the environment and to mobilize global-local actions on the water for sustainable development.

To foster collective action at

the national level for the development of such roadmaps, FAO is organizing regional workshops on the National Water Roadmaps.

FAO has many projects related to water management in Africa and actively collaborates with countries to develop their National Water Roadmaps.

The FAO Water Productivity Open-access portal (WaPOR) provides data based on satellite remote sensing in Africa and the Near East.

Information from WaPOR helps policymakers to make informed decisions, to be better prepared for drought, and to increase agricultural productivity with less water use.

FAO also provides the Secretariat for the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG).

WASAG is a Partnership established in 2017 and hosted by FAO. It consists of 70 gov-

ernment agencies, international organizations, research institutions, and advocacy groups, engaged in implementing projects and formulating new ideas to address increasing water scarcity in agriculture.



Integrated water-related strategies and policies, with concrete actions and strong political will, are crucial to managing water across sectors in a holistic and efficient way

WWF empowers FBOs to crusade for environmental protection, restoration

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Wide Fund for nature (WWF) has started to empower and engage faith-based organisations (FBOs) in the country to advocate for environmental protection to meet the set targets of ecosystem restoration and conservation.

As part of initial engagement, interfaith standing committee representatives from various zones countrywide met in Dodoma over the weekend for the FBO forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and tree growing workshop. The dialogue was aimed at deliberating on restoration and tree growing.

The engagement focused in seeking general understanding of the faith-based leaders on aspects such as global warming, climate change impacts and its causes in relation to holy scriptures narrations in finding a common ground in building and connecting bridges between faith, spiritual growth and the global environmental realities.

"We want to work with faith actors in two major areas which are forest landscape restoration (FLR) and tree growing/tree planting," said Almas Kishindye, Forest Programme Coordinator for WWF-Tanzania.

According to Kashindye, a large population in the world believes in God, and the way to reach those people is through houses of worship, that's why WWF in collaboration with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and other partners saw the great importance of starting an initiative to work with religious leaders for environmental protection and conservation.

He added through their meeting with FBOs they wanted to know if there are any initiatives by faith actors related to FLR and tree growing, how much they have done and if there is any support they need to complete their goals.

Also during the workshop, faith actors had the opportunity to learn about a tree growing guide prepared by WWF international and UNEP which will also guide various stakeholders in tree planting.

Speaking during the workshop, Brother John Sule from Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) said religion and faith have a big role in protection and conservation of environment because the environment is directly related to God's creation.

"If religious platforms preaches and encourages people on environmental conservation and tree

growing, believers will receive the message spirituality and its implementation will be large", he said.

Sheikh Amri Issa Kiswapa, deputy chairman of interfaith standing committee in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region said that actors are vital pillar in bringing about changes in society, because the voice of religious leader is the voice of God and believers always obey.

David Madimilo from the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) said that any program involving religious leaders has never failed because those leaders have great influence and are trusted; likewise any statement made by religious leaders is taken seriously.

Madimilo congratulated WWF and UNEP for recognizing the great potential of FBOs in protecting and conserving the environment, promising to provide sufficient cooperation to achieve the intended goals.

Eveline Chacha from Menonite Church of Tanzania in northern zone, said faith leaders always stand for God's creation, therefore protection and conservation of environment is part of their basic duties and responsibilities.

"Apart from promoting faith and teaching the word of God, religious



Representatives from faith based-organisations are sensitised on environmental conservation and tree planting by an expert from WWF. Photo: Guardian Photographer

leaders also advocates of God's natural creation. It is important to engage religious leaders in environmental protection in an area of forest landscape restoration and tree growing", said Edmund Matotay the national interfaith standing committee coordinator.

Faith for Earth of the UN environment programme seeks to encourage engagement by faith actors enriching environmental governance speaking to the hearts

and minds of all, particularly the faithful.

Faith for Earth aspires to achieve this by: inspiring and empowering faith organizations and their leaders to advocate for protecting the environment; greening faith-based organizations' investments and assets; and providing faith organizations with the knowledge and networks to effectively communicate with decision-makers and the public.

Ready for Freddy? SA must prepare for more intense weather events

By Julia Evans

AS Tropical Cyclone Freddy hits Mozambique, halting on the border of Limpopo this weekend and probably causing heavy rainfall, it's an important reminder that South Africa needs adequate community-based systems in place to respond to weather events, which are increasing in intensity.

"An impact is controlled by the readiness of the people to safeguard lives and property," said the senior manager for disaster risk reduction at the SA Weather Service (Saws), Tshapho Ngobeni.

"So when the tropical cyclone is coming – although the path might change – we inform people way in advance, so it's easier for them to evacuate."

Last weekend, the weather service saw that Freddy – which they had been monitoring in the southwest Indian Ocean region for about a week – had become a very intense tropical cyclone (equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane) and would be making its way westwards.

Saws began sending alerts early this week that Freddy was approaching, first passing over Madagascar, before hitting Mozambique and Zimbabwe, which is likely to cause heavy rainfall and flooding in Limpopo and parts of Mpumalanga this weekend.

"Generally, the tropical cyclone will be a system that is expected to cause serious devastation, especially when coming to properties and roads, as you cannot control [movement]," Ngobeni told Our Burning Planet.

But in terms of safeguarding people, tropical cyclones can be prepared for, as meteorologists can see them coming up to two weeks in advance.

"This is a very wide broad system on the ground, the only thing that usually becomes unpredictable is the path, but you know the system is there," said Ngobeni.

SAWS announced that Freddy made landfall along the eastern coastline of Madagascar, just north of Mananjary, on Tuesday evening, at around 7.30pm.

Saws reported it was a relatively compact storm, a low-end Category 2 tropical cyclone just before making landfall, with winds of 150km/h and gusts up to 180km/h.

Saws explained that cyclones lose speed as they move over land, so Freddy was downgraded to an overland depression on Tuesday evening. But it is expected to have regained its strength as it moved over the Mozambique Channel and to have reached near tropical cyclone status on Thursday as it headed to southern Mozambique, where it is set to make landfall just north of Vilanculos on Friday morning.

Francois Engelbrecht, a professor of climatology and the director of the Global Change Institute

at Wits University, told Our Burning Planet that when Freddy passed over Madagascar it was a Category 3 hurricane, and by the time it reaches Mozambique, it will probably be a significant tropical cyclone.

While Freddy will not pass directly over South Africa, Saws expects it will affect the northeastern parts of the country from early on Saturday, 25 February until Monday, 27 February, especially the Lowveld and escarpment areas of Limpopo (Vhembe and Mopani) and to a slightly lesser extent, Ehlanzeni in Mpumalanga.

Ngobeni explained that tropical cyclones are, "relatively small, intensely developed low-pressure cells that usually occur over warm oceans".

"Their diameter can range between 200 and 2,000km. They are characterised by a warm centre, very steep pressure gradients, strong cyclonic winds near the Earth's surface and a maximum wind speed exceeding 110km/h."

Destruction in its wake

As Freddy is passing over Mozambique and will be semi-stationary along the northeastern border of SA for a few days, Saws projects it's possible that very heavy rainfall in the order of 200 to 400mm could occur, which may result in widespread flooding.

Ngobeni explained that while the cyclone is not passing directly over us, "because of our close proximity to the outer edge of the tropical cyclone, that's when we'll get this rainfall".

"Tropical cyclones are always accompanied by torrential rain," said Ngobeni during a media briefing at the National Press Club on Thursday.

"A single storm may yield up to 3,000mm of rain. Heavy rains sometimes occur many days after landfall and are also very destructive. They may give rise to floods. Strong winds also occur as a result of the steep pressure gradient.

"The strongest winds occur near the leading edge or in front of the storm. The destruction associated with tropical cyclones results not only from the force of the wind, but also from the storm surge and the waves it generates."

Engelbrecht explained that as the cyclone is going to move slightly southwestward after hitting land it will head toward the northeastern corner of Limpopo.

"That's a very slow movement in 24 hours from Vilanculos to that location just outside the border of South Africa," said Engelbrecht, "and that slow movement is dangerous for us because it means this storm has the potential to dump a lot of rainfall over these areas that



it will be lingering over."

As this is occurring after the significant flooding over the Lowveld and escarpment areas (such as the Kruger National Park) in the last few weeks, Saws warned this "may be catastrophic and cause prolonged and severe impacts".

Disaster management

Saws is the authority when it comes to issuing weather warnings, as mandated by the South African Weather Service Act and it briefed the National Joint Flood Coordination Committee on Wednesday.

"We advise people accordingly in terms of impending weather that is approaching [and] what will be the possible impacts," explained Ngobeni. "As a result, they are prepared to take action – because our main aim is to safeguard lives and property."

Hitekani Magwedze, the spokesperson for Limpopo's Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, told Our Burning Planet that Limpopo's disaster management team had been in contact with community leaders and councillors to communicate both the alert from the weather service and the plans in place to assist them in case of any danger.

"We currently have 16 teams in both districts made up of Disaster Management officials from district and local municipalities, Fire and Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, Department of Health, Department of Social Development, Sassa, SAPS, SANDF, Department of Transport

(Provincial Traffic), Department of Public Services, Eskom, Telkom, communications sections from district and local municipalities, NGOs, ward councillors," said Magwedze.

"Furthermore, an evacuation plan has been developed to respond to situations as and when they become severe for residents. As part of the response plan, neighbouring district municipalities have been placed on standby in case further resources of any kind are required," said Magwedze.

Ngobeni explained that after Saws provides information, the national and provincial Disaster Management Centres coordinate the assistance needed and make plans, which include the help of the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). SANDF spokesperson Brigadier-General Andries Mahapa told Our Burning Planet, "Since the provincial and national Joint Operation Centres were established we are ready in terms of any disaster."

"So yes, we are ready. We have formed the team. And every morning, there's meetings, where we sit down and look at the options and plan accordingly."

Mahapa said operations were already under way, as they were involved last week with a rescue mission airlifting two people who were trapped for three days in Tzaneen, Limpopo.

Helping neighbouring countries
"I think we can expect hundreds of thousands of people in southeastern Mozambique to be directly affected by these floods and the damaging winds around the time of landfall,"

said Engelbrecht.

Mahapa said if neighbouring countries called on the SANDF it would help "with whatever capabilities we will have, jointly, we will go and assist."

Climate change

Cyclones are a part of nature, if humans didn't exist they would still occur. But what's important to understand is that there is consensus among the scientific community that cyclones, like other extreme weather events (flooding, heat waves and droughts), are increasing in intensity due to anthropogenic climate change.

Engelbrecht, who was a lead author on a pivotal Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report said, "Across the world, we can already detect an increase in the number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes that is directly attributable to global warming." Engelbrecht explained that as we are warming tropical oceans there's more energy for these systems to develop and there's also more evaporation from the warmer oceans into the storm systems.

"And when the water vapour eventually condenses to form clouds, it releases so-called latent heat into the storms," said Engelbrecht. **DM/OBP**

Türkiye debates whether to postpone elections after catastrophic quakes

ANKARA

TÜRKIYE is debating whether elections planned for June should be postponed or not in the aftermath of two major earthquakes that shook the nation to the bone with massive human and material losses.

On Feb. 6, the twin earthquakes struck southern Türkiye and northern Syria, killing more than 45,000 people in the two countries. Since then, the administration of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been criticized for its not-so-fast and disorganized responses to the catastrophe.

Last week, former Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc, a heavyweight of Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), called for

the postponement of the presidential and parliamentary elections slated for June 18 for one year, citing the need for the government to focus on post-quake recovery efforts.

Meanwhile, former Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc, another senior member of the AKP, warned of "chaos" if elections were to be held as scheduled and suggested a postponement until November or March 2024.

Nevertheless, an expert close to AKP sources said Erdogan himself is inclined to hold the elections on time. "The president had signaled May 14 for the next elections and said he would declare his intention in early March. From AKP sources we have been told that President Erdogan doesn't seem to have changed his mind," Serkan



Demirtas, a political analyst, told Xinhua. "But because of physical conditions in the earthquake-affected regions, and to give some more time to electoral authorities, he may now declare elections

for June 18," he added. Hande Firat, a journalist and TV commentator close to the government, also said Erdogan did not tend to postpone the elections.

"In the AKP, all options are

on the table regarding the elections but at the moment there is neither a decision nor the intention to postpone it," she wrote in a column in the English-language Hürriyet Daily News. According to the

Turkish constitution, only the parliament has the authority to postpone elections for a maximum of one year, and only in the event of a declared state of war.

"Force majeure circumstances such as natural disasters are not cited as a reason for postponement. Constitutional experts say organizing elections until June 18 is imperative," Demirtas noted.

Fahri Bakirci, a scholar on constitutional law from TOBB University of Economics and Technology in Ankara, echoed the argument.

"It is not within the authority of any person or institution to decide to postpone the elections even for a single day, except in the case of war," said Bakirci.

"Even if all parties (in parliament) agree, the election date cannot be postponed,"

he added. Polls conducted prior to the massive earthquakes in Türkiye showed the nation would likely witness a tight race between the ruling elites, led by Erdogan who is seeking his second and final five-year term as president, and the opposition, with Kemal Kilicdaroglu, leader of the main opposition People's Republican Party, as Erdogan's probably strongest rival.

After the earthquakes, which have been described by the World Health Organization as the "worst natural disaster" in a century in the European region,

Erdogan has promised immediate economic aid to homeless families and to have new homes built for victims within a year. Erdogan has been at the helm of Türkiye for over 20 years as prime minister or president.

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONGOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:35 AM HABARI NYEPESI II 07:45 AM HABARI ZA BASHARA 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI II 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 12:40 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

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BUSINESS

Credit risks decline, loan approvals rise

KAMPALA

LOAN approvals to private sector grew during December signaling a decline in credit risks that had dominated much of 2022.

The decline also signals a return of confidence with many businesses and individuals, alike now seemingly able to service loans.

According to data from the Ministry of Finance Performance of the Economy report for January, loan approvals increased to 77.6 percent in December compared to 50.4 percent in November.

This, the report noted, was partly due to lower risks associated with lending reflected by the decline in non-performing loans and the pick-up in economic activity, which was reflected by improvement in economic indicators and business activity.

During the period, data shows, credit to building, mortgage, construction and real estate accounted for the largest share of approved loans, taking up at least 32.1 percent or an equivalent of ShS508.5b out of the approved ShS1.586 trillion.

Loans to construction and real estate had declined due to high risk exposure in the last two years.

However, the details above signal recovery from subdued demand, especially in the real estate sector.

Credit to trade stood at ShS282.3b or 17.8 percent while personal and household loans, accounted for ShS271.8b (17.1 percent). Manufacturing was advanced ShS107.3b (6.8 percent) while mining and quarrying received ShS179.8b (11.3 percent).

Business community, social and other services received the least amount of ShS115.2b or 7.3 percent.

During the period, data indicates the six sectors above constituted at least 92.4 percent of all the credit extended to the private sector.

The report further indicates that the stock of outstanding private sector credit grew by 1.3 percent to ShS20.154 trillion in December 2022 from ShS19.886 trillion in November 2022, with increases recorded for both shilling and foreign currency-denominated loans.

The stock of shilling denominated loans stood at ShS14 trillion while foreign currency denominated loans rose to and ShS6 trillion.

This was an increase from ShS13.9 trillion and ShS5.938 trillion, respectively in November 2022, partly due to a decline in lending rates.

In October last year loan applications fell in the quarter ended August, according to data from Bank of Uganda.

The fall, the Central Bank said, was a result of the slow pace in economic recovery with banks remaining cautious of what and who they lend to.

During the period ended August, ac-

ording to the Central Bank, loan applications fell to ShS3.86 trillion from ShS5.41 trillion in the quarter ended May.

This, Bank of Uganda said, could have been a result of a reduction in demand for loans, worsened by a fall in the value and quality of assets.

Data also indicates that loan approvals fell to ShS2.26 trillion during the period compared to ShS2.36 trillion in the quarter ended May, driven by a cautious approach adopted by banks due to fear of Covid-19 related risks.

However, in highlights published in the Monetary Policy Report, the Central Bank said the economy had started to show sufficient recovery boosted by an increase in the uptake of vaccination, which might lead to the reopening of some critical sectors of the economy.

A number of economic sectors have remained closed for close to two years now, threatening to morph into a crisis that might have wider economic ramifications.

For instance, the education sector, which holds close to ShS2 trillion in bank loans, has remained closed, crippling its capacity to repay credit facilities that were already under obligation.

An umbrella organisation that brings together private school owners, noted there was urgent need for an intervention to save distrusted private schools that continue to choke on loans and failure to meet basic operational services.

It was also noted that private schools will need a stimulus package of about ShS500b to put operations of various schools back on line.

During the period to August, the Central Bank noted, personal and household, agriculture, manufacturing, trade and building-mortgage-construction and real estate sectors, were the most active in terms of loan applications.

The Central Bank also noted that during the quarter ended August, Private Sector Credit grew by 9.44 per cent compared to 7.37 per cent in the quarter ended May.

The growth, Bank of Uganda said, had been subdued during June and July but recovered in August due to easing of lockdown measures in July.

Bank of Uganda also noted that during the period, interest rates had declined to an industry average of 17.2 per cent from 18.8 per cent in the quarter to May in line with the accommodative monetary policy stance.

However, some sectors such as trade and household and personal loans experienced some volatilities with lending rates rising to an average of 18.3 per cent from 16.3 per cent.

Interbank interest rates remained well anchored around the Central Bank Rate (CBR) with the seven-day rate remaining relatively stable at 6.77 per cent.

TCDD counsels govt on best debt management approach

By Francis Kajubi

THE Tanzania Coalition on Debt and Development (TCDD) has challenged the government to opt for a few mega project implementations as a way of managing the surging national debt.

TCDD is skeptical that implementation of many mega projects at once is contributing to the sharp hiking of the national debt and thus a priority in project implementation is a must if the debt is to be slowed down.

Addressing editors in Dar es Salaam last Friday, TCDD executive director Hebron Mwakagenda challenged the government to borrow responsibly in consideration of the future generation that will carry the national debt burden.

"The government needs to have priorities when it comes to development projects execution. There is no need to implement a lot of projects at a time with borrowed money. However, there is no logic in abandoning one project for the other with the same purpose," said Mwakagenda.

Mwakagenda challenged that there was no need for the government to invest in two different projects at a time for the same purpose citing the natural gas project and the Julius Nyerere Hydropower project that both target at generating electricity.

"Only six percent of the current generated electricity is from natural gas. In my view, it is better to focus on natural gas than on hydro power generation at this time when climate change is a total threat,"



Bank of Tanzania headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

said Mwakagenda.

According to the ministry of Energy 2022/23 budget speech, the government is still investing on Kinyerezi I and II extension projects for power generation from natural gas.

Kinyerezi I extension fetches \$188million. In the current budget the ministry of energy has allocated 35bn/- for accomplishments so that the production of 185 megawatt from natural gas is realized. The completion of the project will extend power generation capacity of the plant to 335 megawatt.

The expansion of Kinyerezi I extension started in 2016. On the other hand, Kinyerezi II which also kicked off the same is set at generating 240 megawatt from natural gas.

Senior economist and lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam Prof Abel Kinyondo said the

burden of internal public debt for instance increases inequality as purchasing power transfers from poor to rich.

He said internal public debt adversely affects the ability and desire to work, save and invest. It transfers purchasing power from young to order generation and reduces private investment.

"The government should manage the public debt so that it can develop the domestic financial market. If we can revise the government spending and take the right channel of project execution we can retain the micro economy stability," said Prof Kinyondo.

According to him, selectivity in project execution in line with the direct impact they have to people should be the first thing to be considered before planning for a certain project that requires borrowing of funds.

According to the Central Bank's

Monthly Economic Review for December 2022, total public debt stood at \$39.55billion (92.32trn/-) at the end of November 2022. The debt represents a monthly increase of \$403.4 million recorded at the end of October 2022.

Mid last month, the Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT Wazalendo) spokesperson for the economy and finance sector Advocate Emmanuel Mvula, told the press that domestic debt forms 30 percent of the total national debt.

He said the government has been paying an average of 600bn/- a month in servicing domestic debt while paying another 300bn/- in servicing external debt.

"Domestic debt had increased to 26.6trn/- in November 2022 from 18.6trn/- in November 2021. In 2005 the domestic debt stood at 1.7trn/- while the external debt was around 17trn/-." Domestic debt jumped to 7.9trn/- in 2025 while the external debt was 31trn/-," he said.

Mvula blamed that domestic debt had jumped to 16.1trn/- in March 2021 while the external debt was \$24billion. However, he said, domestic debt topped 26.6trn/- as of November last year while external debt was \$27.5billion.

"Of the current total domestic debt, 27 percent is for commercial banks, 28 percent pension funds, 5.5 percent insurers and 13 percent for private entities;

ACT wants the government to come up with clear strategies on how it will continue servicing the debt without affecting the lives of the common people," he said.

Mburu cuts short five-year KRA term after 8 months

NAIROBI

A new government deemed unfriendly and a board headed by an assertive chairman forced Githii Mburu to cut short his fresh five-year term amid a fresh shake-up of the Kenya Revenue Authority's C-suite.

Mburu on Thursday opted to resign less than eight months into his new term in changes that have seen the KRA board replace three of seven managers on the agency's top executive team.

President William Ruto has never concealed his displeasure with KRA's previous aggressive clampdown on the rich in an effort to recover unpaid taxes and raise national revenues.

During his campaigns for the August 9 election, Dr Ruto claimed that his close allies were targeted for political persecution or were being intimidated so that they could abandon him.

Sources close to Mr Mburu reckon he opted to throw in the towel rather than wait to be pushed out by a board that wanted operations of the KRA to take a different turn.

He was also uncomfortable with the style of work of the new chairman Anthony Nganga Mwaura, an ally of the President who had taken up operational roles at the KRA, earning him the tag 'Executive Chairman' in Kenya's business circles.

Mr Mwaura's mode of opera-



KRA commissioner general Githii Mburu resigned on February 23, 2023.

tion was different from that of his predecessor, Francis Muthaura, who preferred to remain behind the scenes.

The executives replaced are Lilian Nyawanda (Commissioner, of Customs and Border Control), Terra Saidimu (Commissioner, Intelligence & Strategic Operations) and David Kinuu (Commissioner, Corporate Support Services). David Mwangi, David Yego and Nancy Ngetich have taken up their respective roles in acting capacity.

The Commissioner of Domestic Taxes Rispah Simiyu has replaced Mr Mburu in an acting capacity.

"The regime and the board were unfriendly. With changes in government, he actually wanted to leave. It has actually taken longer than was expected," said a source close to Mr Mburu who sought anonymity.

Mr Mwaura was appointed chairman in November in changes that

also saw the appointment of five new directors on January 12, leaving only State representatives.

Mr Mwaura is a businessman whose past is controversial and doesn't boast the public service credentials of his predecessors.

He came into the limelight in 2020 when his companies, Hardi Enterprises and Toddy Civil Engineering Company, were implicated in a City Hall scandal for allegedly receiving irregular payments amounting to Sh102 million.

Mr Mburu got a fresh five-year term in June after serving his initial three-year contract that started on July 1, 2019.

His tenure was marked by aggressive pursuit of prominent people the KRA believed to be tax cheats in what ushered in the boldest crackdown on high-net-worth persons.

The taxman hinged this aggressive pursuit of tax cheats on the Tax Procedures Act, which empowers the authority to seek tax evaders directly from third parties like banks, employers and suppliers.

The distress order allows the KRA to forcibly occupy a tax cheat's house or business premises and failure to settle the demanded taxes can lead to an auction of the business premise or goods in the business.

This is the law the KRA used in 2019 to close the Thika-based Africa Spirits Limited (ASL) over a Sh17 billion tax evasion claim.

The factory belonging to bil-

lionaire Humphrey Kariuki was reopened in December, just days after Dr Ruto appointed the tycoon to head a powerful investment committee.

Dr Ruto ordered the KRA to desist from seizing the assets of suspected tax evaders and disabling businesses through forcible occupations and blockade of bank accounts.

"I have told the Commissioner-General (CG) that he must tell his people to stop and we have no choice because I do not want to fight with people but they must stop," Dr Ruto said during the annual taxpayers' day on October 28.

"I have given enough information to CG to sort out that mess and I have told him, if he doesn't sort out the mess, I'll sort it out myself."

Corruption and tax suits against Dr Ruto's allies worth close to Sh30 billion have either been withdrawn or quashed in the recent past, turning the spotlight on the prosecution and investigative agencies in the fight against graft.

The cases have fallen in quick succession, raising speculation about interference with the role of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Noordin Haji.

The DPP on January 10 withdrew Sh2.5 billion tax evasion charges against Mary Wangui Mungai, another ally of the President who has since been appointed as the chairperson of the Communications Authority of Kenya.



TEEA chairman Emmanuel Hanai (right) hands over a seedling to Aneth Kimbulu, assistant headmistress of Jangwani Beach Primary School at a special event for planting trees held last Friday. TEEA accountant. Photo: Courtesy of TEEA courtesy.

By Francis Kajubi

THE Tanzania Environment Experts Association (TEEA) has facilitated Jangwani beach primary school to plant 100 fruit and shade trees in Kinondoni district of Dar es Salaam as part of mitigating

climate change impacts.

Speaking at a special event to plant the trees held last Friday, TEEA Chairman Emmanuel Hanai said the association considered climate change as one of the greatest environmental threats facing the world today,

given its widespread and proven impacts on the physical environment and human health and potential to adversely impact economic growth.

"As the leading association on environmental issues, we aim to tackle climate change by sup-

porting the net zero transition, adapting to physical climate impacts, and providing sustainable finance products in emerging markets that are the most vulnerable to climate change," said Hanai.

According to him, planting trees reduces emissions produced from humans and financing in line with the Paris Agreement, which aims to tackle the worst effects of global warming.

"Planting of trees reduces environmental degradation. Today, we are planting 100 trees of which 70 are fruit trees. We are doing this as part of our commitment to fight climate change," he said.

According to him, the association had entered an agreement with the school in making sure that the trees are taken care of.

"I'm proud to be part of an organization that encourages staff members to be part of supporting

our communities through environmental activities," said Hanai.

Rukia Ismail TEEA board member said that children should be trained from early ages on the importance of preserving the environment and planting of trees.

"Climate change is inevitable. We need to act now. Tree planting is one of the ways to fight climate change," said Ismail.

Earlier in 2022, a campaign dubbed 'Soma na Mti' literally

translated as learn with a tree was developed by Suleman Jafo, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office, Union and Environment that had given directives involving every school in the country to plant trees.

It was estimated by the ministry that if every student from a primary school, secondary school and university plants a tree then the country will have a total of 14.5 million new trees.

Blockchain experts ready to engage with Africa

CAPE TOWN

GLOBAL blockchain experts Don Tapscott and his son and business partner Alex Tapscott will be in South Africa from 26 February to 3 March, to engage with leaders and regulators to support blockchain acceleration in Africa.

The development follows the expansion of the Blockchain Research Institute (BRI) Africa, established by the Standard Bank Group and Blockchain Research Institute (BRI), to provide a collaboration platform for leaders and experts in Africa and beyond, who are focused on blockchain opportunities in Africa.

This platform is intended to provide leaders navigating the Web3 transition with bespoke research, global insights, access to leading experts and coordinated collaboration opportunities.

The Tapscott father and son team will host ecosys-



Global blockchain experts Don Tapscott (L), with his son and business partner Alex Tapscott

tem engagements that will include participation from industry leaders, academics, governments and entrepreneurs to robustly engage on self-sovereign identity, metaverse, regulation, custody, decentralised vs centralised technologies and the next version of the internet.

The sessions will have a focus on financial services, retail, insurance and agriculture, coupled with forecasts and insights on global research on the much-anticipated Web3 forecast in both Africa and globally.

Don Tapscott is known as a lead-

ing authority on blockchain, participating regularly in Davos, the World Economic Forum (WEF), and playing a critical role in advising governments and corporates globally.

Commenting on the program, Don Tapscott says: "The BRI Africa's 2023 program focuses on building community, stimulating research, facilitating education, and catalysing action from those with influence. We start in the economic hub of Southern Africa, Johannesburg, and will work our way down to Cape Town, the region's innovative capital".

Head Blockchain Centre of Excellence, Standard Bank Group Ian Putter notes: "During this week, BRI Africa will be convening some of South Africa's influential decision makers to engage with global experts in Web3 and digital assets. These meetings are geared at providing global insights and stimulating action-provoking conversations. Together, we will use blockchain to drive Africa's growth."

Dale Russell, Director of Moore Blockchain Digital Assets Johannesburg, comments: "We are honoured to collaborate with BRI Africa in bringing Don and Alex Tapscott, two highly esteemed industry experts, to South Africa. This partnership provides an exceptional opportunity to showcase the vast potential of blockchain technology and provide a platform for top leaders in the region to share knowledge and insights."

LevelUP CEO, Karien Cloete also notes: "We are passionate about supporting innovation that drives inclusive and sustainable economic development in Africa. We look forward to hosting robust discussions about the impact and possibilities of Blockchain technologies in the retail sector

together with the BRI."

The relatively new field of blockchain technology has been rapidly gaining widespread adoption across industries globally.

According to the latest Gartner tech hype cycle, research is indicating that blockchain and Web3 technologies will have a radical and transformative impact on industries similar to the mobile phone and internet.

Respected industry pioneer, Charles Hoskinson, founder of Cardano, previously indicated Africa is leapfrogging the US and Europe in its embrace of blockchain technology, which is positioning Africa to be wealthier than Western nations.

The application of blockchain solutions on the African continent are extensive, including the key ability to transform outdated governance systems and accelerate financial inclusion to overcome the 45 percent of people in Sub-Saharan who are unbanked.

Funding contest opens for young agritech innovators

NAIROBI

HEIFER International, a US-based non-profit development organisation, has announced an innovation competition targeting youth-led agritech startups in Kenya, with top contestants standing a chance to win up to Sh2 million.

The AyuTe Africa Challenge (AyuTe stands for Agriculture, Youth and Technology) seeks to boost farms' access to technology.

The selected top innovators will acquire seed funding, training, coaching and networking opportunities to scale their businesses.

The selected top 24 innovators will also undergo a two-month incubation programme.

"This competition provides an opportunity for young innovators in Kenya to secure the funding and the visibility they need to scale up their agritech solutions and reach millions of farmers across Africa," said Senior Vice President of Africa Programmes at Heifer International Adesewa Ifedi.

Through the competition, Heifer aims to stimulate access to innovations that could boost the incomes and productivity of smallholder farmers and support innovators in growing their businesses.

Online submission of applications for



This competition provides an opportunity for young innovators in Kenya to secure the funding and the visibility they need to scale up their agritech solutions and reach millions of farmers across Africa.

the contest closes on March 21.

Optimerce Consulting Limited, a business that digitises the process of procedure collection at farm-gate through mobile apps, was announced last year's Kenya winner.

Other similar national contests were held in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda.

The 2022 continental winners were ThriveAgric of Nigeria, which links field agents to smallholder farmers; Kenya's DigiCow, a mobile phone-based app for dairy farmers providing livestock management solutions and links to veterinarians and feed supply services; and Bostwana-based Brastorne Enterprises, whose apps give farmers access to farming information, markets and short-term finance.

Kampala ready for 5G

KAMPALA

AIRTEL Uganda has finished testing the viability of 5G network in eleven sites around Kampala as it waits for a green light from the regulator Uganda Communications Commission (UCC).

While making the announcement at the company headquarters in Kampala, Mr Manoj Murali, the managing director of Airtel Uganda, said, "We have completed testing on 11 sites in Kampala and those all we are waiting for is the regulator to assign us a spectrum."

5G is a fifth generation mobile network that enables a new kind of network that is designed to connect virtually everyone and everything together including machines, objects, and devices at very high speeds.

It delivers higher peak data speeds, more reliability, massive network capacity, increased availability, and a more uniform user experience to more users.

Airtel Uganda's 4G Smartphone is now ready to carry 5G and its numerous applications.

The applications can be in news and video conferencing/broadcasting, healthcare through re-

mote patient monitoring, connected Ambulance that communicates with the Emergency Room and High Definition virtual consultations among others. These applications can also be in augmented reality for the blind, remote expert support in surgery and such things and in manufacturing- machine monitoring and process automation.

The eleven towers that have successfully tested the 5G technology in Uganda include; Industrial area, Garden City Area, Upper Kololo, Clement Hill, Hannington Road, Lower airstrip Kololo and Wampewo Avenue.

Manoj also confirmed that customers with 5G compatible devices can now access the new network using their existing 4G SIM Cards.

However, in a recent conversation with the regulator UCC it became clear that 5G licences will only be ready before the close of this financial year.

The company confirmed that all its sites across the country have been configured and are ready for deployment once the spectrum has been allocated.

Uganda has 10.9 million smartphone monthly us-

ers out of the 35 million devices on the network, according to UCC's 2022 data.

Telecoms are facing a tough road ahead in testing and deploying 5G, or the fifth generation of wireless technology, in a country beleaguered by low smartphone penetration and high internet costs.

Airtel has made inroads in testing its 5G network on at least 65 sites across major cities in the country.

Airtel, people close to the matter, say the telecom is awaiting spectrum allocation from Uganda Communications Commission.

MTN also indicated last month that it has signed an agreement with Huawei in a deal that seek to accelerate its move to 5G technology.

A spectrum is a radio frequency that wireless signals travel to enable people to make calls, and use their mobile devices for the internet, according to America's Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association.

Uganda has 10.9 million smartphone monthly users out of the 35 million devices on the network, according to UCC's 2022 data.



However, telecom operators say the figure is low, and largely affected by high taxes imposed by Value Added Tax, Import Duty, Withholding Tax and Infrastructure levy.

Smartphones are multi-purpose mobile computing devices distinguished from feature phones by their stronger hardware capabilities and extensive mobile operating systems.

They also possess multimedia functionality, alongside core functions such as voice calls and text messaging.

Uganda Revenue Authority's public relations officer, Joshua Niyonshima noted the

taxes levied on smartphones are dependent on the type and the country of origin.

Mr Niyonshima said Import Duty attracts a 10 percent levy, VAT 18 percent, Withholding Tax at 6 percent and Infrastructural Levy at 1.5 percent, giving a total of 35.5 percent.

Drop in cost

Telecoms envisage the current cost of data will drop once they invest in 5G.

A large factor for high internet costs is caused by the high fixed costs telecoms incur in maintaining and operating masts, spectrum and fibre.

However, the number of

users remains inversely proportional to the huge cost of investment.

UCC plans to roll out the 5G spectrum to telecoms, at least before the end of the second quarter of this year.

MTN and Airtel have already submitted applications to UCC expressing readiness to deploy 5G

Mr Ali Monzer, the MTN chief technical and information officer, said the telecom will, in the interim, focus on key strategic locations that have capable 5G devices and large business concentration, noting that issues such as dropped calls and interrupted connectivity will be eliminated.

Matatu insurer Invesco falls into liquidation

NAIROBI

INVESCO Assurance Company, the firm offering covers to public service vehicles, has been placed under liquidation after it defaulted on paying claims running into millions of shillings.

In a notice on Friday, the industry regulator directed the insurer to immediately stop entering into new insurance contracts following the High Court ruling.

"Invesco Assurance Company has been placed under liquidation through a decree of the court dated 6th February 2023 issued in the High Court at Nairobi in Insolvency Petition No. E155 of 2019," said Godfrey Kiptum, the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) commissioner of insurance and chief executive.

"Following this court decree, Invesco Assurance Company is stopped from issuing insurance policies and therefore not au-

thorised to enter into any new contracts of insurance."

Kinyanjui & Company Advocates had in July 2019 filed an Insolvency Petition against Invesco seeking, among other orders, that the insurer be liquidated to settle debts of more than Sh29 million.

High Court has been deferring its final orders in the judgment on the application of the insurer, but little progress was realised in paying the debts.

The cash crisis at the insurer had also come to the fore in another court case where the firm was challenging a decree ordering it to pay Sh53.28 million to 60 victims of road traffic accidents.

The High Court has further appointed the official receiver as the provisional liquidator. Invesco joins Concord Insurance Company Limited and Standard Assurance Kenya Limited in liquidation.

The Policyholders Compensation Fund (PCF) will compensate the affected claimants as provided in section 179 of the Insurance Act.

PCF's primary purpose is to protect policyholders of insolvent insurers by compensating them for unsettled claims.

The maximum compensation payable by the Fund on any one claim lodged by a claimant is Sh250,000.

The Fund was established on September 24, 2004 through legal notice signed by the Minister of Finance and commenced its operations on January 1, 2005.

Insurance companies and policyholders contribute to the PCF fund through a 0.25 percent levy on gross direct premiums written.

Prior to the formation of the PCF, policyholders simply lost all their benefits when their insurance companies were declared

insolvent.

Invesco Assurance was incorporated in 1997 and has been the oldest operating PSV underwriter in the country.

The insurer was placed under statutory management on February 28, 2008 but emerged from it on January 18, 2010 after the Matatu Owners Association proposed reviving the company.

IRA has since 2019 rejected the company's financial performance reports, citing "data inconsistency and non-compliance with submission requirements".

Invesco had, in 2018, the last time its financial filings were in order, collected Sh1.5 billion in premiums and controlled a market share of 1.2 percent of general insurance premiums.

IRA in 2021 hit Invesco with a fine of Sh24.94 million over missed deadlines of submitting audited books. The insurer had in 2020



Insurance Regulatory Authority CEO Godfrey Kiptum

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WORLD

VOTE

Nigerians brave long delays in hope of bringing change

KANO

OFFICIALS counted votes in Nigeria's elections on Saturday, with people hoping for a reset after years of worsening violence and hardship under outgoing President Muhammadu Buhari, underterred by delays at some polling stations.

The electoral commission said the official results could be expected from late on Sunday. By the evening, some polling stations were already counting ballots, while voting was still going on at others and had not taken place elsewhere.

Some voting was now expected to take place on Sunday.

Whoever wins will face a litany of crises. Africa's most populous nation is struggling with Islamist insurgencies in the northeast, an epidemic of kidnappings for ransom, conflict between herders and farmers, shortages of cash, fuel and power, as well as deep-rooted corruption and poverty.

Reuters reporters at locations across the country saw some polling stations closing at the planned time of 2:30 pm while others had yet to open.

Some states were expected to announce results on Sunday and the final tally from all 36 states plus the federal capital Abuja was expected within five days of voting. The election is also for

National Assembly seats.

There were scattered violent incidents on Saturday, though not on the scale seen in previous elections in the country of over 200 million people.

Buhari, a retired army general, is stepping down after serving the maximum eight years allowed by the constitution.

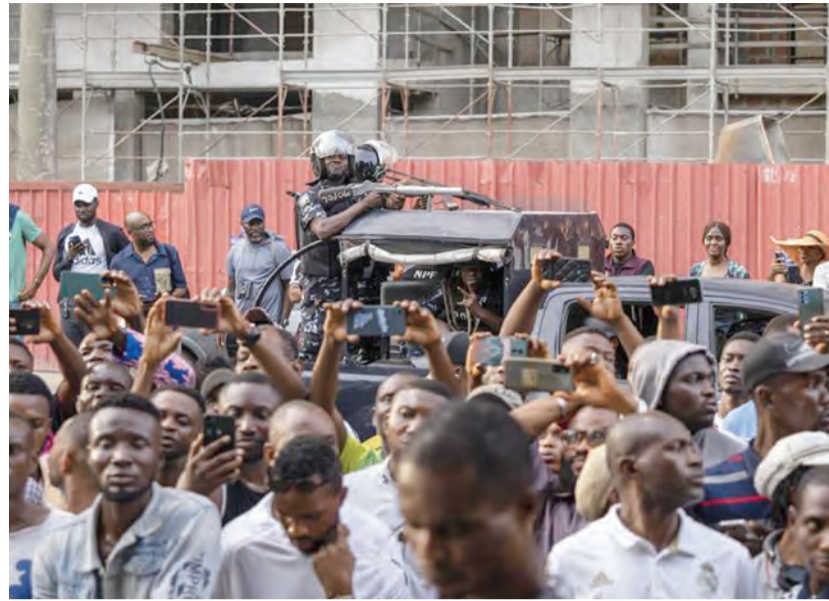
The contest to succeed him is wide open, with candidates from two parties that have alternated in power since the end of army rule in 1999 facing an unusually strong challenge from a minor party candidate popular among young voters.

Officials from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) cited technical problems with a new biometric anti-fraud voter accreditation system, the late arrival of vehicles to transport them and the absence of voter registers as causes of delays.

In a televised news briefing, INEC Chairman Mahmood Yakubu said six biometric machines had been stolen in northern Katsina State and two in southern Delta State. He also acknowledged the delays but said voters would be able to cast their ballots.

"The election will hold and no one will be disenfranchised," he said.

Yakubu said at a later briefing that voting would take place on Sunday in several wards in Yenagoa that had ex-



Extra security forces arrive to thwart the risk of an attack on a polling station at which votes were being counted, in Lagos, Nigeria on Saturday. (PHOTO / AP)

perienced severe disruption on Saturday.

Scattered violence

In northeast Borno State, the epicenter of Islamist insurgency, suspected fighters from the Boko Haram group fired mortar shells in the rural Gwoza area, killing one child, wounding four others and disrupting voting, army sources said.

In Abuja, a team from the anti-corruption Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was attacked by thugs just after arresting a man on suspicion of paying for a group of people's votes using a banking app, the EFCC said.

In Lagos, a Reuters TV crew saw police arrest four men on suspicion of intimidating voters, while an election observer from a local civil society group said he had seen thugs armed with knives, chains and bottles smashing ballot boxes.

In most areas, however, the day appeared to have unfolded peacefully despite frustrations over the delays.

The main contenders to succeed Buhari are former Lagos governor Bola Tinubu, 70, of the ruling All Progressives Congress, former vice president Atiku Abubakar, 76, of the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party, and former Anambra State governor

Peter Obi, 61, of the smaller Labour Party. All three voted in their home states, surrounded by chaotic scums of reporters and supporters.

"The electoral process cannot achieve 100 percent perfection," Tinubu told reporters after voting. "People have to tolerate that. You've got to accept the results."

Tinubu and Atiku, as he is known in Nigeria, are both political heavyweights with decades of networking behind them. Both Muslims, Tinubu is an ethnic Yoruba from the southwest and Atiku is a Fulani from the northeast. Obi, a Christian from the Igbo ethnic group, has less of a political machine but has used a slick social media campaign to generate huge enthusiasm among young voters, with some even calling themselves the "Obidients".

INEC says its new Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) that identifies voters using biometric data would help avert fraud. Reuters reporters in some locations said officials were struggling to get the BVAS devices to work, while in others the system was functioning smoothly.

Despite INEC's precautions, analysts have warned there are still risks that cash-strapped citizens could be vulnerable to vote-buying attempts by candidates.

Study: Intense El Niño expected to speed up sea level rise

STRONGER El Niño weather patterns may speed up the "irreversible melting" of ice shelves and icesheets in Antarctica which would have a significant impact on global sea levels, according to new research.

The research led by scientists from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Monash University in Melbourne and the University of New South Wales adds to a growing body of scientific work warning that Antarctic ice melt will see ocean levels rise which will have a catastrophic impact on low lying island nations in the Pacific.

A recent report by the BBC said there is now less sea ice surrounding the Antarctic continent than at any time since scientists began using satellites to measure it in the late 1970s.

The latest report, published on Feb 20 in the science journal Nature Climate Change, used climate models to show how an increase in the variability of El Niño Southern Oscillation leads to reduced warming near the surface, but accelerated warming of deeper ocean waters.

ENSO is a key driver of climate variability, as both its warm phase, El Niño, and its colder phase, La Niña, influence weather conditions around the world, including in Australia.

Wenju Cai, lead author of the study and global expert on the relationship between climate change and ENSO, said the research was a critical step in further understanding how Antarctica will be affected by climate change.

"Climate change is expected to increase the magnitude of ENSO, making both El Niño and La Niña stronger," Cai said in a statement.

"This new research shows that stronger El Niño may speed up warming of deep waters in the Antarctic shelf, making ice shelves and ice sheets melt faster," said Cai who is chief research scientist with the CSIRO and director of Southern Hemisphere.

"Models with increased ENSO variability show a reduced upwelling of deeper, warmer waters, leading to slower warming of the ocean surface," he said.

The associated winds around Antarctica are the mechanism driving this result. When ENSO variability increases, it slows the intensifying westerly winds along the shelf. As a result, the upwelling of warm water around Antarctica is not able to increase as much.

Co-author Ariaan Purich from Securing Antarctica's Environmental Future at Monash University said the effects of increasing ENSO variability go beyond extreme weather risks, and affect changes in Antarctic sea ice and ice shelves and sheets.

"This could have broad implications for the global climate system, so continuing to understand how ENSO will respond to climate change is a critical area of climate research," Purich said.

"There is still a lot more we need to understand about processes influencing shelf temperatures, and the finding is an important piece of the puzzle," she said.

In an interview with the China Daily Cai said since 1993, global sea level has increased by around 10 cm.

He says that during this time the Antarctic Ice Sheet has lost 2670 billion tons of ice, equivalent to 7.4 millimeters of global mean sea level rise, that is, some seven percent of the total global sea level rise.

"The melting has been speeding up," he said.

"It is expected that this part will increase dramatically going into the future, as the shelf ocean warming accelerates melting the ice sheet. At the moment, however, there is no firm quantification."

He said global sea level rise will lead to more coastal inundation for all coastal cities.

"The Pacific island countries are more vulnerable than most, because they are already low-lying."

He said increased El Niño/La Niña amplitude in the future "will not only make the mean sea level higher but also create extreme sea level anomalies that ride over the higher mean sea level over California in the US, Peru, Ecuador, Chile during El Niño, and over western Pacific countries (China, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Singapore) during La Niña.

6.2-magnitude quake hits 29 km ENE of Kandrian, Papua New Guinea

SYDNEY

AN earthquake with a magnitude of 6.2 jolted 29 km east-northeast of Kandrian, Papua New Guinea, at 21:24:48 GMT on Saturday, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 38.158 km, was initially determined to be at 6.111 degrees south latitude and 149.7927 degrees east longitude. Currently, there is no tsunami warning triggered by the earthquake, according to the U.S. Tsunami Warning System.

The USGS reported that a 4.4-magnitude earthquake also hit the 37 km east-northeast of Kandrian at 22:50:37 GMT on Saturday. The epicenter, with a depth of 43.1 km, was initially determined to be at 6.072 degrees south latitude and 149.855 degrees east longitude.

Bird flu situation 'worrying'; WHO working with Cambodia

LONDON

THE World Health Organization is working with Cambodian authorities after two confirmed human cases of H5N1 bird flu were found among one family in the country.

Describing the situation as "worrying" due to the recent rise in cases in birds and mammals, Dr Sylvie Briand, the director of epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention, told reporters in a virtual briefing that WHO was reviewing its global risk assessment in light of the recent developments.

The UN health agency last assessed the risk to humans from avian flu as low earlier this month.

Cambodian authorities on Thursday reported the death of an 11-year old girl due to H5N1, and began testing 12 of her contacts. Her father, who had been showing symptoms, has also tested positive for the

virus.

"The global H5N1 situation is worrying given the wide spread of the virus in birds around the world and the increasing reports of cases in mammals including humans," Briand said. "WHO takes the risk from this virus seriously and urges heightened vigilance from all countries."

Briand said it was not yet clear whether there had been any human-to-human transmission, which was a key reason to focus on the cases in Cambodia, or if the two cases were due to the "same environmental conditions," likely close contact with infected birds or other animals.

A new strain of H5N1, clade 2.3.4.4b, emerged in 2020 and has been causing record numbers of deaths among wild birds and domestic poultry in recent months. It has also infected mammals, raising global concerns.

However, unlike earlier



outbreaks of H5N1, which has been around for more than two decades, this subtype is not causing significant illness in people. So far, only about a half dozen cases have been reported to the WHO in people who had close contact with infected birds, and most of

those have been mild. Experts have suggested that the virus might need to change in order for human transmission to occur.

However, WHO said it was stepping up preparedness efforts regardless, and noted that there were antivirals

available, as well as 20 licensed pandemic vaccines if the situation changes, although they would have to be updated to more closely match the circulating strain of H5N1 if needed.

That could take four to five months, said Richard Webby, director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Studies on the Ecology of Influenza in Animals and Birds at St. Jude Children's Hospital. However, some stockpiled vaccines would be available in the meantime.

WHO-affiliated labs already hold two flu virus strains that are closely related to the circulating H5N1 virus, which manufacturers can use to develop new shots if needed. A global meeting of flu experts this week suggested developing another strain that more closely matches H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b, Webby told the briefing.

Agencies

THE Ukraine crisis has been kept on for over a year. Its development is attracting global attention.

On Feb.24, China issued a document on its position on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, reiterating its persistent stand and listening to other countries' legitimate concerns.

The document demonstrates China's major country responsibility in standing firmly on the side of peace and the right side of history, in promoting talks for peace, in providing Chinese wisdom and a Chinese approach to the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, and in injecting more stability and certainties to the fluid world.

Since the outbreak of the crisis, China has taken an objective and impartial stance based on the merits

China to keep playing constructive role in peaceful settlement of Ukraine crisis

of the issue. President Xi Jinping put forward "four points" on what must be done, "four things" the international community must do together, and "three observations" of the crisis, which has played a responsible and constructive role in easing the situation and deescalating the crisis. As Xi puts it clearly: conflicts and wars produce no winner; there is no simple solution to a complex issue; and confrontation between major countries must be avoided.

The sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries must be effectively upheld. The purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, must be strictly observed. The legitimate security

concerns of all countries must be taken seriously. All efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of the crisis must be encouraged and supported.

China will continue to make an independent judgment based on the merits of the matter itself and in an objective and fair manner, and work with the international community to promote dialogue and negotiation to address the concerns of relevant parties and seek common security.

China's impartial stand and constructive efforts are obvious to all, for which the country has won understanding and support from the international community.

Dialogue and negotiation are the

only viable solution to the Ukraine crisis. The crisis has complex historical merits as well as ins and outs. It is a result of the long-term security tensions in Europe, as well as the Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation.

In solving the Ukraine crisis, Ukraine's sovereignty and security should be upheld and Russia's legitimate security concerns should also be respected. Europe's peace and stability should be defended, and the same goes for other countries.

China firmly advocates and safeguards international law and widely accepted basic norms governing international relations, and upholds the purposes and principles of the

United Nations Charter. China will never be a bystander, and would never add fuel to the fire, still less exploit the crisis.

The international community should stay committed to the right approach of promoting talks for peace, help parties to the conflict open the door to a political settlement as soon as possible, and create conditions and platforms for the resumption of negotiation.

In the document China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis, China reiterates respecting the sovereignty of all countries, abandoning the Cold War mentality, ceasing hostilities and resuming peace talks. China said it will

continue to play a constructive role in promoting peace talks.

The more complex the situation is, the more should a level head be kept; the more protracted the situation is, the more efforts shall be made to achieve peace. China believes that all parties should, following the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security and bearing in mind the long-term peace and stability of the world, help forge a balanced, effective and sustainable European security architecture.

Xi's solemn proposal of the Global Security Initiative offers a Chinese approach to tackling global governance challenges, eliminating the root causes of international conflicts and achieving durable stability and security in the world.

People's Daily

Israelis hold mass demonstrations against govt judicial reforms for 8th week

JERUSALEM

FOR the eighth week in a row, tens of thousands of Israelis are demonstrating against the government and its judicial reforms on Saturday evening.

According to Israeli media outlets, more than 100,000 Israelis are protesting around the country, with the main demonstration being held in Tel Aviv, 25,000 rallying in the northern city of Haifa and thousands gathering in front of the president's residence in Jerusalem.

There is even one in front of the house of Justice Minister Yariv Levin in the central city of Modiin. The protests are against the major overhaul of the judicial system, which was set in motion on Feb. 13 when the administration initiated the legislative procedure for the reforms. The Israeli parliament has passed the first out of three readings of several relevant bills.

One of the bills is the "override clause" which will allow the parliament to override supreme court rulings with a simple majority. Another one would change the composition of the committee that appoints supreme court judges by giving the government a majority.

A third aims to block the supreme court from reviewing the basic laws already passed by the parliament. Demonstrators say the reforms will weaken the courts and give the ruling coalition unrestrained power.

The coalition led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said it aims to complete the legislative process by April. With a solid majority in the parliament, the votes are expected to pass without major contention. Massive demonstrations are also planned for Wednesday when the coalition will continue to promote the legislation in parliament.

The parliament is also slated to debate a bill that would prevent the state's attorney general from declaring the prime minister incapacitated except for legitimate medical reasons. According to Israeli media, Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara said earlier this month that Netanyahu cannot be involved in his government's judicial reforms because he has a conflict of interests because of his ongoing corruption trial.

Netanyahu and his partners say the reforms are necessary in terms of limiting the judicial system which has become too powerful in recent decades and often intervenes in political issues that should be determined by the parliament, vowing to push forward with the reforms despite protests. The Israeli prime minister also denies that the reforms are personally motivated to allow him to influence the outcome of his trial.

West demonstrates 'unsportsmanlike conduct' in Africa, says Russian diplomat

MOSCOW

WESTERN countries demonstrate "unsportsmanlike tools" of work in Africa, seeking to replenish essential resources lost as a result of the anti-Russia line, Russian Special Presidential Envoy for the Middle East and Africa, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said in an interview with TASS.

"Today, especially after Russia and the West came to a parting of the ways through no fault of ours, Western countries are facing an urgent necessity to replenish essential resources that have been lost, for supporting their industry and for economic development and, if possible, with minimum expenses.

Their goal [in Africa] now is to solve existentialist issues, so to say. It can be seen in the tools they use, mostly 'unsportsmanlike', including 'laws' restricting Russia's activities in Africa, sanctions, stop lists, threats, blackmail," he said.

In this respect the issue here is not about the West's attention to the continent that has intensified recently, but about "desperate attempts by the collective West to maintain its neocolonial empire," Bogdanov added.

Beaten and divided, Italy's center-left seeks new leader

ROME

ITALY'S center-left Democratic Party (PD) will chose a new leader this weekend who it hopes can pull the group out of a tail spin and provide a credible challenge to the nationalist prime minister, Giorgia Meloni.

PD supporters will have to pick between two starkly different candidates who offer opposing views on how to revive the party after a string of crushing election defeats.

The frontrunner Stefano Bonaccini is president of the wealthy, northern region of Emilia-Romagna. He promotes himself as a sound administrator and proven vote winner, who would seek cross-party alliances to defeat the ruling right-wing coalition.

He is up against Elly Schlein, a rising star of Italian politics who wants the PD to shift to the left and unite behind core values, such as gender equality, LGBTQ rights, climate change and labour reform.

"I am not sure either of these two candidates can lead the PD to victory at the next election, but Bonaccini would certainly have a broader appeal," said Sofia Ventura, a political science professor at Bologna University.

"The right is rooting for Schlein. They think she would make the PD unelectable." The PD has never won a national election outright since it was founded in 2007 but has proved adept at forging coalitions and has provided three of Italy's last six prime ministers.

The party itself is riven with divisions, meaning it is now seeking its ninth leader in 16 years, and its once strong local roots are withering, leaving it in charge of just four of Italy's 20 regions.

Lost identity

Its last leader, Enrico Letta, quit after the PD came a distant second in the 2022 parliamentary election, paying a heavy price for failing to forge an alliance with the likes of the 5-Star Movement and other opponents to Meloni's bloc.

While the 5-Star Movement has successfully portrayed itself as the defender of the poor and the south, the PD's identity has become blurred. It wins support from metropolitan elites but has lost touch with working class voters.

Bonaccini's detractors say the 56-year-old regional leader represents the past, not the future. "He is as boring as a funeral director," celebrity photographer Oliviero Toscani said this week, urging the PD to rally behind Schlein.

If she gets the nod, the 37-year Schlein would become the first openly LGBTQ person to lead a major party in Italy.

Pro-European and a feminist, she has Jewish roots and saw off two well-established party veterans in primaries to win herself a place in Sunday's run-off, which will be open to any registered resident in Italy. The winner is expected to be announced on Sunday evening.

Makeshift voting booths are being set up across the country and PD officials hope at least a million people take part. More than 3.5 million voted at the first PD leadership race in 2007, but numbers have declined ever since and the threat of bad weather is likely to dampen turnout still further this weekend.



If she gets the nod, the 37-year Schlein would become the first openly LGBTQ person to lead a major party in Italy

Amid emotional aftermath, Turkish quake survivors need mental health aid

ANKARA

AS survivors of the earthquakes in Türkiye are facing devastating trauma and loss, psychological support is essential for healing after a disaster of such proportions that has affected millions, experts said.

Tens of thousands of people died in the massive earthquakes striking Türkiye and Syria on Feb. 6. The Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation put the cost of the disaster in the country at 84.1 billion dollars, but the mental health consequences remain incalculable.

"The most vulnerable groups are women, children, people with prior mental health disorders, and people with disabilities," said Ankara-based psychiatrist Hande Karakilic Ucer. Not to mention the children who have lost both parents to the disaster and been separated from their extended families, she told Xinhua.

Research conducted by the Turkish Health Ministry following the 1999 earthquake showed that children and adolescents are more prone to developing mental health problems than adults are when they have been exposed to traumatic natural disasters.

People around children should not act as if nothing happened, Ucer noted, referring to the danger of victims shutting down their emotions in face of the trauma.

"We have to be open with children and explain this disaster to them in a language that they can comprehend," she said, adding that "play therapy" and establishing a daily routine are essential for children to survive a grieving period.

In Türkiye, the 7.7 and 7.6 magnitude quakes have claimed 44,218 lives, according to the latest statistics on Saturday. Expert psychologists and psychiatrists have been dispatched to the quake-hit regions to help residents cope with the profound impact.



People walk past a collapsed building in Adiyaman, Türkiye, Feb. 18, 2023. (Photo by Mustafa Kaya/Xinhua)

Experts also recommend survivors limit their consumption of bad news and disturbing social media posts over the catastrophe. "Media exposure can influence our behavior following a natural disaster, and trigger mental disorders," Ucer said.

Seda Ozcan is a 27-year-old earthquake survivor from Antakya, a city near the Syrian border leveled by the earthquakes. Since the disaster, she is experiencing debilitating anxiety attacks that keep her up at night and from going through normal daily tasks.

"It's not the earthquakes itself, it's the

whole situation we are facing, homelessness, concerns about the future, it's hard," she told Xinhua in Ankara, to which her family has been evacuated. Offering psychological support to those impacted by a disaster involves a long process, health professionals say, as tiding through stages of trauma takes time.

The vastness of the quake-hit zone spanning over 10 Turkish provinces home to 13.5 million people adds to the challenge. "In six months, survivors will enter the disappointment phase, and then will they face the bitter reality of things, ultimately followed by the healing phase," Ucer said.

The investigation of the Nord Stream explosions is a high global priority

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

ON February 21, the UN Security Council held a public meeting on the Nord Stream Pipeline Destruction and its follow-up investigation. I made a video speech at the meeting. The destruction of the Nord Stream pipelines on September 26, 2022 constitutes an act of international terrorism and represents a threat to the peace. It is the responsibility of the UN Security Council to take up the question of who might have carried out the act, in order to bring the perpetrator to international justice, to pursue compensation for the damaged parties, and to prevent future such actions.

The consequences of the destruction of Nord Stream 2 are enormous. They include not only the vast economic losses related to the pipelines themselves, but also the heightened threat to transboundary infrastructure of all kinds: submarine internet cables, international pipelines for gas and hydrogen, transboundary power transmission, offshore wind farms, and more. The global transformation to green energy will require considerable transboundary infrastructure, including in international waters. Countries need to have full confidence that their infrastructure will not be destroyed by third parties. Some European countries have recently expressed concern over the safety of their offshore infrastructure. For all of these reasons, the investigation by the UN Security Council of the Nord Stream explosions is a high global priority.

The destruction of the Nord Stream pipelines required a very high degree of planning, expertise, and technological capacity. The Nord Stream 2 pipelines are a marvel of engineering. Each section of pipe

is rolled steel of over 4cm thickness, and with a pipeline internal diameter of 1.15 meters. The pipe is encased in concrete of 10.9 cm thickness. The weight of each section of concrete-encased pipe is 24 metric tons. The Nord Stream pipelines contain around 200,000 pipes. The pipelines sit on the sea floor. Destroying a pipeline of heavy rolled steel, encased in concrete, at the depth of 70-90 meters, requires highly advanced technologies for transportation of the explosives, diving to install the explosives, and detonation. To do so undetected, in the exclusive economic zones of Denmark and Sweden, adds greatly to the complexity of the operation. As a number of senior officials have confirmed, an action of this sort must have been carried out by a state-level actor.

Only a handful of state-level actors have both the technical capacity and access to the Baltic Sea to have carried out this action. A recent report by the Washington Post revealed that the intelligence agencies of the NATO countries have privately concluded that there is no evidence whatsoever that Russia carried out this action. This also comports with the fact that Russia had no obvious motive to carry out this act of terrorism on its own critical infrastructure. Indeed, Russia is likely to bear considerable expenses to repair the pipelines.

Three countries have reportedly carried out investigations of the Nord Stream terrorism: Denmark, Germany, and Sweden. These countries presumably know much about the circumstances of the terrorist attack. Sweden, in particular, which its divers investigated the crime scene. Yet Sweden has kept the results of its investigation secret from the rest of the world. Sweden has refused to share

its findings with Russia, and turned down a joint investigation with Denmark and Germany. In the interest of global peace, the UN Security Council should require these countries to immediately turn over the results of their investigations to the UN Security Council.

There is only one detailed account to date of the Nord Stream destruction, the one recently put forward by investigative journalist Seymour Hersh, ostensibly based on information leaked to Hersh by an unnamed source. Hersh attributes the Nord Stream destruction to a decision ordered by US President Joe Biden and carried out by US agents in a covert operation that Hersh describes in detail. The White House has described Hersh's account as "completely and utterly false," but did not offer any information contradicting Hersh's account and did not offer any alternative explanation.

Senior US officials made statements before and after the Nord Stream destruction that showed the US animus towards the pipelines. In January 2022, Under-Secretary of State Victoria Nuland tweeted, "If Russia invades Ukraine, one way or another, Nord Stream 2 will not move forward." On February 7, President Biden said, "If Russia invades... again, then there will be longer Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it." When asked by the reporter how he would do that, he responded, "I promise you we will be able to do it." On September 30, 2022 immediately following the terrorist attack on the pipeline, Secretary of State Antony Blinken declared that the destruction of the pipeline is "also a tremendous opportunity. It's a tremendous opportunity to once and for all remove the dependence on Russian energy". In January

2023, Under-Secretary Nuland declared to Senator Ted Cruz, "I am, and I think the administration is, very gratified to know that Nord Stream 2 is now, as you like to say, a hunk of metal at the bottom of the sea."

Such language is not at all appropriate in the face of international terrorism. I hope that the US together with all other Security Council members will condemn this heinous act of international terrorism and join together in an urgent UNSC-led investigation of this international crime in order to determine the truth. The truth is not yet known by the world, but it is knowable.

More than ever, the world depends on the UN Security Council to do its work to stop war. The world will be safe only when the permanent members work together diplomatically to solve global crises. The UN Security Council provides the unique global venue for that peace-affirming work. More than ever, we need a healthy, functioning UN Security Council carrying out the mission assigned to it by the UN Charter.

A UN Security Council objective investigation of the Nord Stream terrorism, in which all countries contribute what they know, is important for the global confidence in this body and most importantly, for global peace and sustainable development.

(The author is University Professor at Columbia University)



The consequences of the destruction of Nord Stream 2 are enormous. They include not only the vast economic losses related to the pipelines themselves, but also the heightened threat to transboundary infrastructure of all kinds



Tanga Cement PLC's Executive Director, Reinhardt Swart, hands over drinking water to some athletes battling it out in 42km and 21km events of this year's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon, held in Moshi yesterday, at Simba Cement's water point. The company, one of the showpiece's sponsors, used the opportunity to celebrate 20 years of its sponsorship for the race. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Simba Cement cherishes support for Kilimanjaro International Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

SIMBA Cement brand has continued to be the leader in sponsoring the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon, having put its weight behind the race for 20 years now.

It is said that the international race, which is an annual feature, has consequently been improving every year.

Speaking immediately after the completion of this year's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon held in Moshi yesterday, Tanga Cement PLC's Business Manager Peet Brits said this is the 20th year of their participation as veteran sponsors and runners through the Simba Cement team.

Brits revealed Simba Cement and Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon organizers have been improving the showdown, which has marked its 21st edition this year.

He said Simba Cement's sponsorship for the showdown has come about due to the importance of sports, especially the marathon, which brings together the employees of Simba Cement that ran together and meet stakeholders and customers.

"In our participation, we didn't look at our titles or jobs, we saw the CEO distributing water to the runners...we spoke the same language from the gate to the top in collaboration with the employees who are runners (Team Simba), together with other runners, stakeholders, and customers," Brits revealed.

He disclosed after the race, his company's employees that featured in the marathon met the company's customers and stakeholders in the region and exchanged ideas for improvement in services.

Brits moreover stated they are happy to participate in the 21st edition of the race and do well in the showdown, as well as providing water distribution services to athletes battling it out in 42km and 21km events of the

showdown, who ran past the company's water distribution station.

Tanga Cement PLC's boss noted: "We are sure that the runners are happy to pass through our Point 8 station during this race and get service, we will continue to participate in this event every year."

He revealed: "We love and appreciate Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon and we are happy to sponsor it by distributing water to our customers and all stakeholders who ran past our water point."

"These customers come from the Northern regions including Arusha, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, and Tanga and other regions."

The official further said they planned to do better this year compared to the previous year by increasing the number of runners for the Simba Cement team as well as rallying behind the runners.

He also said that they have had a team of runners that includes employees, who also compete in other races, and his company ensured that all expenses including equipment, accommodation, transport, and entertainment are handed to each participant so that they can win.

Brits noted that they have had various competitions for Tanga Cement PLC's departments which have motivated the company to support the Simba Cement team.

Tanga Cement PLC's boss said they have this year broken the record by having a total of 28 participants in the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon.

According to him, they have, through the marathon, uniquely celebrated Tanga Cement PLC's success of the year 2022 in which the company emerged as the overall winner of the President's award for the Best Producer of the Year.

The company moreover ended as the overall winner of the Financial Statement award issued by the Tanzania National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA).

Chama still touted as excellent midfielder in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

ZAMBIAN midfielder, Clatous Chama, now turning out for Tanzania's Simba SC, has continued to be one of the most cherished players in Tanzania.

The midfielder's absence in Simba SC's matchday squads for either NBC Premier League or continental competitions' duels has, according to scores of the Msimbazi Street squad's supporters, contributed to the club's failure to register good results in the fixtures.

The club's fanatics have always been worried whenever Chama either sustains an injury or has an emergency that brings about his absence from the team.

The midfielder's competence impressed Morocco's Premier League outfit, RS Berkane, which roped the player in at the end of the 2020/21 season.

Chama, though, could not prove his worth at the outfit, prompting his return to Simba SC and it was barely surprising he was warmly welcomed by the club's supporters because the fans missed him.

What is it that makes Chama an excellent player that has won Simba SC fans' hearts?

Soccer clubs' scouts are often the first to identify talented players, however, there is a lack of research on how these scouts assess and predict the footballers' overall performance.

Technical performance attributes are considered as most important performance predictors by scouts but these are often described in a broad manner, rather than a specific sense.

Scouts also indicate that they predict performance in a structured manner but form their overall performance prediction on an intuitive integration of different perfor-



Simba SC attacking midfielder, Clatous Chama.

mance attributes, which can be a suboptimal approach.

The scout used by Simba SC to bring Chama to the club, therefore, deserves praise because he observed the talent the footballer has.

Aspects such as mental and physical toughness, good decisions, a good understanding of the sport, high football intelligence quotient can all be found in Chama.

To become a great soccer player, one needs to have game intelligence, physical fitness, the proper mindset, as well as good technique.

Soccer technique has four key elements- ball control, dribbling skills, passing accuracy, and body control- Chama possesses such qualities.

Chama joined Simba SC in 2018 from Lusaka Dynamos FC. Before turning out for Lusaka Dynamos FC, he played for Zesco United and Libya's Al Ittihad.

The footballer is thus an experienced player for both domes-

tic leagues and African inter-club tournaments.

In the 2020/21 Mainland Premier League season, Chama made Simba SC supporters happy, notching eight goals and 15 assists, and in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League season, the player has already executed 14 assists and scored three goals.

Chama has not only kept good records in NBC Premier League but has also done well in the premier continental club tournament ties.

The Zambian midfielder was, for instance, impressive in the 2018/19 CAF Champions League's Second Preliminary Round rematch between Simba SC and Zambia's Nkana FC, which took place in Dar es Salaam

The clash ended with Simba SC cruising to a 3-1 victory to qualify for the showpiece's Group Stage via a 4-3 aggregate win.

The clash's memorable moment was Chama's goal netted in

the 89th minute, the midfielder skillfully flicked the ball with his left foot to beat Nkana FC's goalkeeper from within the penalty area.

In the 2021/22 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round, Simba SC came up against Zimbabwe's FC Platinum, cruising to a 4-1 aggregate victory to make it to the Group Stage.

In the two sides' rematch, held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, Simba SC hammered FC Platinum 4-0, turning the outcome in the Tanzanian side's favour after it had succumbed to a 1-0 loss in the first leg tie held in Harare.

Chama scored the fourth goal for his outfit in the rematch. In the 2021/22 CAF Champions League Group Stage, Simba SC welcomed DR Congo's AS Vita Club at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on April 3, 2021.

The tie was colourful, witnessing Simba SC commanding a 2-1 win over AS Vita Club to secure qualification for the quarter-finals.

Chama and fellow midfielders, Louis Miquissone and Larry Bwalya showcased impressive showing, with Chama notching one goal.

In 2022/23 CAF Champions League's First Preliminary Round, Simba SC came up against Malawi's Nyasa Big Bullets, commanding a 2-0 victory in both first and second leg ties, with Chama playing part in his outfit's success.

Chama, in one of his exploits in the rematch, threaded an assist to compatriot, Moses Phiri, and the latter scored one of the goals for the club to propel the squad to the Second Preliminary Round.

In the showdown's Second Preliminary Round, Simba SC confronted Angola's Primeiro de Agosto, winning 3-1 in the de leg that took place in Luanda and then grabbing a 1-0 victory in the return leg to secure progression to the Group Stage.

The first leg saw Chama score a goal for the Msimbazi Street squad in the ninth minute and had an assist for his compatriot, Phiri, as the latter went into the

A section of DCB Commercial Bank staff, who participated in this year's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon, joyfully display their medals shortly after the completion of the showdown which took place in Moshi yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT



Dar set to host Run 4 Autism Tanzania Half Marathon in April

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

AUTISM, also known as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a neurodevelopmental condition of variable severity with lifelong effects that can be recognized from early childhood, chiefly characterized by difficulties with social interaction and communication and by either restricted or repetitive patterns of thought and behaviour.

Children with ASD often have marked differences from others in the way they communicate, behave, and learn.

These differences can cause problems with social interactions, which in turn can lead to problems at school, stress within their families, and social isolation.

Families and caregivers of those with Autism Spectrum Disorder experience their trials.

Taking care of a child with ASD can be challenging- they may be restless, have trouble sleeping, eating, or speaking, either experience seizures or have meltdowns born of frustration or overstimulation.

World Autism Awareness Day is annually celebrated on April 2 and the whole month of April is World Autism Awareness Month.

Dar es Salaam-based Lukiza Autism Foundation, a non-profit organization that is implementing an Autism Intervention therapy project for identified students with autism at Msimbazi Mseto Autism center, will this year organize the Run 4 Autism Half Marathon to commemorate this month.

This year's race, which turns out to be the second edition, is expected to take place at The Green grounds, Osterbay in

Dar es Salaam on April 30.

The founder and Executive Director of Lukiza Autism Foundation, Hilda Nkabe, told The Guardian recently about 2000 individuals are expected to participate in the race, adding this is double the number of participants that battled it out in last year's half marathon.

Hilda, who is also the 2023 Run 4 Autism Tanzania Half Marathon organizer, pointed out: "2023's Run 4 Autism Tanzania Half Marathon is an inclusive half marathon which welcomes individuals of all ages, races, gender, and disabilities."

According to Hilda, registration fees for runners that will confirm their participation early is 35,000/- for each of the participants until April 2. She revealed the runners will, thereafter, have to pay 40,000/- each for the registration fees.

She noted: "Registration for the half

marathon is done via Lukiza Autism Foundation's M-Pesa 'Lipa' number 5069292 then all information ought to be sent to 0783 639 335."

Hilda disclosed: "Categories available are 21.1 kilometers race, dubbed Autism Champion, 10 kilometers event dubbed 'Autism Warrior Corporate Challenge', 5 kilometers race termed Autism Hero Inclusive race, and 2.5 kilometers race dubbed 'Autism Star Inclusive race'."

The organizer pointed out: "Each participant will receive a medal, T-shirt, string bag, wrist band, and there will be hydration points on the road."

She further explained that the race also targets to commemorate the World Autism Awareness Month of April and create more autism awareness, as well as promote autism acceptance and inclusion in society.

She disclosed the half marathon seeks to raise about 50,000,000/- to support the Msimbazi Mseto Autism Center intervention therapies, promoting a healthier lifestyle, mental health, and family activities, and serve as an opportunity to celebrate families with people with autism.

Hilda stated the event, as well, aims at bringing together several stakeholders for the initiative such as non-government organizations, corporate companies, and government entities for networking, exchanging ideas, and Autism advocacy.

"The estimated costs for our one-year project is 150,000,000/-, we have successfully raised 100,000,000/- and we are short of 50,000,000/-, hence, we are inviting all runners, corporate companies, and schools to support Run 4 Autism Tanzania Half Marathon second season," Hilda revealed.

Liverpool fail to close in on top four after dismal draw at Crystal Palace

LONDON

LIVERPOOL missed a chance to close the gap on the Premier League's top four after playing out a dismal 0-0 draw at Crystal Palace on Saturday.

Palace forward Jean-Philippe Mateta struck the crossbar just prior to half-time before Mohamed Salah did the same with a fine effort shortly after the restart, but Jurgen Klopp's side struggled to create much else of note at Selhurst Park.

The result leaves Liverpool in seventh place, six points behind fourth-placed Tottenham Hotspur, who hosted Chelsea on Sunday.

Klopp had won all seven Premier League games at Selhurst Park prior to Saturday by a combined score of 22-6.

He had secured more league wins (12) and more points (37) than against any other opponent during his seven seasons as Liverpool boss and so this fixture represented a golden chance for his team to reassert themselves after being thrashed by Real Madrid in midweek. Furthermore, Palace were winless in seven games and without talisman Wilfried Zaha.

However, Liverpool were palpably shorn of confidence and were perhaps fortunate to escape south London with a point after a flat display in which they rarely threatened Palace goalkeeper Vicente Guaita.

A draw is not a disaster given there is still time to close on the top four, but this was nevertheless a missed opportunity that only raises further questions as to whether Liverpool can rediscover anything like their best in time to salvage this season.

It was notable that Klopp opted for experience in his lineup on Saturday, perhaps mindful of the need to stabilise the ship after the drubbing against Real. Only three players in the starting lineup here were under the age of 28 and in midfield, Klopp opted for Naby Keita, Jordan Henderson and James Milner.

However, that trio was guilty of being too passive and slow in possession, while clearly struggling to deal with the pace of Michael Olise in particular when Palace counterattacked.

The need for Liverpool to refresh their midfield is well-documented, but even the more promising youngsters were unable to inject much dynamism into their play with Harvey Elliott an ineffective second-half substitute for Keita, who was arguably fortunate to make it to half-time given how far below par he was.

Fabinho was booked minutes after coming on as he too struggled to cope with Palace's threat while Stefan Bajcetic was only given five minutes to impact proceedings. Arguably Klopp's biggest conundrum remains finding a way to revitalise the heart of the team between now and May.

Only four teams -- Everton (17), Wolverhampton Wanderers (18), Nottingham Forest (18) and Southampton (19) -- have scored fewer than Crystal Palace's 21 goals this season.

The absence of an effective No. 9 was keenly felt here with Mateta seemingly so inhibited that he gave up on chasing a loose ball early on, prompting anger from the home supporters wanting to see more effort from their centre-forward. They will want to see more quality, too.

Mateta has now failed to score with his past 20 shots in the Premier League, dating back to a goal against Aston Villa in August.

This is an unfair comparison, but where Karim Benzema and Vinicius Junior were so clinical in capitalising on Liverpool's defensive errors in midweek, Mateta wasted several threatening moments, most notably in the 42nd minute when hitting the crossbar from inside the box after fine work from Jeffrey Schlupp, pressing Trent Alexander-Arnold into a mistake.

Mateta was replaced by Odsonne Edouard for the final 19 minutes but the French forward rarely threatened. Edouard has just three league goals to his name all season.

Patrick Vieira has plenty of dynamic, creative players when fit, but they continue to be let down by the absence of a consistent finisher.

AGENCIES

Atletico boss Simeone fumes that referees always favour Real Madrid after derby red card

MADRID

ATLETICO Madrid coach Diego Simeone complained that Real Madrid receive preferential treatment from referees after a straight red card was shown to Angel Correa in a 1-1 draw against their rivals in Saturday's derby.

Simeone was fuming over referee Gil Manzano's sending off of Atletico forward Correa in the 64th minute after an elbow to the chest of defender Antonio Rudiger with the score 0-0.

"A contact is not a blow," Simeone told DAZN after the game. "Football is a physical game. If I'm not mistaken, Rudiger measures 1.94m and if it was apparently such a brutal blow, it would have left him sitting down, but he immediately gets up."

"It may be a yellow [card] but taking a play-



Atletico Madrid coach, Diego Simeone.

er out for that, there would be no players left on the field.

"It's the same story. It is normal, and it has become normal [refereeing favouring Madrid] and that's not right and it would be nice if we could all compete in the same way."

It was the third time this season that Simeone felt his team had been punished unfairly against Madrid.

Atletico had Stefan Savic red carded in their 3-1 extra-time loss at Real Madrid in the Copa del Rey quarterfinal on Jan. 26 and had Mario Hermoso sent off in their 2-1 defeat to Real Madrid in LaLiga on Sept. 18.

"In the Copa del Rey, they could have sent off [Madrid's] Dani Ceballos for a foul that was a red," Simeone said.

"Today, Angel's foul they saw it that way. You have all seen it, there are things that are very clear."

Simeone was asked about the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) and said: "It can go either way, sometimes in your favour, sometimes against you."

"However, every time we come here [to the Bernabeu stadium], it goes against us."

Atletico also expressed their anger through the club's official Twitter account, which

tweeted: "Nothing new at the Bernabeu."

After the sending off, Atletico nevertheless went ahead through Jose Maria Gimenez in the 78th minute before giving away Alvaro Rodriguez's equaliser seven minutes later.

"We are left with the feeling that we could have won the game," Simeone said. "We knew that Madrid at the end of games are very dangerous."

"We overcame Reinildo's injury, also recovered from Correa's sending off and took the lead. We could have defended better so as not to concede the equaliser, but we must continue on this positive path."

Simeone, meanwhile, confirmed that Atletico defender Reinildo has suffered a serious knee injury that will keep him out of action for the remainder of the season.

The Mozambican defender was stretchered off in the first half with a suspected torn right ACL.

"It's a serious injury," Simeone said. "We have to wait to see what the doctor says after the tests carried out in hospital. It's a pity. We send him a lot of

strength. He will return to play in five or six months."

Saturday's result left Real Madrid second in LaLiga, seven points behind Barcelona, who visit Almeria on Sunday.

"LaLiga has become more difficult now," Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "It already was prior to this game, and it is even more after this game. What we are going to do is fight until the final game."

Ancelotti, whose side came from 2-0 down to beat Liverpool 5-2 in their midweek Champions League round of 16 first leg, admitted his team weren't at their sharpest.

"We lacked a little bit of mental freshness, especially when being in numerical superiority," he said.

There was one positive for Madrid and that was teenage forward Alvaro Rodriguez scoring his first goal on his first-team debut at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"He is a youngster that has a lot of enthusiasm to play for Real Madrid and he has scored for the first time at the Bernabeu," Ancelotti said.

AGENCIES

Haaland breaks scoring record, City keeps pace with Arsenal

BOURNEMOUTH

Erling Haaland has already taken one of Sergio Aguero's scoring records for Manchester City.

At this rate, surely more will fall.

With one of City's goals in a routine 4-1 win at Bournemouth on Saturday, Haaland made it 27 for the season in the English Premier League. That's more than any player has scored in a single campaign for City since the league started in 1992.

Aguero had the previous highest total of 26 in 2014-15, part of his record all-time haul of 260 for City in all competitions.

The scary thing about Haaland is that he still has 13 matches remaining in the league. He is closing in on Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah's record haul of 32 in a 38-game season as well as the 34 of Andy Cole and Alan Shearer -- achieved back when there were 42 games per season.

Haaland won't score many easier goals than his finish from three meters at Vitality Stadium that helped City ease to a win to keep on the shoulder of Arsenal in the title race.

Arsenal earlier won at Leicester 1-0, a result that was more resounding than the scoreline



Manchester City's Julian Alvarez (L) and Erling Haaland celebrate at the end of the English Premier League soccer match between Bournemouth and Manchester City at the Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth, England, on Saturday. AP

suggested.

Arsenal stayed two points clear of second-placed City with a game to spare.

There was more movement at the bottom of the standings, with victories for Leeds and West Ham lifting both teams out of the relegation zone and dropping Everton and Bournemouth into it.

EASY FOR ARSENAL

Arsenal looks to have gotten over its blip.

Since collecting one point from a three-game

stretch that let City back into the title race, Arsenal has gained back-to-back wins on the road with manager Mikel Arteta saying the team has gone back to basics.

Gabriel Martinelli scored the 46th-minute winner at King Power Stadium, poking in a finish after running onto Leandro Trossard's pass. Trossard and Bukayo Saka had goals disallowed either side of Martinelli's strike.

It built on the 4-2

win at Aston Villa last week.

"Sometimes the wave is created very far from the beach," Arteta said. "Then it's too late to avoid what is going to happen. We had to improve on those things and today we've done that really well."

EASIER FOR CITY

Haaland scored either side of Julian Alvarez and Phil Foden, with an own-goal by Chris Mepham wrapping up the scoring for City against

Bournemouth.

It is six consecutive matches without a clean sheet for Pep Guardiola's team, however, after Jefferson Lerma's 83rd-minute strike for the hosts.

LIVERPOOL HELD

After conceding five goals to Real Madrid in the Champions League in midweek, Liverpool at least tightened up at the back in a 0-0 draw at Crystal Palace.

Jurgen Klopp's team was short of attacking

inspiration, however, with Darwin Nunez out injured. Mohamed Salah curled a shot against the crossbar in a game of few real chances at Selhurst Park.

Liverpool moved up one place to seventh and is six points off the Champions League qualification positions with a game in hand.

WINNING START

Javi Gracia launched his Leeds reign with a 1-0 win over Southampton in a match between teams who started as the bottom two.

Junior Firpo scored in the 77th minute to secure Leeds' first win since Dec. 26. Leeds jumped two places and out of the relegation zone, leaving Southampton rooted to last place and four points adrift of safety.

Bournemouth is in next-to-last place and on the same number of points as Everton, which was beaten at home by Aston Villa 2-0 thanks to goals by Ollie Watkins -- who has scored in five straight games -- and Emi Buendia.

West Ham started the day in third-to-last place but swept past Nottingham Forest with a 4-0 thrashing.

All of the goals came in the final 20 minutes, with Danny Ings scoring twice before Declan Rice and Michail Antonio added others.

Brandt scores with back to send Dortmund top in Bundesliga

BERLIN

JULIAN Brandt scored with his back and Borussia Dortmund held on to move to the top of the Bundesliga after beating Hoffenheim 1-0 on Saturday.

It was Dortmund's ninth win from nine games across all competitions this year and enough for the team to move three points clear of 10-time defending

champion Bayern Munich and surprise challenger Union Berlin.

Bayern, which has seen its four-point lead disappear since the winter break, hosts Union on Sunday.

Brandt scored for the fourth consecutive league game for Dortmund. Marco Reus whipped in a free kick and Brandt bent forward so the ball skimmed in off his back shortly before the break.

"Things are working out for us at the moment," Brandt said. "A little bit of luck is part of it. We're efficient. Today we were a little less efficient than we've been over the past few weeks, when we played very well. We have many guys in great form and, as we saw in the last few weeks, others who've come in and scored very important goals for us. A lot is com-

ing together."

Marius Wolf thought he'd made it 2-0 with a powerful strike inside the near post, but the goal was chalked off for an apparent foul by Nico Schlotterbeck on Ihlas Bebou.

Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel denied Andrej Kramaric from the resulting free kick but Hoffenheim kept up its pressure to the end.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Atletico boss Simeone fumes that referees always favour Real Madrid after derby red card

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Kilimanjaro Water Company's staff are pictured handing over drinking water to some athletes that battled it out in the 2023 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon in Moshi yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Singida Big Stars seeks to keep pressure on Azam FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebwe

SINGIDA Big Stars hosts Mtibwa Sugar at the Liti Stadium as the home team looks to enhance their chances of finishing in those lucrative continental spots in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League.

The Singida-based side now looks to be mounting a realistic challenge for a top-three finish in their debut NBC Premier League campaign, as they are in fourth place in the table and only three points adrift of Azam FC, which occupies third place.

In their last game, Singida Big Stars drew 1-1 with Ihefu SC to go level on points with Azam FC before the latter won 1-0 against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC on Saturday evening at Azam Complex Stadium located at Chamazi.

Singida Big Stars has not been hugely consistent of late, but the club has been difficult to beat, losing just one of the side's last eight matches in the league.

Having conceded 19 goals in 23 league matches, Singida Big Stars boast the third-best defensive record in the division this term, meaning they can count on their solid backline to keep Mtibwa Sugar at bay.

Hans van der Pluijm, Singida Big Stars' head coach, has no injury concerns ahead of this match and should be able to choose from a full strength squad.

Brazilian attacking midfielder Bruno Gomes is Singida Big Stars' biggest threat in front of goal, weighing in with nine goals and one assist in 21 league appearances so far this season, and he is a sure-fire starter.

As for Mtibwa Sugar, they head into the game full of confidence, particularly considering they got the better of Dodoma Jiji FC in their last outing to put an end to their nine-game winless run.

They are currently sitting ninth in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League table, six points clear from the relegation zone and five points from the top four.

bSalum Mayanga-coached Mtibwa Sugar has already beaten Singida Big Stars this season, claiming a 2-1 home victory back in October, and another three points secured today would see them complete the double over the Singida outfit.

bHowever, they have picked up just one win from 11 matches on the road this season, with their last two away results a goalless draw to Prisons and 1-0 defeats at the hands of Mbeya City FC last month.

bIn attack, Mtibwa Sugar will miss their leading striker, Charles Ilamfya, who is serving a three-match ban for elbowing his opponent in the tie against Dodoma Jiji FC. In the absence of Ilamfya, Vitalis Mayanga is expected to lead the line.

Robertinho confident success will come at Simba SC



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Sadio Kanouté (2nd R), attempts to get the better of Uganda's Vipers SC players as the sides faced each other in a 2022/23 CAF Champions League's Group C tie which took place at St Mary's Stadium-Kitende, Uganda last Saturday. Simba SC won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebwe

TANZANIA'S Simba SC head coach, Robert Oliveira, alias 'Robertinho', believes he is on the right course to guide the club to success in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League and 2022/23 NBC Premier League.

Robertinho cut a long smile at the post-match press conference after Simba SC's win against Uganda's Vipers SC in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League's Group C tie which took place in Kampala on Saturday evening, insisting his squad is getting better with time.

Against Vipers SC, centre-back Hennock Inonga scored the winner for Simba SC in the first half, and an individual

could tell just how much it meant to Simba SC and their coach, with the Brazilian tactician having joined the Congolese international in the latter's celebratory dance.

Inonga scored in the 20th minute, running on the blind side of a defender to boot the ball home at the back post after Zambian attacker Moses Phiri had nodded a cross into the defender's direction.

With the victory, Simba SC has climbed to third place in the Group C table with three points while Vipers SC languishes at bottom of the table, staying winless after three matches in their Group Stage debut.

The Simba SC tactician noted: "There is no easy game in the CAF Champions League... I congratulate my opponents because it wasn't easy."

Robertinho revealed: "It

was a big derby. I changed our strategy this week and it was very positive for me, for us because I know my ex-club has nice players, they start games with 4-3-3 so I used 4-4-2... this was positive for us because we scored one goal and lost two opportunities inside the box."

"I am happy to win with a good performance, congratulations to my players, 1-0 in the CAF

Champions League is the same as 3-0 or 4-0. I was champion in Rwanda, Uganda, CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals with Rayon Sports, and semi-finals in CAF Champions League. I have experience in the CAF Champions League that's why Simba SC called me," the tactician noted.

The Brazilian coach, who took over at Msimbazi Street outfit in January, had come under fire following a three-match winless run that included back-to-back defeats against Horoya Athletic Club and Raja Casablanca and then a 1-1 Premier League draw with Azam FC.

Following the victory in Kampala, Robertinho said that he is positive his club will perform better.

The tactician disclosed: "I am a positive man, you talk about the negative results but you don't talk about the nice performance in the second half (against Horoya AC and Raja Casablanca)."

"I am happy that step by step, the players are understanding my style, I understand my players. I am building good relationships between players and coaches, so, I am very optimistic that we shall have consistency," the Brazilian stated.

Dar female athletes hold sway in 2023 Kili International Marathon

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN Sarah Ramadhan has emerged as the winner of the 2023 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon's women's category, which has seen the country's athletes garner a resounding victory in the showdown for the first time.

Sarah, who finished the women's category of the 42 kilometers race with a big smile on her face, was cheered by spectators that turned up at the Moshi Cooperatives University (MoCU) Stadium yesterday.

The champion clocked at 3:02:36 to claim the victory as the race celebrated its 21st anniversary.

The race's category's second place went to Neema Sanka who clocked 3:20:05 followed by Visa Mhalwa that finished third as she recorded 3:25:14.

The race has, for many years, been dominated by athletes from Kenya but yesterday they failed to secure the top three places in the showdown. Kenyan runner Jane Mathange ended fourth.

The showdown's men's category, though, was once again dominated by Kenyan athletes as Kenneth Kiprop Omulo was the category's winner, clocking 2:18:05, followed closely by Tanzanian, Aloyce Simbu, who clocked 2:18:29.

Another Kenyan Abraham Kipkosgei Too took the third position as he clocked 2:19:30.

Sarah walked away with a cash prize totaling 4.2m/- following her



Tanzanian athlete Magdalena Shauri, 2023 Tigo Kili Half Marathon's women's category champion, jubilates after crossing the finish line of the event which took place at Moshi Cooperatives University (MoCU) Stadium in Kilimanjaro yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

victory in the marathon.

There was also an additional cash prize of 1.5m/- for Sarah, a pledge that the showdown's main sponsor, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager brand, issued for any of the domestic athletes who will emerge victorious.

Simbu took home 2.1m/- following his second-place finish, as well as the additional cash prize of 1.5m/-.

Speaking during the presentation ceremony, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mary Masanja, who represented the

ministry's head, Mohamed Mchengerwa, expressed her appreciation for the cooperation that had made the marathon a success.

Mary stated the showdown largely promotes Mount Kilimanjaro and the tourism sector in the country.

The Deputy Minister stressed that the government will continue cooperating with the marathon's organizers to ensure that the showdown becomes bigger and involve more people from inside and outside the country. Speaking after the mara-

thon's completion, Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) PLC's Managing Director, Jose Moran, thanked the leaders and residents of Moshi for cooperating with the organizers to make the race, which marked the 21st edition, a success.

The TBL Director also thanked the marathon's co-sponsors, various stakeholders, and athletes who participated in one way or another to make the race a success.

His statement was echoed by the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager's Brand Manager, Pa-

mela Kikuli, who had, apart from appreciating the cooperation they got from the stakeholders and the government, claimed that there are still some duties to be accomplished so that the race can be bigger and promote the country and its tourist attractions.

Pamela said the TBL had set aside 22.7m/- for prizes for this year's marathon winners.

Sponsors for this year's marathon include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km (Main Sponsors), Tigo- Half Marathon, and Grand Malt- 5Km Fun Run. Kilimanjaro Water was the marathon's water table sponsor that was joined by TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, and TotalEnergies, official service providers were Surveyed Plots Company Limited (SPC), Kibo Palace Hotel, CMC Automobiles, KK Security, and Keys Hotel.

Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and nationally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

