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ELECTION



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Ruaha ecosystem: GEF sets 17bn/-

NGOs want seat in budget setting

By Getrude Mbago

SIKIKI—a non-governmental organisation in the health sector—has urged the government to adopt a consultation mechanism on annual government fiscal layouts, especially the budget. Irenei Kiria, its executive director, made this appeal at the launching of the NGO's 'Subnational Open Budget Survey' 2020 Report in Dar es Salaam yesterday, demanding that the public need to easily access budget documents "to enable people to hold authorities accountable."

The mechanism needs to apply more intensely at lower levels, as citizens will then be closer to Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and more actively participate in setting development priorities in their areas.

He said that LGAs should make budget information available to the public in compliance with the Access to Information Act (2016) and its regulations (2017). "Many citizens are unaware of what will be implemented by LGAs in their areas as part of the budget plans," he stated, underlining that this situation makes it difficult for people to effectively participate in development initiatives.

It similarly hinders their being patriotic in tax compliance when they know that the funds will support projects in their villages, he asserted, pointing at what is set out in the Local Government Reform Programme (LGRP) of the late 1990s.

It was designed to improve service delivery by making local government authorities more responsive and accountable, he stated, commending various stakeholders for supporting the survey.

It was conducted to assess budget transparency, levels of participation and instances of



Janet Rogan, a representative of the British government, has an audience at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt yesterday with a Tanzanian government delegation led by Khamis Hamza Khamis (R), Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment). It was in a collaborative session at the ongoing (Nov 6 - 18) COP27 - the 27th United Nations Climate Change conference. Photo: VPO

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Great Ruaha River basin ecosystem that principally depends on the Ihefu marshlands in Mbeya Region for feeder streams will be restored at a cost of 17bn/-.

Dr Damas Mapunda, the coordinator for the restoration, said yesterday that \$75.5m (16.8bn/-) has been disbursed by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) for the purpose.

The project is designed to take five years to restore natural vegetation and springs damaged by farming and grazing, particularly in Mbarali District, he said, noting that fishing was also a problem.

"We shall make sure we restore the original ecosystem to rescue the Usungu basin in Mbarali District that shrank from 322 sq kms to 84sq km from 1999 to 2006," he said, intimating that the shrinking has not been halted significantly.

Strategies in place include building irrigation schemes in project areas to stem negative impact on communities using water from the project area's rivers and valleys for irrigation, straddling the Ruaha and Lake Rukwa basins.

He asserted that 15 per cent of water from Ruaha river feeds the Julius Nyerere hydropower project (JNHPP), "hence there is every reason to make sure the water is protected to spur the country's economic growth."

Said Madito, assistant regional administrative secretary, said project plans for implementation involve village and ward level officials for optimal results, while Faraja Ngalageza, VPO assistant director for Environment, said a great job is expected to restore land vastly damaged by human activities.

The VPO coordinates the five-year project cover Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Katavi nd Rukwa regions, he added.

ATC plane ditches foggy Bukoba airport

By Guardian Reporter

AN AIR Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) plane yesterday failed to land at Bukoba airport due to bad weather.

The Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) confirmed the incident, saying the Bombardier plane diverted its flight to Mwanza Airport where all passengers were offloaded safely.

The plane had to leave for Dar es Salaam with other schedules, said TCAA director general Hamza Johari, noting that for safety reasons the aircraft had to divert to Mwanza airport.

The situation came 11 days from the forced landing in shallow water just off Bukoba municipality of a Precision Air plane due to poor weather at the Bukoba airport, with shambolic rescue preparedness leading to the death of 19 people and 26 others rescued and sent for treatment.

He said there was fog, rain, a thunderstorm and darkness. The airport was not visible, so the pilot cancelled the route and returned to Mwanza and landed safely, the director explained.

In her Twitter account, Special Seats MP Neema Lugangira, who was among the passengers, praised the pilot for cancelling the Bukoba landing.

“I congratulate the pilot for making the right decision to return to Mwanza, and now I am returning to Dar. The government should take seriously the issue of the new Bukoba airport

“Still shaken, but God is good. I

boarded a plane this morning for Bukoba. The journey was challenging; we have arrived, but the plane failed to land," she wrote.

"I congratulate the pilot for making the right decision to return to Mwanza, and now I am returning to Dar. The government should take seriously the issue of the new Bukoba airport," the MP intoned.

"Some passengers have remained in Mwanza, others have returned to Dar es Salaam. Bukoba Airport is known as a geographically challenging airport and if the weather is bad, the landing becomes a challenge," she stated.

Pilot Emmanuel Msangi and co-pilot Mhayyar Alnabhany made their right decision, the MP wrote, after which the TCAA CEO assured passengers that Bukoba airport is safe for landing.

The remarks came amid complaints from aviation stakeholders like pilots and flight engineers that Bukoba airport time and again gives them trouble during landing and take-off.

They report struggling with the constant change of weather plus the fog-attracting mountains in the vicinity.

When contacted, Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa confirmed yesterday's incident, commending the pilots for their decision.

Clerics fete Samia with award

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

“President Samia is grateful for the award; this is a clear indication that her efforts are seen by Tanzanians

THE Mbeya regional peace and reconciliation committee yesterday presented an honorary award to President Samia Suluhu Hassan in recognition of her government's efforts in enhancing peace and stability.

Juma Homera, the Mbeya regional commissioner, received the award on behalf of the president, thanking the religious

The award also recognizes the Head of State's efforts in improving the business and investment climate, the fight against COVID-19 and improvement of social services like water, education, health and transportation, he said.

The award beeps up confidence for the government to fast-track implementation of development projects across the country, he declared. "President Samia is grateful for the award; this is a clear indication that her efforts are seen by Tanzanians," he stated, noting that the president was struggling to ensure there are credible income generating opportunities for Tanzanians within and outside the country.

The president has done a great job in maintaining peace and stability, he said, affirming that the entire leadership "positively speaks on all the good things done by the government that aim to strengthen the country's economy as well as that of individual citizens."

Mbeya Region has benefited from funds released by the central government, with 7bn/- allocated for improvement of roads, including the Inyala bypass road, installing traffic lights and road signs to stem accidents, he said.

Inyala was spotted for repeated accidents robbing

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NGOs want seat in budget setting

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accountability at the local government level, the director noted.

The German Development Corporation (GIZ) through its financial governance programme made a major contribution, as well as Vanja Uriri, a consultant who handled survey administration, he said.

Godfrey Mfumu, programme officer at Sikika, said that application forms for requesting information should be readily available at LGA offices, plus user-friendly terms of service. The description of the rights and responsibilities of the person requesting information and the information holder must have a time limit for obtaining such information and fees covering actual costs of producing the requested information, she elaborated. Community-based organisations need social accountability mechanisms to use available budget information to evaluate council work and the performance of committees in their oversight role, the report noted.

Back in 2020, the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) issued guidelines for community participation in public procurement for local government projects, whose provisions await to be implemented.

Stefan Ehrentraut, a GIZ senior advisor, said the financial governance programme empowers central actors along the accountability chain, increasing transparency, efficiency and accountability. Public financial management reforms are a key driver for enabling economic growth, improved service delivery and overall development. The programme advises LGAs on how to better manage their own revenues in an efficient and transparent manner, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi exchanges greetings with South Africa's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Noluthando Mayende-Malepe, who called on him at Zanzibar State House to introduce herself. Photo: State House

FROM PAGE 1

the Clerics fete Samia with award

lives of over 30 people from July to September, he stated, while Rev. Oscar Ongere, the committee chairman serving at the Calvary Assemblies of God Church, said the committee decided to award President

Samia in view of her efforts to bring development to the people. The Head of State has been a link between religious institutions and

the government, engaging them on several issues for the wider public interest, he said. Bishop Erica Mwakyokile, a committee member,

said they are especially cognizant of the importance of building Meta maternity hospital, installed with all the necessary requirements to ensure safe delivery.

"Construction of the new hospital has brought hope to expectant mothers. They are no longer worried about their safety when giving birth as the facility is well equipped and has a friendly environment," the prelate added.



Dr Kiva Mvungi (L), Geita Gold Mining Limited's senior health, safety, environment and training manager, holds talks with Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute director general Dr Peter Kisenge earlier this week mainly on how funding by the firm has helped the Chato Zonal Hospital attend to people with heart conditions. A recent five-day health camp supported by GGML saw close to 500 people screened for cardiovascular and non-communicable diseases. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania outlines blue economy sustainability plan at COP27

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA yesterday outlined its policy and legal framework in the blue economy agenda to avoid the degradation of the environment and depletion of marine resources.

A statement released yesterday by Vice President's Office quoted Khamis Hamza Khamis, Deputy Minister in the office responsible for Union and Environment as saying this during the launch of Blue Economy for

a Resilient Africa Programme at the 27th meeting of the member states of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

Khamis said that the government has included environmental protection issues in the Blue Economy programme to ensure that it is sustainable for the benefit of current and future generations of Tanzanians.

He referred to these measures as the establishment of the Min-

istry for the Blue Economy in Zanzibar, the establishment of Policy and Strategy for the Development of the Blue Economy in Zanzibar and a Strategy for the Blue Economy in mainland Tanzania.

"The blue economy is expected to stimulate greater use of water resources and coastal areas, however, environmental challenges that cause climate change and illegal fishing may endanger or weaken the prospects for the growth of the blue economy," he

said. He also thanked the World Bank through the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Resources Project (SWIOFish) which has helped eradicate illegal fishing practices.

Deputy Minister Khamis added that the project has helped and strengthened the protection of fish habitats and marine corals where previously illegal fishing was done which contributed to the destruction of habitats and living organisms.

He said that Tanzania is en-

dowed with a long and rich coastline of about 1,450 kilometers in length which provides opportunities for citizens to engage in blue economy activities including fishing.

The deputy minister said that the area occupies approximately 15 per cent of all of Tanzania's land where approximately eight million people benefit from it, so the government has put in place a system to support the implementation of the blue economy agenda.

Water rationing schedule is by no means followed, most residents of Dar say

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Region's water rationing schedule recently announced by Regional Commissioner Amos Makalla has caused complaints from residents due to its not being adhered to.

In addition, residents say even in case water comes out of taps, it is of low pressure claiming that much of it ends in water traders' who pump it into their reservoirs using electric pumps.

The remarks were made by a cross-section of Dar es Salaam residents interviewed by this paper, who added that lack of water supply service forces them to buy the essential commodity at 1,000/- for a 20-liter bucket.

Hamis Katumwa, a resident of Manzese Bakhresa area said for more than a month now the area has been without water and that the watering schedule given to them saying they will be getting water on Thursday and Saturday is not being abided by.

"Instead we are forced to buy water from youth peddling the water using trolleys and each 20-liter plastic bucket sells at 1,000/-, a very high price for the people of low income," Katumwa said.

He added that there is a need for DAWASA to revive its water kiosks which many people without taps in their homes can get the essential commodity at 100/- per 20-liter bucket.

Jamila Kisinga, a resident of Jitegeme Mabilo area said the rationing schedule for their area says they would be supplied with water every Friday, but it does so with very low pressure, hence creating long queues at water supply points.

She also blamed some homeowners who use electric pumps to fill their tanks who later sell them at higher prices.

Jamila said it is high time for the government to launch a crackdown against electric pump owners as it once did in the past.

"Every Friday we pray for a power cut to happen to deny people with pumps to pump out water, else we will always be denied of the essential commodity," she added.

Meanwhile, Dorice Archard, a resident of Ubungo External said the water rationing schedule for them is every Saturday, but they do not get the water at all, and sometimes get it during the night when they are asleep.

In general, these Dar es Salaam residents aired their complaints mid this week at a Gender and Development Seminar Series (GDSS) organised by TGNP.

NEC roots for diligent officials ahead of December mini polls

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has cautioned its election supervisors at constituency and ward levels to stop favouritism by hiring unqualified relatives to man polling stations but instead engage qualified and diligent individuals.

NEC has already announced by-elections for one constituency and various wards on December 17 this year.

The caution was given by Magdalena Rwebangira, NEC Commissioner here yesterday at the opening of the three-day training seminar for election supervisors and assistants thereof at the constituency and ward level.

"We want to see qualified supervisors, stop nepotism who do not have any diligence in election matters," she said.

The NEC commissioner called on them to identify polling centres early in order to have a proper arrangement that will allow voting to be held in a calm and peaceful atmosphere.

He explained that the training is provided after NEC picked December 17 as polling day for Amani Constituency in the Isles and for Councillors for 12 mainland wards.

He said the wards that will hold by-elections as including Njombe Mji (Njombe Mu-

nicipality), Mwamalili (Shinyanga Municipality), Vibaoni (Handeni Town), Lukozi (Lushoto District) and Misigusugu (Kibaha Town).

Other wards are Dabalo (Chamwino District), Mndumbwe (Tandahimba District), Majohe (Dar es Salaam City), Kalumbaleza (Sumbawanga District), Ibanda (Kyela District), Mnyanjani (Tanga City) and Dunda (Bagamoyo District).

Rwebangira called on them to involve political parties and other election stakeholders in their areas in regard to election issues.

The NEC commissioner also reminded seminar participants that in their performance of their duties they have to adhere to the country's constitution, election laws and regulations thereof, ethics and various guidelines provided by the commission.

"There are some among you who have experience in the conduct of elections. Make sure you abide by the commission's directives, instead of doing the work routinely," she said.

Chairman of the training seminar who is also the Handeni District Executive Director, Maryam Ukwaju assured the NEC commissioner that the by-election will be conducted professionally by adhering to all election laws and regulations thereof for the elections to be held in a peaceful atmosphere.



Energy minister January Makamba (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday congratulating Ntangeki Nshala, author of a book on the operations of boards of directors of organisations. The minister had just officiated at the launch of the book. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AGRA spearheads project on biofortified beans production

By Francis Kajubi

THE government has said it is working on various programmes with development partners in ensuring that stunting among children is eliminated through production of enough biofortified food staff.

Agriculture deputy minister Anthony Mavunde made the commitment yesterday when he opened a one-day consultative meeting with stakeholders from the agriculture value chain to discuss production of biofortified bean seeds.

The meeting was organised as a starting point towards the implementation of the 'Advancing Availability of Biofortified foods for institutional markets in Tanzania

project 2022/25' by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

The three years project on production of biofortified beans is funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and will benefit 200,000 smallholder beans farmers from the regions of Mbeya, Ruvuma, Kigoma, Arusha and Morogoro.

The project is expected to produce enough tonnage of beans for feeding 400,000 children in primary schools. The project targets at eliminating malnutrition among children and pregnant women.

Addressing a number of farmers who attended the meeting, Mavunde said according to the current official statistics 31.8 percent

of under five children in Tanzania are stunted, 3.5 percent are wasted and 14.6 percent are underweight. However, anemia in women of childbearing age is 28 percent and for children it is 58 percent.

At the meeting that also involved food vendors and processors, the agriculture seeds agency (ASA) and civil society organisations admitted that more has to be done in addressing the nutrition problem in the country.

"This nutritional status is unsatisfactory and requires effective coping strategies. The government is doing all it can to address malnutrition. One such initiative is the implemen-

tation of the National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP2021/26 which covers various sectors," said Mavunde.

He said the ministry through the agriculture sector development plan (ASDP-2) is working to make sure there is sufficient production, availability and utilisation of a variety of local crops and especially biofortified foods with the intention of improving the nutrition status of the community.

"In 2020 the government launched its national biofortification guidelines which integrate nutrition as a key component of agricultural interventions to generate innovations, evidence and learning to inform further

decision-making for resource allocation," he asserted.

The guideline provides the design and strengthening of biofortification interventions from the initial stage of breeding desired varieties, crop production, marketing, distribution and consumption.

He said the government is aware that biofortification is one of the key strategies to overcome the challenge of nutrient deficiencies especially for vitamins and minerals.

The strategy also targets smallholder farmers with limited access to diverse diets, commercially fortified food to overcome the challenge of micronutrient deficiencies.

Rockefeller Foundation Director of Food Initiative Betty Kibaara said that the organisation decided to fund the project as beans is one of the core food-stuffs consumed in schools.

"Through feeding children with biofortified beans we can slow down stunting and other nutritional related diseases," said Kibaara.

AGRA Head Seed Research and Systems Development Jane Ininda said the project also targets at offering iron beans at affordable prices.

"We do believe that the project is coming to complement the government's initiatives in fighting malnutrition in children," said Ininda.

Tanzania on the right track on efforts to attain 2030 goals on HIV and Aids

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA is on the right track in the efforts to achieve the 2030 goals to ensure that there are no new infections, or deaths due to HIV/Aids and to know one's status.

Addressing the media yesterday towards the World Aids Day to be celebrated at the national level in Lindi, the Executive Director of Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), Dr Leonard Maboko said that the rate of new infections has decreased from 110,000 people in 2016/17 to 54,000 in 2021.

The efforts are echoed by interventions to curb HIV/AIDS-related deaths which have yielded positive results as they have halved the number of deaths from 64,000 in 2016/17 to 29,000 deaths in 2021.

Dr Maboko attributed the success to a number of interventions implemented by the government and other health sector stakeholders.

He said Tanzanians are increasingly sensitized to test and know their HIV status, and those who are found to be infected get the treatment.

"The fall in HIV deaths and new infections is a result of ongoing efforts to raise public awareness about the virus and the increased use of ARV drug," he said.

However, he said, since the target has not been reached yet, efforts are needed to facilitate the realization of those goals among zero new infections come 2030.

"We need to strike a balance now, despite the fact that the rate of new rate is decreasing but infections among youth aged 15 to 24 are on the increase," he said.

Earlier, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office for Policy, Parliamentary and Coordination, George Simbachawene said this year's celebration will be preceded by exhibitions at the Ilula grounds from November 24 to December 1, 2022.

In order to reach many youths they will have a setup of special booths for young people for more awareness.

He said that the celebration will be accompanied by a scientific conference, exhibitions of various activities, disease testing and a Marathon.

"National stakeholders under the coordination of TACAIDS are continuing with all the necessary preparations to provide the necessary services for the celebration, including providing educa-

tion," he said.

Meanwhile, the Manager of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), Dr Anath Rwebembera said Tanzania is estimated to have 1.75 million people living with HIV, but of those 1.5 million people have been reached by these services and are in treatment and care services.

"There are 200,000 people who have not been reached by those services. Therefore, we continue to mobilize, education and services should be provided to the 200,000 who have not been reached because in reaching them, we have ensured that we have been able to reduce HIV infection," said Dr Rwebembera.



National stakeholders under the coordination of TACAIDS are continuing with all the necessary preparations to provide the necessary services for the celebration, including providing education

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Dev Recoveries Ltd

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Dar es Salaam



Jacob Nangi (L), head of CRDB Bank Plc's major clients department, has a word in Zanzibar earlier this week with Tanzania's Ambassador to Germany, Dr Abdallah Possi. This was at the bank's pavilion during an exhibition held in tandem with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's meeting with Tanzania ambassadors and high commissioners – with the bank among the sponsors. With them is CRDB senior commercial relations manager Lulu Melo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TCB collects nearly 100 billion/- as govt revenues at TPA branch

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Commercial Bank (TCB) has officially launched its TPA branch, which is housed in the port authority head office in the vicinity of Dar es Salaam harbour to mostly facilitate the collection of maritime government revenue.

Speaking during its inauguration ceremony on Wednesday, Chief Executive Officer Sabasaba Moshingi said the 24-hrs outlet is strategically located at the TPA One-Stop Centre along Samora Drive to specifically do that but also offer other top-notch services to the lender.

According to him, the branch has been a success-worthy investment that has so far paid off handsomely.

Since opening for business about two years ago, the Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) TPA Branch has facilitated the collection of government revenues amounting to nearly 100bn/-.

CEO Moshingi said 57bn/- of the collections were in local currency whereas the amount in foreign exchange has been US\$18 million, which at the current market exchange rate amounts to some 42bn/-.

"The TPA branch is one of the two TCB outlets currently operating 24 hours every day throughout the year. It is strategically located to facilitate collection of government revenues at the Dar es Salaam Port, including tax remittances," the seasoned banker stated.

"So far the branch has managed to collect government revenues worth 57bn/- in local

currency and US\$18 million in foreign exchange," he added.

Briefing Moshingi before he graced the official opening event, the TPA Branch Manager, Anastela Kabudi, said that currently local currency monthly collections average between 1.5bn/- and 3bn/-.

She said on average the monthly forex revenue collections amount to over US\$500,000.

Moshingi said the 24/7 operational strategy seeks to enable TCB clients operating at the country's prime port to easily access its services and conveniently make government payments throughout the day.

The other 24-hrs TCB branch is located at the Julius Nyerere International Airport.

He called on other users of the local maritime logistics hub to opt for the branch saying that it accords them the opportunity to embrace TCB's convenient banking and the superior financial services it offers.

In line with TCB's vision and strategic mission, the TPA branch is also a financial inclusion investment, which Moshingi said is being used to equally serve other enterprises and communities around it.

"We take this opportunity to inform wazungu that TCB is the biggest state-owned commercial bank that can qualitatively sort out all their banking needs therefore we call upon them to use the TPA branch to access the highly innovative financial services that we offer," the Chief Manager Branches, Mr Godfrey Nyamhanga, said in his vote of thanks.

'Over 40 percent of Tanzanians lack financial literacy'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

OVER 40 percent of Tanzanians lack financial literacy despite the crucial role that financial operations have in national development, Commissioner for Finance Development in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Dr Charles Mwamwaja revealed.

He said this while addressing a press conference here on the upcoming 2nd national financial services week he held in Mwanza in which they plan to reach various

stakeholders and raise awareness on financial aspects for economic growth.

He said when people have financial literacy training, they will have the ability to understand and effectively use various financial skills.

These include, but are not limited to personal financial management like household budgets, credit cards, insurance, government budgeting, borrowing, lending, mortgages, investing, taxation and credit facilities.

As sages have said down the ages, "financial literacy is the foundation of one's relationship with money. It is a lifelong journey of learning that leads to an overall sense of financial well-being and self-trust".

Dr Mwamwaja therefore, noted that financial literacy is crucial to the all-inclusive and meaningful socio-economic development of a given country on a sustainable basis.

Dr Mwamwaja stressed that practical knowledge by the people

in general of financial products and services in all their forms is a surefire way to go forward and up the ladder of progress.

It is to this noble end that the Tanzania government – he said, working through public and private sector institutions like the Finance Ministry and the Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) have tirelessly been pushing for increased financial literacy and other factors that are purposefully designed to bolster national development.

Dr Mwamwaja added that the widespread financial literacy is also a functional incentive for luring prospective investors into the country – as well as an added benefit in the context of international trade and other global interactions.



During the week, the ministry has planned a series of events and sessions aimed at disseminating public awareness of financial services

"The government will continue providing public awareness to

deepen the financial markets and benefit people.

The ministry, in collaboration with various stakeholders in the financial sector, has prepared a financial literacy tool kit that has identified key areas of consideration during the provision of financial education to the public.

The government intends to make 80 percent of the population aware of financial matters by 2025, as a result of the implementation of the financial education programme.

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Fabec Investment Limited invites experienced and reputable Suppliers to express their interest in Supplying Building Materials for the EACOP Project.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE:
As part of its Scope of Work for the EACOP Project Fabec Investment Limited seeks is looking for the Suppliers of the PPE's, Building Materials, Hand Tools and Machines in the following LOTS:

- Lot 1: Personal Protective Equipment
- Lot 2: Cement
- Lot 3: Foamworks
- Lot 4: Steel Reinforcement Bars
- Lot 5: Timber
- Lot 6: Hand Tools and Machines
- Lot 7: Aggregates
- Lot 8: Sand

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Suppliers expressing their interest are invited to submit their request with:

- Evidence of the past track record in Supplying of the above PPE's, Materials and Tools.
- Evidence of possession of appropriate Documentation to confirm Company Eligibility to do similar business in the country i.e. TIN/VRN Certificates, Valid Business Licenses, Brela Certificate of Incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Compliance with Petroleum (Local Content) Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition for Tanzania.
- Registration on EWURA's Local Suppliers and Service Providers (LSSP) Database is highly recommended
- Letter of interest clearly indicating the Tender Reference Number

Interested Suppliers which meet the minimum requirements and have the capacity to provide the equipment and materials listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above listed documents an email to: procurement@fabec.co.tz. (Max. Email Size: 20 MBs). Suppliers are allowed to participate in one Lot or Multiple Lots according to their areas of specialization. Deadline for the Submission of the EOI will be 2nd December 2022.

Suppliers located in areas which are close to the project site are highly encouraged to submit the EOI.

Note: Only pre-qualified companies will receive an invitation to submit their bid in furtherance of the Call for Tender process.



Juma Zidi Kheri (L), a senior official with the Zanzibar government in charge of combating drug abuse and the rehabilitation of drug addicts, has a word with journalists on a visit at a sober home at Kidimni in central Unguja yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Producers of avocado seedlings appeal for construction of factories for crop's market

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PRODUCERS of avocado seedlings in Mbeya Region have appealed to the government and stakeholders to construct factories that will add value to the crop so that it fetches better prices.

The appeal was made yesterday by avocado farmers in Igawilo ward when expressing their worries about continuing to produce the seedlings over fears of a reliable market.

One of the farmers, Janeth Mwamlima said that the presence of the factories for manufacturing avocado body lotion would boost the crops' market.

She said that improvement in the crop's value chain will increase the demand for avocado seedlings and boost farmers' income.

James Pilla said they officially registered their group in 2021 and they are recognised by the government in Mbeya Region. He said since then they have been able to produce many seedlings that were sold to farmers in southern zone regions.

He said they were trained by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Uyolet centre on how to produce quality seedlings. He said before training they were producing seedlings without following experts' guidance on the preparation of farms and planting procedures.

"We decided to seek professional advice from experts at TARI because we wanted to support the government's efforts towards improving the cultivation of the strategic crop," he added.

Pilla noted that avocado farming in the region has resulted in a number of jobs for the people including those working at farms as well as traders. He said the group is capable of producing between 5000 and 7000 seedlings, depending on local and international demands.

He said the group plans to produce between 20,000 and 30,000 avocado seedlings in the 2022/2023 farming season.

VP Office endorses regulations on carbon trade management

By Guardian Reporter

THE Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment) has endorsed regulations and procedures for the management of the country's carbon trade in order to benefit Tanzanians as well as for environmental preservation.

This was disclosed on Wednesday by the deputy minister in the Office of the Vice President (union Affairs and Environment), Hamisi Hamza Hamisi at the ongoing 27th World Climate Change Conference (COP27) held in Egypt.

"Recently, Minister Selemani Jafo signed regulations and procedures that will govern the carbon trade which has now become a big business, and if well managed, it will benefit us," he said.

He said what follows after endorsing the regulations is to educate both indigenous and foreign stakeholders on the benefits of the carbon trade and on how Tanzanians are to benefit.

He added that so far they have met with various stakeholders who have agreed to establish such trade that will to a great extent contribute towards environmental preservation.

"But secondly, the country will also benefit as we will be able to build schools, roads, dispensaries, and supply water services closer to the people," he added.

Meanwhile, Dr elikana John from Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) said the trade will also contribute to preserving forests that have immense benefits including bringing rain and protecting the biodiversity that is in danger of extinction due to lack of areas to live in.

ADVERTISEMENTS



MWANZA OUTREACH CARE AND SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (MOCOSO)



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Email: moghbc@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO BID

RFP Title: Supply of Education Subsidies
Number: MOCOSO-2022/01

Date of Solicitation: 18th November 2022

Closing Date and Time: 1st December 2022, 10:00am (Mwanza, Tanzania)

Questions and Clarifications: Due by 25th November 2022 at 4PM

Tender Opening Date and Time: 1st December 2022 12:00 Noon (Mwanza Tanzania)

Introduction

Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization is a registered non-governmental organization with registration certificate Number 00NGO/00006488 dated 2 August 2013. In the fiscal year 2023, the organization is the local implementing partner of the Adolescents and Children HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment and Virus Elimination project or ACHIEVE in 4 councils of Mwanza Region, namely Mwanza City, Ilemela Municipality and Magu and Misungwi districts.

The Adolescents and Children HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment and Virus Elimination project, or ACHIEVE, is a five-year global effort to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children. The project is funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by a Pact-led consortium of top global HIV/AIDS partners, including Palladium, No Means No Worldwide, and WI-HER.

Objective of the Assignment

Through ACHIEVE project, Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization will provide educational subsidies as detailed in the table shown below.

Distribution Information:

The items will be delivered to Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization offices/warehouse located at the following addresses:

Council name	Physical location of MOCOSO Office	Description of set	Number of items to be delivered
Mwanza City	Plot 738 Block HH Buzuruga Musoma Road	1 small backpack-waterproof(22cm-35cm), 5 exercise book (80-100)pages, 5 pens(type should be ball pen, plastic, blue of black in colour), 5 pencils(HB pencils(wood superior HB bonded lead resist breakage clear and sharp writing), a mathematical set including a ruler, rubber, sharpener, dividers, protractor, set square, 55 compass, ellipsograph and a T-square.	11,152
Mwanza City	Plot 738 Block HH Buzuruga Musoma Road	A set of backpack, notebook, a pen and a mathematical set	406
Ilemela MC	Plot 738 Block HH Buzuruga Musoma Road	A set of backpack, notebook, a pen and a mathematical set	164
Magu DC	House No. 2 Ibdanja TRC-Magu town	A set of backpack, notebook, a pen and a mathematical set	266
Misungwi DC	House No. 6 Mbela Area Misungwi	A set of backpack, notebook, a pen and a mathematical set	234

Educational Subsidies Kits to be supplied will Comprise the Following Items:

Item	Description of Item	Number of Items per Kit for 11,152 Adolescent Girls	Number of Items per Kit for 1,070 in-school Children aged 6 – 14
Educational subsidies	1 small bag, Mathematical set (including a ruler, rubber, sharpener, dividers, protractor, set square, 55. compass, ellipsograph, T-square), 10 A4 Exercise books (100 pages), 5 pen and 5 pencils	11,152	-
School subsidies	A set of backpack, notebook, a pen and a mathematical set	-	1,070

Scope of Work

The specific scope of work includes but should not be limited to the following:

- Interested vendors will visit Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization (MOCOSO) Mwanza Office to see samples of the backpacks and school bags before submitting quotes. **Shortlisted vendors will be required to submit at least five samples each of backpacks and provide assurance that the samples provided will meet the quantity of bags needed by MOCOSO.**
- MOCOSO will review the samples submitted by the vendors regarding the samples MOCOSO shared with the vendors and select the best vendor.
- Selected vendors will procure education subsidies kits (containing: School bag, Mathematical set, Pens, Pencils, Eraser, and A4 Exercise books).
- The vendor will distribute educational subsidies to MOCOSO Mwanza
- The vendor will submit supporting documents proving delivery of education subsidies to MOCOSO.
- Questions and requests for clarification should be sent to procurement@mocoso.or.tz by 25th November 2022 4PM

Timeframe

This assignment is expected to be conducted in the period of 4 weeks from the date of issuing the contract.

Submission Instructions

Interested dealers must physically submit copies of the information listed below together with their quotes in closed and sealed envelopes and deposit in the organization tender box that will be available at MOCOSO offices in the physical address provided below.

- Draft inception report detailing the methodology for supplying and distributing education subsidies kits, including tentative work plan, for review and approval by Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization.
- Quote, valid for at least 90 days.
- Current company profile.
- Copies of their business/ company registration certificate and address, valid business license, VAT, TIN certificates, and Tax clearance certificate.
- Items specifications are fully addressed in the quotation.
- Current Audited financial statement for two consecutive years
- Delivery time must be specified.
- Payment terms 100% after delivery
- Evidence of similar assignments and at least two (2) names and addresses of clients served.
- Interested vendors should visit Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization Office to see a backpack/school bag sample before submitting a quote. Shortlisted vendors will be required to submit samples similar to or close to the sample provided by Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization

Eligibility

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

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

Evaluation Criteria:

- Price
- Financial capability (bank confirmation letter will also be needed)
- Experience
- Quality of items to be supplied (Shortlisted applicants will be required to submit samples).
- Delivery terms.

**Interested, eligible dealers/vendors should deliver their Proposal/quotation to:
The Tender Committee,
Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization,
P.O. Box 11637 Mwanza
Plot No. 382, House No. 4 Block "LL", Kiloleli "A" Ibungilo Ward,
Ilemela Municipality**

All quotes must be in Tanzanian Shillings and enclosed in a plain sealed envelope.

Disclaimer

- Late or incomplete bids will not be accepted.
- Electronic bids will not be accepted.
- The quote that complies with all the specifications/ requirements and offers the lowest price and other evaluation criteria indicated here shall be selected.
- MOCOSO may cancel the solicitation and not award.
- MOCOSO may reject any or all responses received.
- Issuance of requests for quotes does not constitute a contractual commitment by MOCOSO.
- MOCOSO reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on the offerer's failure to follow the solicitation instructions.
- MOCOSO reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected before award determination to promote competition.
- MOCOSO will contact all offerors to confirm the contact person, address, and the proposal submitted for this solicitation.
- MOCO will not compensate Vendors for their response to the solicitation.
- MOCOSO may choose to award only part of the scope of work in the solicitation or to issue multiple awards for the scope of work.
- Information pertaining to and obtained from the Vendor as a result of participation in this solicitation is confidential. The Vendor consents to the disclosure of the documents submitted by the reviewers involved in the selection process. Please note that non-disclosure agreements bind all reviewers.

MWANZA OUTREACH CARE AND SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (MOCOSO)



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INVITATION TO BID

RFP Title: Printing of ART Calendars
Number: MOCOSO-2022/02

Date of Solicitation: 18th November 2022

Closing Date and Time: 1st December 2022, 10:00am (Mwanza, Tanzania)

Questions and Clarifications: Due by 25th November 2022 at 4PM

Tender Opening Date and Time: 1st December 2022 12:00 Noon (Mwanza Tanzania)

Introduction

Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization is a registered non-governmental organization with registration certificate Number 00NGO/00006488 dated 2 August 2013. In the fiscal year 2023, the organization is the local implementing partner of the Adolescents and Children HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment and Virus Elimination project or ACHIEVE in 4 councils of Mwanza Region, namely Mwanza City, Ilemela Municipality and Magu and Misungwi districts.

The Adolescents and Children HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment and Virus Elimination project, or ACHIEVE, is a five-year global effort to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children. The project is funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by a Pact-led consortium of top global HIV/AIDS partners, including Palladium, No Means No Worldwide, and WI-HER.

Objective of the Assignment

Through ACHIEVE project, Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization will provide ART calendars as detailed in the table shown below.

Distribution Information:

The items will be delivered to Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization offices located at the following addresses:

Council name	Physical location of MOCOSO Office	Number of items to deliver
Mwanza City	Plot 738 Block HH Buzuruga Musoma Road	1740
Ilemela MC	Plot 738 Block HH Buzuruga Musoma Road	699
Magu DC	House No. 2 Ibdanja TRC-Magu town	1140
Misungwi DC	House No. 6 Mbela Area Misungwi	1004

The ART calendars to be supplied will Comprise the Following Items:

Item	Description of Item	Number of Items to be supplied
ART calendars	<p>Specifications</p> <p>Size: 12.84cm X 22.83cm</p> <p>Number of Pages: 14 + 2 (16 pages)</p> <p>Paper: 300 GSM Imported art card with matt finishing</p> <p>Finishing: 4 mm Capa board with paper mat laminated will be used on the pasting stand with spiral binding on top</p> <p>Packing: Calendars to be individually packed in self seal example envelope/box/bag</p> <p>Printing: Full colours/multicolours</p>	4,583

Scope of Work

The specific scope of work includes but should not be limited to the following:

- Interested vendors are required to send email requests to procurement@mocoso.or.tz for the ART calendars artwork (picture presentation) to Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization (MOCOSO) to enable them to prepare their samples for submission. **Shortlisted vendors will be required to submit at least two samples of ART calendars and provide assurance that the samples provided will meet the quantity of ART calendars needed by MOCOSO.**
- MOCOSO will review the samples submitted by the vendors regarding the samples MOCOSO shared with the vendors and select the best vendor.
- Selected vendors will print and supply 4,583 ART calendars per the specified and agreed artwork to MOCOSO.
- The vendor will submit supporting documents proving delivery of the ART calendars to MOCOSO.

Timeframe

This assignment is expected to be conducted in the period of 4 weeks from the date of issuing the contract.

Submission Instructions

Interested dealers must physically submit copies of the information provided below together with their quotes in closed and sealed envelopes and deposit in the organization tender box that will be available at MOCOSO offices in the physical address provided below.

- Draft inception report detailing the methodology for supplying and distributing education subsidies kits, including tentative work plan, for review and approval by Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization.
- Quote, valid for at least 90 days.
- Current company profile.
- Copies of their registered office's registration certificate and address, valid business license, VAT, TIN certificates, and Tax clearance certificate.
- Items specifications are fully addressed in the quotation.
- Current Audited financial statement for two consecutive years
- Delivery time must be specified.
- Payment terms 100% after delivery
- Evidence of similar assignments and at least two (2) names and addresses of clients served.
- Interested vendors should send email requests for the ART calendars artwork (picture presentation) to Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization (MOCOSO) email : procurement@mocoso.or.tz before submission of the quotes.

Shortlisted vendors will be required to submit samples similar to or close to the sample provided by Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization

Eligibility

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

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

Evaluation Criteria:

- Price
- Financial capability (bank confirmation letter will also be needed)
- Experience
- Quality of items to be supplied (Shortlisted applicants will be required to submit samples).
- Delivery terms.

Interested, eligible dealers/vendors should deliver their Proposal/quotation to:

**The Tender Committee,
Mwanza Outreach Care and Support Organization,
P.O. Box 11637 Mwanza
Plot No. 382, House No. 4 Block "LL", Kiloleli "A" Ibungilo Ward,
Ilemela Municipality**

All quotes must be in Tanzanian Shillings and enclosed in a plain sealed envelope.

Disclaimer

- Late or incomplete bids will not be accepted.
- Electronic bids will not be accepted.
- The quote that complies with all the specifications/ requirements and offers the lowest price and other evaluation criteria indicated here shall be selected.
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- MOCOSO may reject any or all responses received.
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- Information pertaining to and obtained from the Vendor as a result of participation in this solicitation is confidential. The Vendor consents to the disclosure of the documents submitted by the reviewers involved in the selection process. Please note that non-disclosure agreements bind all reviewers.

Govt launches sixth phase of PFMMP meant to further enhance accountability, transparency

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has launched a sixth phase of the Public Financial Management Reform Programme (PFMMP) aimed to further enhance accountability and transparency in managing public funds.

Speaking during the launching event yesterday here, Zanzibar Minister of State in the President's Office, Finance and Planning, Dr Saada Mkuya Salum said the move will help strengthen expenditure information management systems so as to curb loopholes which trigger revenue leakages.

She said the implementation of the programme which is executed from 2022/23 to 2026/27 is collaboratively done by the government of Tanzania and development partners to strengthen revenue collection as well as formalisation of informal sectors. Mkuya acknowledged stakeholders and development partners' support, particularly in education, health, water, roads and energy sectors.

She said the sixth phase government has taken further steps to re-open the dialogue with development partners and potential investors, while

enhancing accountability and transparency within the public service.

"The government will build the capacity of all institutions involved in the management of public expenditure, including audit institutions and the National Assembly so as to help prevent all loopholes in the misuse of public funds and increase transparency and accountability," she said.

Malou Vanmulken who spoke on behalf of development partners reaffirmed its commitment that they will continue cooperating with Tanzania so as to achieve its development agenda.

Vanmulken commended the government for implementing various projects which have produced the current big programme aimed to address various challenges in managing public finances.

Denis Mihayo, programme's coordinator said public funds management programmes started in the 1990s by being implemented in phases.

He said that the previous phases have helped establish various revenue collection systems such as the Government electronic Payment Gateway (GePG) for Tanzania mainland and ZanMalipo for Zanzibar.



WESE founder Francis Ekeng (L) exchanges greetings in Dar es Salaam earlier this week with Lake Oil managing director Abdulrahman Ahmed shortly after signing documents on a cooperation agreement between their firms. The pact is aimed at enabling commercial drivers to get fuel on a buy-now-pay-later arrangement at zero interest. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Insurance firms form consortium to win major oil and gas projects

By Guardian Reporter

TWENTY two insurance companies in the country have formed a consortium for major oil and gas projects in Tanzania like the proposed construction of a giant liquefied natural gas (LNG) worth \$30 billion in Lindi Region.

The first-ever consortium was launched in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday evening by the deputy minister for Finance and Planning Hamad Chande.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Hamad congratulated the consortium and believe it will make the country earn the national income.

Chande said that the consortium

is the first in the country and believe the government will earn income through insurance fees which will now remain in the country contrary to the past.

He said previously, the capital capacity for the individual insurance companies in the country could not meet the criteria of the risk insurance fees and make the oil and gas project to acquire foreign companies on risky insurance.

"Due to these reasons, the national income was lost due to the fact that most of the investors in the oil and gas sign contract with the foreign companies on risk insurances due to the financial muscles they have.

I believe through this consortium,

outsourcing companies will now be able to take out their insurance in the country to oil and gas project from risks," said Chande.

He explained that the union increases the ability to withstand such risks and help the retention of fee funds in the country for the development of the nation.

"The need for this union began in 2019 towards 2020 after large projects such as the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline worth 3.5 billion dollars and the LNG (Gas Processing Plant) project worth 30 billion US dollars, large projects of mining and agriculture.

Due to the high value of the projects, risk insurance led to the need

for general insurance which was mostly purchased from foreign insurance companies and thus led to a lot of money as a payment for the risk fee benefiting foreign countries," said Chande.

He said: "Due to the small capital of local insurance companies, it led to the need for the creation of the consortium aiming at increasing financial muscles against various oil and energy risks and enable to withstand those risks and retain fees and increase the national income."

Dr Baghayo Saqware Tanzania Insurance Commissioner said that the union makes the 22 companies pool capital and be able to withstand the risks of the big projects including

the Lindi natural gas project worth \$30 billion, which is expected to be implemented soon.

Saware said that the merger will bring various benefits such as having greater financial and professional capacity for insurance companies, increasing internal storage and effective risk management among insurance companies, protecting the interests of Tanzanians and increasing internal capacity according to legal requirements (local content requirement) and increase employment.

He said another advantage is to provide a fair, transparent and balanced arrangement by involving other insurance stakeholders in the

oil and gas sector and increasing the knowledge and expertise of registering special risks insurance through the experience that will be gained in the oil and gas industry.

At the same time, the Chief Executive Officer of Phoenix Assurance Ashraf Musbally said that within the next few weeks they will provide guidance to various stakeholders regarding their short and long term goals.

Musbally said that they feel very proud to see that their idea has been supported by the stakeholders of the sector and they believe it will bring productivity in the development of the insurance sector, especially in terms of gas and oil.



Finance and Planning deputy minister Hamad Chande (3rd-L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting to Phoenix Insurance CEO Ashraf Musbally signed documents on one of several contracts between Tanzania oil and gas companies and a consortium involving 22 insurance firms. Others are Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority commissioner general Dr Baghayo Saqware (3rd-R), Mauritius Union Assurance CEO Joerg Webe (2nd-R), Tan-Re CEO Rajab Kakusa (R) and Association of Tanzania Insurers official Khamis Selemani. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ruvuma eyeing to enhance avocado crop productivity

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Songea

AUTHORITIES in Ruvuma have come up with several strategies to make avocado among the income earners in the southern highlands region.

Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Col. Laban Thomas unveiled this over the weekend when speaking during an annual meeting involving with over 100 agricultural stakeholders in the region.

The event was attended by the Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian, agricultural officials, and agri-stakeholders from the public and private sectors whose target was to find solutions on how to improve avocados productivity as other cash crops in the region.

Col Thomas cited among the strategies the creation of farmers' groups, the establishment of avocados seeds nurseries, and training on avocado modern agronomic practices.

"We came up with these strategies after the current report shows, there is low productivity. One hectare produces 0.7228 tonnes something not possible for a region blessed with fertile land," he revealed.

The target to improve avocados' production is to maintain its market as other cash crops the region produces, such as cashew nuts, coffee, and soybeans.

"We target to monopolize the avocados market in Tanzania and China because there's high demand there. Doing it will improve the living standard of Ruvuma residents and Tanzanians at large," he insisted.

Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian encouraged farmers in the region to venture more into avocado farming because of its lucrative market abroad including China.

He also asked them to plant more soya beans because of the high demand in China as it's one of the nutritious plants with more vitamins for child growth.

Onesmo Ngao, Ruvuma regional agricultural official said that farmers have shown interest in avocado production, so it's becoming too easy to implement it on the ground.

Joseph Ngonyani one of the smallholder farmers congratulated the sixth regime for considering the agricultural sector and allocating enough of the budget from million to billion, said it is easy to run avocados and soya beans agriculture due to the availability of fertiliser and access technical advice from extension officials who have transport to visit farmers in the fields.

Tanzania among six countries chosen to champion NCDs journalism fellowship

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA is among six countries in the world selected to champion the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) journalism fellowship to increase community awareness and make changes.

Currently, NCDs account for 33 percent of all deaths in the country and 74 percent of all global deaths.

Dr James Kiologwe, the Assistant Director - Curative Services at the Ministry for Health said that at the official launching of NCDs media fellowship held in Dar es Salaam region.

The director said the NCDs programme is conducted by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) where ten journalists from different media houses are pursuing the fellowship.

He said other countries are China, Jordan, Columbia, India, and United States of America adding that the initiative was geared to increase community awareness to make changes in order to be free from NCDs.

The fellowship was preceded by the 4th NCDs Scientific Conference 2022 which was organised by the ministry of health in collaboration with Muhimbili University of Allied

Science (MUHAS) and Catholic University of Health Allied Science (CUHAS)

Dr Kiologwe said special attention to NCDs is very important as the disease attributes to 33 percent of all deaths and the most affected group is below 60 years.

However, 75 percent of NCDs sufferers are not aware of their status a situation putting them at a high risk since they attend health facilities at late stages.

"We need people to make changes by adhering to regular medical check-up to diagnose early and make changes by avoiding unhealthy lifestyles, excessive alcohol drinking and others," he said.

Luckily, NCDs are preventable and if diagnosed early, they can be treated, hence reducing treatment costs to the government and individuals.

He said NCDs are also linked to gender issues saying if the health of a woman is poor, she can deliver a baby who is underweight adding that its impact might affect up to the fourth generation.

WHO country representative Dr Zabron Yoti said NCDs are severe and not reported as a result are underestimated, hence going back to under-resourced.

The experience has shown that most killers are sweet therefore informed decisions

will help the community to make choices about what they should eat and drink.

"Let me reaffirm the WHO's commitment to continue collaborating with the ministry of health's initiative of fighting against the NCDs in the country," he said.

Dr Yoti said out of all NCDs diseases, cardiovascular was leading, adding that cancer accounted for 9.3 percent while chronic respiratory diseases accounted for 1.9 percent.

According to him, more investment in NCDs is needed to reduce the impact of the diseases such as community awareness campaigns so that they can make the right decisions.

Rotary club lifts 4,000 students off school floor

By Guardian Correspondent

OVER 4,000 primary school pupils have been lifted off the floor thanks to the Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam's desk project which has so far donated in excess of 1,600 sitting over 4,500 pupils at any one given time. The desks are worth in excess of 250 million/-.

Speaking yesterday during the desk handover event at Mwananyamala B Primary School in Dar es Salaam, Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam president, Nikki Aggarwal, said that the club's goal is to invest in the future of Tanzania by empowering children through education.

She also mentioned that the desks are made with a steel frame and treated hardwood to ensure durability of the desks for many years.

Speaking during the event, Kinondoni MP Tarimba Abbas commended Rotary for the huge support in education saying that our public schools still face a huge shortage of desks.

"We are very delighted with the support we receive from Rotary. You are doing a noble

undertaking as the desks donated will be used by hundreds of pupils for several years to come," said Abbas.

He pledged that the desks will be properly used and maintained in order to last longer and serve more students.

The desk project goes hand in hand with the tree plantation drive where two trees are planted for every desk donated to neutralize the environmental impact of the donated desk.



We are very delighted with the support we receive from Rotary. You are doing a noble undertaking as the desks donated will be used by hundreds of pupils for several years to come



Rotary district governor Peace Teremwa (2nd-R) symbolically presents 100 desks in Dar es Salaam earlier this week to Modesta Mushi (2nd-L), head teacher of a Mwananyamala B school, as Kinondoni legislator Tarimba Abbas (L) and Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam president Nikki Aggarwal look on. The club has so far extended to schools more than 1,600 desks worth over 250m/- able to accommodate 5,000 students at a go. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Villagers involved in forest management urged to restore vegetation, ecosystems

By Beatrice Philemon

COMMUNITY-based Organisations (CBOs) in villages involved in Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) have been advised to plant trees in damaged areas to restore vegetation, and ecosystems and ultimately mitigate climate change.

Charles Meshack, Executive Director of the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) made the call yesterday when closing the 22nd annual general meeting

(AGM) of Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) that took place in Morogoro Region.

He said it is important to start taking action now to combat the adverse effects of climate change.

"We need to understand the worth of our environment, especially the importance of trees since our lives depend on forests. Forests help us to conserve water that we largely depend on for domestic use and farming activities. We also get fresh air and shade from trees,"

he said.

Meshack urged communities to start practising agro-forestry farming to restore degraded areas that have been affected by deforestation caused by uncontrolled human activities. He said farmers should also plant at least two trees on their farms to improve biodiversity, cope with climate change and protect water sources.

"We need to start planting trees because there is a steady rise in degradation due to agricultural activities, bush fires and other un-

controlled human activities near water sources. All these factors result in prolonged drought in most parts of the country," he added, citing Dar es Salaam and Coast regions which are now struggling with water shortage.

He also called on MJUMITA members to use the acquired knowledge and skills to diplomatically resolve land disputes in their villages.

Principal forest officer from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (Beekeeping Unit), Em-

manuel Msonge urged MJUMITA members to provide education on forest conservation and management through village meetings to allow more people to understand the importance of forest conservation.

He said such education to the villagers would reduce deforestation.

"Village leaders should use their various platforms including village meetings to promote forest conservation because the problem is still big. There are bushfires

and other human activities going on in the forest," said Msonge.

He called upon TFCG to expand its Eco-School Project to other schools nationwide so that many students benefit from it. He said it is important for children to start taking part in forest conservation in childhood.

The official urged MJUMITA members to use the Nane Nane exhibitions to educate people on forest conservation.

Tanzania's forest loss is estimated at 469,000 ha per year.



Khadija Mhenga makes a presentation at a Gender and Development seminar on childcare held at the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme offices in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Anti-GBV stakeholders devise strategies to protect children

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

STAKEHOLDERS in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) and child abuse have cited various ways for children's upbringing that can ward them away from temptations for these vices beginning in their homes, in the streets and in schools.

Among the strategies is for parents and guardians to build up close intimacy with their children, teach them in identifying dangerous relationships, listen to them and give them an opportunity to express themselves and bring them up in a religious manner.

This was expressed by some of the stakeholders at the Gender and Development Seminar Series (GDSS) held every Wednesday in Dar es Salaam and organised by

TGNP. Rhoda Mdoe, one of the participants of the seminar said these are some of the strategies which he believes can help to protect a child against child abuse.

"Another one is for the parents or guardians to make sure the child receives all his basic rights including good upbringing, food, education and clothing in order to ward him away from temptations," said Rhoda.

Earlier, Herbert George, another participant at the seminar said every parent or guardian is required to interrogate the child about various issues without using foul language and be wary of people who display more than necessary kindness.

Kennedy Amjelita said children face many frightening things beginning at home, in the streets and even at school, but fail to speak up

due to the parents or guardians they live with.

"You can easily identify a child who had undergone child abuse by starting to be of poor health, mental stress, sleeplessness and adopting attitudes which he did not have before," he added.

Seminar facilitator, Khadija Mhenga said a child's upbringing begins before conceiving, parents are required to be calm since if the pregnant mother is angered, then the child in the womb will also be angered.

"We also advise that at a young age, the child should not be taken to a boarding school, or to his grandmother or aunt, instead he should be brought up by his parents to help him with the kind of upbringing needed for him," added Mhenga.



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The Guardian

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FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2022

**Taking A New Look
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NHC plans to redevelop city centre a push for modernity

TOP cabinet officials were at hand in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday when the National Housing Corporation (NHC) unveiled what was a vision of rolling out partnership strategy in renovating old residential and commercial buildings.

This policy is applicable primarily in the central business districts of Dar es Salaam and other cities, where there are flats which were nationalised in the mid-1960s or thereabouts. The idea was to take key, strategic spheres of the economy amid a negative international environment.

What the NHC is doing is to take the onus of sinking its own funds into the redevelopment of the city centre, projecting that social security funds will pursue major commercial building plans as practised earlier, or seeking massive bank loans.

Joint ventures suffice in that quest, arguably one of the most illustrative models being the rebuilding of Dar es Salaam's six-room Kariakoo houses of the 1980s into multi-storey complexes.

Developers signed partnerships with the owners of the original houses on the sharing out of the rental space for upwards of two decades, instead having the respective plots sold off.

The presentation on these partnership plans in the presence of Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa was not angled directly on the city centre redevelopment quest, even as finally it was the most visible or tangible component the vision espouses.

Most remarks by dignitaries at Wednesday's launch were directed at the need to ensure the Tanzanian private sector focused

on investments in the housing sector. The reason is growing demand for city housing, with estimations of new residential units needed standing at over a yearly 200,000 - though most people may be found to prefer building their own units.

What was being said to be need for houses reflecting growth in population was more appropriately need for suitable city centre flats of acceptable standards. And that was partly due to the fact that industrial, mining, agricultural, tourism, infrastructure and other projects were mushrooming by the day.

All this leads not just to people from outside needing places to stay for fairly long periods but also where those needing to be close to downtown working places don't need to drive from outstretched suburbs. And this impinges on cost of living and labour productivity.

While Wednesday's ceremony was chiefly meant to celebrate the NHC vision, note could also have been taken of the need for zones outlying the central business district to be redeveloped in much the same way as the current CBD, or specifically the sprawling Kariakoo market zone.

Redeveloping NHC flats is likely to be a multimillion-dollar enterprise for each street or cluster of old flats or residential units thus struck down.

A case in hand is the Watumishi Housing Scheme at Magoeni but, with the right regulatory changes where agreements of owners and investors from culturally kindred areas like the Gulf Zone are legally registered, a lot can happen.

Having youths study in France could help regional integration

WITH a worldwide atmosphere of industrial recession and lower birth rates diminishing local capacity to fill space in educational institutions, countries are taking more liberal attitudes as to who should study abroad.

This was evident in the manner in which a high-powered team from elite colleges in France has just been to Tanzania to seek out students - something some people might qualify as academic tourism. For those familiar with French university traditions and policies, though, it is a sea change.

What was especially informative on the outlook in that country is that it is no longer imperative to learn French for, say, a whole year, to enroll at a French university if one is Anglophone.

That used to be a cardinal element of policy perception in the past, and few expected it to change any time soon.

But several other European countries had the dual language programme regime for years, though learning the language of the respective country to make it easier for a foreign student to widen the scope of literature could be done through consultations or benefit from local discussions or presentations.

An academic marketing team from France with offices in Tanzania and linked with Alliance Française, the language learning centre, has just advised Tanzanian stakeholders that more Tanzanian students can opt to study in France in fields like science and technology as the country's higher learning institutions now offer courses in English - thus lifting the language barrier.

That obviously isn't enough reason to rush to download an appli-

cation form, but it is beefed up by professional bilingual capacities if one studies in France, enabling the graduate to exploit regional niches.

Nabil Hajlaoui, the French Ambassador to Tanzania, recently said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan and her French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, agreed earlier this year to cement bilateral cooperation in science and technology between the two countries.

Assuming that the French government cares as to how many Tanzanian students could be so accommodated, bilateral scholarships can be arranged where the government beefs up such picks.

That would be especially if it would be a continuation of a science thrust among girls, schools with specially gifted students or whoever scores high marks. Many would complete their studies and come back, with the government paying just air fares.

The envoy said that France was a destination for half a million foreign students annually, most from African countries, with numbers of Tanzanian students also rising.

Previously, all that African students needed to 'qualify' for studies in France if they were from countries with close bilateral ties with France was to obtain admission and then get a ticket to Paris or elsewhere. Most of them raised the cash. They would be assured of substantive upkeep allowance with permission to do self-help bits in facilities near their respective colleges to augment income - if they felt like doing so.

Such a scenario is usable, as consideration can be taken of less likelihood of such work in the first year, etc.

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Quiet quitting and performance management (1)

By Bryan Hancock and Bill Schaninger

CHURN is up. Engagement is down. And year-end reviews are here. Are you worried that giving feedback will make workers feel worse? Delivering performance feedback can already feel fraught. Now add in inflation, burnout and a hot talent market that has workers quitting in droves. In this episode of McKinsey Talks Talent, talent experts Bryan Hancock and Bill Schaninger talk with Lucia Rahilly about the talent trends that have managers on edge - and how to handle them. Excerpts:

Lucia Rahilly: Today we're talking about a few of the talent trends that have surfaced in the media headlines in recent months. Let's start with "quiet quitting". There has certainly been a lot of regular, "same-old" quitting going on, as we have covered heavily in our Great Attrition research. Bill, do you want to give us the quick and dirty on the persistence of "regular quitting" in today's job market?

Bill Schaninger: Yes, people continue to quit. And in McKinsey's most recent data, the number of people saying they would leave without a job in hand is still very high. The lower attrition numbers previously seen in sectors like healthcare or education are starting to creep up. Early on, during the Covid-19 pandemic, we saw a massive hit to hospitality and leisure. This trend could probably be traced to what was and wasn't available to us at the time.

We're also seeing an interesting phenomenon where people are being hired and not showing up. Not showing up mentally or emotionally is aligned with the idea of quiet quitting - the idea that people are doing the bare minimum. Even in an environment where all these people are choosing to quit, there remains an undercurrent of people who have emotionally - and in some cases, cognitively - disengaged but are still physically there, which arguably may be worse.

Lucia Rahilly: For people of a certain Gen X sensibility, the phrase quiet quitting might feel "slacker-ish". But in the media, some are calling it a healthy ex-

pression of the need to rebuild boundaries that collapsed during the Covid-19 pandemic. What's your take, Bryan?

Bryan Hancock: Setting boundaries, in a healthy work environment, means being engaged and having the time and space to invest in work projects that energise you. The difference between setting boundaries (which can be quite healthy) and quiet quitting is that quiet quitting makes it seem like you don't care if you get fired. You're just going to sit in the seat for as long as it takes for somebody to figure out that you're not adding value, and then for as long as it takes for HR (the human resources people) to process you out.

There's part of the quiet-quitting trend that leans on quitting. You aren't looking for boundaries; you're not engaged in work; it's transactional. You're thinking: "My boss doesn't check in on me. HR takes six months to do a write-up. I bet I can stay in this gig for two years and not do much." And employees are confident enough in the job market that when they do get fired, it's not a black mark, or they can voluntarily leave ahead of time.

Lucia Rahilly: So how can managers help their employees set healthy boundaries - especially during this talent shortage, when some employees may be tired of having to overcompensate for staff who have left?

Bryan Hancock: We are seeing close to 40 per cent of the overall working population self-report being burned out. That's definitely a big percentage of employees saying: "This is a bit much, and I need to do something different to make it work."

What managers can do is start with a conversation - literally start with: "How are you doing?" and "What is it that excites you? How does what we're doing link to your own sense of purpose, of what we're trying to do together?" Really try to engage the team.

The role of the manager is key to helping workers align with purpose and with the practical day-to-day: "Looks like you have a bit too much going on. How can I help?" And then following up with ways to actually make a difference.

If managers aren't there to help inspire, if managers aren't there to help lead, if managers aren't there

to help follow up, it's a logical extension that an employee might think: "Is anybody going to notice if I don't do this for a week? Or two weeks? Or, wow, it was three months until somebody had the conversation with me." At some level that's quiet quitting, but at another level it's just a failure by management.

Bill Schaninger: The nature of the work relationship, which is a relationship like any other, is that there's a give and there's a get. But the minute an employee perceives that the boss no longer cares about him or her as a person, or doesn't care about what he or she is working on, he or she begins to think: "Why should I care?"

If you're going to trigger apathy, trigger indifference, trigger an attitude like: "I dare you to catch me," it's likely that your employees have been massively underled. Because if they weren't being underled, you'd have caught them much earlier. The price you pay for authority is that you have real responsibilities to other people.

Bryan Hancock: If you really try to dig into why people are quiet-quitting, some of it is that they don't feel a connection to their job, to what they're doing, to the broader mission. And there's a sense of loss because everybody at some point in his or her career takes a job because they aspire to be bigger. People dream of something more inspiring, more captivating. And when they get to a point where that dream is gone, they check out. And then the question becomes how to reignite that spark - that sense of mission and that alignment. If quiet-quitting is actually a broad phenomenon, then a lot of people have a real sense of loss for a pretty big part of their working lives.

Lucia Rahilly: Gallup published some data showing that employee engagement is falling specifically among younger workers, Gen Zs and millennials under 35. Have we learned anything from our life-stage research about these younger demographics? What they might want in terms of purpose from their jobs? And what might be lacking?

Bryan Hancock: One of the things we've seen is that younger generations are much more likely

to be in what we would call the "idealist" segment - the segment truly looking for their calling. They're leaning into that. They're willing to take less compensation, to work longer hours, for a job they believe in and are growing in. So there's a set of folks asking: "Hey, what is my calling? Where is it? How can I grow?" And they're disproportionately in the under 24-year-old segment.

Bill Schaninger: The research on individual purpose we did 18 months ago revealed this difference between the idealist and the pragmatist. It's pretty telling. When we asked younger workers: "Does your work have to have purpose?" the answer was a resounding "Yes" - an off-the-charts "Yes, it has to make a difference." But their ability to describe the difference they want to make was really limited. It was broad strokes: "I need to make the world better." "I want to improve access to healthcare." "I want to improve the quality of schools." But when you asked, "Well, what would that look like if you were there?" They would say: "Well, that's your job. It's your job to help me figure that out." And then the minute they had a major life event, like a long-term relationship or having a child, they'd reel back on the grandiosity of the purpose, and get way more specific.

Lucia Rahilly: Are your clients talking about quiet-quitting?

Bill Schaninger: From clients, I haven't heard much about quiet quitting specifically, but I've not had a time in my professional career at McKinsey, which is a little over 22 years, where we haven't thought about "social loafing". In other words, people figure out, particularly if they were on a recently high-performing team, that they can skate. And then the same people always get leaned on. That's been a phenomenon forever. There's a good amount of research on what happens to team morale when social loafing goes unchecked.

We've had a perfect storm: the Covid-19 pandemic, working from home, bosses not checking in as much, feeling disengaged. The more you're away from your peers, the easier it becomes not to do your part.

* A McKinsey & Company dispatch. To be continued.

It's high time we celebrated 2022 career milestones or humbly prepare for 2023



As the year heads to an end, numerous thoughts clog our minds on whether there are milestones smashed in our professions or there was not enough time or resources to leapfrog as planned at the beginning of the year.

Just like any other career-minded individual, you must be tempted to review this year's career goals checklist and pat yourself on the back for a job well done in achieving all or some of them.

But if things didn't go as you planned, don't contemplate suicide as you are not alone. The last time I checked, many people do not accomplish their new year resolutions be it in career advancement, education, health and so on. The unmet goals can be postponed to next year.

Being able to recharge and reflect, look back at the past year and plan for what's to come is indeed a sane move. It can also be a great time to seek a promotion, ask for a raise or consider jumping to another company or organization with your dream position.

Planning a career can seem daunting. However, you don't need to have complete clarity or a destination as you think about it. We ought to aim for a career that suits our strengths, helps us learn, pushes us out of our comfort zone to some extent, and caters for our areas of interest.

Someone once told me that a career is not a sprint, but a marathon. Patience is the key, so do not strive to get there faster and lose out on the learning even if you haven't achieved any of your goals this year. Give time to soak in the experience before chasing the next one.

Ultimately, the goal should be to maximise learning from any role you take up, before jumping onto the next one. As you move forward and build your experiences, you might also realise that your destination might change, and you discover new career paths which you did not consider earlier.

Having the right qualification certainly helps open doors too. If you do not have the right qualification, the opportunity may not be readily available, this is the reality. Try to start small and take those experiences as stepping stones which prepare you for the aspired job. Try a stretch project, training, a certification or an internship in your area of interest, to also get a realistic preview of whether it meets your expectations or not.

We are all unique as we bring different perspectives to the table. We must recognize that no one has our exact style, experiences, and knowledge which have led us to the path we are on. We must also learn to identify the attitudes and behaviours that hold us back, and how to overcome those.

Having a clear vision and focus on developing yourself is certain to be fruitful as well. You shouldn't shy away from seeking help from your mentors, coaches or trusted peers who can help show you the mirror, challenge you and guide you to be a better version of yourself.

Nonetheless, we shouldn't dismiss the value that networking holds. Networks certainly play an important role in helping you get the right information or making the right connections. You must reach out to the experienced professionals, learn from them and seek insights into the successes and failures along the way.

All in all, given an unpredictable job market, rapidly-changing business models and emerging fields, enjoying your career journey is essential. Your sense of purpose will change over the course of your career. Be open, curious and sometimes take the path opening up in front of you, even if it was not in your plan.

The best surprises and breath-taking sceneries when you are trekking lie on the undiscovered paths. A career is like a journey with no final destination. It is the experiences you gather, learning you gain and people you take along that matter.

Again, if you can't tick all the boxes, it's not the end of the world. Why? Because

2023 is just around the corner and it can turn out to be your year. Yes, that year when everything you do—or do not do—fall in your favour.



Someone once told me that a career is not a sprint, but a marathon. Patience is the key, so do not strive to get there faster and lose out on the learning even if you haven't achieved

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Head-of-state diplomacy charts course ahead for China-US relations

By Zhong Sheng

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met with his U.S. counterpart Joe Biden in Bali, Indonesia, on Nov. 14, local time.

The two heads of state had an in-depth exchange of views on issues of strategic importance in China-U.S. relations and on major global and regional issues.

They highlighted the global significance of China-U.S. relations. Both stressed the importance of working out the guiding principles for China-U.S. relations. Both expressed the hope to put bilateral relations back on a steady and upward trajectory. They agreed to strengthen communication and exchanges, and advance practical cooperation. This has charted the course ahead for China-U.S. relations.

Head-of-state diplomacy is the compass and anchor of China-U.S. relations, and it plays an irreplaceable strategic role in guiding the growth of the relationship.

The meeting was very important. It featured three "firsts" for the two leaders - the first face-to-face meeting between Xi and his U.S. counterpart over the past three years, their first face-to-face summit since President Biden took office, and their first interaction after China and the U.S. completed their respective major domestic agendas this year. It was closely watched by the international community.

The exchanges were comprehensive, profound, and candid, as well as constructive and of strategic importance. The meeting covered the most important aspects of the bilateral relations and the most pressing regional and global issues at the moment.

It has achieved the intended purpose of having in-depth communication, clarifying intentions, making clear where the red lines are, preventing conflicts, setting the direction, and exploring cooperation.

As two major countries, China and the U.S. should enhance their sense of responsibility when handling their relationship, which helps prevent China-U.S. relations from getting derailed or out of control and helps the two countries play their due roles in cop-



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with U.S. President Joe Biden in Bali, Indonesia, Nov. 14, 2022. (Xinhua/Li Xueren)

ing with global challenges.

The world is at a major inflection point in history. Countries need to both tackle unprecedented challenges and seize unprecedented opportunities. This is the larger context in which China and the U.S. should view and handle their relations.

Xi stressed that China and the U.S. need to have a sense of responsibility for history, for the world and for the people, explore the right way to get along with each other in the new era, put the relationship on the right course, and bring it back to the track of healthy and stable growth to the benefit of the two countries and the world as a whole.

Biden said the U.S. and China have a shared responsibility to show the world that they can manage their differences, and avoid and prevent misunderstandings and misperceptions or fierce competition from veering into confrontation or conflict.

Both the history and reality of China-U.S. relations show that forming a correct perception of each other's domestic and foreign policies and strategic intentions is a precondition for the two countries to handle their relations well.

The domestic and foreign policies of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese govern-

ment are open and transparent, with clearly stated and transparent strategic intentions and great continuity and stability.

China is advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization, which heralds bright prospects of development and brings opportunities to the rest of the world.

China remains firm in pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace. It is committed to safeguarding the international system with the United Nations at its core and the international order underpinned by international law. Adhering to peaceful development, open development and win-win development, the country will always contribute to the peaceful development of the world.

The U.S. regards China as "the most consequential strategic competitor" and "the most consequential geopolitical challenge." It is a misperception of China-U.S. relations and a misunderstanding of China's development. It will only mislead the two peoples and the international community.

It would be problematic if two major countries like China and the U.S. do not have overarching principled common understandings. Only with principles can there be a direction,

and only with a direction can the two sides properly handle differences and expand cooperation. It is exactly out of this consideration that the Chinese side proposed that China and the U.S. should respect each other, coexist in peace, and pursue win-win cooperation, to ensure that their relations move forward on the right course without losing direction or speed, still less having a collision.

China always believes that China-U.S. relations should not be a zero-sum game where one side out-competes or thrives at the expense of the other. The successes of China and the U.S. are opportunities, not challenges, for each other. The world is big enough for the two countries to develop themselves and prosper together. Under the current circumstances, China and the U.S. share more, not less, common interests. It is in their mutual and fundamental interest to prevent conflict and confrontation and achieve peaceful coexistence. The two sides need to respect each other, pursue mutual benefit, focus on the larger picture, and nurture a sound atmosphere and stable relations for cooperation.

The U.S. side should put into practice the "five noes" (i.e., not seek a new Cold War; not seek to change China's system; the revitalization of its alliances is not against China; not support "Taiwan independence"; not look for conflict with China) proposed by President Biden, and fulfill its commitment not to seek decoupling from China, not to halt China's economic development, and not to contain China.

As Xi said, observing the basic norms of international relations and the three Sino-U.S. joint communiques is vitally important for the two sides to manage differences and disagreements and prevent confrontation and conflict; indeed, it is the most important guardrail and safety net for China-U.S. relations.

The Taiwan question is at the very core of China's core interests, the bedrock of the political foundation of China-U.S. relations, and the first red line that must not be crossed in China-U.S. relations.

Resolving the Taiwan question is a matter for the Chinese and China's internal affair. China urges the U.S. side to match its words with action, abide by the one-China principle and the three China-U.S. joint communiques, fulfill its commitment of "not supporting Taiwan independence", stop fudging and hollowing out the one-China

policy, restrain and stop "Taiwan independence" separatist rhetoric and activities, and prevent the situation from moving to a point of no return.

On issues of democracy and human rights, and social systems and paths, China and the U.S. must respect each other and avoid ideological confrontation and bloc confrontation. It represents the trend of the times and the common aspiration of the international community.

China-U.S. economic and trade relations benefit both sides. Starting a trade war or a technology war, building walls and barriers, and pushing for decoupling and severing supply chains run counter to the principles of market economy and undermine international trade rules. Such attempts serve no one's interests.

The Chinese nation has the proud tradition of standing up for itself. Any suppression and containment will only strengthen the will and boost the morale of the Chinese people.

China has its own principles and red lines that it has long upheld, and has legitimate and lawful interests that must be firmly protected. China will not yield to any acts of hegemonism or bullying.

Managing and stabilizing China-U.S. relations is an ongoing process to which there's no end. The Bali meeting will not only provide important, practical guidance for China-U.S. relations at the current stage, but will also have a major and far-reaching impact on the relationship in the next stage and even beyond.

In accordance with the priorities identified by the two heads of state, the two teams will maintain dialogue and communication, manage tensions and differences, and advance exchanges and cooperation, so as to add positive energy and a safety valve to China-U.S. relations, and bring about stability and certainty to this turbulent and changing world.

UNITED NATIONS

Ending gender-based violence in a world of 8 billion

WHETHER to have children or not is one of the most life-altering decisions a person can make.

But as UNFPA's 2022 State of World Population report shows, people around the world – especially women and members of marginalized groups – are frequently denied any choice in the matter, with partners, relatives, health care providers and even governments making or strongly influencing these decisions.

"Men have greater decision-making power [regarding contraception]. Women may have to act secretly/discreetly to get contraception services," a man in India told report authors.

"Men hold the ultimate decision-making power. It is common practice for providers to ask for the husband's consent," a woman in Sudan said.

Though women's reproductive decisions have been subject to interference for centuries, it's only in the last decade that researchers have begun to recognize and explore this concept. They call it reproductive violence.

What does reproductive violence look like?

Reproductive violence includes any form of abuse, coercion, discrimination, exploitation or violence that compromises a person's reproductive autonomy.

This form of gender-based violence can be committed by individuals such as partners, relatives and health care providers, or by



entire communities, as social norms influence societies' ideas of who should or should not be a parent. Meanwhile governments often exert this form of violence through laws and institutions, by preventing access to contraceptives or even conducting forced sterilization campaigns, for instance.

At the interpersonal level, reproduc-

tive violence might look like a partner hiding, destroying or even forcefully removing their partner's birth control, or involve "stealthling" – the practice of removing a condom during sex without consent.

For others, reproductive violence follows the news of a pregnancy, with some women compelled against their will into

motherhood and others, to terminate.

It was the latter action that 58-year-old Jasbeer Kaur from Rajasthan, India, told UNFPA in 2020 that her husband's family tried to force on her after learning Jasbeer was pregnant with triplets – all girls.

"No daughter had been born in my husband's family in the last three generations. They told me, we won't allow three daughters to be born in the house at the same time. They gave me an ultimatum: Get an abortion or leave," Ms. Kaur said.

In demanding this of her, Ms. Kaur's in-laws were perpetuating harmful social and gender norms that assign higher value to boys' lives than those of girls. Members of Ms. Kaur's community reinforced this discriminatory perspective, calling Ms. Kaur "poor thing" for not having any sons.

"Here, people still think ... as a mother, you haven't done your bit until you've given birth to a son," one of Ms. Kaur's neighbours told UNFPA.

But Ms. Kaur stood up to these norms and practices. She chose to leave her husband and his family and to keep her pregnancy. Today, her triplets Mandeep, Sandeep and Pardeep are all in their mid-twenties, building careers across the arts, business and health care.

"Today, people know us as Jasbeer Kaur's daughters. We want to make something of our lives," Sandeep said.

Seeing the problem to solve it

Although reproductive violence often involves partners and family members, as in Ms. Kaur's case, they are not the only perpetrators. Governments and institutions also commit acts of reproductive violence through coercive laws and policies, some of which aim to control national-level fertility.

With the global population now eclipsing

8 billion people, countries' population policies have entered the spotlight. And evidence has begun to emerge, especially, of countries seeking to boost fertility through problematic means, including by limiting access to abortion and cutting sex education from school.

UNFPA has warned that these efforts to engineer population size typically have little impact on fertility in the short term, and in the long term, risk causing major problems.

"Focusing on numbers alone treats people as commodities, stripping them of their rights and humanity," UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem said on 14 November in an op-ed for TIME. "We have too often seen leaders setting targets for population size or fertility rates, and the grievous human rights abuses that result."

"Let's be clear: When we talk about the 'problem' with fertility rates or an 'ideal' population size, we are really talking about controlling people's bodies. We are talking about asserting power over their capacity for reproduction, whether by influence or by force, from policies where families are paid to have more children, to egregious violations like forced sterilization, often suffered by ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, and people with disabilities."

Today, many women are unable to exert control over their reproductive lives. UNFPA reports that across 64 countries, more than 8 per cent of women lack the power to decide on contraception, and nearly a quarter of women lack the power to say no to sex.

Specifically regarding reproductive violence, UNFPA is currently working on a technical paper and developing a measurement tool to help health care practitioners, researchers, institutions and governments identify where, when and how these violations occur. It's a critical step towards helping societies address this issue and safeguard people's rights and choices.

"A resilient world of 8 billion, a world that upholds individual rights and choices, offers infinite possibilities – possibilities for people, societies and our shared planet to thrive and prosper," said Dr. Kanem.

IPS

Tunisia's decades-old second-hand clothing market faces life-or-death crisis

TUNIS

IN Tunisia, purchasing second-hand goods is a local habit that sprouted after the Second World War, which has helped generate more than 200,000 jobs in its second-hand clothing market.

However, the decades-old business is facing a long-term crisis of less or even no supply, which, as insiders warned, could lead to the demise of the business in the North African country. In a downtown thrift market in El Hafsia District of the capital Tunis, piles of used backpacks, handbags, trousers, shirts and shoes are displayed by vendors for crowds of customers to choose from.

Noura Ben Amor, a frequenter, told Xinhua that she is "addicted" to treasure-hunting second-hand clothing here, even on workdays. "I only have a one-hour break. Nevertheless, almost every day I take the opportunity to come here," the 28-year-old accountant said, picking over a stack of dresses for one with the least blemish.

According to Sahbi Maaloui, president of the National Chamber of Second-hand Wholesalers in Tunisia, 94 per cent of people in the country are customers of second-hand shops. "Anybody can buy high-quality goods at very low prices."

That's why the second-hand shop is so popular in Tunisia," the customer Ben Amor said, adding consumers could make a good purchase both on brands and quality. Quite a few used clothes of some of the biggest international sportswear brands are sold here for 25 to 45 Tunisian dinars (7.72 to 13.89 U.S. dollars), she noted.

Slim Mnaouar, a thrift shop owner who has been in the business for 20 years, said Tunisia's second-hand clothes come mainly from France, Italy and Germany, with a few others from Canada and the United States.

More than 8,000 containers of used clothing arrived in Tunisia annually, making it a nexus of this booming second-hand market



Photo taken on Nov. 5, 2022 shows the exterior of the National Exhibition and Convention Centre (Shanghai), the main venue for the fifth China International Import Expo. [People's Daily Online]

worldwide," Mnaouar told Xinhua. People, rich or poor, flock to his shop every Sunday to handpick from freshly unpacked new batches of clothes, he said.

Buying second-hand goods have become so common in Tunisia throughout the past decades that locals even refer to them as

"Tunisians' purchasing power barometer."

"The economic crisis and the increasingly significant decline in the purchasing power of Tunisians make the second-hand shop even more popular," Mnaouar noted. Tunisia's economic growth has hit one hurdle after another since 2011, the latest

of which was the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, even the prices of second-hand goods rise sharply in Tunisia given weak imports and surging inflation when the U.S. dollar and global commodity prices remain strong.

In October, the country's inflation rose for 13 consecutive months to 9.2 percent, hitting a three-decade high. According to Mnaouar, the price of one bale of second-hand clothes can reach 1,000 dinars these days, almost double the price 10 years ago. More than 70 years of French colonial rule left deep marks in nearly every aspect of Tunisian life, including the language.

Thrift shops here are known as "fripe" shops, or just "fripe," a French word meaning old clothes. However, the second-hand business in Tunisia, which was established even before the national independence in 1956, is declining amid a supply crisis.

This is because consumers in the West, also affected by rising inflation and economic downturn, increasingly opt for cheap used clothing, said Tunisian business insiders.

Maaloui told the private radio station Shems FM that European countries are encouraging this shift during the economic hardship, especially after the pandemic.

Another reason for Tunisia's reduced second-hand inflows is that other emerging markets, such as Egypt, Türkiye and some Eastern European countries, are more competitive in absorbing the supplies.

"For the first time since 1944, when the business emerged in Tunisia, we lack merchandise. In 2021, the quantity of imported second-hand goods dropped by over 50 percent," Maaloui told Nawaat, another local media.

What is currently sold in Tunisia are stockpiles, he noted, warning that if the situation continues, the country's second-hand clothing market could disappear by 2025.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

COP27: Climate change's dire consequences in the world's most water-scarce region

SHARM EL SHEIKH

THE Middle East and North Africa are the world's most water-scarce regions - with 11 of the 17 water-stressed countries on the globe.

According to UNICEF, nine out of 10 children live in areas with high or very high-water stress, resulting in significant consequences for their health, cognitive development, and future livelihoods.

Now climate change is resulting in less rain for agriculture and a decline in the quality of freshwater reserves due to saltwater transfer to fresh aquifers and increased pollution concentrations.

Maha Rashid, Middle East managing committee member for Blue Peace, which works for water co-operation among borders, sectors, and generations to foster peace, stability, and sustainable development, says the situation in the region is dire.

"More than 60% of this region's population lives in areas of high or very high-water stress, compared to the global average of about 35%. While the Middle East and North Africa have continued to experience water scarcity for thousands of years, several interconnected challenges today threaten environmental sustainability and security for the region's water supply."

As COP27 negotiations continue at Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt, people in the Middle East are dealing with the impacts of climate change. Rashid explained that Iraq relies on water from Turkey and Iran, as well

as rain and snow, to feed its rivers, especially in the spring. Water revenues to Iraq's rivers, Tigris and Euphrates, dropped for the third season in succession.

The current season has experienced a more severe and unprecedented fall not seen for several years, and water levels in the Euphrates and Tigris rivers declined, and drought conditions are experienced in the rivers and lakes in Diyala Governorate.

The Turkish dam system, which includes the large Ataturk and Ilisu dams, has reduced water flow to the Tigris River's natural channel. It will result in a 10 billion cubic metre annual reduction in water flow for downstream countries - like Syria and Iraq.

Despite having large amounts of arable land, Iraq will not be able to achieve food and water security. Instead, over the long term, water will confine development, plans, and programs and not bring food or water security, says Rashid, who is also a professor at Tigris University, told IPS.

Water insecurity in the region had also impacted international relations, with tensions arising over Ethiopia's building of the Renaissance Dam for irrigation and electricity generation without considering the significant effects on Egypt and Sudan. Now the threat of water scarcity is growing for the two countries, followed by food security and potential future natural disasters.

The Middle East is now experiencing rising temperatures, which



Water scarcity in the Middle East is impacting on lives and causing diplomatic tensions in between countries. The Turkish dam project, which includes the large Ataturk and Ilisu dams, has reduced water flow to the Tigris River's natural channel impacting Syria and Iraq. Pictured here is Koctepe - a village covered by water in the Ilisu dam project. Credit: Mustafa Bilge Satkin/Climate Visuals Countdown

is one of the effects of climate change. As a result, North Africa is now experiencing drought in some regions and torrential downpours in others.

According to Rashid, since 2010, which set new temperature records in 19 countries, many of which were Arab nations, countries are experiencing summertime temperatures

of up to 54 degrees Celsius, including in Iraq and Morocco, where two-thirds of the oases have vanished as a result of decreased precipitation and increased evaporation. Saudi Arabia and Sudan are also experiencing fierce sandstorms.

These climatic changes are predicted to get worse unless the inhabitants and governments of the area deal with them properly and urgently over the course of the next fifty years.

Rashid contended that doing this calls for more prudent resource management as well as adjustments to sectoral and economic models, mindsets, and behaviours. While she is optimistic about the outcome of the

climate negotiations, most countries have not committed to implementing the recommendations and reducing carbon emissions since the COP 26 climate summit in Scotland. "I believe that COP27 will address climate change issues and, in the end, will insist on finding a method that works to save poor communities."

White cane week raises awareness to care about the visually impaired in Rwanda

KIGALI

HUNDREDS of Rwandans in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, tried to walk a very difficult path last week as part of events to raise awareness about the rights of the visually impaired in the country.

Marking the White Cane Week that ran from Nov. 7 to 14 in the east African country, several individuals with clear sight were blindfolded and asked to use their canes to walk as a way of associating with the blind.

They later also ate blindfolded at a hotel in Kigali during a "dinner in the dark" that blind individuals have to go through daily. The experience would give them an idea of the pressing need to break down society's attitudes toward people with visual impairment.

The 24-year-old Denyse Isabane, a law student in Kigali, was one of the participants in the walk dubbed "street challenge".

Isabane told Xinhua the walk was something touching to her heart as she has a friend who is blind.

"The experience helped me see what daily life was like for blind people. People need to understand more about special needs," she said after trying to march blindfolded. "There is a need for more people to understand the issues of people with visual impairment. More awareness campaigns are needed in different towns.

People with visual impairment are part of us," she said. Annyie Byukusenge, who is visually impaired, said such events help raise awareness and could help minimize cases of

accidents involving the blind.

"The whole society needs to know the plight of blind people. Some know but they don't really realize the suffering we go through," she said, adding that her white cane was once knocked by a reckless motorist. "It is incumbent upon motorists to stop when they see a blind person crossing the road. The public also needs to be educated especially to fight a social stigma. It can slowly change as more people are sensitized," she added.

Beth Mukarwego, president of the National Union of Disabilities' Organizations of Rwanda, said the white cane is important because it gives blind people independence. She used the occasion to appeal to the government to include the white cane among services covered by health insurance in order to ease access.

The majority of people with visual loss in Rwanda are not able to own a white cane because of cost. On average, a white cane costs about 20 U.S. dollars with out-of-pocket payment, but health insurance could make it more affordable, she said. Donatille Kanimba, the executive director of Rwanda Union of the Blind, said it can increase access with insurance coverage where a person pays 10 percent of the price.

"The demand for white canes is high. Besides the new ones, even old ones need replacements." The Rwanda Union of the Blind said that there is still violence against visually impaired people in Rwanda, including cases of theft of their white canes. *Xinhua*



Beth Mukarwego (L), President of the National Union of Disabilities' Organizations of Rwanda, attends the Dinner in the Dark event in Kigali, capital of Rwanda on Nov. 9, 2022. Hundreds of Rwandans in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, last week held an event to raise awareness about the rights of the visually impaired in the country. (Courtesy of National Union of Disabilities' Organizations of Rwanda/Handout via Xinhua)

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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GLOBAL CONSTRUCTION BOOM EXPECTED TO HIT 2050 DECARBONISATION GOALS, SAYS UN EXPERT

DUBAI

The global building and construction boom has pushed the sector's CO2 emissions to an all-time high of 10 gigatonnes and is now 'off track' to meet decarbonisation pledges by 2050, said a top official of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

"Years of warnings about the impacts of climate change have become a reality," said Inger Andersen, the UNEP Executive Director. "If we do not rapidly cut emissions in line with the Paris Agreement, we will be in deeper trouble," he noted.

According to a report from the UN agency, more than 34% of global energy demand in 2021 came from the sector, along with around 37% of 'energy and process-related' CO2 emissions.

Data crunched for the UNEP publication ahead of COP27 climate talks in Egypt, also found that 2021 CO2 emissions were five per cent higher than in 2020 and two per cent more than the pre-pandemic peak in 2019.

This was despite a 16% investment boost for energy-efficient new-builds, to \$237 billion, which UNEP explained had

been simply 'outpaced' by the growing amount of floor space that is being built.

In 2021, demand for heating, cooling, lighting and equipment in buildings increased by around 4% from 2020 and 3% from 2019, UNEP said, indicating that the gap between the sector's climate performance and the need to decarbonize by 2050 is widening.

From a regional perspective, UNEP noted that Africa was set to see raw resource use, double by 2060, with 'an estimated 70%' of buildings for 2040 still on the drawing board.

This is in line with estimates that Africa's population is set to reach 2.4 billion by 2050, 80 per cent living in cities, and the reason why the continent could make use of its renewable energy sources to power its buildings sustainably, UNEP said.

"Steel, concrete and cement (are) already major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions," stated Anderson, citing data, adding that building materials already account for around nine per cent of energy-derived CO2 emissions on the continent.

On Europe, UNEP official said the buildings sector accounted for 40% of Europe's total energy needs, and that 80% of that



came from fossil fuels.

"This makes the sector an area for immediate action, investment, and policies to promote short and long-term energy security," stated Andersen.

To reduce overall emissions, the UNEP said that the building sector could help by: Improving building energy performance and decreasing the carbon footprint of building materials.

Key global trends identified by UNEP indicated that the increase in built floor space between 2015 and 2021 was equivalent to the total land area covered in buildings in Germany, France, Italy and

Netherlands.

According to Emergen Research, a market research and consulting company, the global construction market size reached \$12,639.41 Billion in 2020 and is expected to register a CAGR of 7.4% during the forecast period.

Rapid urbanization with increasing global population is expected to continue to drive construction market revenue growth to a significant extent during the forecast period.

This steady revenue growth can be attributed to increasing population in Asia Pacific in countries such as India and Chi-

na among others and rising need for residential and commercial infrastructure and projects.

Growing demand for more environment-friendly homes with a lower carbon footprint along with open green spaces is expected to augment growth of the global construction market going forward.

Rising awareness among investors regarding environmental protection is driving focus on construction materials and designs of homes that are more ecologically viable.

Global construction market is growing rapidly with young working demography aspiring to own homes. Increasing government expenditure and investment to improve domestic infrastructure and for sustaining economic growth is driving growth of the construction market, especially in developing countries.

However, variable raw material cost across countries makes it difficult for construction companies to use standardized products in the same budget in different countries, which is a major factor expected to hamper construction market growth to some extent during the forecast period.

Land planning and development segment revenue is expected to expand at a significantly robust CAGR during the forecast

period.

Increasing demand for optimal utilization of available resources along with need to contemplate future condition of the property are expected to boost revenue growth of this segment going ahead.

Increasing demand for large commercial, residential, and infrastructure projects due to rapidly growing economies is expected to foster revenue growth of the material handling machinery segment.

Growing automation of material handling machinery with an aim to control these remotely is a key factor expected to augment revenue growth of the material handling machinery segment in construction market during the forecast period.

Factors such as increasing population as well as robust presence of major players in Asia Pacific is expected to drive growth of the construction market in the region during the forecast period.

In terms of revenue share, the residential segment is expected to register significant growth over the forecast period due to increasing demand for residential projects with young working demography aspiring to purchase or rent homes on their own.

Urban rail could see Africa enjoy more sustainable future, says new research report

By Guardian Correspondent

The increased investment in construction of urban rail transport in Africa can facilitate the avoidance of substantial carbon emissions and contribute to broader sustainability goals, delivering environmental, social and economic benefits for Africa's growing cities.

This is according to the new study titled, "The Role of Urban Rail in Sustainable Africa" released recently by Alstom, global leader in sustainable and green mobility solutions, in collaboration with EY Climate



Change and Sustainability Services.

As a contribution to the important discussions taking place at the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27), the study demonstrates how increased investments in urban rail transport in Africa.

Africa has a fast-growing population and the world's highest urbanisation rate with urban population will increase from 600 million in 2021 to over 1.3 billion in 2050.

A key challenge is to ensure that this growth meets the UN's Sustainable Development Goal II: Making cities

inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The new study shows that for this to happen African cities must advocate developing more sustainable transport systems, both to reduce carbon emissions and to foster inclusive socio-economic growth.

With COP27's focus on implementation, Alstom commissioned the study with EY Climate Change and Sustainability Services to highlight the many benefits that increased investment in urban public transport can bring to Africa's cities and support their sustainable growth

"With COP27's focus on implementation, Alstom commissioned this study with EY Climate Change and Sustainability Services to highlight the many benefits that increased investment in urban public transport can bring to Africa's cities and support their sustainable growth. It is indeed demonstrated that every increase in a modal shift to rail transport will bring better access to socio-economic opportunities, reduced congestion, increased safety, and improved air quality on top of decarbonisation," stated Cécile Texier, Vice President CSR and Sustainability, Alstom Group.

According to the International Energy Agency, passenger rail's modal share has stagnated globally at around 6-7% for a decade and must grow by more than 40% in the next decade for transport to remain on track to meet net zero.

The study, therefore, highlights the benefits that can be realised if the modal share of urban rail in African cities increases to

10% in 2030 and 20% in 2050 (compared to the baseline scenario of 1% today).

A cumulative total of 1,005 million tonnes (Mt) of CO2 (1 gigatonne [GT] of CO2) could be avoided between 2023 and 2050 in this scenario, compared to the status quo. This is equal to 32% of Africa's total GHG emissions in 2019. One hundred and seventy-three million additional tonnes of CO2 would be avoided between 2023 and 2050 if urban rail systems were fully powered with renewable energy.

Investing further in urban rail would bring proportional social and economic benefits leading to safer, healthier, and more inclusive cities.

By increasing the modal share of rail to 20% by 2050, 29 million cars would be removed from Africa's roads each day, leading to a significant decrease in congestion, road accidents and air pollution.

Urban rail is more affordable and more accessible than cars and unofficial transport systems, giving passengers easier access

High mortgage rates push UK property prices up

LONDON

Higher mortgage rates appear to be taking the heat out of the London property market though prices remain close to all-time highs.

Latest data from the Land Registry show the average price dipped 0.6 per cent to £544,113 in September, the biggest monthly fall since July last year.

That eased the annual rate of increase from 7.3 per cent to 6.9 per cent but prices are still only £3,000 below the record £547,319 reached in August.

The market has been squeezed higher by a

shortage of properties for sale and a stampede of buyers keen to get on the ladder before mortgage rates rise to unaffordable levels.

The biggest rises in London were generally in zone two areas where there is strong demand from young professionals topped by Brent, where prices went up 14.1 per cent, Southwark (14 per cent), Greenwich (13 per cent) and Harrow (12.6 per cent).

However, agents say they have seen a slowdown in enquiries since Kwasi Kwarteng's botched mini-Budget in September which sent gilt



yields and mortgage rates spiralling.

Today analysts Moneyfacts said the average two year fixed rate stood at 6.25 per cent, down 1 basis point on yesterday, while five year fixes averaged 6.07 per cent down two basis points.

Most commentators are expecting falls in prices next year though the change in sentiment is slow to appear in the Land Registry figures which reflect prices agreed several months earlier.

Andy Sommerville, director at

property data provider Search Acumen, said: "Today's data is further evidence of a turning tide for house prices, reflecting the same pattern of declining growth we have started to see emerge over the last two months."

"As the impacts of previous rate rises and inflation filter through into house prices over coming months, we'd expect to see further declines coming down the tracks."

Tom Bill, head of UK residential research at Knight Frank, said: "We expect mortgage rates to come down and a sense of stability to return as financial markets respond positively to the new government."

"However, the lending landscape is shifting after 13 years of ultra-low borrowing costs, which we believe will put enough downwards pressure on prices so that they

return to their summer 2021 level." Across the UK, the average house price in September was £295,000, which was £26,000 higher than a year earlier, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.

Average house prices increased by 9.5 per cent over the year to September 2022, slowing from 13.1 per cent annual growth in August 2022.

Across the UK, typical property values remained unchanged between August and September 2022, which also caused the annual percentage change to slow, the ONS said.

ONS deputy director for prices, Matt Corder, said: "The fall in annual house price inflation is mainly because of the sharp rise in house prices in September 2021 at the end of the stamp duty holiday last year."

INTERVIEW

Women are continuing to take leading positions in corporate, breaking the gender barriers that have prevailed for a long time in Tanzania. In recognizing this transformation, The Guardian interviewed Y9 Microfinance Chief Executive Officer Faith Pella (pictured) on her achievements and the role of her company in promoting financial inclusion, excerpts;

QUESTION: Please tell us your historical background?

ANSWER: I am an accomplished fintech and digital transformation enthusiast, with 15 years of experience working in Fintech and Strategic Digital Solutions in all sectors, especially banking and agriculture. For over 10 years I have been focusing my career to enhance digital and financial inclusion in Africa.

My career began as a finance officer and transitioned to business development, and business strategy to Country Manager then grew to regional roles in the position of Global Head of Risk and Compliance and later as COO in one of Africa's leading Fintech and Digital Solutions Companies.

I also headed the Corporate, Partnerships, and Government relationships for Tigo Pesa before joining the Y9 Mi-

TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATIONS CREATE HEALTHIER FINANCIAL INCLUSION



crofinance provider, as CEO. I am also a Board member of the Tanzania Start-up Association.

I studied at the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) where she completed her bachelor's degree in accounting and later joined to complete her Master's in Business Administration specializing in international business.

Later, I proceeded to acquire a specialization in Business Strategies from the University of Virginia; I am also a Digital Money Certified by the Fletcher School - Tufts University and a Digital Transformation Certificate from the University of Virginia.

Recently, I got certified by Harvard University in a Fintech program and a Certificate in Digital strategies for Business at Columbia Business School. My as-

piration is to intensify the eradication of poverty and develop social and economic sustainability for youth and women through technology innovation.

Q: What Y9 Microfinance is all about?

A: The Y9 vision, mission, and values were the key drivers that stirred the why. Technology and innovation in social and economic activities are what will bring about meaningful digital and financial inclusion, that's the main objective of Y9. The decision came very easily, social, and economic sustainability is what I stand for, and I knew that I had to be part of this journey to bring actual change and transformation in the country and across Africa.

Y9 is a company from the USA and is a Digital Microfinance provider leveraging technology and innovation to offer digital and financial services in a more thoughtful, localized, and engaging manner with the customers and various partners.

Y9 is here to make a long-term positive impact on people's lives. Y9 does this by offering digital and financial services leveraging smartphone financing to ensure everyone has access to a smartphone in a more flexible, affordable, and simplified manner.

To the people, this means more opportunity and a promising future through affordable digital and financial solutions. Y9 will offer many more services and products as we go along.

Q: Is there any difference between what you do now and in the past?

A: I have worked in the fintech space

for over 12 years and month after month, year after year the experience has been evolving given the fact technology innovation in the financial sector is growing very fast and exponentially. I enjoy what I do in the digital and financial space to push for inclusivity because the impact is easily quantifiable.

Y9 is different because I get to work with stakeholders who are extremely ambitious and passionate about making a huge positive impact and change. In Y9 Tanzania I also get to be part of the learnings, the challenges, and more importantly, part of creating the solutions. It has been a very rewarding experience, together with the board and the team; I get to be part of bringing to life something that will make history.

Q: What are the challenges of working at a new company?

A: The biggest challenge is learning how to thrive and grow with the opportunities that present themselves despite the challenges and the obstacles that present themselves throughout the journey and ensure to build the right systems that make the business grow and remain sustainable.

Q: How is the product fairing in the market?

A: The 4G smartphone penetration in Africa is still very low for digital inclusion to be impactful hence we see an opportunity to simplify the access and affordability of enabling many people to own a smartphone with our Y9 loan account.

The opportunity is very high, especially in rural and semi-urban areas. In Tanzania it is estimated to be at around 20%

penetration thus we have a whole 80% opportunity size to leverage. To date, the response has been very encouraging, and we are certain of the growth and impact that we will achieve in the market.

Q: How many people do you expect to impact in terms of employment?

A: Currently, we are looking to have a team of about 50-100 employees by mid-2023 ensuring a 60/40 gender ratio giving priority to women in Tech a high chance to work in our institution, this is in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Goal number 5 which is Gender Equality.

Q: Are there any CSR activities implemented by Y9 Microfinance?

A: We look to partner with various organizations that support youth and women empowerment to ensure more inclusivity in the digital and financial space.

Y9 stands for youth and women inclusivity. We are supporting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in promoting gender equality, poverty eradication, quality education, employment, innovation, and partnerships.

Q: What do you expect from it and the people of Tanzania?

A: The leadership and people of Tanzania are very passionate about ensuring everyone has a 4G smartphone and everyone has access to financial services, Y9 is making this a reality in a very simplified way. Everyone understands and appreciates that Y9 is a mission of meaningful digital and financial inclusion. Y9 will deliver.



Fort Portal city

Low funding cripples Fort Portal roadworks

FORT PORTAL, UGANDA

Fort Portal City authorities have expressed concern over the poor state of some roads within the city, attributing it to limited funding from the central government.

Mr Herbert Kaihura, the Fort Portal City roads engineer, said they had this financial year projected to receive Shs924.7m under the road fund for maintaining both tarmacked and non-tarmacked roads, but had only secured Shs231.1m by the end of the first quarter.

"We are limited by low funding. Currently, we receive less money than what we used to receive when we were still a municipality. For close to five years, we have not received

funds for opening up new roads," he said on Monday during the Fort Portal City budget conference.

Quoting the budget performance report for Financial Year 2022-23, he said Fort Portal North Division had budgeted Shs92.5m under road fund for mechanised maintenance of unpaved roads but no money was released during the first quarter.

The Uganda Road Fund (URF) was established by an Act of Parliament in 2008 to finance routine and periodic maintenance of local government roads. The body has, however, overtime decried inadequate funding from the central government, which has crippled road maintenance in

districts.

Now the districts are crying foul following a directive by government to withhold a portion of the road fund and use it at the centre.

The decision has derailed many districts' programmes for maintenance and construction of feeder roads.

He said before the elevation of Fort Portal to city status, they had 138 kilometres of roads which have since been increased to 350 kilometres, including new administrative units of Karambi, Karago sub-counties and Ibale Parish.

Mr Kaihura said they recruited 46 road gangs to do road maintenance in the city by cleaning the drainage, desilting culverts and sweeping

street.

The city mayor, Mr Edison Asaba Ruyonga, said with a shortfall in resources, they are unable to open up new roads and maintain the existing ones.

"The money we are getting is less compared to the number of roads that need to be worked on. As a new city, all the promises remain on paper," he said.

Mr Joseph Kiiza Mashuhuko, the North Division mayor, said more than 80 percent of the roads in the city are in a sorry state.

Mr Richard Muhumuza, the Central Division mayor, said they have been allocated Shs90m under road fund but that it is little compared to the number of roads that need maintenance.

Hilton to open new luxury Nairobi hotel

NAIROBI

Global hospitality chain Hilton is set to open a new hotel in the country -Kwetu Nairobi, Curio Collection by Hilton- in February next year.

This comes after an announcement that it will indefinitely close its iconic Hilton Hotel in the city centre in December and send home an unspecified number of workers.

The upscale hotel is located at the Peponi-Kitisuru Road junction and will feature 102 rooms in five interconnected blocks overlooking Karura Forest.

"We are opening in February 2023, but aren't accepting reservations yet," read

a banner in the Curio Collection by Hilton website.

Guests at the hotel will enjoy contemporary African experience at its specialty restaurant with a seasonal concept menu and a rooftop bar for breathtaking forested landscape view.

Hilton Hotel -which the State partly owns- said it will close its doors after more than 50 years of operation from its location at the heart of the central business district in Nairobi.

The State has a 40.57 percent shareholding in International Hotels Kenya Limited, which owns the Hilton. It also held a 33.83 percent stake in Kenya Hotel Properties Limited, the operator of the

InterContinental Hotel, which also shut down in August 2020.

Twenty-nine global hotel brands are considering opening new facilities in Kenya, as the industry recovers from the effects of the Covid-19 crisis, a new report shows.

The new hotels will bring to the market 4,354 new hotel rooms, according to disclosures made in the 2021 report of Hotel Chain Development Pipeline in Africa, making Kenya the top six hotspot for new luxury hotels in the African continent.

Egypt is the number one hotspot for new luxury hotels followed by Nigeria, Morocco, Ethiopia and Cape Verde.



Artistic impression of Kwetu Nairobi, Curio Collection by Hilton. PHOTO | POOL

CONSTRUCTION

VODACOM'S 5G NETWORK KEY IN BOOSTING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SECTORS IN TANZANIA

By Special Correspondent

PROSPECTS are good that the 5G technology recently launched by telco Vodacom will facilitate Tanzania's economic growth and create more job opportunities particularly for the youth.

5G is the next generation of wireless networks. It promises to deliver broadband speeds, low latency and high reliability.

5G will allow people to connect with one another - and each other - in a more convenient way. It is set to open up new opportunities for businesses and stand as a game changer for the Tanzanian economy.

Vodacom introduced the country's first 5G technology at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam this September 1. This provided users with a fast internet of a speed of up to 400 megabits-per-second (Mbps), while the company plans to boost the speed further so as to offer more than 800Mbps in the coming months.

The 5G technology, which has revolution-

ised the way people communicate, is expected to play a decisive role in supporting the country's move towards the fourth industrial revolution outfitted with superpowers such as capacity, speed and lightning-fast response time.

The emerging technologies of the fourth industrial revolution would be fully complemented by the network, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data and/or Data Science, 3D-printing, Block chain technologies, neuro-technologies, genetic modifications, drones, autonomous vehicles, machine visions among others.

Speaking at the most recent launch in Dar es Salaam, appearing as a hologram from a remote location, Information, C o m m u n i c a t i o n s and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye said: "I congratulate Vodacom for paving the way for digital transformation in Tanzania, and the government



fully supports this breakthrough through its various sector ministries because we know that technology has the power to transform lives and help the country achieve the targets of the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in areas such as health, agriculture, energy, logistics and many more."

"I call on entrepreneurs, businesses, innovators and (government) ministries to tap into this 5G network and transform this nation. The government pledges its support to you," he added.

With faster and more reliable connectivity,

industries can digitally transform their businesses and manufacture their products in much smarter ways.

Being one of the key sectors of the Tanzanian economy, industries and manufacturing will be significantly supported by the 5G technology in areas such as operational effectiveness, enabling faster and effective inspections through predictive intelligence, and improving workplace and worker safety.

Another key industrial advancement area that 5G can enable is particularly related to logistics and machinery/equipment such that material flow is automated. It delivers

AI and IoT to get going with enhanced efficiency, will influence users or applications across various sectors that can drive down costs, energy usage, emissions and waste and thus mitigate climate change.

With 5G, innovative network technologies enable service providers to come up with new services that, in turn, support communities and enterprises to reduce their carbon emission footprint.

The government of Tanzania has repeatedly declared that one of the priority areas in the National Financial Inclusion Framework (NFIF) is ensuring the existence of a robust electronic information infrastructure through which individuals and businesses could easily access financial services.

With the rise in the number of mobile device ownerships, fast internet services enabled by 5G technology will support the country's financial inclusion agenda by expediting access to the formal financial services provided by the

commercial banks and mobile operators.

Tanzania's internet penetration stands at an estimated 50.0 per cent of the population. Roughly, 25.2 per cent of customers in the market have access to smartphones, while data users' penetration is estimated at 54.0 per cent.

As the number of data users increases, the digital economy in Tanzania can be scaled up and 5G technology will further improve digital entrepreneurship and innovation, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) seeking to enter or already in the online market.

There has also been a significant uptick in consumer e-commerce activity fuelled by the Covid-19 pandemic, where online shopping and online retail sales have increased substantially. This also includes "business-to-business" (B2B) trading.

Being the backbone of Tanzanian economy, the agricultural sector stands to benefit a great deal from 5G technology. To help the sector become connected us-

ing advanced-tech, 5G could pave the way for the deployment of innovations such as autonomous vehicles, drone technology and real time data collection.

This, in turn, could enable better management of both crops (for example, being able to interpret and react quickly to soil sensors and weather conditions) and livestock (for example, managing their movements, health and milk yields).

The government is rapidly digitalising public health and social welfare services by increasing the use of information systems, information and communication technology, and digital data management - and 5G would be a substantial part of it.

The technology can also be used to revolutionise the medical field in the country by providing the high-reliability and low-latency services it promises, innovations such as robotic aids during surgery to increase accuracy and ambulance drones to provide real-time incident coverage.

Dubai housing boom surface with empty palm island plots

DUBAI

For 14 years, Muhammad Azam has been waiting for construction to start on a five-bedroom luxury villa he bought on the largest - but least developed - of Dubai's famous palm-shaped artificial islands that jut out into the Persian Gulf.

An unexpected email from Nakheel PJSC in September confirmed it never would. Dubai's real estate regulator apparently had decided months earlier to cancel the project on Palm Jebel Ali, and the government-backed developer told him they would refund less than a quarter of what Azam had paid for the villa in the secondary market shortly before construction had got off the ground.

Cypriot businessman Azam, 44, wasn't alone. He's among hundreds of investors who bought homes on Palm Jebel Ali that have never been built. While many owners swapped their purchase for an alternative Nakheel property years ago, hundreds are now being offered a refund for the amount the developer collected from primary investors until it stopped working on the project in 2009, according to interviews with seven investors and documents seen by Bloomberg.

Investors told Bloomberg they're among just over 400 who own more than 700 properties in The Palm Jebel Ali Fronds and The Palm Jebel Ali Water Homes developments who are being offered about 850 million dirhams (\$231.4 million) in total from Nakheel.

Owners say they should be compensated for the delay of over a decade and the jump in home prices since then. Canceled real estate projects often have messy fallout, but this case of buyer beware is playing out in the midst of one of the world's biggest housing booms. It also raises questions over the legal framework surrounding real estate in the city, even though foreigners have been allowed to buy homes in the emirate since 2002.

Nakheel - chaired by Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani, the managing director of the emirate's sovereign wealth fund, the Investment Corporation of Dubai - says it's giving back what it received from the developer's original investors and can't help if people bought at higher prices in resale deals over the past two decades. The developer also says it has offered voluntary refunds



for years and is also offering owners a bonus credit note toward a new Nakheel home. It's also telling some owners that it will restart a revamped version of the project early next year.

"It's so unfair," said father-of-two Azam who owns a property management company. "I would have accepted the cancellation if Nakheel went bankrupt in 2009 and the project was canceled back then. But to do it now when the market has recovered and waterfront villas are selling at a high premium is just absurd."

Nakheel unveiled The Palm Jebel Ali Fronds and The Palm Jebel Ali Water Homes in 2003. In a sales brochure, the developer called Palm Jebel Ali the eighth wonder of the world. At roughly the size of London's Heathrow airport, the development - about 50 kilometers from downtown Dubai - has 17 palm leaves. It was meant to host marinas, a theme park, beachside villas and a thousand homes on stilts that spelled out a poem by Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, according to reports at the time.

Nakheel originally sold the off-plan villas on Palm Jebel Ali for about 1.8 million dirhams to 5.6 million dirhams. They were then resold many times in the boom years that followed without a single brick being laid. Prices had more than doubled by the time some of the

current owners - including Azam - invested five years later.

Dubai-born Azam says he took out a 10-million-dirham mortgage to pay for the 14.8 million dirham, 13,000 square-foot so-called Signature Villa. He fully repaid the mortgage to Noor Bank in 2016, according to a copy of a bank letter. He was told that Dubai's Real Estate Regulatory Agency had canceled the two projects because of Nakheel's inability to complete them and that a judicial committee in May had ordered the developer to distribute a refund to owners.

Now, he says Nakheel is offering to pay him 2.8 million dirhams or a credit note for 4.2 million to repurchase a home once the project restarts. The value of the credit note represents 50% more than the amount Nakheel collected from buyers but the developer has only made the offer verbally and not in writing, according to Azam.

"Nakheel is being ordered to repay the amounts it collected nearly 20 years ago, but as they restart the project they will earn a lot more," Azam said. "We're only entitled to the amount Nakheel initially collected from original buyers and not secondary buyers. No interest, no loss of opportunity, no loss of rental income."

On top of regular payment

installments from owners, Nakheel collected money each time the villa (or plot of sand) changed hands in the secondary market. Azam says when he bought his villa he was charged 119,590 dirhams as a transfer fee by Nakheel, which isn't being refunded.

A comparable villa to the one Azam purchased is now selling for at least 30 million dirhams on Palm Jumeirah - the first and smallest of three palm-shaped islands Nakheel is developing in Dubai, according to Property Finder. Palm Jebel Ali is almost twice the size of the completed Palm Jumeirah where demand and the price of waterfront homes, in particular, have soared.

Dubai's property market is benefitting from an influx of newcomers including bankers fleeing strict Covid restrictions in Asia, crypto investors and wealthy Russians escaping their sanctions-hit country after its invasion of Ukraine. Prime real-estate prices surged 89% over the past 12 months through October, making it the biggest gainer on Knight Frank's global index, which focuses on a city's most desirable and expensive homes.

To tap the high demand for beachfront real estate, Nakheel is now planning to build 1,700 villas and 6,000 apartments on Palm Jebel Ali, the Financial Times reported in September.

Construction sector is second biggest in Saudi

RIYADH

The construction sector is the second biggest non-oil sector in Saudi Arabia at approximately SR255 billion annually, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing Majid Bin Abdullah Al-Hogail confirmed.

Al-Hogail stressed that transforming the construction sector into an industry would constitute a pivotal step through which it will contribute in providing the best solution to face the sector's challenges.

He also added that transporting most of the operations from the location to the factory will enhance the ability of using modern technologies and methods, and also will increase the quality of the products and the speed of its completion, which will positively reflect on the costs and the safety standards.

While inaugurating the third edition of the International Contracting Conference, Al-Hogail noted that there are more than 175,000 companies that are working in the contracting sector with about 4 million workers.

He said that International Contracting Conference is considered as an opportunity for those who are interested to know more and learn about the latest legislative and technical developments in the contracting sector.

The contracting sector represents a main pillar in the growth and prosperity of Saudi Arabia, as it is also a main engine for several sectors, and by this it will enhance the level of interest in its development and support.

Al-Hogail indicated that the establishment of a permanent coordination committee to develop the sector comes as one of the capabilities that has been offered by the Saudi government.

It is noteworthy that the International Contracting Conference aims to review the latest technologies and equipment that is used in the construction, as there are more than 25 local and international speakers who speak about the latest information and experiences about the sector.

UN publishes draft COP27 climate deal

SHARM EL SHEIKH

THE UN climate agency published a first draft yesterday of a hoped-for final agreement from the COP27 climate summit, repeating many of last year's goals while leaving contentious issues still to be resolved.

The 20-page document is labelled a "non-paper", indicating it is far from a final version and there are still hours if not days left in the negotiations between delegates from nearly 200 countries.

The draft repeats the goal from last year's Glasgow Climate Pact "to accelerate measures towards the phase down of unabated coal power and phase out and rationalize inefficient fossil fuel subsidies."

It does not call for a phase down of all fossil fuels, as India and the European Union had requested.

Delegates have worried that the key sticking point around launching a "loss and damage" fund for financing for countries being ravaged by climate impacts would stymie agreement at the COP27 summit in Egypt.

The text does not include details for launching such a fund - a key demand from the most climate vulnerable countries, such as island nations. Rather, it "welcomes" the fact that the topic was taken up as part of this year's official agenda.

"Underwhelmed"

One negotiator from an island nation who asked not to be named said he was underwhelmed by the draft text and its "silence on the critical issue of loss and damage".

It gives no timeline for deciding on whether a separate fund should be created or what it should look like, giving time for negotiators to continue to work on the contentious topic.

On limiting the global temperature rise, the document mirrors language included in last year's COP26 agreement, stressing "the importance of exerting all efforts at all levels to achieve the Paris Agreement temperature goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels."



Participants arrive at the Sharm el-Sheikh International Convention Centre, during the COP27 climate conference in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of the same name yesterday. AFP

Other unresolved issues include calls for boosting a global goal for finance to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of a warmer world, and plans for ratcheting up targets for cutting climate-warming emissions.

At the Glasgow COP26, countries agreed to develop a plan to "urgently scale up" emission-reduction efforts in recognition that the world would need

to slash emissions 45 percent by 2030 to keep warming within 1.5 C, the threshold beyond which scientists say climate change risks spinning out of control.

Temperatures have already increased by 1.1C.

Climate policy experts said there was deep concern about the talks reaching consensus on many key issues.

"I think the problem is that there's a lot

in here, and lots of it will be shot down by parties on all sides", said Tom Evans, a climate policy analyst at the E3G nonprofit think-tank.

The document is based on requests that delegates from nearly 200 countries have sought to be included in the final deal. It will provide a basis for negotiations over the coming days that are likely to substantially flesh out and rework the text.

AU envoy calls for increased humanitarian support in eastern DRC

NAIROBI

UHURU Kenyatta, Kenya's African Union (AU) peace envoy, has called for increased humanitarian support to the residents in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where fighting has led to the loss of lives and property as well as mass displacements.

Kenyatta, the former Kenyan president who is also the East Africa Community (EAC) facilitator of the Nairobi Process on Peace and Stability in eastern DRC, emphasized that the situation requires urgent intervention by the international community.

Kenyatta, who made an official visit to Goma in the eastern DRC on Tuesday as part of his outreach sessions with stakeholders, called on the international community, and humanitarian organizations such as UN agencies, to urgently and impactfully respond to assuage the terrible distress and human suffering.

"It is critical that this situation is resolved to allow for the facilitator to fully engage the EAC regional force to take their rightful positions and allow for the humanitarian situation to be resolved with utmost urgency," he said in a statement issued in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi on Wednesday.

Kenyatta was on his way to visit a camp of internally-displaced people near Goma when he was confronted with tens of thousands of internally displaced persons on the roadsides.

The AU envoy also expressed concern that his work has been severely hampered by the unfolding dreadful humanitarian crisis in and around Goma, and it is virtually impossible for him to fully realize the potential of his role when the fighting and the wholesale displacement of towns and villages is ongoing.

He further observed that the terms of the Nairobi Conclaves, agreed upon by all EAC Heads of State, which outlined that the fighting forces would remain in the positions that they were at the time of the Nairobi Conclaves, have not been honored by the rebel groups and their backers.

ROME

ITALY said on Wednesday it regretted tensions with Paris over migrants, which soared last week after a charity ship it turned away docked in southern France to disembark around 230 people rescued at sea.

Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi said the Ocean Viking vessel, which has a Norwegian flag and is run by non-governmental organization (NGO) SOS Mediterranee, "autonomously" decided to head towards the French coast, after spending days off the island of Sicily.

"Italy never aimed for such a decision, which created international tensions ... and could produce reper-

Italy says it regrets migrant ship spat with France

cussions on migration policies at the European level," Piantedosi told the upper house Senate.

France accused the new rightist government in Rome of breaking a bond of trust and breaching international laws on safeguards for migrants, and said it would not take in 3,000 migrants it had previously pledged to accept from Italy.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni called Paris's reaction "incomprehensible and unjustified," and the row appeared to cool down only on Monday after talks between Italian and French presidents Sergio Mat-

tarella and Emmanuel Macron.

SOS Mediterranee reacted to Piantedosi on Twitter, saying that Italy left it with "no other choice but to ask France for a safe port", even though that meant more time at sea after spending more than two weeks off the Italian coastline.

"Having had to sail for around two days before reaching a port of disembarkation is a terrible blow dealt by EU member states and associated states to maritime and humanitarian laws," the Franco-German-Swiss-Italian NGO said.

Piantedosi, a career civil servant,

insisted that under international law Italy had no duty to take charge of migrants rescued by "private vessels" and said charity ships flying the flag of other states should turn to them for assistance.

"Italy has always emphasized the need for migrant arrivals not to weigh only on the countries at the external border of Europe," Piantedosi said, also criticizing insufficient relocations under an EU burden-sharing scheme.

Italy has seen a sharp increase in migrant landings this year, with almost 93,000 people arriving so far

in 2022, compared with 59,300 in the same period last year. Around 15 percent were picked up by charity vessels.

However, Rome last year admitted fewer refugees as a percentage of its population compared with EU peers such as France, Germany and Spain, think-tank ISPI data show, and in the last two years processed fewer asylum requests.

Piantedosi said Italy was considering offering migration channels to countries that accept repatriations and help prevent sea departures.

"The aim would be tackling migrant smuggling and at the same time strengthening legal entry channels," he said.

Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway a symbol of friendship between China, Indonesia

A HOT-RUNNING test of the catenary system of the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway (HSR) trial section started at the Tegalluar station in Bandung, Indonesia's West Java province recently.

It was the first time that the Chinese-made Electric Multiple Units (EMUs) appeared on the Jakarta-Bandung HSR track.

The Jakarta-Bandung HSR connects Indonesia's capital Jakarta and the country's fourth-largest city Bandung. It is the first HSR in Southeast Asia.

Under the promotion of the two heads of state from China and Indonesia, the Jakarta-Bandung HSR has continuously made major progress.

As a landmark project of high-quality cooperation between China and Jakarta under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Jakarta-Bandung HSR vividly explains the rich connotation of the vision of building a China-Indonesia community with a shared future.

The railway extends 142 kilometers with a design speed of 350 kilometers per hour. It is in effect the first overseas construction project that fully uses Chinese railway systems, technology and industrial components. The HSR is expected to shorten the trip between Jakarta and Bandung to just 40 minutes from over three hours.

In April 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo witnessed the signing of deals on HSR cooperation between the two countries in Jakarta. A year later, the Jakarta-Bandung HSR project officially kicked off.

So far, all 13 tunnels and 58 bridges on the HSR have been completed, and a 14-km-long trial



Tunnel No. 6, the longest tunnel of the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway is completed, Feb. 18, 2022. (Photo by China Railway No. 3 Engineering Group Co., Ltd.)

section has been ready for operating EMU trains.

Widodo has paid multiple visits to construction sites of the Jakarta-Bandung HSR. Last month, when visiting the Tegalluar station, he said that the smooth progress of the project reflected the sound cooperation between Indonesia and China.

The Jakarta-Bandung HSR, to be integrated with ports or airports, will become a part of the international connectivity network, he noted.

In July this year, track-laying was started on the main line of the Jakarta-Bandung HSR by the Chinese-made machine CPG500. The machine could pave 500-meter-long rails weighing 30 tons, laying 360-kilogram cross-ties under the rail every 60 centimeters. With the machine, 1.5 kilometers of tracks could be completed on a daily basis.

Indonesia's Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi

said he was impressed by the Chinese track-laying technology. "It was the first application of this technology in Southeast Asia," he noted, adding he was proud of and grateful for the use of this high technology in the construction of the Jakarta-Bandung HSR.

"The Jakarta-Bandung HSR will significantly boost the flow of people, cargos and services along the route. Crossing nine counties and cities, it will help form new business districts near train stations and drive regional economic development," said Fajar B. Hirawan, head of the Department of Economics at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies of Indonesia.

He believes the Jakarta-Bandung HSR will accelerate Indonesia's steps toward its economic development goals.

Luhut B. Pandjaitan, Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment of Indonesia told People's Daily

that the Jakarta-Bandung HSR is an important part of Indonesia's modern public transport system and has been listed as a national strategic construction project. It will place a positive impact on Indonesia's economy, society and people's wellbeing in a sustainable manner, he added.

A villager living near a construction site of the Jakarta-Bandung HSR noted that over 300 villagers have found a job thanks to the project. According to him, many of them have obtained concrete mixing, excavator driving, welding and electrical skills, and some have even acquired professional certificates in welding and electrical skills.

"China and Indonesia have constantly enhanced their mutual trust during the construction of the Jakarta-Bandung HSR," said Han Gaolu, first chairman of the China Indonesia High-Speed Railway, a joint venture formed between Chinese and Indonesian companies.

Local people would always associate the Jakarta-Bandung HSR with Indonesia's development speed, and they are very friendly to the Chinese government and people that offer help to them, Han said.

"There are heated discussions in Indonesia that the country would build a high-speed railway network that runs through the entire Java Island," Han added.

Han considered the Jakarta-Bandung HSR as a railway to development and prosperity. He said the project has not only brought to Indonesia much-needed foreign investment, but also fostered a batch of local technical and management personnel, promoting the rapid development of the infrastructure sector in Indonesia.

People's Daily

French archbishop under probe for 'inappropriate gesture' towards woman

PARIS

A RETIRED French archbishop is under investigation from judicial and church authorities for what he called "an inappropriate gesture" towards an adult young woman at the end of the 1980s.

Monsieur Jean-Pierre Grallet, 81, the retired former archbishop of Strasbourg, said in a statement on Wednesday that he had been informed this summer that the woman had filed a complaint against him.

"From now on, as I await the conclusions of church and civil investigations, I will refrain from speaking in public," Grallet said, adding that he regretted his actions back then and that he has written to the woman to ask for her forgiveness.

He gave no detail about what kind of behavior he is under investigation for.

Last week, French Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard said he had abused a 14-year-old girl decades ago and would withdraw from his functions.

Ugandan president says measures in place to avoid Ebola spread

KAMPALA

UGANDAN President Yoweri Museveni on Tuesday assured the international community that the east African country has put in place measures to avoid the exportation of the deadly disease.

Museveni in a national address, telecast live said the country's Entebbe International Airport and other land border crossing points have temperature scanners to screen any traveller who may have signs.

The president said people who have got into contact with Ebola cases

have been banned from travelling, adding that their names have been given to the immigration officials.

Museveni said if the contacts do not adhere to the government restrictions, and escape through the country's porous borders, their names would be shared with neighboring countries.

Museveni's comments come amid concerns that foreign tourists had started cancelling their trips to the country.

He said some international conferences had been canceled because of the fear of the Ebola



In total, 11 bishops or former bishops are currently the subject of abuse investigations, Eric de Moulins-Beaufort, head of the French bishops' conference, said last week.

Last year, an independent investigation said French clergy had sexually abused more than 200,000 children over the past 70 years, and its authors said the Catholic Church had turned a blind eye for too long.

spread.

The president said Ebola cases have been registered in only six out of the country's 146 districts. He also warned people against exhuming infected Ebola bodies, saying they risk spreading the disease further.

He said said out of the 55 people who have died of Ebola since it was announced on Sept. 20, 10 people died of the disease after they exhumed a relative who had died of the disease. The president said exhuming bodies because relatives want to carrying out rituals is not acceptable.

The Guardian

SPORT



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia.

TFF official concedes to experiencing threats

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia has stated he has experienced threats from a section of the local soccer fraternity that has gone as far as revealing it will request the world football governing body (FIFA) to ban the official.

His comments have come in the wake of complaints by some soccer stakeholders that fixture congestion in 2022/23 NBC Premier League is forcing some of the top flight's participating clubs to have little time for resting.

Despite the development, Karia emphasized that the Premier League will not be put on hold during the 2022 World Cup because he is the official on the receiving end of insults when the top flight is frequently put on hold.

He appealed to Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) to look at better ways for scheduling Premier League during the World Cup so that some important matches in the domestic competition are not pushed forward.

The official pointed out: "We will not stop the league because right now I am receiving messages insisting I should stop the league, but when teams have many postponed games, I am insulted."

Novak Djokovic has visa to play Australian Open in January

CANNBERRA, Australia

THE Australian government confirmed on Thursday that Novak Djokovic had been granted a visa to compete in the Australian Open in January a year after he was deported over his stance against COVID-19 vaccination.

The 21-time Grand Slam singles champion had his visa canceled on public interest grounds on Jan. 14 and lost an appeal against deportation in the Full Federal Court.

Immigration Minister Andrew Giles said he had approved Djokovic's application to revoke the cancellation decision because the ground for canceling the visa no longer existed. The visa ban could have lasted for three years.

"Mr. Djokovic has subsequently been granted a temporary visa to enter Australia," Giles said in a statement.

The 35-year-old from Serbia is clear to compete at the Australian Open, which runs from Jan. 16-29 in Melbourne.

Djokovic is playing at the ATP Finals in Turin, Italy, this week, and said he was informed of the Australian government's decision on Tuesday.

"I was very happy to receive the

"Some are threatening me that they will appeal to FIFA to ban me, our Premier League will not stop during the World Cup because we do not have a national team participating in it," Karia revealed.

"The board should nevertheless take care in the scheduling, important matches should be dealt with carefully so they are not postponed, for example, you find that Argentina is facing Brazil in World Cup at 7 pm and at the same time, either Simba SC or Yanga is honouring league fixture at the time," he said.

Yanga's president Hersi Said and Simba SC Chairman Murtaga Mangungu were among the people who attended the TFF's 17th Annual General Meeting held in Mwanza on November 14.

The meeting was attended by members of the TFF General Meeting, the federation employees, leaders of sports zones in the country, Premier League clubs' leaders, and guests.

Some of the other leaders who attended the meeting include the former Mwanza Regional Commissioner Steven Mashishanga and the former Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Mecky Sadick.

The meeting was held at the Gold Crest hotel in the Lake Zone region to discuss various agendas about soccer development.

news yesterday. It was a relief, obviously, knowing what I and the people closest to me in my life have been through this year with what happened in Australia and post-Australia," Djokovic said after beating Andrey Rublev in straight sets to book a spot in the semifinals.

"Australian Open has been my most successful Grand Slam. I made some of the best memories there. Of course, I want to go back there, I want to play tennis, do what I do best, hopefully have a great Australian summer."

Djokovic has won the Australian Open a record nine times, including the last three times he played. Rafael Nadal won this year's title in Djokovic's absence.

Djokovic was not vaccinated against COVID-19 when he last arrived in Australia. Australia has since lifted strict rules for unvaccinated travelers.

Alex Hawke, Australia's immigration minister at the time, used discretionary powers to cancel Djokovic's visa on character grounds, stating he was a "talisman of a community of anti-vaccine sentiment."

Tennis Australia said Thursday it welcomed the decision to allow Djokovic back into the country.

AP

Local footballers must tackle inconsistency

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MAINLAND Tanzania's NBC Premier League is blessed with plenty of gifted football players, both domestic and foreign.

It is moreover a top-flight which continues to grow extremely fast in Africa and increase its popularity by attracting soccer enthusiasts from other countries in Africa.

This has come about because clubs in Tanzania, both prominent and less popular, are signing competent footballers from various African countries such as DRC Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Nigeria.

The presence of many foreign players in the NBC Premier League has greatly contributed to promoting Tanzania to other countries in Africa.

The foreign professionals' presence in the showdown has motivated their domestic counterparts to showcase their virtuosity and secure position in their respective outfits' first teams.

In two consecutive seasons, 2020/21 and 2021/22, soccer followers in Tanzania have witnessed local players show competence and win accolades.

Simba SC veteran attacker John Bocco, for one, emerged as the 2020/21 Premier League golden boot winner, beating equally talented teammates Clatous Chama, Chris Mugalu, and Luis Miquissone to the prize.

The 2021/22 Premier League had ended with Geita Gold FC attacker George Mpole clinching the top-flight golden boot prize having scored 17 goals in the season and narrowly beating Yanga's Congolese striker Fiston Mayeye (16 goals) to the prize.

The Geita Gold FC goal poacher's performance had him winning the trust of the senior national soccer squad's gaffers who in turn called the goal-getter for the squad.

This substantiates Tanzania has quality football players whose efforts to enjoy success in their careers are hampered by various factors.

Local football players have unfortunately not been consistent because of certain issues, leaving foreign football players to capitalize on the situation and hold sway.



Mtibwa Sugar's striker, Salum Kihimbwa (L), dribbles past Dar es Salaam's Transit Camp FC player when the sides met in a Premier League promotion/relegation playoffs clash, which took place at Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

The 2022/23 Premier League has witnessed Mpole finding it hard to showcase his prowess the same way he did in the past season, as is the case with Bocco that was in good form for two consecutive seasons of 2020/21 and 2021/22.

It seems there is absolutely no hope for the two footballers to replicate their heroics this season, a situation that brought about their absence in their outfits' first teams.

The most notable reason for the footballers' lack of consistency is there is no hunger for success among domestic football players.

A good number of local football players hardly showcase hunger for success, once they have won popularity because of their exploits, they soon become complacent and consequently plunge into oblivion.

Foreign football players, as opposed to their local counterparts, have maintained their energy to seek success every time they are on the pitch.

Recently Geita Gold FC leadership announced the squad's footballer Mpole has left its camp.

There might be differences between the footballer and the officials which have not been made public.

The friction has led to the failure of the goal-getter to make it to his squad's first team in league clashes.

Bocco's form has been dropping as time goes by and he has as a result been reduced to a fringe performer at Simba SC.

This situation might have been brought about by the fact that local footballers are satisfied with the little success they have garnered so they do not see the need for them to continue working hard.

The other reason is the footballers' popularity and the love that popular sides' followers show to their respective outfits' footballers.

This is on the one hand good because a soccer enthusiast should love and respect footballers turning out for an outfit that he/she roots for.

It is on the other hand a problem for local footballers because after winning popularity and turning into their clubs' enthusiasts' favourites, the performers begin experiencing a drop in form given they start losing focus.

The local footballers are as a result not training hard thinking they are not required to do so because they are already prominent, they ignore diligence and discipline.

Such a tendency is not seen in foreign footballers who, much as they are their respective outfits' supporters' favourites, keep on improving their game and the approach pays off for them.

Foreign footballers, for that matter, have what it takes to perform well consistently and successfully take part in league fixtures on regular basis.

If local players will decide to maintain their performance, set big goals, and see to it they achieve the goals as well as maintain discipline, they stand a chance to scale great heights.

Soccer fans may have seen several gifted domestic football players that have soon plunged into oblivion, failing to make the most of their skills for a lack of determination and discipline.

Achieving success in football is not a miracle, a footballer ought to have great discipline on and off the pitch.

Such a quality is seemingly lacking in most domestic footballers who have been ending up showcasing impressive performances in only one season and experiencing a drop in form in the next season.

Foreign soccer players seem to keep on challenging their domestic counterparts that have in turn been struggling to emulate the former.



Temboni Boys football squad's Sunzu Felix (R) and Cole Frank (C) in action at the squad's training session that took place at Temboni ground in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT IMANI NATHANIEL

Curry scores 50 points, but Suns beat Warriors 130-119

PHOENIX

DEVIN Booker stepped back for a 3-pointer in the closing minute of the third quarter as Golden State's Stephen Curry gamely tried to stay with him, putting a hand in his face. Booker made the shot anyway as a frustrated Curry dropped his head.

No matter how many points the Warriors superstar scored, the Suns came right back with an answer.

Cameron Payne had a career-high 29 points, Booker added 27 and Phoenix easily overcame Curry's 50-point night to beat struggling Golden State 130-

119 on Wednesday. All five Suns starters scored in double figures.

"It's important to have a team," Booker said about the balanced production. "That gives you longevity and will get us through a season."

The Suns controlled most of the game despite Curry's scoring. The eight-time All-Star made 17 of 28 shots, going 7 of 11 from 3-point range.

The problem for the Warriors was nobody else was helping. Klay Thompson finished with 19 points but shot just 6 of 17. The Warriors – defending NBA champs – fell to 6-9 for the season, including 0-8 on the road.

Curry didn't have much to say

about his 50 points, instead focusing on the team's struggles.

"Losing becomes a habit if you don't fix it," Curry said. "We avoided that for a very long time. We are very aware of who we are and our potential. The losing does get old really quick."

Said Warriors coach Steve Kerr: "I think for right now, we are just scattered. It's a pickup game. It's a pickup game out there."

Curry's scoring prowess is expected, but it was countered by one of the best games of Payne's career. Starting in place of the injured Chris Paul, the 6-foot-3 guard made 9 of 17 shots, including 6 of 10 from beyond the arc.

Coach Monty Williams praised Payne's play but also criticized the guard's late-game decisions, including picking up a flagrant foul.

"Cam can score the ball and he had seven assists to go with it," Williams said. "But in closing moments, he has to be better. We don't need all that silliness at the end of games."

The Suns led 103-89 going into the fourth quarter. The Warriors quickly cut into that margin but couldn't get closer than eight points. Damion Lee hit back-to-back 3-pointers against his former team to keep the Suns comfortably ahead.

AP

Crime-ridden Brazilian city honors local boy Vinicius Jr.

SAO GONCALO, Brazil

FOUR years ago and still a teenager, Vinicius Jr. took his first winners' medal to his hometown outside Rio de Janeiro, a place where drug gangs and vigilantes fight for control and children play soccer on the streets alongside piles of garbage.

Now, with the 22-year-old Real Madrid winger a key figure for Brazil's national team heading into the World Cup, his old neighbors in Sao Gonçalo hope to soon get another visit from the once quiet boy who, despite the danger, used to play soccer next to a highway. They want to parade him through the city with a World Cup winners' medal around his neck so his friends, former academy teammates and the few relatives left can see it.

"Look at the house where he lived," next-door neighbor Paulo Roberto said. "We can't say this is a door, it's all improvised pieces of wood around a frame. If you ring the bell nobody will answer because everyone here lives in fear. If you don't know who is the person knocking, you just stay silent. Vini always stayed away from trouble, which not all kids here manage to do."

Roberto's small house, with many tiles missing from the roof and worn out pink paint on the outside walls, lies in the neighborhood of Porto do Rosa, where Vinicius lived until he was 14. The region is currently in a tug-of-war between drug dealers and vigilantes, with frequent shootings keeping children from playing soccer on the street.

"Everyone was afraid of violence, but kids didn't care, they wanted to play all of the time. If there was too much dirt on this street, Vinicius and the others would pick up a shovel, clean it up and play," the 55-year-old Roberto said. "We could see from the start that Vinicius was really driven to be a soccer player."

Another place where Vinicius dribbled his way through childhood in Sao Gonçalo is the state school he attended. A room at the Paulo Freire municipal school hosts an educational project sponsored by the winger so students learn how to use new technology tools.

His former teacher, Ana Cristina Pereira dos Santos, was emotional after she and about 20 students gathered to watch the kid she knew as Vini being called up to play in the next World Cup.

"He brings hope to all of those children. Many of them dream of becoming soccer players, it is no surprise. But others just want to get their education and live here proudly. And Vini makes them proud of here," the 56-year-old dos Santos told The Associated Press as other students chanted Vinicius' name.

"Vini was really quiet with other students. He talked a little more to the teachers. He loved soccer from the start, he skipped a few classes to play. But he knew how to be gentle, he paid attention to the classes. He never gave me trouble."

Vinicius' rise began at the local soccer school his father took him to when he was 6. Owner Carlos Eduardo Abrantes Beraldini welcomed an easy-going kid who dribbled past every opponent until he scored. Four years later, Beraldini took that same child to develop at his boyhood club Flamengo in Rio.

"He caught our attention from the start. We started playing him against older children, and he continued to stand out," the 51-year-old Beraldini said at his office, where the walls are covered in shirts autographed by Vinicius Jr. "He thinks fast, he is quick, he can score in whatever way he likes. He made us laugh. No one knew how to stop him. On the field, he was unstoppable. Outside, he was calm."

"Vinicius always loved to train. He loves the soccer environment. When we played out of Sao Gonçalo, other kids usually did what they had to do and then went to do something else. Not Vinicius. He just stayed and watched other teams play, too," Beraldini said. "At the age of 10, you could see he was going to be a professional. He worked hard. Sao Gonçalo was too little for him."

Valeria Beraldini, who also works at the school, is thankful to Vinicius for returning whenever he has the time, showing others the medals he has won.

Vinicius has yet to bring his Champions League medal, which he earned after scoring Real Madrid's only goal against Liverpool in the most recent final. But Valeria Beraldini hopes he will do so at the end of the year, possibly along with a World Cup medal.

"He comes from a difficult region of the city and with a lot of talent and hard work he is now one of the best in the world," she said. "Vinicius is the kind of guy that would come here unannounced to surprise kids, show medals and trophies he had just won at Flamengo or in Brazil academy teams. He is a star, but he doesn't act like a star."

Nine-year-old Rayan Alves, one of the students at Paulo Freire municipal school, plays soccer whenever he can, loves to dribble, and stresses he wants to be more like Vinicius than Neymar – a rare feature for a Brazilian child.

"I know where Vinicius used to play here. And I played on his street once, the ball almost fell on the highway," Rayan said as he held a plastic Brazil flag. "If he could do it, maybe I can do it, too."

Club teams impacted Italy's failure to qualify for World Cup

ROME

LOVED and admired around the world for producing players like Roberto Baggio and Andrea Pirlo, Italy's national team struggles for respect at home.

In a country where club teams rule and provincialism stretching back to medieval times still prevails, the Azzurri are often considered an afterthought – or even an inconvenience.

Italian clubs often prefer to keep their prized players away from the national team rather than risk injury. There are no organized hardcore "ultra" fans for Italy like there are for every club team in Serie A, B and C.

Italy doesn't even have a home stadium like England does with Wembley. Instead it barnstorms around the country, often playing games in small stadiums and cities – appearing at the San Siro in Milan and the Stadio Olimpico in Rome for only the biggest of matches.

Dragged down by a dearth of top young players and the demise of the Italian league over the last decade, four-time champion Italy failed to qualify for a second consecutive World Cup.

Winners of the European Championship last year, Italy was beaten at home by North Macedonia in a qualifying playoff in March.

Four years earlier,



FILE - Italy's Joao Pedro reacts after missing a scoring chance in the World Cup qualifying play-off soccer match between Italy and North Macedonia, at Renzo Barbera stadium, in Palermo, Italy, Thursday, March 24, 2022. North Macedonia won 1-0. (AP Photo)

it was a playoff loss at home to Sweden that kept the Azzurri from the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

And at the 2010 and 2014 World Cups, Italy was eliminated in the group phase.

NO RESPECT Serie A refused the Italian soccer federation's request to amend its calendar and move the league matches from the weekend before the playoffs, which would have allowed coach Roberto Mancini more time with his players.

"There is always great resistance from the clubs towards the national team," federation president Gabriele Gravina said after the playoff loss. "The national team is seen more as an annoyance than something that unites an

entire country."

More recently, center forward Ciro Immobile was held back from boarding the team plane to a Nations League game in Hungary amid disagreement about his injury status between the national team and his club, Lazio.

And on Sunday, a couple of hours after Qatar faces Ecuador in the opening match of the World Cup, Italy will play a mostly meaningless friendly against Austria in Vienna.

The Italian soccer federation wanted to move the friendly with Austria up a day to Saturday to avoid the conflict with the World Cup but state broadcaster RAI reportedly refused because it preferred to air "Dancing with the Stars" on Saturday night.

With modern Italy having been unified in 1861, historically bitter rivalries persist between north and south and even cities in the same region.

"Provincialism has been an issue," RAI national team analyst Antonio Di Gennaro said in an interview. "And as far as players sometimes not wanting to go to the national team because of injury problems, those are situations that regard the clubs."

SERIE A'S DEMISE When Roma won the inaugural edition of the third-tier Europa Conference League last season, it was the first European title for an Italian club since Inter Milan lifted the Champions League trophy in 2010.

Failures to renovate and build new stadiums,

match-fixing scandals and poor financial decisions have all contributed to the demise of the Italian league – and consequently the national team.

Italian clubs have also been hesitant to use young Italians, forcing Mancini to sometimes rely on players with little experience – like when he called up then-19-year-old Nicolò Zaniolo in 2018 before Zaniolo had ever appeared in Serie A.

Zaniolo is now considered one of Serie A's top players.

"Our clubs lack courage in this department," said Di Gennaro, who played on the Hellas Verona team that won Serie A in 1985. "It's a mentality issue."

MISSED PENALTIES Two failed penalty attempts from Jorginho in the qualifying matches against Switzerland ended up being decisive. One match ended 0-0, the other 1-1.

If Italy had won either of those two matches, it would have finished ahead of Switzerland and gained automatic qualification to the tournament in Qatar.

"Let's not persecute Jorginho. But if you miss two penalties, you end up staying home," Di Gennaro said.

REVIVAL Unlike after Gian Piero Ventura lost the players' support and was fired after the failed qualifi-

cation for 2018, Mancini kept his job and is already working on a revival.

The Azzurri qualified for the Nations League final four in June with Croatia, Spain and the Netherlands. And Italy is bidding to host the 2032 European Championship, which would represent a prime opportunity to rebuild the country's crumbling stadiums.

Mancini can count on a core of young players like goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and forwards Zaniolo, Federico Chiesa, Giacomo Raspadori and Gianluca Scamacca to turn things around.

Unheralded Wilfried Gnonto has also impressed for Italy recently.

SERIE A REPRESENTED

Serbia and Poland each called up 11 players from Serie A to their World Cup squads. And Juventus is sending 11 players to Qatar.

So who will Italian fans support? They'll root for the players on their club teams.

Juventus supporters will cheer Dušan Vlahovi and Filip Kostić with Serbia; Inter Milan fans will follow Romelu Lukaku's Belgium; and AC Milan "tifosi" will keep an eye on Rafael Leão with Portugal.

It's all about the club teams – not Italy.

AP

Qatar's World Cup denounced for 'washing' country's image

By EDDIE PELLIS

QATAR'S decision to launch itself into hosting the 2022 World Cup was a head-scratcher from the start. Why, some wondered, would a Middle Eastern emirate with fewer than 3 million people and little soccer tradition want to host the sport's biggest event?

Skeptics say the country wanted to use the prestige of the World Cup, which starts Sunday, to remake its image as a natural-gas producer with a shaky human-rights record.

They viewed the move, which will cost the country some \$220 billion, as a classic case of "sportswashing" – using sports as a forum to cast a country or company as different than many perceive.

It is hardly a new concept, and Middle Eastern money has long been a major player. Qatar has extensive international connections through its diplomacy and other efforts. Where many see Qatar and other rich nations spending money to join the global elite, others see nefarious attempts to hide undesired reputations.

"The Qatar World Cup kickstarted discussion about sportswashing and human rights in football and it has been very steep learning curve for us all," Norway soccer federation president Lise Klaveness said at a recent Council of Europe event.

Germany's interior minister also expressed concern about bringing the event to Qatar, say-

ing "no World Cup takes place in a vacuum."

"There are criteria that have to be kept to, and then it would be better not to award to such states," minister Nancy Faeser said last month in a move that sparked diplomatic tensions.

Qatar's leader, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, has fought back, saying the country "has been subjected to an unprecedented campaign that no host country has ever faced."

The World Cup is just one way Qatar is using its massive wealth to project influence. By buying sports teams, hosting high-profile events, and investing billions in European capitals – such as buying London's The Shard skyscraper – Qatar has been integrating itself into international finance and a network of support.

Paris-Saint Germain (PSG) of Ligue 1 is owned by the emir of Qatar. His 2011 purchase came a year after Qatar won the right to host the World Cup. For many, it felt like it was scripted to show that the country has soccer bona fides. Some of PSG's players are among the world's most famous – Neymar, Kylian Mbappé and Lionel Messi – and all will be in the World Cup.

Christian Pulisic is the first American to play in and win a Champions League final and he was already a three-time U.S. Soccer Federation player of the year. He is on Premier League team Chelsea, which was owned by a Russian oligarch, Roman Abramovich.

Abramovich was widely hailed as that team's

savior during his 19 years of club control but put the team up for sale this year due to sanctions related to his country's invasion of Ukraine.

The new LIV Golf league is bankrolled by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, which also owns another Premier League team, Newcastle, while defending English champion Manchester City was bought by the Abu Dhabi royal family in 2008.

Some of those teams' best players, including Kevin de Bruyne, Kieran Trippier and Bruno Guimarães, will play for Belgium and England and Brazil in the World Cup.

None of these players, or owners, received the same sort of public condemnation as those in golf who left the PGA Tour to play for LIV. Just as was the case when the soccer teams were purchased, there has never been any mystery about who funded LIV, which has brazenly branded itself as a disruptive force in golf that will change the sport for the better.

According to the CIA, journalist Jamal Khashoggi was killed on the orders of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman in 2018. The Saudi Public Investment Fund's involvement became more of a lightning rod when Phil Mickelson said out loud what many already felt.

"They are scary (expletives)," the six-time major champion said in a much-cited interview with golf writer Alan Shipnuck of the FirePit Collective.

Families of 9/11 victims became vocal critics of LIV golf, pointing out Saudi Arabia's shaky human-rights record and the country's connection to the attacks.

"Despite (his) being truthful, it's not good for Mickelson's image," said Jamal Blades, a soccer-loving London tech firm manager who occasionally blogs about sports and recently completed his master's degree in sports business and innovation. "But sportswashing takes place all over the world

in some form, where there are people, or governments, or businesses attaching themselves to big and small events everywhere."

One high-profile advertiser, the U.S. Department of Defense, was looking for some positive publicity and a tie-in with the NFL, but the deal inadvertently triggered a public-relations problem when quarterback Colin Kaepernick took a knee during "The Star-Spangled Banner." "When (a company) wants to be the official sponsor of a team or a league, what they are trying to do is create an affinity to improve the reputation of (the company) and get sports fans to think of (that company) in some way other than as a modified producer of" what that company sells, said Stephen Ross, the executive director of the Penn State Center for the Study of Sports in Society.

Russian leader Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart, Xi

Jinping, used the occasion of the Winter Olympics in Beijing to hold a summit and show solidarity this year. Later in those games, IOC president Thomas Bach showed up with Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai to watch Eileen Gu, an American-born freestyle skier who was competing for China, win her first gold medal. Peng's public appearance came after her safety had been in question for months following her appearing on social media to accuse a former top-ranking Chinese official of sexual assault.

Heads turned when the Asian Winter Games announced it would hold the 2029 version of its event in Saudi Arabia, a desert country that is spending some \$500 billion to build a winter resort it claims will be environmentally sustainable. The Saudis have also held golf, tennis and Formula One events in their country despite having little tradition in those sports.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Club teams impacted
Italy's failure to qualify
for World Cup

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5 TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 NIRVANA (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 SKONGA
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

Friday Night Live is where EATV and EA Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV, stays on TV.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Mambas back for TotalEnergies U-17 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifier

LILONGWE

MOZAMBIQUE has been a sporadic participant in the COSAFA U-17 Championships over the years but makes their return in the TotalEnergies U-17 Africa Cup of Nations, COSAFA Qualifier that forms part of the 2022 Region 5 Games set to take place in Lilongwe.

They were runners-up three years ago but have not been to the last two installments of the regional competition and will be eager to make their mark this time round has long been a country that produced top talent.

Mozambique were runners-up in the very first competition played in 1994 when they topped their pool with wins over Botswana and Lesotho, both by 1-0 scorelines, and played to a 2-2 draw with Zimbabwe.

The team beat Zambia 2-1 in the semi-finals, but then lost by the same scoreline to South Africa in the decider.

They were disqualified from the 2001 tournament after fielding ineligible players, and quite incredibly did not return until 2017.

There they beat Madagascar (2-0) and Zambia (1-0), but a defeat to South Africa (3-1) meant they did not advance past the group stages despite their fantastic haul of six points.

Mozambique had a mixed bag in 2018 when they beat Lesotho (2-1), drew with Zambia (0-0), and lost to South Africa (1-4), which was not enough to see them into the next stage.

But they did advance in 2019 and went very close to lifting the trophy. They beat old foes Angola 1-0, drew 0-0 with Comoros, and then defeated Lesotho 4-1 to top their pool and book a semifinal slot.

They met Eswatini in the last four and a 1-0 victory there set up a final against Zambia, where they finally came unstuck, losing 2-0.

Mozambique has twice before qualified for the African U-17 Championships but exited in the group stages on both occasions in 1995 and 2001.

They will hope to make it a third appearance in Algeria in 2023, but to do so the youngsters will need to finish in the final in Lilongwe.

AGENCIES

Caravans Cricket Club commands victory over Pak Stars in 2022 Gymkhana Shield tournament



Caravans Cricket Club's all-rounder Jitin Singh (R) gets the Player of the Match prize from a senior cricketer Vipin Abraham once the former's squad came up against Pak Stars in this season's Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield tournament tie held in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GYMKHANA CRICKET CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

Ascintillating all-round showing put by Jitin Singh has seen Caravans Cricket Club get off to a good start in the 2022 Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield showpiece, garnering an impressive six-wicket win over Pak Stars at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's venue early this week.

Caravans Cricket Club won the toss in the encounter that brought together feared local cricket giants and chose to field, limiting Pak Stars to 141/6 in their allotted 20 overs.

Key contributions that were in view when the Kashif Adnan-led Pak Stars took the crease came from youthful all-rounder Ivan Ismail (41 runs) and senior cricketer Nisar Ahmed (37 runs).

The openers were in good form, keeping Caravans Crick-

et Club's bowling unit with solid shots for several overs and seeing to it a convincing total was within reach.

Ahmed was the first to exit the crease after a promising partnership that came to halt after 8.2 overs, he was run out by Caravans Cricket Club's Akhil Anil from Nasibu Kelvin's bowling.

The senior performer saw his side's total reach 72 runs when he was sent back to the pavilion.

The club's key players Zamoyoni Ramadhani, skipper Kashif Adnan, and Mohamed Omary did their best to step up its pursuit of a better score with two-digit scores, after experi-

encing a wobble following an early dismissal of one of its top players, Zafar Khan.

Promising cricketer Omary posted a 24-ball 23, Ramadhani ended with 15 runs, whereas Adnan chipped in with 11 runs.

Akhil Anil was so far the only member of Caravans Cricket Club's bowling department with a significant showing, as the cricketer posted two wickets in four overs.

Caravans Cricket Club, the champions of the recently concluded DC Caravans T20 tournament, then eased home in 17.4 overs with six wickets to spare, thanks to solid batting by Amal

Rajeevan (44 runs) and Singh's unbeaten 45 runs.

In the weekend's other duel, Gymkhana Cricket Club locked horns with Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC), with the latter cruising to an emphatic 80-run victory.

The SKLPSC, having taken the crease first, ended its innings with a decent total of 144/5 in their 20 overs, with skipper Naran Vekariya scoring 63 runs on a favourite ground and Anil Pindoriya contributing valuable 35 runs.

With Gymkhana Cricket Club missing key players due to injuries, the club was not able to put up a fight in the chase and eventually ended 69 runs all out in 16.2 overs of the 20-over encounter.

This year's edition of the annual cricket tournament, which is hosted by the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's Cricket Section, seeks to raise the standard of the game domestically.

The 2022 edition is sponsored by Cello/Ruby's Magic and Co, as well as long-time sponsors, General Petroleum (GP). Other sponsors are Planet Fitness, Gem Point, ETG, and Pepsi.

Cello/Ruby's Magic and Co has moreover sponsored a special cash prize to be handed over to batsmen scoring centuries and wicket-takers posting hat-tricks in the showdown.

This year's edition of the tournament was officially launched at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club last weekend and jerseys for clubs taking part in the showdown were handed out to the outfits' skippers in presence of various supporters and stakeholders.

The showpiece's organizers stated that exciting matchups made up of old and new rivalries are in store for cricket followers in the city that will watch the tournament's ties during weekends.

Government calls for investment in cultural tourism

By Correspondent Theresia Victor.

TANZANIANS have been urged to invest in cultural tourism and safeguard it to bring about inclusive community development.

Acting Director of Marketing in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Gladstone Mlay issued the appeal during the launching of the overseas release of China Africa Cultural Cooperation and Exchange online exhibition, dubbed 'Wonderful Jinhua Fascinating Africa', held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Mlay said that cultural tourism can help to encourage appreciation of and pride in local heritage, thus sparking greater interest and investment in its safeguarding.

"Tourism can drive inclusive community development to foster resiliency, inclusivity, and empowerment as well as promote territorial cohesion and socioeconomic inclusion for the most vulnerable populations by generating economic livelihoods for the people," he noted.

Mlay that is as well as an official of the Tanzania Tourist Board pointed out that a strengthened awareness of conservation methods and local and indigenous knowledge contributes to long-term environmental sustainability.

Similarly, he revealed, the funds generated by tourism



Tanzania's traditional dancers perform at Tingatinga Painting & Ebony Carving Exhibition which took place at China Cultural Centre in Tanzania, located in Dar es Salaam, recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHINA CULTURAL CENTER IN TANZANIA

can be instrumental in ensuring ongoing conservation activities and valuing natural heritage.

He further said that stakeholders should come and invest without fear because about 32.5% of the country's land area constitutes protected areas which are under the management of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

"There are 22 national parks and games reserves, 29 game controlled areas, one conversation area, two marine parks, 363 forest reserves, 20 nature reserves, nine coastal forests, 133 cultural heritage sites, seven museums, and three Ramsa

sites," he said.

He further said that Tanzania's wildlife resources are considered among the finest in the world and have been well-known for many years.

The resources include the Serengeti plains, spectacular Ngorongoro Crater, and Nyerere National Park (stretching 30,893 square kilometers that make it the largest national park in Africa).

The list moreover has Africa's highest free-standing mountain (Kilimanjaro) located in the north, Mikumi National Park, Ruaha National Park, and the Selous Game Reserve located in the south.

The other natural attractions include the sand beach-

es located north and south of Dar es Salaam, the Spice Isles of Zanzibar, and excellent deep-sea fishing at the Mafia and Pemba islands.

Tanzania is one of the most important tourist destinations in the world with a large number of visitors from all over the world visiting the country every year.

As the fastest-growing industry in the country, tourism has contributed 17.5 percent of foreign exchange income, and the forecast shows that tourism will grow by 6.2 percent by 2025.

Mlay revealed it is believed that in 2025 Tanzania will attract five million tourists and earn a record \$ 6 billion in

revenue.

"Currently we have investment opportunities that include investment for permanent hotels, lodges, and tented camps in almost 20 out of 22 national parks, and within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, as well as Tanzania forest service, coastal areas, and any other areas of your choice," he noted.

The official stated: "Tanzania warmly welcomes tourists from China and other countries around the world to come and enjoy the scenery as well as investing in tourism."

Cultural Counsellor of China's Embassy in Tanzania Wang Siping said that the two countries are ready to maintain the momentum of high-level exchange and dialogues, engage in close exchanges and cooperation between localities, legislative bodies, and political parties of all levels, expand cultural exchanges, inherit, and carry on the people-to-people friendship between the two nations.

"The launching of the 'Wonderful Jinhua Fascinating Africa' is the first move to respond to the consensus reached by the two countries' Presidents and implement Africa-China friendship," Siping, also Director of the China Cultural Centre in Tanzania added.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

