



RESHUFFLE



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Cooperatives audit leads to dissolving 55 union boards

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) has disbanded 55 cooperative societies' boards of directors in the wake of documented cases of malpractices.

Dr Benson Ndiege (pictured), the registrar of cooperative societies, said yesterday that TCDC has filed 30 cases for police and court action, and 47 other matters to the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

The moves followed audit results for cooperative societies, where during fiscal 2022/23 TCDC conducted audits in 4,712 out of 7,300 cooperative societies in its books, he said.

The audit revealed extensive shortcomings in the management of the societies especially in record keeping, asset management and adherence to directives from the registrar's office, he said.

TCDC was taking other actions in response



...underlining that this will be a major thrust of work during this financial year

to audit queries raised by the Co-operative Audit and Supervision Corporation (COASCO), the Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU), as well as the Controller and Auditor General (CAG).

TCDC was taking measures to streamline operations of cooperative societies in reinforcing specific controls set by the law, he said, underlining that this will be a major thrust of work during this financial year.

By late June the commission had received 1,183 licence applications for Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS) with 789 qualifying for handing of licence, he stated.

Loans to SACCO's members increased to 1.68trn/- during fiscal 2022/23 from 1.5trn/- the previous year, while members' savings reached 790.9bn/- from 740.8 bn/- the previous year, he said.

In the commission's development plans for this financial year, capacity building for cooperative union officers across the country will be provided, with officers from 16 regions undergoing training during the past year, he said.

TCDC is working on a digital format whereby activities of cooperative societies will be accessed and handled digitally, encompassing 5,424 registered societies out of the 7,300 extant cooperatives, he added.

MNH rebuilding billed at 600bn/-



Inspector General of Police Camillus Wambura (R, foreground) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on what he called reports of plans by a group of people bent on organising and coordinating a nationwide protest against the government. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Forget any demos, IGP warns activists

By Guardian Reporter

GROUPS of people planning to organise illegal nationwide demonstrations against the government should refrain from any such idea, police warned yesterday.

Inspector General Camillus Wambura issued a stern warning to the effect that members of the public should steer clear of being trapped by a few people into participating in such demonstrations.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the IGP said police would not spare anyone involved in any illegal walk.

He said that there were groups of people issuing statements to provoke the citizenry into engaging in demonstrations to protest



We have never been a country of chaos. Let me inform you that our police force is very strong, so they should not try us as we will take stern measures

recent agreements related to the running of ports.

"We believed that port issues should be discussed and protested through official channels instead of street demonstrations," he declared, referring to the Thursday's High Court ruling in Mbeya city, "so people need to respect this instead of stimulating unnecessary chaos".

"We heard some of them saying that they are going to bring down the sixth-phase government led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan before the General Election scheduled for 2025," the IGP specified, affirming that the statement amounted to treason and urging such political operators to stop issuing hate statements.

All people found canvassing for demonstrations and chaos will face stern measures, he asserted, asking members of the public to ignore those people.

Tanzanians should promote

TURN TO PAGE 2

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MUHIMBILI National Hospital (MNH) is set to undergo an infrastructure overhaul by demolishing scores of current structures to replace them with new ones at a total cost of more than 600bn/-.

Prof Mohamed Janabi, the MNH executive director unveiled the plan at a press conference here yesterday, explaining the performance of the key health facility in the past two years.

Going over the 2023/2024 financial plan, he said the hospital will replace old buildings with modernised structures, a plan to be implemented in phases in collaboration with Exim Bank.

Currently the plan is at feasibility study stage, he said, airing the preliminary view that the buildings to be constructed will have the same size as the old ones but modernised to improve the provision of services.

Discounting the idea of renovating, he said hospital facilities will be built anew, with demolishing old buildings done in phases until all of them are rebuilt. "We are going to leave only one building to preserve history," he declared.

During the current financial year,



Last financial year a total of 14 bn/- was spent on allowances while clearing a 22bn/- debt for medical suppliers

MNH expects to start providing in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) services, he said, noting that the doctors are ready, the building is there and equipment has been bought.

"What we are waiting for is installation of the machines as this is yet to be completed," he said, pointing out that when the hospital starts offering the service it will use foreign and local specialists, while training more local doctors to handle such surgeries.

MNH will pursue its kidney and bone-marrow transplant services, providing hearing aids (cochlear) implants in particular, on the basis of 170.6bn/- allocated by the government for this financial year.

A total of 142.7bn/- is intended for day-to-day operations and 27.8bn/- for development projects.

During the past year MNH strengthened accountability of health services providers in all areas, including ensuring timely delivery of services via installation of surveillance cameras in laboratories especially, he said.

It worked to ensure that medicines and medical supplies are available all the time, putting availability of medicines at 95 per cent by June, with 17.3bn/- spent on purchasing drugs.

During 2022/2023 MNH reduced staff complaints, improving their welfare like timely payment of allowances, paid on the 15th of each month, he said, also citing extra duty allowances, on-call allowances and other claims.

Last financial year a total of 14 bn/- was spent on allowances while clearing a 22bn/- debt for medical suppliers, he specified.

MNH transplant services had cut referrals abroad, with 59 patients receiving cochlear

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Fishing department to have own armed units

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

POLICY review in the fishing sector is examining ways of establishing specialized armed units to help in law enforcement in water bodies where fishing activities are conducted.

Stephen Lukanga (pictured), acting Fisheries director, made this observation at the national workshop on a project of



reviewing the National Fisheries Policy of 2015 and preceding it, the Fisheries Act of 2003, an exercise being assisted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

This proposal is contained in ideas for policy review and improved legislation in the fishing industry where such units will assist the sector regulator tasked

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MNH rebuilding billed at 600bn/-

FROM PAGE 1

One patient is seen by two people in the morning, one person in the afternoon and two in the evening, he added.

One patient is seen by two people in the morning, one person in the afternoon and two in the evening, he added.

Forget any demos, IGP warns activists

FROM PAGE 1

peace and not accept being drawn into bringing the country into chaos, he said, noting that police would not let that happen.

"We have never been a country of chaos. Let me inform you that our police force is very strong, so they should not try us as we will take

stern measures," the IGP added.

He appealed to the public to be calm and pursue their daily activities without fear, "as the country is peaceful and no one will be left to destroy it".

Police will be working hard to ensure that the country is peaceful and those trying to destabilize it will pay for their acts, he added.

Fishing department to have own armed units

FROM PAGE 1

with overseeing fishing activities countrywide, he said.

The workshop is looking at areas where stakeholder needs are at variance with existing policy, whose review and re-launch paves the way for amending the relevant legislation, he said.

The policy review seeks to govern the industry in line with environmental needs, to lift local fishermen and traders plus ensuring appropriate fish products, in line with wider economic policies and internationally accepted practices, he said.

The only way the country can effectively manage the fishing sector is to establish a regulatory body, an authority tasked with managing water bodies where fishing activities are conducted, in a manner similar to wildlife and forest service agencies, he said.

Scientific and technological changes in the global management of fishing activities drive the revision of current policies and laws governing the sector at present, he said.

Steps to set up a fishing authority began with the 2015 policy, as it affirms the need for such a body, while the earlier version in 2005

legislation talks of an armed corps working under the fisheries authority, he said.

He said wildlife and forest resources management was successful partly owing to having armed units attached to the regulatory authorities, a model that ministerial experts believe can apply in the fishing sector.

Flora Luhanga, the project desk coordinator in the Fisheries department, said the project will focus on the safety of the consumer. Measures will be taken to curb illegal fishing by eradicating fishing gear destroying the environment of fish breeding grounds.

The fishing industry faces challenges like catching of immature fish with prohibited fishing nets, along with using chemicals and explosives, thus hampering reproduction.

Lowering fish numbers apart, poisonous fishing methods strangle markets for the product in foreign countries, despite that the sector contributes 1.8 percent in national income as a whole.

The department was collaborating with FAO to facilitate training to develop awareness on what is needed in regulating fishing activities in lakes, rivers and dams that are legally permitted, he added.

TEMESA procures new ferries to strengthen transport infrastructure

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has expressed commitment to ensure it strengthens transport infrastructure connecting to various areas in the country to facilitate economic growth.

The key areas of improvement include air, land and water with focus on procurement of new transport equipment to ensure that people get sustainable services.

In implementing the targets, the government signed a contract for ferries including the Buyagu Mbalika in Mwanza which is worth 3.8bn/-.

Speaking during the signing ceremony Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Godfrey Kasekenya said upon completion will improve services mainly for residents of Sengerema, Misungwi and other districts.

Chief Executive Officer for the Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) Lazaro Kilahala said the need for a ferry between Buyangu and Mbalika has been wanting saying it will address various challenges facing the people.

Kilahala said during this financial year the agency has continued with the construction of new ferries at a cost of 33.2bn/-which will offer services to residents of

Kisorya - Rugezi, Bwiro - Bukondo, Nyakarilo - Kome, Jjinga - Kahangala and Mafia - Nyamisati.

Kasekenya got the time to visit and inspect the construction of a new workshop in Mwanza where he was given the progress report on the project which will cost 26bn/-.

He said the completion of the four ferries and renovation, which will offer services in Lake Victoria, will address challenges facing residents in the Lake Zone.

Acting Lake Zone manager for TEMESA Aloyce Ndonguru said they are continuing with the construction of three new ferries including at Bwiro (kisiwani) - Bukondo katika Wilaya ya Ukerewe, Kituo cha Jjinga (kisiwani) - Kahangala in Magu district and Mayenzi - Kanyinya.

He said the lake zone has 17 ferries hereby out of the number four are on major rehabilitations which are MV Misungwi (Kigongo - Busisi), MV Mara (Iramba - Majita), MV Ujenzi (Kisorya - Rugezi) na MV Nyerere (Bugolora - Ukaru).

He said the other task was the procurement of Sea tax ferries Magogoni - Kigamboni which will cost more than 6bn/- including the completion of Mv Ujenzi, Mv Mara, Mv Kome II, Mv Malagarasi, Mv Mafanikio, Mv Misungwi, Mv Nyerere, Mv Kyanyabasa, Mv Tanga and Mv Kitunda.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi exchanges greetings with Zanzibar's Deputy Chief Sheikh, Mahmoud Mussa Wadi, upon meeting at Unguja District's Bomani Baja Mosque yesterday for Friday Prayers. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Samia assigns six envoys abroad

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has assigned six ambassadors to represent Tanzania in various countries and shifted four others to other workstations in a mini-reshuffle announced yesterday.

In a statement issued by the State House Director of Communications, Zuhura Yunus the ambassadors include those who were appointed early may, this year.

Zuhura said all ambassadors will be sworn in on August 16, in the Chamwino State House in Dodoma.

She said that has been assigned Fatma Mohammed Rajab to represent Tanzania in Oman replacing ambassador Abdalla Abasi Kilima who has retired.

Joseph Sokoine is stationed as new High Commissioner for Tanzania in Canada, replacing Mpoki Uliusbysya who has retired.

Ambassador Naimi Sweetie Hamza has been appointed to represent Tanzania in Austria.

Major General Ramson Mwaisaka has been appointed as new envoy in Rwanda, replacing Major General Richard Makanzo who has been shifted to Egypt.

Gelasius Byakanwa has been appointed as new ambassador for

Tanzania in Burundi, replacing ambassador Jilly Maleko who has retired.

Habibu Awesi Mohamed has been appointed to represent Tanzania in Qatar, replacing ambassador Mahadhi Juma Maalim who has been shifted to Malaysia.

Imani Njalikai has been stationed in Algeria, replacing Major General Jacob Kingu who has retired.

Hassan Mwamweta will represent Tanzania in Germany replacing Abdallah Possi who has been shifted to Geneva.

Dr Mohamed Juma Abdallah will represent Tanzania in Saudi Arabia, replacing Ali Jabir Mwadini who has been shifted to France.

Zuhura said Dr William Shelukindo, who was representing Tanzania in France, has been appointed as permanent secretary in the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation.

Emmanuel Nchimbi, who was ambassador of Tanzania in Egypt is returning home.

Abdallah Saleh Possi is the new Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations Office (UN) in Geneva, replacing Maimuna Tarishi whose contract has ended.

Dr John Simbachawene will represent Tanzania in Uganda, replacing ambassador Dr Aziz Mlima who has retired.



Iringa Regional Police Commander Allan Bukumbi shows journalists in Iringa municipality yesterday what he said was a locally made gun that police impounded alongside various other items in a recent crackdown in the region. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

Education for the rich: Concern as thousands set to miss out in new varsity funding model

NAIROBI

University education in Kenya will likely be out of reach for thousands of students who will miss out on government funding under the new financing model, as only those with deep pockets will afford it.

The students who will start reporting from early next month have until midnight, August 27, to apply for government funding which is broken down into scholarships, loans and bursaries.

Universities have issued admission letters indicating the actual cost per programme without government funding.

An analysis of various programmes in different universities indicates

that some public universities are charging higher tuition fees than some private ones. The information was previously not disclosed to the public.

Whereas tuition fees have ideally not been increased per degree programme, the previous automatic government subsidy has been removed and students who miss the government scholarship and loans will have to pay the entire amount.

"If all this is school fees, I would rather take my child to Uganda for her university studies. I cannot afford Sh1 million in four years for school fees," said Sylvanus Kulula, a primary school teacher from Nambale in Busia County.

First-year students will report to the university on September 4 and Mr Kulula feels the time is too short to put everything together.

At the Technical University of Mombasa (TUM), a student admitted to study Bachelor of Science (Medical Engineering) will pay Sh302,940 for each of the five years of study.

Whereas the government insists that students who need financing will get it, there is apprehension over the method used to award the scholarships and the loans. The new model also increases the loan burden by the time of completing studies.

Many Kenyans are also still in the dark over the operationalisation of

the financing model. Helb has been allocated Sh30 billion in the current financial year, with Sh15.9 billion being for first-year students.

Under the new model, students in the vulnerable category will get 82 per cent of the tuition amount as a scholarship and 18 per cent as a loan. Extremely needy students will be granted a government scholarship of 70 per cent, supplemented by a Helb loan of 30 per cent.

Those falling into the category of moderate need will receive a maximum of 53 per cent government scholarship, along with a 40 per cent maximum Helb loan. Students considered less needy will be awarded a 38 per cent scholarship, and a 55 per cent loan. However, the percentages will differ from person to person.

AGENCIES



Salum Pazy, acting head of the Land Transport Regulatory Authority's (Latra) information and communication unit, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the nine long-distance commuter buses whose services were suspended some time ago over non-compliance with standing regulations but the directive has now been rescinded. He is flanked by Latra safety and environment manager Geoffrey Silanda (R) and Mbwana Ndaro from the centre charged with monitoring the buses' operations. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

LATRA tasks bus firm to adhere to road safety rules

By Guardian Reporter

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has directed the New Force Enterprises to sit down and think on the best ways to prevent road accidents caused by its buses or else face more stern legal measures.

According to the authority, a series of accidents involving the New Force buses were intolerant as most of them are caused due to recklessness of its drivers.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, LATRA acting director of communications, Salum Pazy said: "The New Force buses have continued to be involved in a series of accidents that caused various harms even after the authority banning its 38 buses from commencing journey at 3am due to the challenge, this is intolerable, the company needs to rethink on this," he pointed out.

He said that on August 7, this year, the company's bus with registration number T618DMG got into an accident at Ruaha Mbuyuni and Mikumi area in Morogoro Region where recklessness of the driver was cited as one of the factors.

He warned that if the trend continues, the authority will not hesitate to take further legal measures which include revoking licenses.

Meanwhile the authority has now allowed buses belonging to Ally's Star and Katarama Express companies to travel from 3am and 4am after improving some of the challenges.

The buses were initially suspended after establishing that those buses were found with various irregularities including tempering Vehicle Tracking System-VTS.

"We will continue to monitor their attitude on the road and if they are found violating road regulations,

measures will be taken," he said.

The permitted buses from Ally's Star Bus include those with registration number T946EBF, T947EBF, T948EBF, T354DXS, T357DXS, T360DXS, T233EBG, T232EBG and T178DVB.

For Katarama Luxury, the buses are T835EBR, T836EBR and T212ECR.

LATRA also warned some transport companies which have been spotted violating road regulations such as Kilimanjaro Truck Company Limited, Abood Bus Service, Baraka Classic, Kapricon, Frester and Nyeuhunge Express.

In Early July, this year LATRA suspended 38 upcountry buses belonging to New Force Enterprises that were initially permitted to travel from 3am and 5am following irregularities.

The LATRA had introduced a new arrangement for upcountry buses to seek permission to travel from 3am as a pilot phase before allowing a 24-hour service in response to stakeholders' request.

“The New Force buses have continued to be involved in a series of accidents that caused various harms even after the authority banning its 38 buses from commencing journey at 3am due to the challenge, this is intolerable, the company needs to rethink on this

DAWASA outlines priorities to boost water supply in 2 regions

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) has outlined priorities for the year 2023/24 to improve access to sanitation services including the implementation of seven strategic projects that will cost 425.9bn/-.

The projects include the Kidunda dam, the construction of a water plant in Rufiji, Kwala, Pangani Kibaha, Kimbiji-Kigamboni to the Tanzania Institute of Accountancy (TIA), in the South of Dar es Salaam and the drilling of nine deep wells in Kigamboni area.

Kiula Kingu, DAWASA acting chief executive officer (CEO) unveiled this here yesterday when speaking to journalists on projects implementation and authority's direction for the year.

Kingu said the projects aim to

increase the amount of water produced by DAWASA, and increase the capacity to store water.

He also said to strengthen the water supply system and strengthen services in areas that do not have internet, especially those in the periphery, noting: "DAWASA is fully organized and taking deliberate steps to improve environmental sanitation through large and small projects."

"This is because when the availability of water increases, it should be accompanied by effective management of environmental sanitation," he said.

He explained that in Kinondoni and Ilala District, sewage treatment projects will be built in Mbezi Beach and Buguruni areas.

"The Mbezi Beach project is being implemented in collaboration between the

government and the World Bank where a total of 132.3bn/- will be used to build a modern plant capable of processing 16 million liters per day," he said.

He mentioned that other projects are to build a sewage collection system and the benefit areas in that phase are Mbezi beach, Kilongamwima, some areas of Kawe and Salasala and the implementation has started and the contractors are continuing with construction preparation activities.

However, he said DAWASA has come up with innovations to build systems and small sewage treatment plants built in peripheral areas where more than 780,000 liters of sewage will be processed per day.

He said that the projects, which will also include the construction

of 30 public toilets, will help increase the scope of access to these important services and thus improve environmental sanitation.

"These projects will help citizens to get environmental sanitation services at a low cost near the places where they live, the contractors who implement the projects are continuing with the construction," he said.

He explained that the costs of the projects are 25.7bn/- and the beneficiaries of the projects are estimated to reach 1.8 million.

"These projects are modern and in their sewage treatment system they will provide natural gas for cooking, they will provide fertilizer that can be used in growing gardens of trees and leaves, but also the water that will be processed will be able to be used for irrigation activities," he said.

By Guardian Reporter

Dar, Lilongwe partner to produce 180MW

TANZANIAN and Malawian ministers yesterday signed a partnership agreement for joint production of 180 Megawatts of electricity in three areas along the Songwe River.

Other areas of collaboration were the exploration of gas and oil and the construction of infrastructure to transport energy in the two countries.

The agreements were signed yesterday in Dar es Salaam between minister for energy January Makamba and his Malawian counterpart Ibrahim Matola.

Speaking after signing the agreement

Makamba said implementation of the agreements will be done by experts from the two countries and that it will start in October this year.

"The experts will clear the way for a better implementation of the collaboration because this is a result of the recent tour by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in Malawi where she explored areas of collaboration," he said.

He said the collaboration is between the two countries but will be mainly implemented by agencies responsible for

energy in both countries.

Makamba said the agreement is also part of the implementation of African presidents to connect and produce electricity to link up their national greed.

Malawian minister Matola said the agreement is aimed at implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 which calls for access to clean and affordable energy for all.

He said the energy which will be generated at the river will be shared between both countries and that it will help the people of

Malawi especially in health and access to education. "We will clear the energy transportation way from Lilongwe the capital city up to where the project will be built and we have received this project wholeheartedly," he said.

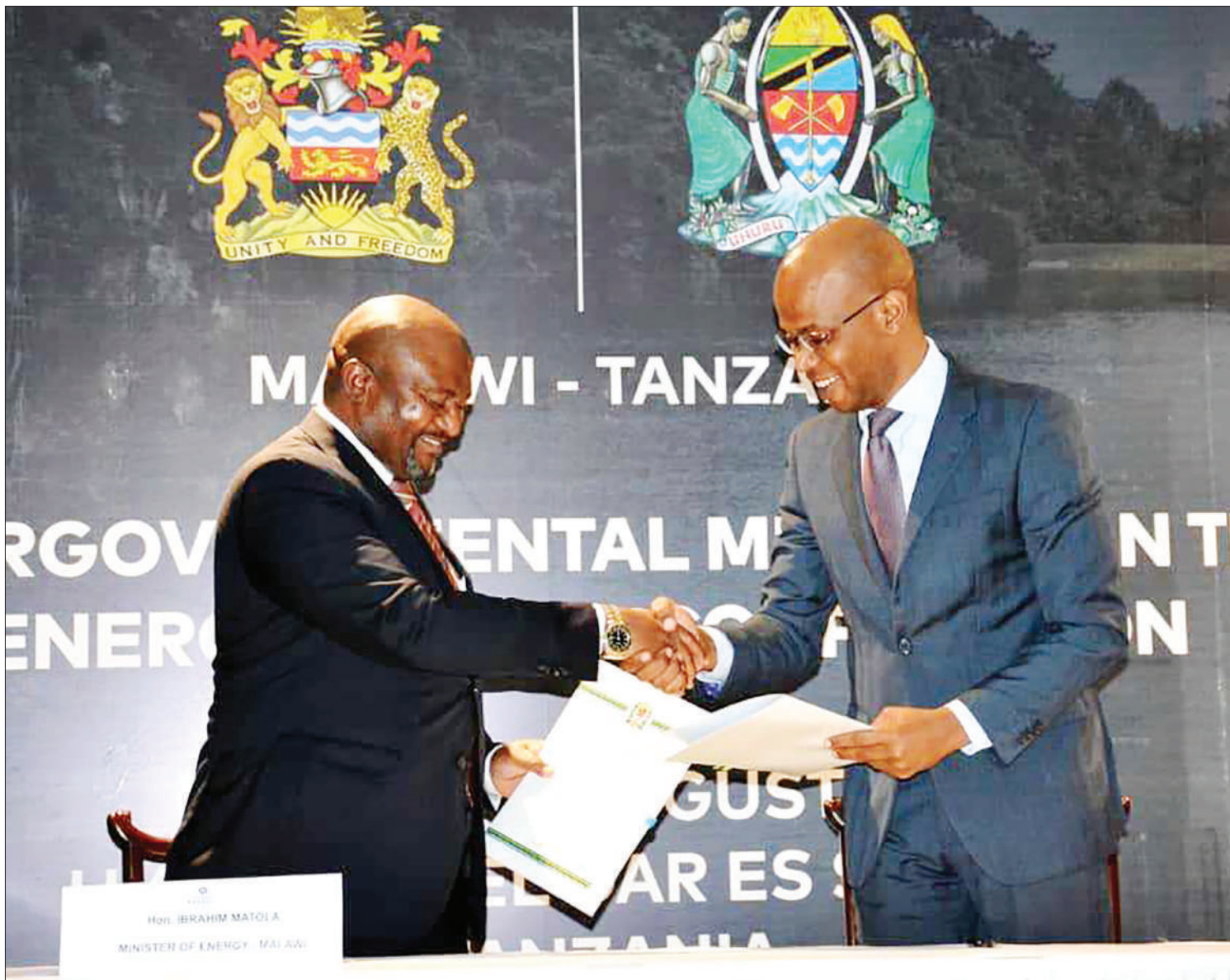
Earlier this week, the two governments started negotiations to see the possibility of launching a joint energy generation project along the Songwe river water falls as well as developing its resources.

It is estimated that construction of the dams will cost \$829 million upon

completion and shall have the capability to generate 180MW. The power generated within the river basin shall benefit 60percent of people living in the area and the two irrigation schemes shall have the capability to irrigate 3,150 hectares in Tanzania and 3,050 hectares in Malawi.

The project will also control floods caused by the overflow of Songwe River leading to loss of lives and property on both sides of the two countries.

It is mentioned that the dams are anticipated to attract support from several donors including the African Development Bank (AFDB).



Energy minister January Makamba (R) exchanges documents with his Malawian counterpart, Ibrahim Matola, in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after they had signed a Songwe River power production agreement. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

MTANDAO WA JAMII WA USIMAMIZI WA MISITU TANZANIA	
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2022	
This publication of the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure is made in accordance with regulation 13(a) of the Non-Government Organization Act (Amendments), Regulation 2018, which requires Non-Government Organizations receiving funds exceeding TZS 20 Million to publish bi-annually the funds received and its expenditure.	
DETAILS	ACTUAL - TZS
RECEIPTS	
Opening fund balance	72,569,765
Disbursement from Donors	1,401,588,570
TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM DONORS	1,474,158,335
PROGRAMMES EXPENDITURE	
Programme Administration expenses	1,128,008,921
OTHER PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE	
Personnel expenses	392,914,327
TOTAL PROGRAMMES EXPENDITURES	1,520,923,248
FUND BALANCE	(46,764,913)
**Fund balance represent an obligation to conduct donor funded activities per contractual commitments made between donors, where funds have not been transferred and such activities have not yet occurred. **	
Executive Director Mtandao Wa jamii Wa Usimamizi wa Misitu Tanzania Plot 323, Msasani Village, Mwaikibaki road P.O.BOX 21522, Dar es salaam, Tanzania	

Achievements in transformation of agriculture sector win SUA honour

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has hailed the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) for investing well in strategies to help transform the agriculture sector while producing competent graduates to serve in the lucrative area.

Dr Selemeni Jafo, Minister of State, Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment) made the statement when he visited the university's pavilion in Morogoro at the just ended annual agriculture exhibitions.

"You are doing a great job and this is a good example to others, investing in technology and innovation is the best step that help bring transformation in the sector, so let us continue with the creativity so as to produce as many experts to serve in the lucrative sector which is the backbone of our development," Jafo said.

He urged Tanzanians to utilize the varsity by paying visits to learn various practices which will help them improve farming and increase yields and income.

The Minister commended the University for investing heavily in research which helps come up with various solutions to address challenges in the agriculture sector saying that farming without quality research is equal to nothing.

He said that the sixth phase government is investing heavily in agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors where in the current fiscal year budget in the sector has increased to 970.8bn/- from 294.2 of 2021/22 year so as to bring transformation.

He noted that the country's major agribusiness initiative-Building Better Tomorrow- Youth Initiative For Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) project is another development which

aim to support Tanzanian youth engage in farming to improve their economic status, where about 800 youth have been enrolled for the first phase and given training.

The 2022-2030 initiative designed by the ministry of agriculture in partnership with key institutions, focuses to enhance the engagement of youth in the agricultural sector for sustainable and improved livelihoods, where in its further strategic objectives, the move focuses to inspire youth through diverse training, mentoring and coaching

"This time when the government is making the investments, SUA has a great opportunity to help farmers because it has all the modern technologies and enough experts to develop Tanzania's agriculture," he said.

Prof. Rafael Chibunda, SUA Vice Chancellor assured the minister that the varsity will continue investing in strategies and curriculums to produce more well-skilled experts so as to support the country's development.



This time when the government is making the investments, SUA has a great opportunity to help farmers because it has all the modern technologies and enough experts to develop Tanzania's agriculture

AICC urged to use chances in the conference tourism market

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) to come up with a strategy that will make the centre compete effectively in the conference tourism market and secure more conferences for the institution.

Dr Stergomena Tax, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister threw the challenge on Tuesday when visited AICC offices to see its operations and jointly plan the implementation economic diplomacy through conference tourism

"Make sure that you provide services which are aligned with current needs to enable you compete effectively in the conference tourism market and secure more conferences for the institution," the minister said.

She also commended AICC Staffs for their excellent work in promoting the country during international conferences held in their centre, such as the recent African heads of state summit that discussed human capital.

During the visit, Dr Stagemena toured the room used by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) which operated within the AICC building.

She also visited the hospital which is managed by AICC, the area designated for the upcoming construction of the new Mount Kilimanjaro International Conference Centre (MKICC), and held discussions with the board members, management, and staff of AICC.

Speaking in the room formerly used by the ICTR for genocide trials, the minister stated that Tanzania would preserve the room space for its historical significance as well as Tanzania's contributions to the ICTR's and will be a tourist attraction due to the court's history

and many people would like to visit the room so as to learn about the history of the room.

"As the tribunal has concluded its operations in this room, we will continue to preserve and safeguard the historical significance of this room. It is heritage and will be a tourist attraction where many people will be interested in seeing and learning about its history," she said.

She mentioned that they had decided to retain the trial system known as the "residual mechanism" in Tanzania and now they are working on the ways of which the system will be maintained.

Dr Stagemena emphasized that Tanzania believed it had the responsibility to preserve the mechanism due to its sensitivity and valuable items due to the significant contribution to the ICTR.

During her visit to AICC Dr Tax was accompanied by Deputy Chairman of AICC Board of Directors Ambassador Daniel Ole Njolay and AICC's Managing Director Ephraim Mafuru.

AICC is one of the institutions under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation. Other institutions include the Centre for Foreign Relations (CFR) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) program.



Make sure that you provide services which are aligned with current needs to enable you compete effectively in the conference tourism market and secure more conferences for the institution



Bagamoyo district community development officer Delvin Maleko (2nd-R) presents a pair of shoes to one of the pupils of the district's Mtakuja Primary School yesterday. It was support made possible jointly by the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) and Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. Witnessing the event are TEA human resources manager Alice Lukondo (R), Nissan marketing manager Alfred Minja (3rd-R), Bagamoyo district primary education officer Wema Kajigili (4th-R) and the school's headteacher, Pascali Kitando. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Govt to build new district hospital in Temeke: Ummu

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is determined to build a modern hospital for Temeke District at Vikuruti in the Chamazi suburb to reduce the flow of patients referred from health centres.

Ummu Mwalimu (pictured), the Minister for Health, said that yesterday in Dar es Salaam region after touring and inspecting the delivery of health services in the Temeke Municipality.

Mwalimu warned that there has been an increase in the number of patients hence health centres are overwhelmed and therefore, the alternative way is to extend the services by building new hospitals.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed me to inform Muhimbili National Hospital management to set aside 30 acres of land at Vikuruti area and give it to Temeke municipality to build the new start of the art district



hospital," he said.

Mwalimu said that Temeke has an increase of almost 1.6 people while the number of health centres is inversely proportional and therefore the government has

decided to build a new district hospital.

"The new Temeke hospital built at Vikuruti-Chamazi will help to reduce the burden of an increase in the number of patients from



Find areas, the ministry of health in collaboration with the Ministry of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government will find possible ways of building new health centres

Temeke hospital and Mbagala Rangitatu," she said.

The minister further called on the authorities in Temeke district to ensure find areas that will be used to build health centres.

"Find areas, the ministry of health in collaboration with the Ministry of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government will find possible ways of building new health centres.

Temeke District Hospital started as a dispensary in 1972 and was upgraded to health centre in 1980, and operated as a District Hospital in 1985 and later upgraded to regional referral hospital in the year 2010 to date.

The district has 126 health facilities. Health facility distribution in the district stretches as far as 28 km from the Municipal headquarters, the farthest being Mikwambe Dispensary in Toangoma Ward. However the existing facilities are at least within 5 km radius to each other.

Temeke Municipal Council is committed to the achievement of sustainable development by the year 2010 through the delivery of high quality social and economic services.



Registrar of Cooperative Societies and Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission CEO Dr Benson Ndiege briefs journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on the implementation of the commission's plans and projects and projections for financial year 2023/2024. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

Awareness programme sees more Singida men land healthcare services

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya,

Singida

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has embarked on a programme to create awareness to men on issues related to HIV, Tuberculosis (TB), gender-based violence (GBV) and family planning in the northern zone.

Through the USAID Afya Yangu Northern Zone's programme which is implemented by the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Engender Health, Amref, D-Tree and Match boxology the agency seeks to reach out to men as head of families to stop gender-based violence against their family members and the people surrounding them so that households become good places for all.

One of the beneficiaries, Kinesya Misanga of Matongo, Ikungi Ward in Ikungi District, Singida region described the programme as an eye-opener to many people in the region and other parts of the country.

"One of the things that makes me support the programme is the introduction of male-friendly services approach, whereby men are given awareness on a number of issues including healthcare services and this education is well received by many people in our area. To me this is a milestone," he said.

"I got into this programme for the first time, when I met with the Afya Yangu programme team who visited our community hotspot center known as 'kijiwe chakahawa'. And it's where we're well informed

about health issues including the importance of voluntary HIV testing and more men received the idea very positively," he said.

According to the Ikungi Health Center (HC) report, from January to December, 2022 the programme managed to reach around 992 men, and 457 men accepted to be tested. Only six of those tested were positive and were immediately enrolled to care.

Focal Person Male Friendly Services at Ikungi HC, Lena Claud said through that programme they have been teaching men on issues like family planning/reproductive health, TB, HIV and GBV screening and men clinic services.

She noted: "The response has been encouraging after undergoing training, men in Ikungi have come in numbers to test their status. Adding:

"She has also revealed that due to the education awareness they have been offering, GBV has dropped down.

Ikungi Health Centre's Social Welfare Robby Muchochi said that incidents related to GBV, raping and fornication have dropped drastically because of the education awareness offered.

"We have been visiting different primary and secondary schools teaching them to shun away from engaging in those bad practices such as sodomisation, raping and GBV.

In Tanzania approximately 1.7 million people are living with HIV. Of these individuals, 84 percent knew their status, and only 82 percent of persons living with HIV are accessing treatment well below the UNAIDS target of 90 percent.

African faith leaders discuss strategies to navigate contemporary human crises

NAIROBI

CARITAS, the Jesuits, and Jubilee USA hosted a two-day meeting at the Elysian Resort in Nairobi to engage in discussions concerning how best to navigate Africa through the contemporary crises afflicting the entire continent.

The final statement wrapping up the event individuated, among them, "the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, food and nutrition insecurity, climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, fragile health systems, conflicts, terrorism, and debts."

The meeting, held on 7-8 August, consisted of presentations, panel discussions, and interactive sessions featuring faith leaders from across the continent, together with "Church and non-Church experts," as assessed by an initial document released by the institutions that organised the event.

The press release mentioned how, in Africa's challenging context, the Catholic Church played a crucial role "given its long-standing commitment to promoting social justice and human dignity."

"Its vast network of educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and social service programs," the statement affirmed, "touch millions of lives, providing context-specific solutions to the continent's diverse issues."

The final document signed by leaders of Catholic and other Christian faith denominations, Muslim and indigenous religions, highlighted a critical debt crisis, affecting the "social sector spending to achieve the global sustainable development and climate goals."

Faith leaders traced an overview of today's African economic crisis starting from the late 1990s, when "our faith communities were among those gathered in the Jubilee movement to advocate for breaking the chains of debt in developing countries." As the new Jubilee year approaches, "that promise remains unfulfilled."

"We celebrated that world leaders delivered \$130 billion in debt relief, which helped advance poverty reduction spending in recipient countries," the document recognized.

However, "without addressing

the inequities in the international financial system and domestic governance challenges in recipient countries, the crippling burden of unsustainable debts persists."

Specifically, "today African countries owe collectively more than \$1.1 trillion in external debt, and 25 of them are in deep debt crises."

"Rising interest rates in major economies and slowing growth inflate debt payments," the leaders noted, "while cost-of-living trends erode wages and incomes."

Vast investments are needed "to save the planet that sustains life in Africa and elsewhere, during a window that is rapidly closing."

The statement connected the struggles that poor countries encountered trying to respond to the "health, economic and social effects" of the Covid-19 pandemic to the evident "underinvestment in health, education, food, and social protection."

The document pinpointed several areas of action to face the critical crises.

First, a process of debt reduction "that guarantees borrowers can request and rapidly achieve reductions of debt payments to, at least, the extent needed to protect essential development and climate investments."

Christ brought us together say African youth at the WYD 2023.

Faith leaders also called on countries "to put in place laws, regulations, and practices that enforce responsible lending and borrowing" in order "to prevent new cycles of debt."

Other expected policies include "access to concessional loans" and the eradication of "theft of public funds and corruption of all types" in financial management.

"A robust testament" The statement defined the meeting as "not merely a gathering but a robust testament to the cohesive strength of interfaith unity, combined wisdom, and a shared commitment to justice."

"Informed by our Sacred Scriptures and moral convictions," the document concluded, "we resolutely address the pressing issues of debt, governance, and socio-economic disparities plaguing the African continent."



The UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania, Zlatan Miliši, addresses opens a UN International Youth Day Symposium in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

'Value of investment firm's assets up by 8bn/- from 27bn/- in December 2021'

By Henry Mwangonde

THE value of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) Investment Company Limited (TICL) has increased to 35bn/- from 27bn/- in December 2021.

It was revealed at the company's annual general meeting held recently in which the company's assets grew at the rate of 18-per cent with 34bn/- assets being in the form of investment.

The firm's Chief Executive Officer, Donald Kamori said investment for the company increased by 15-per cent from 29bn/- in December, 2021.

The company seeks to raise 45bn/- through an initial public offering (IPO) to diversify its operations.

"This represents 61.3 per cent of the issued share capital of 183,592,400 ordinary shares of a nominal value of 20/- each," he said during an event to officially unveil the IPO prospectus.

The company declared the start of the share selling, detailing that the process will start on February 1 and end in March.

He said 112,500,000 ordinary shares would be up for grabs at a price of 400/- each.

"This represents 61.3 per cent

of the issued share capital of 183,592,400 ordinary shares of a nominal value of 20/- each," he said during an event to officially unveil the IPO prospectus.

From the IPO proceeds, the company hopes to diversify into the real estate industry, with targets in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mtwara and Tanga.

It also plans to venture into microfinance, agro-processing as well as invest part of it in government securities.

Currently, the company - a collective investment scheme of TCCIA members - is owned by 2,493 people who are scattered across

various regions in the country, according to the company's board chairman, Aloise Mwamanga.

The deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Dorothy Mwanyika graced the event. TICL plans to list at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange on April 24, 2017.

The campaign aimed at pooling the TCCIA members' resources together so they could buy shares in the National Microfinance Bank (NMB) when the government decided to offload 49 per cent of the bank's share to private investors.

Since then, TICL's capital has grown to reach 28.24bn/- as of December 2016. Similarly, he said, the company has been making profits for a couple of years from which it issues dividends to shareholders.



Simanjiro district council executive director Gracian Makota pictured on Thursday addressing a councillors' meeting called to deliberate on challenges commonly experienced by residents of the district. He is with the council's Chairman, Baraka Kanunga. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Bagamoyo school needs a fence to fight wild animals

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MTAKUJA primary school in Fukayosi ward in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region has urged stakeholders to help the school build a fence to strengthen security and fight rogue animals that have been causing damage to the school's properties.

Pascal Kitando, the school's head teacher made the request yesterday when speaking at the ceremony to receive pairs of school shoes provided by the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) in collaboration with NISSAN company.

Other schools which received the shoes are Visangalambwe, Konje and Mandamazingira where each school got 50 pairs of shoes for pupils from disadvantaged families who have been attending school without shoes.

He said that the school has been growing vegetables and various crops to improve the lunch meal of the pupils but most of the produce is invaded and eaten by animals.

"We have established a farm in collaboration with the parents and grow vegetables as an effort to provide our students with nutrition, but the obstacle is the animals that enter and eat what we cultivate, so the fence will help eliminate that challenge," he said.

He also asked various stakeholders to contribute to the construction of teachers' houses to enable the workers to stay close to the school for best education outcomes.

The head teacher said that the school with 560 students has only two teachers' houses while the actual needs are 12 houses, something which affects teaching and learning.

TEA human resource manager, Alice Lukindo said that the authority will continue to seek resources to develop education to support government efforts in

the development of the education sector.

He said the goal is to enable students to achieve their goals in education adding that it has been getting various donors who have been helping in various fields of education.

"It is our expectation that this support will bring motivation to their studies and also prevent them from various diseases and we have been told that these schools are doing very well academically, so we ask you to pay attention to your studies," he said.

Delvin Maleko, district community development officer urged parents to invest in their children's education which includes contributing food to enable the pupils to have meals at school.

He also said that if the teachers are given housing near the school, they will contribute significantly to the development of the school including academic performance.

"Invest in your children because these are the ones who will come back to help develop your cities, there are engineers here, teachers, managers and directors of various companies will come from among these students," he said.



It is our expectation that this support will bring motivation to their studies and also prevent them from various diseases and we have been told that these schools are doing very well academically, so we ask you to pay attention to your studies

TRA embarks on awareness business education seminars

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

TANZANIA Revenue Authority (TRA) in Mwanza Region has embarked on provision of educational seminars to businesspersons on various budgetary and legal changes in the current financial system to enable them to have common understanding.

Morgan Isdory, TRA regional taxpayers' education and communication officer told this paper yesterday that the authority is providing the traders with tax compliance education to enable them recognise the importance of paying taxes on time for the country's development.

Morgan said that when budgetary changes occur it is important to educate businesspersons on the matters so that they can be aware of them and therefore eases TRA to implement its responsibilities of collecting revenues for development of the nation.

He said that seminars have started in Nyamagana and Ilemela Districts and will roll out all over the region to reach as many businesspersons as possible, big and small ones, noting that it is also the right for businesspersons to know the budgetary changes.

"I call upon businesspersons to come out in huge numbers and attend the seminars so that they can benefit from the presentations by TRA officers, a thing that is profitable to them," he said.

He pointed out that The Finance Act, 2023 has amended various laws relating to collection of government revenue with a view to impose and alter certain taxes, duties, levies, fees together with other written laws concerning management of public revenue.

According to him, Laws amended include the Copyright and Neighbouring Act, (Cap.

218), The Electronic and Postal Communications Act, (Cap. 306), The National Payment Systems Act, (Cap. 437), The Excise (Management and Tariff) Act, (Cap.147) and The Export Tax Act, (Cap.196).

Other laws include The Foreign Vehicles Transit Charges Act, (Cap. 84), The Gaming Act, (Cap. 41), The Income Tax Act, (Cap. 332), The Local Government Authorities (Rating) Act, (Cap. 289) and The Local Government Finance Act, (Cap. 290).

Others are The Road and Fuel Tolls Act, (Cap.220), The Tax Administration Act, (Cap. 438), The Value Added Tax Act, (Cap. 148) as well as The Vocational Education and Training Act, (Cap. 82), he said.

He said that amendment on The Income Tax Act, Cap. 332 aims to provide clarity on the applicability of the section and attract investment into the country among others.

"The the amendment of The Local Government Finance Act, Cap.290 Section 9A enables the minister responsible for local government authorities to collect service levy centrally from license holders of electronic money issuance," he noted.

The revenue measures passed by the parliament translate the main theme for the 2023/24 budget which is accelerating economic recovery and enhancing productive sectors for improved livelihoods, he said.

He pointed out that the government budget for the 2023/24 financial year is 44.39 trn/- whereby TRA is expected to collect 26.73 trn/- compared to last year's target of 23.65 trn/-

"I call upon businesspersons to come out in huge numbers and attend the seminars so that they can benefit from the presentations by TRA officers, a thing that is profitable to them"



Moshi Urban legislator Priscus Tarimo addresses a rally at Mbuyumi market in Moshi municipality earlier this week chiefly on the pace of the implementation of development projects in the constituency. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

11,000 villagers in need of tap water in Namtumbo

By Beatrice Philemon

OVER 11,000 Kitanda villagers in Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region are facing shortage of water services, which in turn thwarts their development initiatives.

The residents are calling for the government to help address the challenge as the situation is also affecting services at the village's maternity ward unit.

Joseph Ngonyani, Kitanda village chairman told reporters who visited the area that the situation is very terrible for villagers as they have been walking long distances every day to search for safe water. "We are calling for government

to intervene as the village has only seven water wells which do not cater the need for all villagers, the village's population has increased, we have no means to pay to drill another well or install a piped water system because we don't have funds, we depend on government support and other donors," he said.

Ngonyani said women and children have to walk long distances to look for the precious liquid and most of the time it is unfit for human consumption.

"They get water in traditional water wells, ponds, stream water sources, also used by cattle, dogs and other wild animals such

as elephants. We called on the government including Namtumbo District to help us obtain at least a piped water system or modern water well that will supply water in the village for people's use and modern maternity ward," he said.

The villagers raised these concerns recently when speaking to journalists from different media stations visited the village to see the impact of the five-year project (2018-2022) which is dubbed: 'Leading the Change' that is being implemented by the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA), Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) and Namtumbo

District.

Thomas Ngonyani, chairman of CCM at the ward, called on Namtumbo district executive director to visit the village to witness the situation and see how they can overcome it.

He lauded MJUMITA, MCDI and Namtumbo district for introducing 'Leading the Change' project in the village that in turn has helped villagers to have a modern maternity ward building that now needs water for expectant mothers something that was not the case in the past.

He also lauded village leaders for a good job they carried out every day during the implementation of the project.

He also called on Namtumbo district forest officers to help them obtain more donors who will train them on forest conservation and management.



Rehema Wililo (R), a peer educator with suburban Dar es Salaam's Kipunguni Community Voice Centre, pictured on Thursday taking children through the basics of drawing and painting. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Minister lauds Kilombero Sugar Company Limited (KSCL) for investing in strategies

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MINISTER for Industry and Trade, Dr Ashatu Kijaji has lauded Kilombero Sugar Company Limited (KSCL) for investing in strategies and initiatives to help increase production to cater for the country's demand.

She however urged the factory to create a conducive environment for farmers so as to achieve intended goals.

Minister Kijaji said on Thursday when she visited the estate accompanied by the Morogoro Regional Commissioner Adam

Malima and Kilombero district leaders.

She said that KSCL has a big contribution in development and is currently producing 26 percent of the sugar consumed in the country.

The tour marks Minister Kijaji's first visit to the factory, where she witnessed production of sugar and Ethanol at the existing mills as well as see the progress of the expansion project, which is currently at 60 percent completion.

The Minister stated that the country has over five large sugar producers but Kilombero Sugar Company accounts for 26 percent of the total sugar production in the country.

She applauded the company for their work and investment into expansion which will further position the company as the largest sugar producer in the country and in the East African region.

She also commended the significant progress in the construction of the new factory, which will further enhance sugar production at the company from the current 126,000 tonnes to 271,000 tonnes per year.

"The construction of this factory, costing over 566bn/-, will provide a stable market for sugarcane farmers in the area. Currently, the company processes 600,000 tonnes of sugarcane sourced from Kilombero

growers, and an additional 900,000 tonnes will be required to feed the mills after the completion of the new factory," she explained.

Regional Commissioner also praised the strategies implemented by the factory's management, including providing education to farmers through extension officers to improve yields among Kilombero sugarcane growers.

KSCL Guy Williams expressed gratitude to the government through the ministry of Industry and Trade for creating an enabling environment to facilitate investment, something which triggered the company to invest in the expansion project.

The project, which is expected to complete by July 2024, aims to contribute to the government's agenda of sugar self-sufficiency in the country by 2025.

Employers told to reinforce national policy on HIV/AIDS

By Getrude Mbagu

EMPLOYERS have been urged to reinforce the National HIV/AIDS policy which includes implementation of workplace health and programmes such as self-testing and promoting healthy lifestyles to improve productivity.

Suzanne Ndomba, executive director of Tanzania Employers Association (ATE) made the appeal in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday during the private sector high-level meeting organised collaboratively with the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

She said the association in collaboration with stakeholders has continued to support its members in the establishment and implementation of workplace health and wellness programmes such as HIV self-testing and reminded employers to ensure that they invest in quality health of employees.

According to her, ATE plays a critical role in bringing together private sectors at the centre in discussing and contributing overall programs of wellness in the world of work including the issues of HIV since the world has made various efforts in achieving ending AIDs by 2030.

“As for the theme of this high-level meeting, Aids is an Unfinished business and reflecting on the recent speech from the Minister of Health, Ummu Mwalimu on HIV status in the country, in every 100 people 86 per cent know their health status, 97 percent of people living with HIV in the country attend treatment and care centres for the use of antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), and 97 per cent of people who use ARVs have improved conditions,” she said.

She added: “As we pride ourselves on the major strides that Tanzania has made towards ending Aids, we do understand that there is still a lot of work to be done by all stakeholders to realize a Tanzania that is Free from HIV/AIDS. I would like to assure you that ATE in collaboration with the government and other stakeholders will continue to support all the initiatives in achieving the other 95 percent knowing that AIDs requires a political and financial role to

achieve this goal by 2030.”

She said that from 2021, ATE with the support from Population Services International (PSI) and in collaboration with Confederation of Trade Unions (TUCTA) and health providers from different leading health facilities managed to conduct a batch of mass HIVST activation events among peer educators and workers at implementing workplaces.

The overall objective of the project was to develop the capacity of workplaces management and workers on managing HIV-self testing at the workplaces and wellness programmes. From this partnership workplace companies were supported and developed workplace programmes and policies, employees reached with information and awareness on HIV and AIDS, she explained.

Henry Mkunda, secretary general of the TUCTA secretary general said: “As we continue to discuss how we can contribute and make a health workforce we should look into Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's) and diseases that are now prevalent in workplaces and providing knowledge to employers.”

He said that it is hard for employers to generate profit if their workers are not healthy.

“So, it is better for employers to put in place robust plans and strategies so as to fight diseases such as HIV and Aids as well as NCDs,” he said.

Jumanne Issango, director of advocacy and information at the Tanzania Commission for Aids (TACAIDS) said that the fact that the government has now embarked on the “Test-and-Treat” approach in which people must be put on early treatment with antiretroviral (ARV) medications regardless of their CD4 cell count, it is high time for the private sector to support the initiative.

“It is important now that people at workplaces come out confidently and test for HIV. If found positive, it makes it easy for one to live a quality life because from now ARVs will be provided at an early stage, companies have a role to ensure that their employers are all taken care of without discrimination,” he said.

10 patients undergo major heart surgery

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TEN patients have undergone major heart surgery to release blocked blood vessels in a specialised seven-day heart treatment camp.

The camp that ended yesterday at Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) in Dar es Salaam was conducted by JKCI cardiologists in collaboration with their colleague from Max hospital of India.

Director of Surgery Department of (JKCI), Dr Angela Muhozya said that the camp has been held for the 4th time in collaboration with experts from Max Hospital to operate on patients who needed more expertise due to their hearts having less ability to work.

Dr Angela said the camp aimed to perform major heart surgery for adults who have blocked coronary arteries but also their heart function levels are below 30 percent.

“Surgeries that we have performed to these patients is a bit difficult, we have been examining these patients and invited our colleagues from Max Hospital so that together we can serve them but also increase our skills in serving this type of patients”, she said

“In this camp, patients have been transplanted three heart arteries and others more than three without stopping the heart with great success, this is a big step

to us in providing services to heart patients”, said Dr Angela

Dr Angela also said JKCI expects to perform surgery on the large coronary artery that has dilated, replace the coronary arteries as well as set up a new door for patients who have problems with large coronary arteries.

The expert cardiologist and vascular surgeon from Max Hospital in India Subhash Sinha, said collaboration with JKCI expert's shows great success since they started to engage.

Dr Sinha said through the heart surgery that he has been doing with JKCI experts, he has also been providing training and various methods to perform major coronary artery surgery for patients whose heart rate is below 30 percent without stopping the heart.

“My visit here at JKCI is usually for one week, I believe that these weeks I come to help patients get treatment, JKCI experts also get a chance to learn because now I see a big change when we do surgeries,” said Dr Sinha.

Dr Sinha said that one day he wishes JKCI to be the largest institution that is trusted by heart patients in Africa because the treatment costs are different from those provided outside Africa.

He said investment that has been done in medical equipment at JKCI is sufficient to provide specialist services for heart treatment.



Anthony Thomas, a small-scale gold miner at Isanja in Kahama District, at work on Thursday while wearing protective personal equipment donated by FADev. He and scores of colleagues have also landed SwissAid funding. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Police arrest two people, seize seven elephant tusks

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

POLICE in Iringa Region have arrested two people and seized seven pieces of elephant tusks and two weapons in separate incidents during an operation.

Iringa Regional Police Commander Allan Bukumbi named those arrested as Jacob Mhanga (54) a resident of Utiga Village, Njombe Region who was found with seven pieces of elephant tusks in a guest house, in Mbalamaziwa Village, Kasanga Ward in the district of

Mufindi, in Iringa region.

He said the suspect was arrested on 08/08/2023 with seven pieces of elephant tusks.

In the second incident, the police in collaboration with conservation officers through covert operations from good citizens arrested Matias Malenga (37), a resident of Iringa, Image Ward, Mazombe Division, Kilolo District with two weapons inside his house, one shotgun and a locally made gun.

The commander said that the incident happened on the 6th of August this year at around 19:00 hours, where the accused

was arrested with two different weapons, namely a shotgun with two bullets and three shells and a locally made gun with six bullets and a trap used to hunt wild animals.

Bukumbi explained that all the suspects will be brought to court immediately after investigations are completed.

Bukumbi gave an explanation on the trend of investigation of cases in the region saying a total of 11 suspects have been brought to court and sentenced for various crimes where Naftar Lyandala (40) a resident of Uhamngeto, was on June 27, sentenced to death by hanging

for the murder, Francis Masoud (41) a resident of Kitasegwa, Denis Mtega (31).

On the same development, a resident of Ilula by the name Mtua and Emmanuel Nzogela (29) a resident of Ipogolo have been sentenced to 30 years in prison for rape.

The other suspects are Godfrey Chengula (33), a resident of Isakalilo, who has been sentenced to one year in prison for escaping from custody, Batros Kipako (47), has been sentenced to one year in prison for possession of a weapon (Gobore).



Nemence Mabung'ai (L), engaged by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) as a facilitator, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday conducting monitoring and accountability training on the provision of community services. Most participants were leaders of civil society organisations. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Horn of Africa reached drought-tipping point 11,700 years ago

By Guardian Reporter

NEW research published on Wednesday in Nature suggests that the Horn of Africa is likely to become even drier, not wetter in the future as predicted by most climate models.

An international team of researchers have found a prehistoric climate tipping point that helps explain the disparity between these model predictions and the intensifying drought conditions in the Horn of Africa.

Simply put, two main things make up how wet or dry an environment is: the amount of rainfall and the amount of water that evaporates from the land and plants. In the tropics, higher

temperatures typically bring along wetter weather due to stronger monsoons. At the same time, higher temperatures also cause more evaporation since in warmer air, water evaporates more easily.

And yet, recently parts of the world like the Horn of Africa have seen severe multi-year droughts with rising temperatures. A research team including lead co-authors Allix Baxter (Utrecht University) and Dirk Verschuren (Ghent University) have found an explanation for the disparity between climate model predictions and recent droughts in eastern Africa in the sediments of Lake Chala, located on the Kenya/Tanzania border near Mount Kilimanjaro.

“We found that, during the last

ice age between 75,000 and 11,700 years ago, higher temperatures in the Horn of Africa did indeed produce a wetter climate,” Verschuren explains.

“But around 11,700 years ago, when the region's temperature naturally rose by a few degrees, we saw a tipping point in which higher temperatures led to increased drought, and lower temperatures meant wetter conditions.”

This fundamental change in the relationship between temperature and moisture in the Horn of Africa has since locked this region into a dry tropical climate regime, which the researchers expect to continue as temperatures keep rising in the future.

“This finding matches with the

increasing number and severity of droughts we now see happening in the Horn of Africa,” Baxter illustrates.

Quite importantly for this region where most people depend on rain-fed agriculture, the new research suggests that the Horn of Africa is likely to become even drier, not wetter in the future as predicted by most climate models.

“Though it's still debated what the cause is of these recent droughts, our research provides the clue to an underlying mechanism. Our data has revealed certain processes that we hope are better incorporated in the climate models to more accurately predict long-term future climate change in this and other tropical regions.”

Agro-sector uplift for youth, women a positive initiative

CHANGES are seeping into the country's agro-sector scenario by dint of one sustainable project after another. This is what can be said of more recent agro-sector drives, moving from effective reliance on cooperative organisations to oversee that the farmers do, to steady penetration of commercial farming and organisations geared for the purpose. Not surprisingly it was to the relatively new fruit and other fresh exports sub-sector where its growth has noticeably stabilised, especially with the Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA).

Originally catering for the production and air freight of perishables into the European Union market in particular, TAHA is spreading its wings into other spheres. Part of the reason is that a section of stakeholder, wishing to transform other parts of agro-sector producers and finding little private sector presence in the non-perishables crop sector, seek its services as a consulting organisation. It is also dotted with infrastructure that can be extended to cover other crop needs.

Recent reports talk of a new project where upwards of 0.9m farmers, among them youth and women small-scale holders, stand to benefit from a \$24m food security drive, focusing on proper harvest and storage. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will be working with the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) secretariat, under overall TAHA field and organisational expertise. Judging by the scale of regional outreach, the five-year project could achieve a lot if it remains stable.

What is noticeable about the project is that its aims are vast and its target numbers are rather limited, in a macroeconomic context so to speak. It seeks to empower youth

and women, scale-up agricultural commercialisation, increase smallholder farmers' resilience, and address impacts of climate change with climate-smart agricultural technologies, on the basis of the project outline. In pursuing these objectives, it expects to support over 370,000 youths and 279,000 women to venture into agro-based projects. Well below one million.

Yet there is likely to be the force of example that comes into view, as the targeted population, if the programme stands on its two feet, becomes a role model for others to take up its techniques. They may even obtain other sources of financing or credit that isn't part of the USAID funding, and it could also play a major role in clarifying applicable methods in uplifting youth and women in agro-sector initiatives. BBTI may eventually learn some 'incubation' lessons.

One difference between the two initiatives is that the state-led drive seeks to convert youths into agriculture by land, capital and supporting infrastructure enticements, in contrast to the TAHA-led drive, or perhaps USAID-drive as distinct from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) that underwrites the state-led initiative. As a Chinese revolutionary sage once said, 'let a hundred flowers blossom, let a hundred schools of thought contend,' on the premise that they all seek to foster inclusion of women and youth. It is a healthy competition of ideas, opening up the country to faster transformation.

The other dimension is crop selectivity, as to what sort of produce is best suited for project inclusion, with better returns on the short and medium term horizons. The TAHA project involves high-value crops production, processing and marketing for them to access well priced markets. For a start, it's just the idea.

Bright future for Africa's hospitality sector beckons

AS the Tanzanian and broader African hospitality markets continue to recover post-Covid-19, investment and development activity is expected to increase as the sector develops through its worst crisis in history.

Emphasis on hospitality's critical role as job creation and economic growth driver is crucial.

Tanzania should conduct research with tour operators, travel agencies, and hotel operators; the findings of these surveys ought also be presented at the hospitality forum and debated in a panel discussion with important industry influencers and champions.

COVID-19 has transformed the way we think, and to some extent how we work and travel. It is critical to learn about new products that have emerged and how current brands have reacted to these changes, especially moving forward.

COVID has also put major pressure on cash flows, resulting in the reorganisation of equity and debt structures and longer-term changes in how programmes are assessed and funded in the future.

In recent years, a considerable amount of hospitality investors have migrated from other real estate asset classes, making it even more critical to establish this relationship between the broader real estate community and the hospitality sector.

Tanzania needs to hold a conference that will bring together industry players, stakeholders, and leaders to shine a bright light on the Tanzanian and African hospitality markets.

The hospitality forum can play a strategic role in its efforts to continue developing in what has been a record-breaking year across the continent.

In sub-Saharan Africa, hospitality is a significant economic driver, job

provider, and focal property type.

Africa's hotel industry is resilient. While the hospitality sector was one of the most hit during the pandemic, it has also been among the fastest to rebound on the African continent. Local tourism should be prioritised in the African region's rebuilding efforts.

At the same time, Kenya reduced admission prices to all game reserves and parks in order to encourage more local tourists. However, Africa's domestic tourist business is mostly undeveloped. Tourism experts feel that more authentic and environmentally friendly resorts and items focused on middle-class African families and millennials could better exploit the local market.

Tanzania has witnessed large group of visitors from the Far East.

In Tanzania the hospitality industry is a broad category of fields within the service industry that includes lodging, food and drink service, event planning, theme parks, transportation, cruise line, traveling and additional fields within the tourism industry.

The hospitality industry is an industry that depends on the availability of leisure time and disposable income. A hospitality unit such as a restaurant, hotel, or an amusement park consists of multiple groups such as facility maintenance and direct operations servers, housekeepers, porters, kitchen workers, bartenders, management, marketing, and human resources etc.

Tanzania has set regulations aimed at ensuring that quality services that meet international standards are provided in the sector and in turn boost competitiveness. The established regulations see provision and maintaining of employees with knowledge and appropriate skills that will enable them compete in both national and international markets.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



There are paths to quality universal healthcare besides NHI

By Marcus Low

ONE of the most damaging aspects of our public discourse on National Health Insurance (NHI) is the mistaken notion in some quarters that the only two options are NHI and the status quo.

One of the most damaging aspects of our public discourse on National Health Insurance (NHI) is the mistaken notion that the only two options are NHI and the status quo. Often implicitly, sometimes explicitly, defenders of NHI suggest that any argument against NHI is one for maintaining the current system. Since the current system doesn't work very well for most people, this line of argument gets some purchase, even though it is based on a false premise.

In his book "Which country has the world's best health care?", oncologist and bioethicist Ezekiel Emanuel outlines the key features of healthcare systems in 11 different countries. Two things that stand out are that health systems differ substantially between countries and that most systems are the relatively messy products of complex histories and political and other compromises. This latter point about the path-dependency of healthcare systems is an important point we will return to.

Many varieties
South Africa's proposed NHI system is sometimes clumped together with systems in other countries such as Canada, the United Kingdom, and Thailand. At times this is fair, at times it skims over important differences. Often implicitly, sometimes explicitly, defenders of NHI suggest that any argument against NHI is one for maintaining the current system.

For example, NHI will be a single-payer system, which is to say, the NHI fund will be responsible for almost all purchasing of healthcare services in the country. In some respects, Canada has a similar system, except that rather than one system for the whole country, they in effect have 13 single-payer systems for each of their provinces and territories. Even Thailand, at times referred to as an example of NHI, technically has three funds rather than one, although it resembles South Africa's NHI plans in several other respects. In principle, a large single-payer should be able to negotiate better deals than several smaller payers, but on the other hand, having Canada-style provincial funds would be more closely aligned with South Africa's current governance arrangements and in some provinces, like the Western Cape, chances are people would have more trust in a fund



run by the province than in one run nationally.

Another thing that quickly becomes apparent when looking at the variety of healthcare systems out there, is that a simplistic dichotomy between NHI and private healthcare is a false one. Countries like the Netherlands and Germany have achieved excellent health outcomes with systems that are neither NHI-style systems nor examples of the private sector running riot. Though the details are significantly more complicated than this, you can think of the Netherlands and Germany roughly as having many strictly regulated medical schemes (called sickness funds in Germany) with scheme/fund membership being compulsory (with some exceptions). The German system is progressive in that people with higher incomes contribute more than people with lower incomes - an important difference from South Africa's medical schemes.

A simplistic dichotomy between NHI and private healthcare is a false one.

Funds in the Netherlands are also not primarily funded directly, as with our medical schemes, but receive funding from a central fund via a risk adjustment process. Both the German and Dutch systems have significant social solidarity built-in in the way it institutionalises the cross-subsidising of the poor by the wealthy.

In South Africa, such a system could, for example, be implemented by dramatically tightening up the regulation of medical schemes, putting in place a progressive mechanism for cross-subsidisation between schemes, making scheme membership compulsory for those who can afford it, and, over time, using tax revenue to pay for scheme membership for the unemployed (although this last element, like NHI, does come with a big question mark on affordability). Those with long enough memories might remember that a system roughly along such lines was on the cards in South Africa around the turn of the century.

One striking thing about NHI in South Africa is that for all the column

in this context, the risk is certainly real.

Which brings us back to the idea of path dependency. Emanuel's book offers no easy answer to the question of which country has the best healthcare. They all have strengths and weaknesses and one's choice will to some extent be guided by what you value. But what the book also does expertly is to problematise the very idea that a healthcare system is something you can pick from a menu, with no regard for how you get from here to there.

Whatever your position is on NHI, what is indisputable is that NHI represents a major disruption from the path we have been on until now. Getting from our current two-tiered system with several medical schemes to a Dutch or German-style system would also have been a major reform, but less so than with NHI. The severity of the change in direction to NHI partly explains why NHI is so contentious.

Reasonable people may very well differ over whether the precise path set out in the current version of the NHI Bill is the right one - ultimately only time will tell.

Such dramatic changes in direction are risky at the best of times, much more so in the context of our country's deeply dysfunctional politics and rampant corruption. Given the long timelines, it is not inevitable that NHI will result in the destruction of much healthcare capacity in South Africa, but given this context, the risk is certainly real.

On the other hand, major reforms of this nature are always going to be difficult, as they famously were when the National Health Service was introduced in the United Kingdom. There will always be some pressure groups who you won't be able to accommodate and who you simply have to stand up to. Personally, I am convinced that several of the key architects of NHI had good intentions, and their arguments have merit. But unfortunately, the fact that they have won out is mostly a result of them having convinced a few key players in the ANC and not of them having convinced healthcare workers and the public more generally.

Either way, largely for party-political reasons, it seems inevitable that South Africa will over time transition to a system very different from what we have now. Reasonable people may very well differ over whether the precise path set out in the current version of the NHI Bill is the right one - ultimately only time will tell. What there should be no doubt about right now, however, is that the path the ANC has chosen for us is just one of many possible paths.

Main ingredients and sufficient evidence in the offence of rape

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at the 'last seen together doctrine'. This is a legal principle used in criminal cases where a person is seen together with another person, but after a little while the other person is found dead and the time gap is so short that it would be reasonable to infer a causal connection that it is the person who killed the other person. We also saw how sometimes there could be no cogent evidence to incriminate the person even if the two were seen together.

In the case law we used we said that the 'last seen together doctrine', which was relied on by the trial court, was challenged when the aggrieved party appealed to the Court of Appeal of Tanzania. We then concluded that the 'last seen together doctrine' does not, by itself necessarily, lead to the inference that it is the accused who committed the offence of murder unless the evidence is so connected that it incriminates the accused.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the offence of rape. You might have heard of persons who were charged with rape, but when they were required to defend themselves, they said they were tempted to rape because the girl or woman they raped was wearing a tight dress or a mini-skirt. You might have heard of other persons, who claimed they didn't rape because the person they had sex with consented it even if it is a girl who is aged below 18 years. So, what does the law say?

The offence of rape is covered in section 130 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022). It is established when a man has sexual intercourse with a girl who

is aged below 18 years whether the girl consents or doesn't consent to it.

Another circumstance is with a woman without her consent or if it is with her consent the woman is of unsound mind or is in a state of intoxication administered to her by the man or by some other person.

Another circumstance is when a man uses force, threats or intimidation to put a woman in the fear of death or of bodily injury or while she is in unlawful detention.

To prove the offence of rape penetration however slight is sufficient to constitute sexual intercourse necessary to the offence and evidence of resistance such as physical injuries to the body of the girl or woman is not necessary to prove that sexual intercourse took place without consent [section 130(4)(a)&(b)].

In criminal appeal No 357 of 2019 of Victor Goodluck Munuo (appellant) v Republic (respondent), Munuo appealed against the decision of the High Court of Tanzania in Moshi, which upheld the decision of the District Court of Siha (the trial court).

Before the trial court Munuo was charged with the offence of rape contrary to sections 130(1)(2)(e) and 131 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2002, now R.E.2022). The charge was that on August 23, 2016 while he was at Koboko Village in Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region, he raped a primary schoolgirl aged 11 years. He pleaded not guilty and was tried. He was then convicted and sentenced to 30 years imprisonment as provided for in section 131(1).

Aggrieved by the conviction and sentence, he unsuccessfully appealed to the High Court of Tanzania. The prosecution had five witnesses who



testified in court. The girl was living with her grandmother and on August 23, 2016, she went to school, but did not return home as usual. The grandmother became suspicious and started looking for her in vain. On the following day, the grandmother reported it to the police. Then, the girl returned home on August 25, 2016 and when she was asked where she had been, she said she went to see her grandfather, but when the grandfather was consulted he said he had not seen her.

However, when the girl was taken to hospital for medical examination, the doctor found that she had bruises and a bad smell in her private part which suggested that she had been sexually penetrated. It was alleged that as the girl was going to school, she met the appellant whom she knew by the name of Victor, who was a motorcyclist (bodaboda), who apparently locked her in his house and forcefully undressed and had



sexual intercourse with her.

After hearing the evidence, the Court of Appeal said "the charge of rape is proved where penetration of a male organ into the female organ is established and the identity of the perpetrator is proved."

It cited the case of Selem

Makumba v Republic [2006], whereby the court said how rape should be established. "True evidence of rape has to come from the victim, if an adult, that there was penetration and no consent and in case of any other woman where consent is irrelevant,

that there was penetration."

The Court of Appeal said that having established that the girl had been raped the question which followed was whether the appellant was the perpetrator.

"We have gone through the evidence on record and we are in agreement... that the appellant was not properly identified as the one who had sexual intercourse with the victim. Even if the victim said she was familiar with her assailant before, she mentioned him only by the name of 'Victor' (bodaboda). It is our considered view that because the appellant was not found committing the alleged offence, his alleged identity is questionable."

The court said while the girl named her assailant as Victor, the charge mentioned him as Victor Goodluck Munuo and during his defence, his name as Goodluck Munuo. "There was no witness who came to har-

monise these three sets of names," the court said.

Another point was that the trial court was not told the form of descriptions provided by the girl in respect of the suspect which led to his arrest.

The third point was that although the charge named Koboko Village as the material place, none of the witnesses came to prove that allegation. It said following the uncertainties regarding the identity of the suspect, the evidence on record was not sufficient to prove his identity. "We therefore find that the doubt should be resolved in favour of the appellant," the court said.

It further said that the prosecution evidence was not sufficient to establish that the appellant was properly identified as the perpetrator of rape because the charge was not proved beyond reasonable doubt against him.

"Since this ground is sufficient to dispose of the appeal...we allow [it], quash conviction and set aside the sentence imposed on the appellant. He shall forthwith be released from prison unless he is continually held for other lawful cause."

It suffices to say that in this case, although penetration had been proved, the identity of the perpetrator of rape was not and because of this, the Court of Appeal did not find that there was sufficient evidence to incriminate the appellant. We should be clear of what and how we testify in court lest we lose the case we would have won had we properly testified as required by the law.

Today's proverb: "What is worth doing at all is worth doing well."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com

By Thalif Deen

GOING back to the 16th century and continuing through the late 1960s, France was described as the world's second largest colonial power—just behind the British Empire.

As the old saying goes: The sun would never set over the British Empire because God wouldn't trust an Englishman in the dark. But would that also apply to the French colonial empire?

The military coups in three former French colonies – Burkina Faso, Mali and more recently Niger – are perhaps an indication of the beginning of the end of French post-colonial and neo-colonial ties to West Africa.

The three military leaders are turning towards Russia and the Russian mercenary group Wagner for new political, economic and military alliances.

The headline in a New York Times article last week read: "Waning Influence for France, the Colonizer that Stayed in West Africa"

The coup in Niger, a landlocked country of about 25 million people, is likely to result in the departure of more than 2,500 Western troops, including 1,100 Americans, who were stationed in the West African country to battle anti-US and anti-Western militant groups.

In Niger, there was also strong public support for the Russians, with demonstrators waving Russian flags.

Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics at the University of San Francisco, told IPS many Africans harbor understandable resentment towards French neocolonialism and their local collaborators.

"Unfortunately, despite the lack of a colonial legacy, the Russian influence is even worse. They are backing some of the region's worst warlords, reactionary military leaders, and criminal elements," he said.

Asked for his comments, US State

Do these coups indicate the end of France's influence in West Africa?



Peacekeepers from the Nigerian contingent of MINUSMA provide security in eastern Mali. In June 2023, the Security Council unanimously approved the complete withdrawal of UN peacekeeping forces in Mali. Credit: MINUSMA/Harandane Dicko

Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters: "I have heard questions about these protests, sometimes in this briefing room, and sometimes you see people assume that because you see people on the streets it is an expression of actual support rather than people who might have been paid to show up at protests".

Playing down the pro-Russian demonstrators, he said: "It does seem odd to me that if your country is suffering an attempted military takeover, the idea that the first thing anyone would do is run to a store and buy a Russian flag. That strikes me as somewhat an unlikely scenario."

Miller also said that Yevgeniy

Prigozhin, head of the Wagner Group, was publicly celebrating the events in Niger and "we certainly see Wagner take advantage of this type of situation whenever it occurs in Africa".

"We, as I've stated before, did not see any role by Wagner in the investigation of this attempted takeover, and we have not seen any Wagner military presence as of yet in Niger. I don't have any specific Wagner activities to - that I can make public at this point, but we saw Yevgeniy Prigozhin publicly celebrating what's happened. And as I said, it did seem a very odd event that we had a bunch of Russian flags show up at so-called protests - in support of the junta leaders," he added.

Perhaps the longest and bitterest battles against French colonialism took place in North Africa during the Algerian war of independence.

That battle was a major armed conflict between France and the Algerian National Liberation Front (NLF) from 1954 to 1962, which led to Algeria winning its independence from France and represented "the most recent and bloodiest example of France's colonial history on the African continent", with approximately 1.5 million Algerians killed and millions more displaced in the eight-year struggle for independence.

A posting on the Foreign Policy website August 8 said Niger's coup leaders

had one week to relinquish power and reinstate ousted President Mohamed Bazoum or else face military intervention by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

At midnight on Sunday, that deadline expired without Bazoum being reinstated. Now, Niger and its neighbors are preparing for possible war—and ECOWAS, which plans to hold a second emergency summit is questioning whether issuing its unprecedented threat was a smart idea to begin with.

On Sunday, Niger's junta government sent troop reinforcements to the capital, Niamey, and closed Niger's airspace to brace for ECOWAS's potential invasion. A senior U.S. diplomat held "frank and at times quite difficult" talks on Monday with junta leaders, who rejected calls to restore democracy, according to Foreign Policy.

Asked about the Russian influence in Niger, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters August 7 "for sure we have concerns when we see something like the Wagner Group possibly manifesting itself in different parts of the Sahel, and here's why we're concerned: because every single place that this group, Wagner Group, has gone, death, destruction, and exploitation have followed."

He said insecurity has gone up, not down. It hasn't been a response to the needs of the countries in question for greater security.

"I think what happened and what continues to happen in Niger was not instigated by Russia or by Wagner, but to the extent that they try to take advantage of it - and we see a repeat of what's happened in other countries, where they've brought nothing but bad things in their wake - that wouldn't be good," Blinken declared.

IPS UN Bureau Report

SDG data insights: Reality beyond our assumptions

By Patricia Wong Bi Yi and Arman Bidarbakht-Nia

Nia

THE Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are relevant to all countries, whether high, middle or low income. With increasing attention to the SDGs, countries are progressively turning to data as a source to assess and validate the progress that they have made towards achieving them.

Through many iterations of the Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report and through ESCAP's work with individual countries, it is clear that (i) no single country is achieving all the SDGs, (ii) all countries can benefit from assessing progress on the SDGs, and (iii) if countries use a mix of assessment approaches this will provide a more accurate picture of progress.

To simplify things, we can divide progress measures into two clusters, (i) those measuring the level of achievement and (ii) those measuring trends and rates of progress.

No single country is achieving all the SDGs

A common assumption may be that the countries with highest gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in the region should be among the best performers in terms of SDG progress, given that they have better capacities and resources available to advance the sustainable development agenda.

However, data shows that it is not necessarily so. The countries with the highest GDP per capita in the region - Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore - are lagging behind on many of the seventeen SDGs. Indeed the National SDG trends at the target and indi-

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



cator level also show that some goals in these countries are not faring any better than the region's average.

The fairy tale of a single country is shattered. In its place, we see that each country can be a champion for some of the SDG targets whilst simultaneously lagging behind on others.

Lessons from the tortoise and the hare

For zero hunger (Goal 2), high-income countries such as Australia and Japan are indeed closer to achieving the 2030 target than the rest of the region. However, data also shows that these countries have largely remained stagnant in their progress toward this goal. Trend data shows that despite better than regional average status of food insecurity in Australia, this indicator is regressing.

In Japan, despite being lower than the regional average, moderate or severe food insecurity in the population has increased by almost 50 per-

cent since 2015. Even where countries show initial achievements or advantages, there is a need to continuously monitor and look at current trends to ensure that emerging negative trends are detected early on for appropriate actions to be taken.

For quality education (Goal 4), we see that Bangladesh started with a lower level of achievement but was listed as one of the well-performing countries in the Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2023.

At the target level, Bangladesh is a top performer in the region in terms of improving effective learning outcomes as well as adult literacy and numeracy. Such countries which are making good strides in their rate of progress need to ensure that such progress is maintained so they can move above the regional average and so they can meet the targets.

The ugly duckling: Unleashing the true potential

There are instances when the level

of achievement is low, and the trends show a country is making little or no progress in achieving the targets. What happens then? Firstly, let's recall that there is no one country achieving all the SDGs.

Similarly, there is no one country making no progress on any of the SDGs. But for those countries which are off-track they will need to prioritize the targets which are most off-track and will need to work at speed to bring about a change in direction. An ugly duckling could flourish into a beautiful swan.

Regardless of a country's level of achievement on a single goal, target or indicator, a combination of progress measures is required to take the right action. There are different ways to look at SDG progress, but whichever methods are used we need to be honest in our assessment. ESCAP offers complementary tools and products that could be used by countries to better assess SDG progress.

Data Explorer allows countries to explore the underlying data beyond the aggregated analysis shown in reports.

National SDG Trends provides countries with several dashboards that help in exploring the data trends and identifying priority areas for action.

National SDG Tracker offers countries a specific tool which they can customize to include their own SDG indicators and targets along with tools to assess SDG progress. ESCAP can also provide expertise to assist governments to implement this tool in assessing SDG progress in their countries.

We look forward to embarking on this voyage together to tell your country's SDG data story!

Patricia Wong Bi Yi is Associate Statistician ESCAP, Arman Bidarbakht-Nia is Statistician ESCAP.

By Robert Jenkins, Lauren Rumble and

Verena Knaus

Did you know that the power of computers has been doubling roughly every two years since the 1960s? Every day it seems there's a new app or piece of tech that unlocks new and efficient ways to do things; to better engage with the world, or with learning.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the longstanding gender digital divide. Even though digital tech can be used to continue education at scale and is rapidly becoming core to the educational enterprise, it only benefits those who can access it.

And millions of girls often don't have access to digital technology for many reasons: because communities, schools or families think that technology is a male-only domain, because of online safety risks, because they have been uprooted from their homes or forced to leave school before they learn to use computers, or because they never go to school in the first place.

Even when girls can access digital learning, the content may be rife with harmful gender norms - just as it often is in textbooks. Stereotypes are perpetuated and girls' education suffers.

Providing access to the tech hardware can make an enormous difference, but it is not a silver bullet. Digital learning isn't just putting existing materials on a screen instead of on a chalkboard or in a textbook.

It is about taking the opportunity to make education systems better and more responsive to the gender-specific needs of children and young people and equipping teachers with the skills to do so. It can only do that if we're intentional about how we want to use it.

Recently, the Transforming Education Summit (TES) has committed to doing just that: to "harness the power of the digital revolution to ensure quality education is provided as a public good and a human right, with a particular focus on the most marginalized."

Unlocking the power of digital learning for these children and young people, especially girls, relies on three keys:

- Connecting children to digital learning irrespective of their gender identity, or where they live or where they come from, UNICEF is working to connect every school to the Internet by 2030 through the Giga initiative.

- Developing and adapting high quality learning content so that it's context-specific, curriculum-aligned, and accessible to all. UNICEF with UNESCO and partners launched Gateways to Public Digital Learning, a new global initiative to ensure that every learner, teacher, and family - especially the most marginalized - can easily access and use high-quality digital education content. To facilitate access to high quality content, UNICEF's Learning Passport is help-

Let's shape tech to be transformative and meet every child's learning needs



COVID-19 pandemic exposed the longstanding gender digital divide in the world. Credit: UNICEF Sujan

ing meet the specific needs of learners - especially those forced to leave their homes - and educators in over 28 countries reaching three million children.

- Equipping teachers with the capacity to use digital technology to improve learning as well as with gender-responsive pedagogical skills so they can support children in all their diversity to develop the skills they need for school, life, and work - including supporting girls and young women to develop digital literacy.

One way UNICEF is forging this third key is through the new Gender Responsive Digital Pedagogies guide for educators. The Guide uses practical exercises to help teachers produce gender-responsive

lesson plans, learning materials, and instruction, as well as guidance on protecting girls and boys from online bullying, violence, and sexual violence - critical skills in the digital age.

It also outlines strategies to engage parents and caregivers in their child's learning using digital tools. In Lebanon, UNICEF has worked closely with the Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD) - a national organization charged with modernization and development of education, based on educational planning - to integrate part of the guide into their teachers' training curricula.

This national uptake reflects our commitment.

We want to ensure that, as the world accelerates the use

of digital technologies for education, we don't simply carry over existing biases and harmful gender norms into teaching and learning.

With digital tech, learning tools can easily be replaced or updated - unlike printed materials. Educators can thus hone materials to be context-specific and, critically, remove harmful gender references and stereotypes from curricula.

How teachers interact with girls and boys can model more equal and gender-transformative expectations of themselves and each other.

Digital learning has the advantage of being mobile, opening doors for alternative learning pathways for children and adolescents who are

excluded or need flexible arrangements.

It can make quality learning accessible to children who speak minority languages and children and young people on the move - especially important for girls on the move, some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

In situations that are otherwise hostile and uncertain, digital learning can be a way to help children to feel included and prepare them to succeed in school, work, and life.

Ensuring that girls' access to digital technology is keeping pace with its proliferation and technological changes is and will not be easy. But it is essential.

The new Guide is a global public good - a critical build-

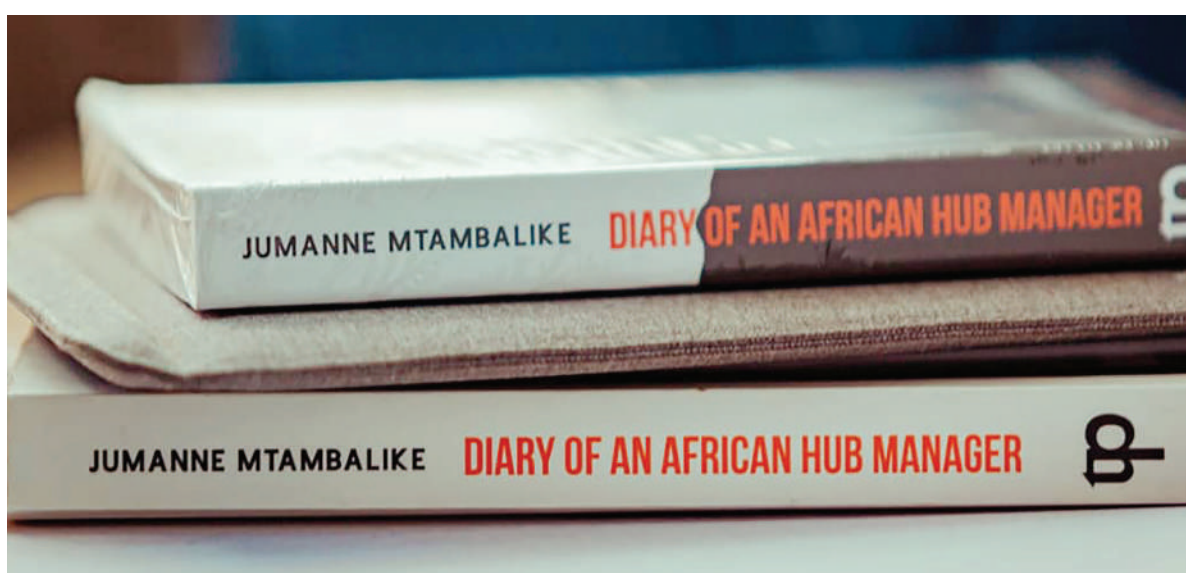
ing block for action on the TES commitments. Furthermore, as the 67th Conference on the Status of Women focuses on how innovation and education in the digital can promote gender equality, policymakers can be catalyst for digital learning.

To keep pace, our learning tools, practices, and policies need to stay up to date to match the technology - and champion the rights of all children, in all their diversity.

Robert Jenkins is the Global Director of Education and Adolescent Development at UNICEF; Lauren Rumble is the Associate Director of Gender Equality at UNICEF; Verena Knaus is the Global Chief of Migration and Displacement at UNICEF.

Book Review: Diary of an African Hub Manager - From a reader's perspective

By Jimmy Bogonko



SOMETIME last year, a new number called me. The person on the other end is stuck at Technology Park, unable to locate where our office was on campus. That person was Jumanne Mtambalike, someone who I had followed closely on twitter (or is it X) for a couple of years. His feed always gives me pause for thought. His tweets say a bit about the man that he is. One who deeply values faith, family, friends and football. A Simba-Yanga match is sure to get him tweeting, as it does virtually all of Tanzania. His beloved Manchester United gets a lot of mentions too. Moments spent with his closest and dearest are really cherished. His feed is testament to his love for tech, innovation and entrepreneurship.

What is innovation anyway? Juma avoids sharing a textbook definition, opting instead to delve deeper into the topic by relating his experience. He skillfully unpacks the various nuances and tendencies observed during his first decade of career. He has spent most of that decade in the driving seat of several ecosystem enablers, pouring his all into getting Silicon Dar to rise. This book documents his work in organizations such as Buni Hub and Sahara Ventures as well as various other engagements including board assignments. He tells tales of his humble beginning working in a cyber-café, at a time when it was still the hottest thing in town. For most, they were the only gateway to the world. The ubiquity of the digital age we live in has ensured those days are long behind us. At Buni, learning on his feet was crucial.

So we were unlearning and relearning. Lucky for us and many others, Juma had the presence of mind to document and share best practices as he

went along. These are to be found online with links for the same provided. He also guides on other materials, tools and resources that could be of great importance for anyone on a quest to ensure more successful innovators and entrepreneurs out of their own ecosystems. Readers will be pleased to learn that MOOCs have been an important part of the author's journey. His work helped pioneer a movement in Tanzania. Like a proud uncle who helped raise an Engineer, the success stories Tanzania has had thus far please him a great deal. Fintech notables such as Nala definitely benefit from those who came before.

Juma uses fine strokes to paint a picture of what the innovation landscape looked like then, what it looks like now and the transition in between. He writes a great deal about his native Tanzania, while taking us around Africa and across the world. Shooting from the hip, Mtambalike passionately digs into what has worked just as he does what hasn't. In the foreword, Vusi Thembekwayo exclaims that the book should be given to every Minister of Finance and ICT on the continent. I couldn't agree more. However, as you read it, one gets the feeling that the intended audience is broader and includes entrepreneurs, investors, academicians and ecosystem enablers. Juma is an effective proponent who preaches the innovation gospel with great conviction and radical candor.

By bringing the receipts, he makes it easy for the reader to convert. After all, graduates of Buni innovation hub which he ran for a while are contributing upwards of TZS 0.5 Bn annually towards TRA's collection kitty.

We often tend to be stuck in a rut, recycling the same talking points. Celebrating successes from 15 years ago that have now become commonplace and are themselves at risk of disruption. Juma lauds Jua kali artisans for their determination to improve on products of yesteryear, getting real time feedback from the market as they engage in R&D exploits. Men and women who toil under the hot sun, arms sinewy and backs bent from long days of eking a living. Their forte; making small iterations on a product that solves a real problem so that it can solve it better. They are somewhat immune to the white savior complex, fully understanding they are the one's they've been waiting for. A mixture of hope and frustrations is what you see behind those faces beaded with sweat. Sometimes they receive token help from political operatives' keen to achieve selfish ends. Juma reminds us that the Huaqiangbei market in China, which was set up on a similar foundation thrives because they received real support from the government. Not opportunistic tokenism.

Well-travelled, Juma has also learnt a lot from being away. One of my favorites,

Mos Def, sings about moving through places, space and time. Reading #DAHMM, one senses the author has had a similar experience from traversing the most rural corners of his native Tanzania, moving around the region, shuttling across the continent and visiting first-rate tech hubs and Technopolis'. He talks about the Finnish ecosystem and his visits to Aalto University with great reverence. From his depiction of that ecosystem, it is clear that they are deliberate. In Helsinki, a lot of the fluff seems to have been taken out. Only substance remains. Incidentally, Helsinki's SLUSH'D is coming back to both Nairobi and Dar this year.

Hopefully that "minimalism" gospel spreads across a continent where resource-poor settings are the norm rather than the exception. Sometimes, it is easy to emulate the west's pomposity and discount its substance. The peaks and pitfalls are also a part of the valley. Reading this book and the author's cyber-café past got me thinking about Yahoo boys, 419 scams and that infamous "Nigerian prince". Technology can be used for both good and bad. The yahoo boys had their run preying on rich damsels in distress. We have a new breed of internet entrepreneurs like Shola Akinlade whose success is more sustainable. They are solving real problems and earning top dollar from it. It's also amazing how invested they are in these AfCFTA mar-

kets, pumping back proceeds of earlier success into other ventures. Past solvers enabling the next solvers of real problems on the continent.

Juma writes about this Egyptian VC actively investing in American startups, a punch up that hopefully becomes a norm. Talk of punching up, the likes of Burna Boy, Wizkid, Rema, Davido and a seemingly endless string of Nigerian musicians are getting endless streams and topping charts globally. In the East, Diamond and Sauti Sol are proving to be really effective cultural entrepreneurs and ambassadors. Some artists such as Mr. Eazi and Patoranking who earn several million US dollars a year from streams and sold-out tours are actively investing some of that money in start-ups back home. The book explores how VC funding trickles into the continent's top five startup ecosystems which he christens K.E.N.G.S.

This is an acronym for Kenya, Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa. These five took the lion's share of VC money trickling into Africa. Trickle is the right word because the entire continent attracts only but a fraction of what VCs inject into Silicon Valley. On KENG.S, he further notes that despite there being a proliferation of hubs across all major urban areas on the continent, none of them has developed a Unicorn/Zebra yet. What are they doing wrong?

Recently, someone tweeted how a certain idea if executed well while ticking the right DEI & ESG boxes would be VC gold-mine. A bunch of questions ran through my mind. Are we overvaluing ideas? What's in a thought? Do you become an entrepreneur to create and harness win-wins from solving a need or is it to seek alms from western backers? Are we innovating to win awards or to solve problems? Are we

looking for VC goldmines or is our focus squarely on a more enduring and rewarding crown jewel, the customer? Another tweet, captioning a daily's front page got me thinking. Why are we selling significant shareholding in some of our most bankable prospects to westerners and easterners? Are we selling our birthright? Don't we all struggle with capital flight as a continent? Why are we busy working against our interests? Is this a case of short-term gains for long-term pains?

The author speaks of another form of short-termism that he has encountered especially when called upon to judge competitions. Most of those who emerge winners never commercialize their award-winning inventions/innovations. Even after a lot of quality publicity and goodwill. The boy who harnessed the wind and the kind of heroism that ends when credits roll at the 90th minute serves as a cautionary tale. In reality, wind remains largely untamed on the continent. So is hydro. I mean, the Grand Inga dam is still a plan six decades later. Where elements have been tamed, we rely on foreigners from the west or Far East to provide their capital, equipment, managerial and technical know-how.

Nigeria's Chimamanda warns us of the dangers of a single story. We would all do well to heed that warning. Africa is not a single place; it doesn't have a single story. In Zero to one, Thiel advises that the next Elon won't build a PayPal or Tesla. In essence, he is pointing out the folly of trying to solve what was already solved decades ago in the same way. We all have opportunities before our eyes that few seem to bother with. Probably because we were sold a single story, culture. The author posits that if ugali was an Asian staple, an ugali maker

would exist.

We condone stuff and are happy with our lot in life, mediocre as it may be. We look to the west or the east to clothe, feed and move us. We rely a great deal on Development Partners (DP) to spark entrepreneurship and innovation in us as well as improve quality of life in rural settings. However, DPs have their own objectives and oftentimes operate on an unsustainable annual funding cycle with limited scope. Short-termism will not offer long term solutions to Africa's job crisis. Sadly, those tasked with leading us keep misleading us and expecting foreigners to clean up after them. A tree growing under the shed of another tree will not grow fully.

During that hour-long interaction last year, we all learnt a great deal and further appreciated what a sense of urgency and agency could do to us as a continent. Glad that our work impressed Jumanne enough to make it into his book. He pulls no punches with this one and does a lot of learning, relearning and unlearning. Quite grateful that he opts to candidly share with us learnings from his first decade of career in 345 pages. The anecdotes he gives and the visuals he places alongside the text do their bit to drive the message home.

Jimmy Bogonko is an experienced virtual CFO with a decade of expertise in project management and finance. He currently serves as a director at Impact Counts, a boutique consulting firm based in Kenya that provides M&E solutions. His focus primarily lies in assisting SMEs with cash flow management, financial reporting, and fundraising. In his free time, he enjoys exploring, reading, writing and golfing.

Twitter: @JimmyBogonko

Zika, dengue transmission expected to rise with climate change



João Gabriel, born with microcephaly caused by a Zika virus infection, with his adoptive mother, Marilene da Silva.

By Luis Patriani

THE number of deaths in Brazil due to dengue hit a record high in 2022, with 1,016 – the first time in history the number had surpassed four digits. And the sobering statistic is expected to be even higher in 2023.

According to the Center for Arbovirus Emergency Operations, 635 fatal cases had been reported by June 11 – up 22% as compared with the same period in 2022. The agency's most recent update, released by the Ministry of Health, shows 1.3 million probable cases so far this year, while the total number for 2022 was 1,450,270 cases.

If the threat of dengue, which is mostly transmitted by the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, seems frightening now, a study carried out at the University of Michigan in the United States painted a worse picture for the future. The transmission potential of arboviruses – which include, aside from dengue, Zika and chikungunya – could increase by 20% over the next 30 years because of climate change.

The study arrived at this alarming conclusion after analyzing the incidence of these diseases in four Brazilian cities: Manaus, Recife, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

"Brazilian health agencies need to be prepared not only for the increased incidence of diseases like dengue and Zika, but also for longer transmission seasons and broader geographic areas of occurrence," affirms epidemiologist Andrew Brouwer, co-author of the study and researcher at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

To comparatively measure the epidemic potential of Zika and dengue, the scientists first estimated the number of new cases that mosquitoes would cause in a susceptible population after biting and infecting one person, a figure known as the basic reproduction number, or RO. They then used historical data and temperature projections for the years 2045-49 to predict the risk of the diseases.

According to Brouwer, one example of what the increase in basic reproduction number could mean in practice became evident in the case of Manaus, where

the current average RO for Zika is 2.3. This means that one person could infect 2.3 people. In Manaus, this number is expected to grow to around 2.5 by 2050. "This change in the RO seems small, but it can quickly elevate the transmission chains and lead to larger, faster-spreading outbreaks."

The study showed greater potential for Zika epidemics than current levels in all the climatic scenarios that it analyzed, including Manaus, where the threat had been expected to drop because of extreme heat. Zika and dengue spread most quickly at average daily temperatures around 30° Celsius, but outbreaks are still possible at 35°C.

The study also showed that the seasons in which the diseases spread will be longer by two or three months in Rio de Janeiro and by two months in Recife by 2050 – up from the current four months a year during which the most outbreaks occur (from December through March). Because temperatures there are lower, São Paulo is at lower risk for spread of the diseases but may become more vulnerable to out-

breaks between November and April.

"We were expecting a consistent drop in the projections for risk of arboviral diseases in the hottest regions of the country, but most of the scenarios showed higher levels than we have today. There will probably be sporadic outbreaks in the coolest regions that will become increasingly common as temperatures rise," said Brouwer.

Arboviruses are already spreading to cooler regions today, driven not only by higher temperatures but by the fact that they are transported more frequently by roadway vehicles and airplanes traveling between Brazil's medium- and large-sized cities.

This fact is evidenced by data on the states with the most deaths in 2022: São Paulo (282 deaths), Goiás (162), Paraná (109), Santa Catarina (88) and Rio Grande do Sul (66). The city of Joinville, located in the southern – and cooler – state of Santa Catarina, ranked fourth among the Brazilian cities with the most cases of dengue, with 21,300.

BUSINESS

‘India, African nations need to strengthen economic ties’

By Beatrice Philemon

India and African countries have been advised to work together to promote research, technology, trade and investment in the agricultural sector to strengthen economic and business ties.

The aim is to boost food security and better feed the growing population.

Chandra Shekhar, an economist and global agri-business specialist from India, said yesterday at the ongoing Afro World Agri Food Exhibition in Dar es Salaam bringing together more than 700 participants engaged in the Agri-business sector from Africa, Asia, Europe and USA.

He said India is willing to invest in Africa including Tanzania and other African countries with large populations.

“We need to spend more in this area to come up with climate-smart agriculture and Tanzania is the right country for business and investment opportunities,” he said.

Apart from that, India and African countries need, to find more positive solutions together to identify challenges facing the agriculture sector between Africa and India.

He also called on businesses from India and African countries to invest heavily in agriculture due to access to technology.

According to Shekhar, In-



Latifa Khamis, TanTrade director general

dia has been able to form the Africa-India Agri-business Alliance to share research, trade, investment and technology.

For her part, Latifa Khamis, Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) director general said that businesses from Asia, Europe and USA are willing to invest in Africa.

Tanzania is among the African countries that have ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement which means the country will now be able to access

the market of over 1.3 billion people across the continent.

Tanzania also enjoys preferential membership of two regional blocks which are East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) with a population of about 470 million people.

The East African Community formed by eight member states with SADC constitutes 16 countries and all these countries are potential and accessible markets.

The Tanzania govern-

ment is committed to make sure all important infrastructures facilitate trade and investment.

He named important infrastructures as Stigler's Gorge with the capacity of producing 2,000 Megawatt of electricity, Standard Gauge Railway with the aim of linking neighbouring countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Democratic Republic of Congo and improving air transport.

She called on foreign businesses to explore investment opportunities available in Tanzania es-

pecially in the agriculture sector.

Khamis invites businesses to participate in the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair DITF that is the biggest trade in East and Central Africa conducted in July every year.

She further called upon their full participation in the industrial trade fair to be held in October and Zanzibar Shopping Festivals held every January.

India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan said the agriculture sector remains the first priority and creates employment between Tanzania and India.

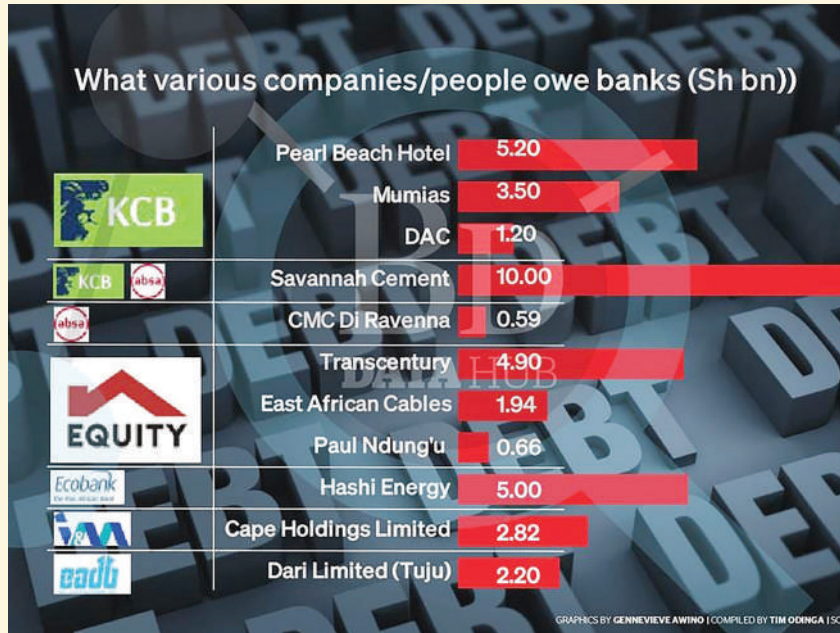
“We have a mutual relationship with the government and have a long history of working together in the agriculture sector,” he said.

India is among top five countries in the world with many foreign direct investments in Tanzania, according to Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), Indian investments in Tanzania are \$3.68 billion.

India and Tanzania share vibrant economic and business ties.

India offers 98 percent duty free tariff scheme to Tanzania and this has helped to promote Tanzania's exports to India.

“I hope with Dar es Salaam port, trade between Tanzania and India will grow,” said the Commissioner.



Banks strike high-profile borrowers in default panic

NAIROBI

Banks are aggressively going after high-profile clients, including giant corporations and prominent billionaires, amid a fresh wave of corporate defaults that are leaving lenders with a pile-up of bad loans.

Ecobank is the latest to tap the services of auctioneers as it moves to sell properties belonging to Kenyan oil marketer Hashi Energy in Nairobi, Nakuru, Kisumu, Eldoret and Mombasa counties to recover a Sh5 billion debt.

A number of other banks, including KCB, Equity Group and Absa Bank Kenya, have moved to courts seeking orders to seize assets of defaulters, reflecting a tough business environment where economic activities have been largely muted.

KCB Group, Kenya's largest bank by asset size, has been the busiest in the courts, applying for the seizure of various properties for unpaid loans running into billions of shillings.

Nine days ago, KCB seized the second hotel belonging to the embattled owners of the Mombasa luxury property English Point Marina over non-payment of a Sh5.2 billion loan, as the listed lender tries to cut its non-performing loans (NPLs).

Earlier, an administrator appointed by KCB and Absa invited creditors to file their claims against troubled Savannah Cement after the company was placed under administration by the two lenders over a Sh10 billion debt. Absa is demanding Sh7 billion from the cement manufacturer, with the rest owed to KCB.

KCB also recently placed DAC Aviation under administration for an unpaid loan of Sh1.2 billion. Also on KCB's list of defaulters is Mumias Sugar from which it is claiming Sh3.5 billion.

Equity, the region's most profitable lender, is demanding over Sh6 billion from TransCentury Plc and its subsidiary East African Cables Limited.

The bank placed TransCentury under receivership over non-payment of a Sh4.9 billion loan. Receivership means that the lender has been given the green light to liquidate TransCentury.

The investment firm, which recently raised Sh538 million from the targeted Sh2 billion cash call from investors, now faces a survival battle after Equity rejected its debt repayment plan, terming it “unacceptable.”

Billionaire Paul Wandi Ndung'u in May lost a case in which he sought to stop the auction of his properties over a Sh664.8 million loan owed to Equity, paving the way for the lender to liquidate the assets that were used as collateral.

The properties that were put up for auction included prime residential property sitting on 2.8 acres in Nairobi's Gigiri and a 600-acre commercial farm in Laikipia County.

However, East African Cables, a subsidiary of TransCentury, has been placed under administration which means it will continue running as a going concern.

Administration offers East African Cables the chance to pay off its debt of Sh1.94 billion to Equity and avoid liquidation.

I&M placed Cape Holdings Ltd (CHL), which owns DusitD2 Hotel, under administration as it seeks to recover Sh2.82 billion.

Joshua Oigara, the CEO of Stanbic Bank, which has doubled its provisions for bad loans, told the Business Daily that banks have been working with their customers over time to resolve outstanding matters.

“When you see the bank coming up with auction notices and recovery actions, it is largely because the agreed structure for resolution has not been met by the client,” Mr Oigara said.

“At the end of the day, there has to be a limit on how much you can extend recovery efforts to clients.”

Recently, the bank put up a tea estate in Nandi and office blocks belonging to billionaire businessman David Langat's empire for auction. But it has since withdrawn the auction notice, saying the matter has been resolved.

Banks have been under pressure from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) to bring down their NPLs in what is aimed at maintaining financial stability.

African countries expect to benefit from coffee value addition, deepen industrial integration

By Special Correspondent

OFFICIALS from 25 coffee-producing countries in Africa gathered in Uganda for a four-day meeting that wrapped up Thursday, vowing to protect the continent's fair share in the global value chain.

The meeting, dubbed the 2nd G-25 Heads of State Africa Coffee Summit, was convened under the theme “Transforming the African Coffee Sector through Value Addition.” The first summit was held in Nairobi, Kenya, last year with participants reevaluating the overall performance of the coffee industry in Africa.

In the past four days, the officials talked about what they call an unfavorable international coffee market, where most of the African coffee is exported with little value addition.

Gerald Katabazi, who



Gerald Katabazi, a Ugandan coffee businessman, checks on a batch of freshly roasted coffee beans at his coffee roastery in Kampala

has an indigenous coffee roastery in the Ugandan capital of Kampala, is determined to increase the consumption of coffee in Uganda, a country that exported most of the coffee to the international market.

By starting up a coffee roastery, Katabazi is among many young Africans who have been trying to add value to one of the conti-

nent's oldest cash crops to boost household incomes.

“I am passionate about coffee because I know the impact it has. Coffee made me who I am today. Coffee educated me. I am largely looking at how it can even impact others,” Katabazi said in an interview in his shop, an unadorned place filled with the aroma of freshly roasted coffee beans.

While the youth are striving to promote the consumption of coffee among the growing middle class in Africa, the governments of various countries are mulling policies to support the industry.

According to the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO), one of the organizers of the meeting, coffee is critical to African economies and is a source of livelihood for at least 60 million people across the continent.

In Uganda alone, the coffee value chain supports more than 5 million households who engage in various coffee activities from production to export, according to Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

The IACO, created in 1960 to serve the interests of the African coffee industry, says coffee-producing countries in Africa can harness the opportuni-

ties in value addition and increase Africa's contribution to the global coffee trade which has an estimated value of 466 billion U.S. dollars.

The continent's coffee production makes up 12 percent of the overall worldwide production of coffee beans. Two countries, Ethiopia (39 percent) and Uganda (23 percent), account for 62 percent of coffee beans distribution in Africa.

Emmanuel Iyamulemye, managing director of Uganda Coffee Development Authority, said that many critical issues are going to be discussed to boost the development of the coffee industry in Africa.

“When you add value, we increase incomes by six-fold,” Iyamulemye said. He added that Uganda will join other African countries in lobbying the African Union to make coffee a priority crop.

Stanbic Bank Kenya sets 19 percent interest rate on riskiest borrowers

NAIROBI

Stanbic Bank Kenya has set 19 percent as the highest interest rate for risky borrowers as the lender begins implementing risk-based pricing after receiving approval from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) last December.

The bank says clients will be priced up to a premium of five percentage points on its internal benchmark lending rate currently set at 13.12 percent – a moving target based on the prevailing Central Bank Rate.

“Our benchmark rate is at 13.12 percent and we can price up to 19 percent,” Stanbic Bank Kenya CEO Joshua Oigara told the Business Daily on Thursday.

Stanbic becomes the latest after Equity Bank Kenya to disclose the

structure of its risk-based pricing mechanism.

The lender, whose parent firm is Stanbic Holdings, has begun transitioning both new and existing customers into the new loan pricing regime save for customers with fixed interest rates.

“By the end of June, close to 70 percent of our facilities have been migrated to risk-based pricing,” added Mr Oigara.

He said that risk-based pricing will have the effect of creating market transparency allowing borrowers to shop for credit from different banks with full knowledge on pricing.

“There has been a lot of worry on whether risk-based pricing takes us back to the old regime but this is generally transparent pricing. In other markets such as the US, UK and even

South Africa we have prime rates. Customers can challenge interest rates on offer and when not happy seek credit from other lenders,” he said.

The bank's effecting of risk-based pricing raised its lending margins in the six months period to the end of June and was responsible for more than three-quarters of the increase in its interest margins in the period.

The higher interest margins were reflected in the performance of Stanbic Holdings which posted a 47 percent rise in net profit to Sh7 billion from Sh4.7 billion.

The group's total income rose by 37.5 percent to Sh20.9 billion as net interest income grew faster than non-funded income at 44.5 percent to Sh12 billion.

Stanbic Holdings was forced to

double its credit impairment charges to Sh2.4 billion from Sh1.2 billion previously on the adverse assessment of some of its corporate borrowers.

The company resumed paying interim dividends with its board recommending the payment of Sh1.15 per share by September 27 to shareholders on its books as of September 4.

Stanbic Bank Kenya has posted an 84.3 percent growth in profit to Sh3.89 billion for the three months ending March.

The growth was on the back of higher income in the review period with total operating income rising 64.7 percent to Sh11.15 billion.

Non-interest-funded income grew at the fastest pace, increasing to Sh5.74 billion from Sh3.03 billion

compared to the previous like period.

Forex trading income was the primary driver for the non-funded income having grown by 1.48 fold to Sh4.26 billion.

“During the quarter, the bank remained focused on executing its three-year medium-term strategy that started in 2021. The outcomes demonstrate our ability to create shared value and sustainable returns for shareholders and multiple stakeholders,” said Stanbic Bank Kenya and South Sudan CEO Joshua Oigara.

The lender's net interest income grew by 44.9 percent to Sh5.42 billion from Sh3.74 billion previously.

The growth in interest income was partially anchored on an 11.7 percent loan book growth to Sh230.7 billion from Sh206.46 billion a year ago.

The bank's customer deposits meanwhile grew twice as fast or by 23.8 percent to reach Sh291 billion from Sh235.11 billion.

Non-interest expenses nevertheless spiked in the period to push up Stanbic's cost base as provisions for bad loans soared by 132 percent to Sh1.14 billion from a lower Sh491 million a year ago.

The growth in the cover for bad loans is attributable to a lift in gross non-performing loans and advances which hit Sh29.29 billion in the quarter ended March from Sh24.56 billion in the contrasting 2022 period.

The bank has stated it maintains a strong growth momentum on all revenue streams going into the half-year period.

LAGOS

THE question in the minds of Nigerians today is why is the Naira depreciating or This is a valid question given the sharp and persistent depreciation of the Naira since June 14 when the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN announced new operational measures in the foreign exchange market.

Since then, the Naira has depreciated by 21 per cent to N930 per dollar in the parallel market, and by 66 per cent to N781.34 per dollar in the official market, namely the Investors and Exporters, I&E window.

This is more worrisome, as this trend will translate to further increase in price of goods and services, higher inflation rate, given that most of what Nigerians consume are imported or have significant import components. These include petroleum products, wheat, raw materials etc.

There are two major reasons why the exchange rate is rising rapidly, especially since June 14.

The first reason, which is also the root cause of the naira depreciation, is that supply of dollars into the economy has been declining while

Reasons for the Naira's depreciation

demand for dollars remains relatively unchanged courtesy of the country's huge demand for dollars fuelled by dependence on imported goods for many economic activities.

This is reflected in persistent fall in the nation's external reserves, which represents the amount of dollars and foreign currency available to the country for importation and transactions with other countries.

Data from the CBN shows that the nation's external reserves fell by \$3.23 billion or 8.5 per cent to \$33.92 billion on July 9 from \$37.15 billion on December 31st 2022.

Foreign exchange inflow, which represents supply, into the external reserves, comes from export earnings, diaspora remittances, foreign investment, foreign aid, external loans etc.

Foreign exchange outflow, which represents demand from the reserves, occurs via funding of importation, external debt service, payment for services, travel etc.

A very critical measure of forex inflow and outflow into the economy is Net Forex Inflow, NFI. When inflow is more than outflow, NFI rises. When



outflow surpasses inflow, NFI falls. Data from the CBN shows that Net Forex Inflow into Nigeria has been falling since 2019.

According to the CBN, NFI stood at \$76.38 billion in 2019. It fell by 6.6 per cent to \$70.65 billion in 2020, it fell again by 25.4 per cent to \$52.72

billion in 2021, and again by 28.3 per cent to \$37.94 billion in 2022. Thus Net Forex Inflow into the country fell by half (49.5 per cent) within four years.

A major factor responsible for this persistent decline in NFI, is the fall in foreign investment inflow into the

economy. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, Capital Importation (Foreign Investment) into Nigeria fell from \$23.99 billion in 2019 to \$5.33 billion in 2022. This represents a huge 77.8 per cent decline in a major dollar supply source into the country.

The fact that the external reserves fell by \$3.23 billion or 8.5 per cent this year indicates that the above trend in Net Forex Inflow and foreign investment inflow, has not changed.

That is confirmed by the sharp decline in the volume of dollars traded (turnover) in the official forex market, represented by the Investors and Exporters, I&E window.

In the first six months of this year, H1'23, turnover in the I&E window fell to \$13.11 billion. This represents a 35 per cent fall when compared with turnover of \$20.23 billion recorded in the first half of 2022, H1'22.

The above trend explains the acute dollar scarcity in the economy.

And like other commodities when demand is higher than the supply, the price will rise, all things being equal. Hence the continuous rise in

the exchange rate, which is the price of exchanging Naira for dollars.

The second reason behind the sharp depreciation of the naira in recent times is the new operational measures for the forex market announced by the CBN on June 14.

These measures include elimination of multiple exchange rates in the official market, introduction of the willing buyer willing seller model for determination of exchange rate in the I&E window.

Prior to these measures, the CBN maintained different exchange rates for its various intervention or forex sales in the official forex market. Also the official exchange rate was kept at a level determined by the CBN.

Meanwhile, due to the decline in external reserves the CBN could not meet all genuine demand for forex, a situation that pushed many organisations to rely on the parallel market for their forex needs.

Thus while the exchange rate in the official market was relatively stable, the exchange rate in the parallel market rose steadily. Hence on June 13, the parallel market exchange rate stood at N768 per dollar while the official exchange rate stood at N471.67 per dollar, leading to a gap of N296.33 per dollar.

Knife Capital closes \$50m African series B fund

CAPE TOWN

Venture capital firm Knife Capital has closed Knife Fund III, a \$50 million African Series B expansion fund.

The fund supports the expansion of African innovation-driven enterprises, either as the main investor or through co-investment with other funders from across the continent.

The primary focus is on high-growth, scalable South African business-to-business tech companies with considerable impact potential and exit options. The fund will also finance entrepreneurs in other African countries who fit this investment profile, in collaboration with competent local partners.

Early-stage assistance for African entrepreneurs, according to Knife Capital, is important for supporting innovation, job creation, and economic growth on the continent.

It observes that, despite their immense potential, bright African entrepreneurs who have moved beyond the Series A funding stage usually struggle to get the cash they need to take their discoveries global.

Knife Fund III features a varied set of investors, including the team itself, the International Finance Corporation, the Mine-workers Investment Company, the SA SME Fund, and its new Venture Capital Fund.

The Venture Capital Fund is a government-business collaboration that has attracted capital from investors such as the Department of Science and Innovation, USAID, the Consolidated Retirement Fund for Local Government and Rand Mutual Assurance, Standard Bank, AfricaGrow (a German Fund of Funds supported by DEG,



Keet van Zyl (L), Knife Capital founder, and Mark Fawzy, CEO and founder of Octiv

KfW, and AllianzGI), Skybound Capital, Fireball Capital, and the Draper-Gain family office in collaboration with Rand Merchant Bank.

Keet van Zyl, Knife Capital co-founder says: "We are delighted to bring together such a credible investor base, with a reason to care about the growth of venture capital investments in Africa.

"Most of our investors are co-investment partners, who share deal flow openly and can augment the investments with alternative funding instruments and follow-on funding for enhanced growth. Raising a

venture capital fund in Africa is a long and challenging journey, but we could not have scripted the outcome any better."

Martin Ewald, MD at Allianz Global Investors and lead portfolio manager Impact Investments, says: "In Knife Capital we have found an excellent partner generating real impact on the ground by building and exiting successful companies, utilising their deep experience, value-adding network, and local expertise. We look forward to a fruitful cooperation."

Ketso Gordhan, CEO, SA SME Fund, says: "Having a home-grown VC fund in Knife

Capital with assets under management of R1.3 billion is just a phenomenal growth story for the industry, and testament to what can be done with support of the broader ecosystem."

Knife Fund III is already partnering with successful entrepreneurs on the continent. "Since first close, the fund invested in AI-enabled process optimisation company: DataProphet and digital health access platform: Kasha and has a strong pipeline of transactions in various stages of closing out," says Julien Draper, Knife Capital partner and deal flow custodian.

Embracing of the gig economy, developing retention strategies

KIGALI

As Rwanda continues its journey towards economic growth and sustainable development, the country is charting a path towards the future of work, embracing technological advancements and fostering a balanced work-life integration for its citizens as we have seen in the new labour law.

While the future of work remains dynamic and subject to various influences, Rwanda's vision and proactive approach are laying a strong foundation for a resilient and prosperous workforce with the largest ever seen population of youth entering into the labor market and new technologies expanding opportunities both locally and globally.

In this context we need to ask ourselves how can organizations become ready for the future from a HR perspective?

Being the CEO of Sandberg Ltd, an HR company operating in Kigali since 2016 and as the Executive Director of the European Business Chamber of Rwanda, we are exploring how organizations in Rwanda can thrive in this evolving landscape while prioritizing the well-being and growth of their members.

The Future of Work in Rwanda will be characterized by the rise of the gig economy and heightened entrepreneurial activities. Traditional hierarchical workplace structures are making way for more fluid and agile setups, where individuals engage in short-term contracts and pursue entrepreneurial ambitions.

However, amidst this rapid transformation, the need for psychological safety and belonging has become more critical than ever before.

The gig economy is gaining momentum in Rwanda, offering individuals the flexibility, autonomy, and opportunities to explore diverse roles and industries. Similarly, entrepreneurship is on the rise, empowering Rwandans to pursue passion projects and cultivate unique skills.

To thrive in this new work paradigm, organizations must embrace and adapt to these changing work patterns. We believe forward-thinking companies need to integrate gig workers as valued members of their teams, fostering collaboration and inclusivity across all work arrangements.

This collaborative approach allows organizations to leverage the collective expertise of both full-time employees and gig workers, driving innovation and creativity. According to Maken Juel Heskjaer, International Executive HR advisor:

"Many organizations hesitate to hire gig workers, as the paradigm of 'appearance equals performance' is a common but stereotyped old narrative that CEO's need to evaluate.

Tourism revenue up by 56 percent in first half of 2023

KIGALI

THE current tourism figures show that Rwanda generated \$247 million in the first half of 2023, a 56 per cent increase compared to \$158 million in the same period in 2022, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) announced in a statement.

The tourism industry continues to be one of the fastest-growing sectors in the country, generating millions of dollars in revenue each year.

The 2022 annual report by RDB states that tourism revenues rose by 171.3 per cent from \$164 million in 2021 to \$445 million (about Rwf496 billion) recorded in 2022.

The growth represents a remarkable 89.3 per cent recovery compared to the pre-Covid-19 pandemic period, indicated the report. The growth in tourism revenue was also above the earlier projected revenue (\$350 million) for 2022.

As noted, the country's tourism sector faced a very challenging year (2020) as global tourism and travel fell sharply in the wake of the covid-19 pandemic.

According to the report, in 2022, Rwanda welcomed a total



Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa

of more than 1.1 million international visitors. Of these, the report showed, more than 60 per cent came from African countries, highlighting the country's growing popularity as a destination within the continent.

Furthermore, 47.5 per cent of the visitors came for business purposes, reflecting Rwanda's positioning as a hub for business activities, it added.

Rwanda has been recognized for its remarkable achievements by "Africa Wealth Report 2023," published in March.

The report provides a com-

prehensive review of private wealth in Africa, including high-net-worth-individual, luxury, and wealth management trends, among others. It is a joint effort between Henley & Partners, a global leader in residence and citizenship by investment, and wealth intelligence firm, New World Wealth.

Rwanda received several accolades in the report, highlighting the country's growth and potential.

One of the achievements that Rwanda was recognized for is its passport strength. In the top

20 African passports ranking, Rwanda was ranked number 17 in terms of passport strength.

Rwanda emerged as the best-performing market in Africa, with a 72% growth rate in the number of millionaires during the reporting period. This remarkable achievement has positioned the country as an attractive destination for investors seeking high returns on their investment.

Rwanda also ranked seventh in the report's list of the next 10 wealthiest African countries, demonstrating its potential for economic growth and develop-

Deloitte Africa expands Google Cloud offering

CAPE TOWN

Deloitte Africa is expanding its Cloud Engineering practice to meet the continent's growing demand for Google Cloud expertise.

The team expansion includes the addition of senior, experienced cloud engineers, who will bring expertise on Google Cloud as well as general cloud, data, and cyber engineering skills.

According to the company, the expansion of the Google Cloud practice complements Deloitte Africa's skills-building programme and bulks out offerings in Google Cloud analytics, generative AI, and advertising.

According to the company: "Our global alliance with Google Cloud and its \$1 billion investment in Africa across connectivity, devices, employment creation, skills development, enterprise development, and innovation provides additional support for Deloitte to accelerate innovation with our clients."

Deloitte Africa says demand for Google Cloud expertise in Africa has been steadily increasing and the recruitment of highly qualified cloud engineers strengthens its ability to assist clients in meeting this requirement.

Mitesh Chotu, cloud engineering leader, Deloitte Africa, says: "We're thrilled to expand our Cloud Engineering practice to satisfy the rising demand for Google Cloud expertise across the continent."

Bruno Heese, director of alliances and channels for EMEA, Google Cloud, says: "Demand for localised digital transformation is high,



and innovative cloud infrastructure and generative AI solutions are essential for reaching customers in new ways across the continent."

Matt Lacey, chief commercial officer for Google at Deloitte, adds: "This latest expansion to our team in South Africa is a further important step in the rapid expansion of our Google footprint across EMEA. Our enhanced capacity in Africa enables us to better serve our clients not just in Africa, but also across EMEA more generally."

Deloitte also recently in-

roduced a Generative AI practice for the African market. According to the company, the

practice will assist clients and business executives in designing their strategies and lever-

aging technology to develop innovative AI-powered applications.

Major setback to govt as Nigeria's oil production declines by 13.6 per cent

LAGOS

Nigeria's oil production last month fell by 13.6 percent to an average of 1.08 million barrels per day compared to 1.25mbpd recorded in June, latest production data from the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, NUPRC, has indicated.

The latest production figure is a major setback for the government which has a production target of 1.69 million barrels per day in the 2023 budget.

The volume of production is also significantly lower than the 1.7 million barrels per day quota allocated to the country by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC.

The NUPRC data released yesterday also showed that blended and unblended condensate oil daily production in July were 38,258 barrels and 174,509 barrels respectively. Condensate oil productions are not part of Nigeria's OPEC production quota.

In total, daily average oil production in July was 1.29 million barrels per day, a 12.8 percent drop when compared to total average daily production of 1.48 million barrels in June.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Limited

had projected oil production to hit 1.8 million barrels per day (mbpd) by the fourth quarter of this year, as measures put in place to boost production begin to yield results.

Disclosing the new target in Abuja during a session at the recently concluded Nigeria Oil Gas Energy Week, the Executive Vice President, Upstream, NNPC Ltd, Engr. Adokiye Tombomiyie, said the target is to first hit the 1.7mbpd mark at the end of the third quarter.

Tombomiyie said the new production targets would be achieved through asset integrity, production ramp up, well interventions, new drillings, alternative crude oil evacuation and improved security architecture.

He noted that upstream opportunities exist in the deep water space, explaining that NNPC Limited was working with its partners to achieve final investments on key major projects including the Bonga North field that would add 120,000bpd to national production.

Tombomiyie stressed that to achieve these targets a conducive investment climate was needed, adding that the new NNPC Limited structure "creates a level playing ground for investors".

Enza, Wema Bank partner seeking boost in Nigeria's e-commerce payments

LAGOS

Enza, an African fintech company, has partnered with Nigeria's Wema Bank to increase e-commerce payment acceptance in Africa.

As part of this collaboration, Enza will engineer its payment management solution to expand Wema's ecommerce payment capabilities.

According to the companies, Enza's payment service will provide a variety of benefits to Wema customers, including access to an expanded suite of payment processing features that will allow them to accept a broader range of payment choices.

This cooperation is a step forward in Wema's digital transformation path, boosting payment innovation in Nigeria, say the companies.

"Our mission is to simplify payments across the region, thereby enabling

seamless and secure transactions across the Middle East and Africa," says Enza CEO Hany Fekry. "This new collaboration with a Nigerian bank accelerates our progress towards that goal."

Tunde Mabawonku, executive director of retail and digital business at Wema Bank, says the innovation would enable the bank's clients to adopt a broader range of payment options.

Mabawonku says the streamlined payment processes would enable the timely completion of transactions, enhancing customer experience.

Damola Bolodeoku, divisional head, Payment Business, Wema Bank says: "We eagerly anticipate expanding our on-line payment capabilities and providing greater value to our customers through all channels as a result of our collaboration."



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
SATURDAY 8 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumelecha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Kipindi maalum: FAO	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mzengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
SUNDAY 9 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumelecha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	10:05 Igizo: Mzengwe	11:30 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:20 Bongo movie	13:50 Soap: Uzalo rpt	14:00 Al Jazeera	14:30 Bongo movie
15:00 Mwinganza	15:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	16:00 Bongo movie	16:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera
MONDAY 10 July	5:00 Soap: rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	11:30 Igizo: Mzengwe	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:20 Bongo movie	13:50 Soap: Uzalo rpt	14:00 Al Jazeera	14:30 Bongo movie
15:00 Mwinganza	15:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	16:00 Bongo movie	16:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera
TUESDAY 11 July	5:00 Soap: rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	11:30 Igizo: Mzengwe	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:20 Bongo movie	13:50 Soap: Uzalo rpt	14:00 Al Jazeera	14:30 Bongo movie
15:00 Mwinganza	15:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	16:00 Bongo movie	16:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera
WEDNESDAY 12 July	5:00 Soap: rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	11:30 Igizo: Mzengwe	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:20 Bongo movie	13:50 Soap: Uzalo rpt	14:00 Al Jazeera	14:30 Bongo movie
15:00 Mwinganza	15:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	16:00 Bongo movie	16:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera
THURSDAY 13 July	5:00 Soap: rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	11:30 Igizo: Mzengwe	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:20 Bongo movie	13:50 Soap: Uzalo rpt	14:00 Al Jazeera	14:30 Bongo movie
15:00 Mwinganza	15:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	16:00 Bongo movie	16:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera
FRIDAY 14 July	5:00 Soap: rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	11:30 Igizo: Mzengwe	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:20 Bongo movie	13:50 Soap: Uzalo rpt	14:00 Al Jazeera	14:30 Bongo movie
15:00 Mwinganza	15:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	16:00 Bongo movie	16:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera
SATURDAY 15 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumelecha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mzengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
SUNDAY 16 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumelecha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Kipindi maalum: FAO	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mzengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
MONDAY 17 July	5:00 Soap: rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	11:30 Igizo: Mzengwe	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:20 Bongo movie	13:50 Soap: Uzalo rpt	14:00 Al Jazeera	14:30 Bongo movie
15:00 Mwinganza	15:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	16:00 Bongo movie	16:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera
TUESDAY 18 July	5:00 Soap: rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	11:30 Igizo: Mzengwe	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:20 Bongo movie	13:50 Soap: Uzalo rpt	14:00 Al Jazeera	14:30 Bongo movie
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19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera
WEDNESDAY 19 July	5:00 Soap: rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	11:30 Igizo: Mzengwe	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
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19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera
THURSDAY 20 July	5:00 Soap: rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	11:30 Igizo: Mzengwe	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
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21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera
FRIDAY 21 July	5:00 Soap: rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	11:30 Igizo: Mzengwe	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
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19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera
SATURDAY 22 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumelecha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Kipindi maalum: FAO	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mzengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
SUNDAY 23 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumelecha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Kipindi maalum: FAO	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
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CAPITAL

Mon 10 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Business edition	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Our earth	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	14:30 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana	15:00 Sports Gazette rpt	15:30 Our Earth rpt	16:00 Al Jazeera	16:30 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	16:30 Business Edition Rpt	16:30 Culinary delight rpt	16:30 Innovation rpt	16:30 Out n'about rpt
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WORLD

West Africa bloc has force on standby for Niger intervention

ABUJA

THE 15-member Economic Community of West African States on Thursday said it has resolved to activate its standby force in response to the recent coup in Niger while underscoring its continued commitment to restore constitutional order in the country through peaceful means.

In a statement at the end of an extraordinary summit in the Nigerian capital of Abuja, the regional bloc reiterates its strong condemnation of the coup in Niger, saying it upholds all measures and principles agreed upon by the urgent ECOWAS summit on July 30.

The ECOWAS leaders "direct the (ECOWAS) committee of the Chiefs of Defense Staff to activate its standby force with all its elements immediately," and be ready for the deployment of the

ECOWAS standby force to restore the constitutional order in Niger, said the statement.

The bloc also said it would enforce all sanction measures, in particular border closures and strict travel bans, on all individuals or groups whose actions hinder peaceful efforts to restore constitutional order in Niger.

The ECOWAS said all options are on the table for the peaceful resolution of the crisis, and warned member states against "directly or indirectly hinder(ing) the peaceful resolution of the crisis."

This move by the West African bloc to mobilize the regional standby force followed the refusal of Niger's military junta to cede power to ousted President Mohamed Bazoum.

The primary objective of the regional standby force is to restore stability and



ECOWAS leaders attend an extraordinary summit in Abuja, Nigeria, on Aug 10, 2023. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

order while facilitating the return to constitutional governance in Niger, Omar Aliou Touray, president of the ECOWAS Commission, told reporters during a briefing in Abuja.

The military in Niger detained Bazoum on July 26 and chose Abdourahamane Tchiani, former leader of the country's presidential guard, to lead the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland, a governing body established by the soldiers after the coup, which has been since exercising legislative and executive authority.

The coup, the third of its kind in

West Africa in three years, has drawn condemnation from many African countries, which view the unconstitutional change of power as a threat to stability and development on the continent.

The international community fears instability in the Sahel region would breed extremism.

The ECOWAS comprises Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Agencies

Ukraine's capitulation to pave way to peace, but Washington, Kiev blocking path – Medvedev

MOSCOW

THE only thing Ukraine really needs is capitulation, which could very likely pave the way to peace, but neither Washington nor Kiev want such an outcome, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said.

"The people suffering in the trenches of a divided country really need only to surrender, which could potentially pave the way to peace. But neither Washington nor Kiev want peace," he wrote on his Telegram channel.

Medvedev (pictured) pointed out that, "the meat processing plant that is [Kiev's] counteroffensive is now operating nonstop, sending thousands of unfortunate people to the slaughterhouse." "But this operation is already powerless to help the Kiev regime, which has now advanced to the stage of post-mortem putrefaction. Nothing could regualvanize its corpse at this point," the senior official concluded.

Commenting on the Biden administration's latest request to the US Congress to appropriate another \$13 billion in emergency military aid to Kiev, Medvedev noted that, "the enlightened world once again shuddered upon learning of the allocation of tens of meaningless billions of dollars for the zombies from Country 404 (a euphemism for Ukraine - TASS)." At the same time, "the kamikazes stuck in burning Western tanks will not see this [money allocated by Washington]," Medvedev asserted. "They will see nothing but death," he added.

At the same time, the senior official pointed out, this money is very important "for the gerontocratic elite of the US Democratic Party and its lackeys in the EU." "After all, the myth of the 'great counteroffensive' is sustained by the myth of the 'almighty dollar-based economy,'" he explained.

Agencies



BRICS 2023 summit to challenge Western dominance, US dollar, says South Centre chief

GENEVA

THE 15th BRICS summit, to be held in South Africa this month, is expected to make the global governance system fairer and counterbalance the dominance of Western countries, Carlos Maria Correa, executive director of the South Centre, told Xinhua on Wednesday.

The event's agenda will be topped by efforts toward de-dollarization (reducing the U.S. dollar's hegemony) and the expansion of the bloc, said Correa.

The BRICS group of major emerging economies – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – will hold its 15th heads of state and government summit in Johannesburg between Aug. 22 and Aug. 24.

The summit will be the first in-person BRICS gathering since the COVID-19 pandemic. Altogether, the BRICS nations account for more than 40 percent of the world population and about 26 percent of the global economy.

"One key issue for the BRICS to consider is global



governance. There is a need to change the current system, which is unfair and asymmetric. In particular, the architecture of the financial system needs a major reform," Correa said.

Leaders are also expected to discuss the BRICS group's expansion by adding new members, including the admission criteria and the guiding principles.

"Among my hopes is that the current BRICS group considers the incorporation of other countries," Correa said. "This will be very important because it will give volume to the BRICS group."

"Of course, major economies, such as those of India, Brazil and China, are there, but if other countries can also be incorporated, the political dimension of the BRICS will be

improved significantly."

So far, over 20 countries have formally applied to become new BRICS members, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Indonesia, Egypt and Ethiopia.

Correa said although the Group of Seven (G7) and the Group of 20 (G20) "still influence a lot the international developments", the groups are "dominated by developed

countries."

"But the BRICS play an important role in counterbalancing the G7 and G20. They look for solutions that are aligned with the interests of the other developing countries," he said.

Asked how China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has contributed to China-Africa cooperation, Correa said: "There are so many projects that have been realized in the context of this initiative, it is very difficult to highlight just one. The contribution has been immense."

"The creation of infrastructure in African countries has been extremely important, such as new ports, electricity plants and water supply.

This is one of the reasons why South-South cooperation has become so important in the last few years," he said. The South Centre, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, is an intergovernmental organization of developing countries that helps developing countries to combine their efforts and expertise to promote their common interests in the international arena. Xinhua

UN Secy General Guterres 'concerned' by deplorable living conditions of Niger's President

NEW YORK

THE United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed "concern" over the deplorable living conditions of Niger President Mohamed Bazoum and his family following his ouster by the military coup.

Following reports that President Bazoum of Niger and his family are living without electricity, water, food or medicine the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General made the remarks and reiterated his concern over the health of the Niger President.

"The Secretary-General is very concerned over the deplorable living conditions that President Bazoum and his family are reported to be living under as they continue to be arbitrarily detained

by members of the Presidential Guard in Niger," the UN spokesperson said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The Secretary-General reiterates his concern over the health and safety of the President and his family and once again calls for his immediate, unconditional release and his reinstatement as Head of State," the statement added.

Moreover, the Secretary-General also raised alarm over reports about the arrest of members of the Niger government.

"The Secretary-General is also alarmed over continuing reports about the arrest of several

members of the Government. He urgently calls for their unconditional release, and for the strict adherence to Niger's international human rights obligations," the UN spokesperson said.

Niger has been engulfed in political chaos since late last month when the country's President Mohamed Bazoum was ousted in a coup. Following the military coup that sparked international condemnation, Abdourahamane Tiani, the commander of Niger's presidential guard, has declared himself the country's leader.

Since gaining independence from France in 1960, military coups have occurred frequently in Niger. However, political instability has declined recently. In 2021, Bazoum was elected president in the nation's first democratic transfer of power.

ANI

UN says South Sudan not ready for elections despite assurances by political actors

JUBA

CONSTANT delays in the implementation of key electoral and constitutional benchmarks by South Sudan parties to the 2018 revitalized peace agreement cast doubts on the possibility of holding elections in 2024, the UN mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) said on Thursday.

Guang Cong, the deputy special representative of the Secretary-General (Political) for South Sudan, said there is an urgent need for the adoption of the national elections act by the revitalized transitional national legislative assembly, the reconstitution of

the National Constitutional Review Commission, the National Elections Commission, and the Political Parties Council.

"Despite the growing calls for elections in the public domain, we are concerned about the lack of progress in key electoral and constitutional benchmarks.

As it stands, the conditions for South Sudan to hold elections are not in place yet," he said during the plenary meeting of members of the Revitalized Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. Cong noted that 2023 is a critical "make or break" year for free, fair, and credible

elections in 2024.

He disclosed that the transitional security arrangements are behind schedule, adding that the latest call by the presidency directing the immediate deployment of the necessary unified forces, and the commencement of phase II of training the second batch is a welcome development.

The parties graduated about 53,000 unified forces in the first batch in August last year. In total, they are supposed to graduate 83,000 unified forces made up of police, army, intelligence, wildlife, and prisons.

"It goes without saying that the security of the country before,

during, and after the elections is non-negotiable," Guang said.

"With less than four months left in 2023, all parties to the peace agreement are therefore urgently requested to demonstrate their political will by expediting the implementation of key outstanding benchmarks of the (extended) roadmap.

Political will, pragmatism, and leadership are paramount." Cong also commended the transitional unity government for its open refugee policy that has seen the arrival of more than 213,000 people displaced by conflict in neighboring Sudan since April 15.

He, however, warned that the

prolongation of the conflict in Sudan continues to adversely impact South Sudan.

"The congestion and increased competition over scarce resources in the border areas, if not duly addressed, could exacerbate tensions between the returnees and host communities," Cong said.

He revealed the UNMISS has intensified its patrols and reinforced its presence in Renk town of Upper Nile state where it is working with the government to mitigate and prevent any potential outbreak of violence.

"We acknowledge the effective cooperation we have with the government of Upper Nile, the

South Sudan People's Defense Forces, the South Sudan National Police Service, and the National Security Service.

Furthermore, we continue to call for national and international funding to ensure support for people fleeing the conflict," he said.

Charles Tai Gituai, the interim chairperson of the RJMEC, said the first batch of unified forces is still redundant and awaiting redeployment.

He added the unification of the mid-level echelons of the command structure is not complete as the parties continue to haggle over power-sharing ratios.

Israeli researchers identify biomarker for potential relapse-free lung cancer treatment

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI researchers have identified a potential biomarker that could revolutionize lung cancer treatment.

A Weizmann Institute of Science study's findings introduce a new avenue for personalized medicine that could lead to relapse-free treatment for certain lung cancer patients.

Common treatments for lung cancer include operations to remove tumours or portions of the lung, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and immunotherapy, which take a toll on the body. Newer medications have varying degrees of effectiveness, but long-term success has been elusive because cancerous tumours develop secondary mutations that enable them to resist therapy.

While most lung cancer is due to tobacco smoking, the next largest cause – which affects nonsmokers – is characterized by mutations in a gene called EGFR.

The study, led by Prof. Yosef Yarden of Weizmann's Immunology and Regenerative Biology Department, spotlighted the EGFR gene which may allow physicians to identify lung cancer patients who are suitable candidates for a singular antibody-based drug. This drug could potentially induce full remission without the threat of relapse.

The study was published in the peer-reviewed *Cell Reports Medicine* on Tuesday.

The team's key breakthrough came when Ilaria Marrocco, a former postdoctoral researcher in Yarden's lab, noticed a commonality among patients with EGFR-positive lung cancer: they were all treated with a standard multidrug protocol, regardless of the specific EGFR mutations in their tumours. This approach inevitably led to drug resistance and cancer relapse.

This observation prompted the researchers to seek a biomarker that could predict patient responses based on their unique EGFR mutations.

Their attention turned to the L858R mutation, affecting approximately 40% of EGFR-mutated lung cancer patients. This mutation influences EGFR function in a distinct manner, causing receptors to pair up in the cancer cell membrane. Without this pairing, signals crucial for cellular replication are disrupted, preventing tumor growth.

To test this concept, the scientists used an antibody drug called cetuximab (Erbix), which blocks the receptor pairing. In a mouse model with the L858R mutation, tumors regressed and didn't reappear even after an extended period. This finding suggests that for patients with this mutation, a single drug might offer a path to complete recovery without relapse.

The findings also shed light on why previous attempts to treat EGFR-mutated lung cancer with Erbix failed. By preselecting patients with the L858R mutation, therapy could be effectively tailored to their specific mutation profile, potentially preventing the emergence of secondary mutations.

The researchers are now preparing for a clinical trial to validate the treatment's effectiveness in humans, leveraging Erbix's existing approval for other cancer types. This discovery could reshape clinical practices and offer hope for lung cancer patients carrying the relevant mutation.

Collaborating in the study were researchers from Italy and Japan. **ANI**

Romania thanks Morocco for 'important support' for release of hostage held in Sahel since 2015

BUCHAREST

ROMANIA has thanked the Kingdom of Morocco for its "important support" for the release of Romanian hostage Iulian Ghergu?, who had been held in the Sahel region since 2015.

In a statement, the Romanian Foreign Ministry announced the release of the security officer from a manganese mine in northern Burkina Faso, near the borders of Mali and Niger, who was kidnapped on April 4, 2015 by the Al Mourabitoun group, which has pledged allegiance to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), while thanking Morocco for its "important support" for his release.

According to the ministry, Iulian Ghergu? is currently safe in Romania, where he returned on Wednesday. For his part, President Klaus Iohannis thanked, via the social network X (formerly Twitter), the "external partners who supported" Romania "in this difficult undertaking."

Iulian Ghergut, now 47, was taken on April 4, 2015, while working in a manganese mine in northeast Burkina Faso, near the border with Mali and Niger.

"I feel like walking to Bucharest just to see him," Ghergut's mother told Romanian channel Digi 24 after learning of her son's release through television.

"We found out from TV. We were startled and then cried. We didn't have any news from him," she added.

"After eight years we didn't have any hopes that we might see him again, but we are happy he is coming home and this is all that matters," his brother Emilian said.

It was the Al-Qaeda-linked Islamist group, Al-Mourabitoun, that claimed the abduction of Ghergut.

He is thought to have been one of the last remaining Western hostages in Africa's troubled Sahel region.

In May, 88-year-old Australian surgeon Kenneth Elliott was released after more than seven years' captivity.

Elliott and his wife were abducted by Al Qaeda-linked jihadists in Burkina Faso in January 2016. His spouse was released three weeks later.

French journalist Olivier Dubois, and US aid worker Jeffery Woodke, kidnapped in 2021 and 2016 respectively, were freed in March. **Agencies**



In May, 88-year-old Australian surgeon Kenneth Elliott was released after more than seven years' captivity

Russian economy adjusted to challenges, shows sustainable growth – Prime Minister

MOSCOW

THE Russian economy has adjusted to external challenges and is showing growth, said Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin at a meeting on economic issues.

"Today we will discuss the further development of our economy. It has adjusted to the current challenges and shows fairly stable growth," the head of the Cabinet said.

He stressed that this growth was achieved thanks to earlier decisions and prompt actions of the government and is based on domestic demand.

According to the results of the first half of the year, it was possible to reach positive values for all key indicators, the Prime Minister pointed out. He cited the estimates of the Economic Development Ministry, according to which the country's GDP increased by 1.5%, and in the second quarter of this year it was already by 4.6%.

"The dynamics in industrial production was even more active. In the first half of the year, it added about 2.5%. The main contribution was made by manufacturing industries, where growth exceeded 6%. If we take June separately, this figure reached 13% in annual terms," the Prime Minister said.



Document reveals US attempt to remove former Pakistani PM

ISLAMABAD

THE United States had exerted pressure to remove former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in 2022 due to his government's neutral policy on the Ukraine crisis, the online American magazine "The Intercept" revealed on Wednesday.

The magazine said it obtained a classified Pakistani government cable about a dialogue between Pakistan's then-ambassador to the United States Asad Majeed Khan and US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu on March 7, 2022.

In the cable sent to Pakistan, Lu expressed his dissatisfaction with the foreign policy of the Pakistani government led by Khan and asserted that Pakistan would only be forgiven by the United States if the prime minister is removed through a no-confidence vote in the parliament.



The then US ambassador to Albania, present US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu (center) speaks during a civil society rally in Tirana on July 19, 2016. (PHOTO / AFP)

Otherwise, I think it will be tough going ahead," said Lu.

According to media reports, on March 27, 2022, Khan, then-Pakistani prime minister, spoke publicly about

the cable at a political rally in Islamabad, accusing the United States of hatching a conspiracy to overthrow his government. Days later, Khan told reporters that the Pakistani side regarded the US act as blatant interference in Pakistan's internal affairs.

On April 10, 2022, Pakistan's National Assembly, the lower house of the parliament, passed a no-confidence motion against Khan.

On May 9, Khan was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau under alleged charges of corruption and corrupt practices. On Aug 5, he was sentenced to three years in prison and banned from holding any public office for five years. **Agencies**

China to make greater contributions to building clean, beautiful world

By Ren Ping

WALIGUAN Mountain is located in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, which is often referred to as "the roof of the world" and features an average altitude of over 3,800 meters above sea level. On the top of the mountain stands the China Global Atmosphere Watch Baseline Observatory, the highest baseline observatory in the world and the only one in the hinterland of Eurasia.

In the nearly 30 years since the observatory was established in 1994, generations of meteorologists have worked tirelessly day and night, producing the "Waliguan curve" that mirrors the variation of carbon dioxide concentration in the hinterland of Eurasia.

The "Waliguan curve" is of vital significance in proving climate change of the world and in supporting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is another example of China actively participating in and leading global ecological environment governance.

Earth is the only planet that humanity calls home, so protecting the ecological environment and promoting sustainable development are responsibilities shared by all countries.

In recent years, challenges including climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, and extreme weather events have posed grave threats to human existence and progress.

Guided by the interests of all humanity, China has not only advanced its own ecological progress, but also actively participated in global environmental governance, providing more public goods to the rest of the world.

China has proposed a series of ideas like building a shared future for all life on Earth, made strategic decisions like carbon peaking and neutrality goals, promoted the construction of a green Belt and Road, and successfully hosted prominent events such as the second part of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity(COPI5) and the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands(COPI4).

China is committed to putting multilateralism into action and promoting a fair and equitable system of global environmental governance for win-win cooperation, so as to facilitate sustainable development and build a clean, beautiful world.

China's ecological achievements have gained wide international recognition, making China an important participant, contributor, and trailblazer in global ecological conservation.

The ecological environment concerns the wellbeing of all peoples. Only by taking into full account people's longing for a better life and a good environment as well as the world's responsibility for future generations, can social equity and justice be delivered in the course of green



Photo shows the China Global Atmosphere Watch Baseline Observatory on the top of Waliguan Mountain, northwest China's Qinghai province. (Photo from China Meteorological Administration)

transition and people's sense of benefit, happiness and security be increased.

As it's often said in China, "It is more important to show people how to fish than just giving them fish." That's exactly what China has followed in participating in and leading global ecological governance. China has done its best to help other developing countries build capacity against climate change.

In Kazakhstan, a China-invested energy conservation project breathed new life into the Shymkent Oil Refinery, one of the three biggest refineries in the Central Asian country; in Nepal's Terai plain, Chinese green fertilizer trials boosted wheat and other crop yields by up to 400 percent; in over 100 countries including the Central African Republic, Fiji, and Laos, Chinese Juncao technology created many green jobs for local communities...

From technical exchanges to project development, and from personnel training to infrastructure improvement,

China has achieved a series of tangible and effective cooperation results that have brought the fruits of development and sound ecosystems to the peoples of all countries in a fairer manner.

An 8K ultra-high-definition video taken by China's Shenzhou-13 crew on China's space station went viral last year. The breathtaking cosmic scenery is a reminder that the shared home of humanity, the Earth, needs joint stewardship.

As China embarks on a new journey, it will strive to build a modernization defined by harmony between humanity and nature. China will continue leveraging its own ecological progress to facilitate global ecological progress, take an active role in leading global environmental governance, and work hand-in-hand with all other countries to make greater contributions to building a clean and beautiful world.

People's Daily

Hype of China's 'economic coercion' yet another testament to US coercive diplomacy

BEIJING

THE accusation of "economic coercion" leveled against China by the United States is actually another testament to U.S. coercive diplomacy. Behind the word game is the U.S. evil intention and perpetual practice of stigmatizing others before inflicting economic and technological suppression on them, so as to maintain its hegemonic interests.

At a hearing of the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in July, Under Secretary of State Jose Fernandez alleged that China is currently the biggest economic competitor of the United States and a prolific user of "economic coercion."

The accusation is simply false. Believing that peace, development and win-win cooperation are the unstoppable trends of the times, China has never used, and will never use, so-called "economic coercion" in pursuing its own development.

Rather, China has made great efforts over the years to promote common development through bilateral or multilateral mechanisms. Through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has signed cooperation documents with more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations over the past decade, based on the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits.

The BRI has contributed to economic development, job creation and improvement of people's livelihood in these countries.

Over the past decade, China has established 21 free trade zones across the country, an important means to facilitate

trade and carry out high-level opening up.

The full implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a mega free trade agreement signed by 15 members including China, is of great significance in facilitating regional economic and trade development.

In its international economic cooperation efforts and initiatives, China has never attached any political condition or sought any political self-interest, nor has China imposed economic sanctions or pursued suppression of others. Obsessed with hegemony, unilateralism and protectionism, the United States, however, does not conceal its selfish concept of "America First."

In terms of coercive diplomacy, the United States

is not only the instigator, but also a veritable abuser and undoubtedly the only superpower of sanctions. With a very disgraceful "dark history" in coercive diplomacy, the United States has made this practice a standard instrument in its foreign policy toolbox.

Figures show a more than nine-fold increase in sanctions imposed by the United States from 2000 to 2021. To date, the United States has imposed economic sanctions on nearly 40 countries, which have affected almost half of the global population and caused severe humanitarian disasters.

The United States has imposed a tech blockade against China in the semiconductor sector, and used state power to suppress China's high-tech en-

terprises.

Economic coercion by the United States has not only undermined global supply chains and industrial chains, but also raised regional and even global production costs and hindered the process of regional economic integration.

This is a blatant violation of the principle of free and fair trade. Despite this suppression by the United States, China's efforts to expand its circle of friends will never stop. The country will remain committed to its fundamental national policy of opening up to the outside world, uphold a mutually beneficial strategy in this course, and continue to create new opportunities for the world through its own development.

Xinhua



Azam FC midfielder, Feisal Salum (R), dribbles past Yanga's midfielder, Mudathir Yahya, as the two sides faced each other in the first of the last-four ties of the 2023/24 Community Shield played at CCM Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga on Wednesday. Yanga won 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Azam FC coach bemoans players' indifference in Community Shield tie

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC head coach Youssouph Dabo has admitted that his players were indifferent in the side's 2-0 loss to Yanga in the semi-final of the 2023/24 Community Shield which took place at the CCM Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga on Wednesday.

Two second-half goals notched by substitutes Stephane Aziz Ki and Clement Mzize powered Yanga to the Community Shield's defending champion-to-the comprehensive win.

Yanga's Malian goalkeeper Djigui Diarra managed to keep another clean sheet against Azam FC, with all matches having been played at the CCM Mkwakwani Stadium.

The NBC Premier League holders also extended their superiority against Azam FC in yet another silverware contest after defeating the latter in last season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final.

The ice cream makers will tomorrow battle for the third-place finish in a game against Singida Fountain Gate FC which had, two days before, crashed out of the other last-four clash, having suffered a 4-2 loss to Simba SC in the penalty shootout.

The Senegalese coach fielded a new squad- with the majority of new signings being left on the bench- in the blockbuster clash against Yanga.

Dabo said his players were too shy to attack Yanga's final third, a decision which limited their chances.

The gaffer noted: "As a coach, it is

good to realize that my players behave differently in big matches like these."

The Senegalese revealed: "They have the potential but most of them failed to show their readiness in decision-making, they played a lot of back passes and failed to find ways forward."

Dabo added: "When you have young players, it is the norm, I have seen a difference, especially in maturity, Yanga has much more mature players than us- which was the margin line between the two teams."

The tactician opted to field Azam FC's third-choice goalkeeper, Zubeir Foba, ahead of first-choice shot-stopper- experienced Ghanaian goalkeeper Abdulai Iddrisu- in the clash against Yanga.

The Senegalese tactician, further, started with central defender Edward Charles instead of Ghanaian Daniel Amoah, lining up a 3-5-2 formation.

After Azam FC's third-place playoff match against Singida Fountain Gate FC slated for tomorrow, the former will have to put a fast-forward shift to the 2023/24 NBC Premier League fixture slated for August 16, in which Azam FC will come up against newly-promoted Tabora United.

On August 20, Azam FC is to travel to Ethiopia for the club's CAF Confederation Cup First Preliminary round tie against Bahir Dar Kenema, alias "The Waves of Tana", which is set to be held at the Abebe Bikila Stadium in Addis Ababa.

Pundits find it strange that local big premier leagues sides remain the same

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

TWO semi-final (so to speak) matches for the 2023/24 Community Shield mini competition that opens doors for the new Premier League season had pundits searching for words, if not all of them, then at least a substantial portion of them.

At the end of the second 'semi-final' between Simba SC and Singida Fountain Gate FC (known by its proper name-Singida Big Stars- in CAF books and at the Mkwakwani Stadium), it was unclear how far conclusions reached by analysts after the first encounter between Young Africans SC (Yanga) and Azam FC were applicable. One can safely affirm that in several ways, they indeed were.

One such conclusion or assertion of analysts either at the end of the first match or in animated discussions the following day, was that the two clubs remained their very same selves, despite a range of departures and signings, as well as overhauls of their respective technical benches.

The second pair of competing sides did not experience that sort of overhaul, perhaps just team strengthening, but preliminary results tended to point in the same direction, that of stationary images.

The Msimbazi Street side retained legendary underperformance in domestic tournaments, even with impressive shows of brilliance, and won by penalty shots against Singida Fountain Gate FC.

The more discussed result was the first pairing, as it is usually the case, that plenty of attention and quizzing is directed at those who take the pitch first, such that they may even drain most of the interest.

There was a likelihood of perfunctory debate over the second match and shifting to a preview both of the third-place encounter and then of the final itself.

It is another 'El Clasico' at the local level, a 'Dar es Salaam derby' showdown where Yanga has a 2-0 loss burden to clear, and Simba SC knows it.

One issue that crops up is to use the results of the two preliminary encounters to the Community Shield event to predict what comes next, but it is easy to dissuade it.

The reason for wishing to do so is that the first encounter



Singida Fountain Gate FC's left fullback, Gadiel Michael (C), challenges Simba SC's right fullback, Shomari Kapombe, during the 2023/24 Community Shield duel which took place at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga on Thursday, climaxing with Simba SC defeating Singida Fountain Gate FC 4-2 in penalty shootout. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

shows that plenty about the two teams remained the same, the weakness that Azam FC shows in virtually any encounter with Yanga, as abundantly underlined by the pundits.

As Singida Fountain Gate FC is less well established yet, the team cannot be placed on the same bar though quite a few elements would seem to apply, but in another direction.

While the Yanga vs Azam FC contention was an illustration of resilience on the part of the Jangwani Street side, the Simba SC vs Singida Fountain Gate FC contest was equally an illustration of perennial underperformance in local competitions for the city side.

Only in the return Premier League encounter with their next-street rivals, Yanga, did Simba SC return the calls of the fans with a convincing 2-0 win, after four successive defeats or thereof.

It enabled Yanga fans to mock their rivals' exploits at the continental level, which ended in the past year at midseason, and it is being tested again.

In a way, the short series of the Community Shield trophy is a conclusion of pre-season club arrangements, a booster to intensive training at the camp level, and friendly matches at the return, with each of the top clubs holding a big day.

It is opportune for the sides to look into how the results of friendly international matches are borne out in their first competitive fixture for the new season and, in that context, it is evident there is more harmony than disharmony.

Yanga narrowly won against South African club, Kaizer Chiefs, while Simba SC had a more emphatic win against Zambia's Power Dynamos, a lower-ranking outfit.

That is why it is a matter of opinion whether the Community Shield 'semi-finals' results were either a correct reflection of the preliminary run or less anticipated.

One area where pundits, and indeed the fans, were convinced was the superiority of Simba SC when placed against Singida Fountain Gate FC, as most of the players making the latter are players who are past their peak.

But they can still do good things on the pitch, and their win in an international friendly match against AS Vita of DRC, which reportedly lacked five international players, mildly asserted the former's competitiveness.

So Singida Fountain Gate FC's ability to hold the Msimbazi Street side to a draw casts a gray image of the more ambitious side, and, in psychological terms, they possibly did not

work hard enough ahead of the day.

Still, those who acutely monitored the match raised a point that when the post-match penalties were being arranged, Simba SC players had a more intensive and concerned look, obviously disappointed and wishing to do something about that final chance.

Singida Fountain Gate FC players were more comfortable with the outcome after 90 minutes of play and settled to celebrate with the excessive taking of water, etc, based on some accounts, their physical training panel was dormant.

That again demonstrated a hidden level at the psychological level, in that the Singida-based side was prepared to battle against Simba SC but, at the end of the day, they were more celebratory.

It reinforces the idea that they did not quite expect to win the Community Shield trophy and lacked the professional acumen to take preliminary steps to make their players in the best shape and mood to take penalties, not to come out in a tiresome and labourious manner, as some pundits would assert.

While soccer has no rules, the logical outcome was available, setting up another vaunted city derby.

National Sports Council warns inactive national sports associations

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE government has threatened that it will deregister all national sports associations that are active and have not held any elective assembly.

The plan was disclosed by National Sports Council (NSC) Information Officer, Najaha Bakari, in Dar es Salaam recently, she said the country has many national sports associations but only a few are active.

She warned all NSC-affiliated national sports associations to abide by the guidelines presented by the council, saying they are aimed at improving sports management and enhancing accountability.

Najaha said NSC is finding it difficult to provide any support to national sports associations which do not follow the council's guidelines, pointing out there are repercussions including a reprimand followed by the deregistration of inactive associations.

"Many national sports associations

do not follow our guidelines, they are inactive- they only become busy during international events, to be honest, we don't cooperate with them, actually we cannot release any funding to them," the NSC Information Officer said.

Najaha noted: "We have many national sports associations in the country but only very few follow our guidelines, our guidelines include hosting of National Championships, Annual General Meeting, and an elective assembly."

"Let me inform them that NSC will not offer any support to sports associations that fail to adhere to our guidelines," she said.

She also asked national sports associations to have valid constitutions, regulations, and policies that are in line with and approved by the NSC and with the dictates of their respective international federations.

"An association must have a strategic plan and related implementation plan, produce a work plan and calendar of events, and have an office and

physical address," she said.

Recently NSC, through the council's Secretary-General Neema Msitha, advised national sports associations in the country to be more transparent and accountable to woo sponsors.

The NSC Secretary-General said companies, organizations, and individuals want to be associated with associations that are transparent and accountable.

She said many local national sports associations lack sponsors, mainly because they are neither transparent nor accountable.

Neema also advised national sports associations to host regular sporting activities, saying such a move keeps the athletes busy and attracts the eye of prospective sponsors.

The NSC leader noted: "No sponsor can come to support an idle association, an association which is active when there are tournaments."

"You should wake up and start organizing events so that your athletes are busy and seen by many people," she advised.



National Sports Council (NSC) Secretary-General, Neema Msitha.

Netherlands coach Jonker says Spain the team to beat at World Cup

WELLINGTON

ANDRIES Jonker called Spain the team to beat at the Women's World Cup after his Netherlands side lost 2-1 in extra time in their quarter-final yesterday.

Jonker believes his team were robbed of a penalty which was awarded then reversed by VAR, but conceded the Dutch were second best in Wellington.

Beaten finalists four years ago, Jonker said the Netherlands had the potential to at least match that this time, but had landed on the harder side of the draw.

"Spain, my forecast was they'd make the final and the second candidate might have been us," the coach said.

"But anyway, you get Spain against you and on paper you've got a whole plan worked out, but at the end of the day, they're an excellent team.

"Had we made it, we'd have been convinced to make it through the semi-finals and make it to the final."

The Dutch players were in tears after the full-time whistle, having conceded the winner in extra time to teenager Salma Paralluelo.

A key moment came in the second half of normal time when referee Stephanie Frappart awarded the Netherlands a penalty after Lineth Beerensteyn was bumped to the ground by Irene Paredes.

VAR suggested Frappart review her decision and she ruled the contact was insufficient, rescinding both the penalty and the yellow card to the Spanish player.

"The VAR didn't do their work properly but Spain deserved to win. It's just that this decision was wrong," Jonker said.

Jonker believes his team, who drew 1-1 with holders the United States in the group phase, have made progress since their quarter-final exit at last year's European Championship.

"This is a tough one to swallow but we've put ourselves on the map again," he said.

"But of course what we want is to be the best."

AFP

France ready to take on 'entire nation' in World Cup quarter-final

BRISBANE

FRANCE coach Herve Renard is confident playing against "an entire nation" will bring out the best in his team when they face Australia in the quarter-finals of the Women's World Cup in Brisbane today.

Les Bleues eased into the last eight with a 4-0 win over Morocco but must now overcome a hostile 50,000 crowd when they take on the co-hosts with a place in the semi-finals up for grabs.

"We love that. This is why we do this job. It is the beauty of football," Renard told reporters on the eve of the game.

"The Australian people deserve to be congratulated for making this such a success.

"It has been a fantastic tournament. We are playing in beautiful stadiums that are always full.

"We know we are not just playing against one team but against an entire nation. But it just gives us extra motivation. We prefer this to playing a friendly in front of 100 people."

France lost 1-0 to the Matildas in a friendly in Melbourne a week before the World Cup began, in front of a crowd of just over 50,000.

Days later, Australia lost skipper Sam Kerr to a calf injury that led to her missing the entire group stage.

The Chelsea forward made her comeback off the bench late on in the 2-0 win over Denmark in the last 16 and could now play a greater role against France.

"I know all the Australian players. Knowing if she is going to play or not is not my worry," Renard said, playing down the significance of Kerr's return.

"Their attacking players already work well together. It is a good problem for them to have. But I wouldn't swap any of my attackers for theirs.

"Even if she is on the field it will not change the way Australia play."

While Australia are bidding to get to the last four for the first time, a win for France will see them match their best performance at a Women's World Cup, which remains their run to the semi-finals in Germany in 2011.

They also lost in the semi-finals at last year's Euros.

"We have been one of the best teams in the world for a long time, but we have still not won anything, not a single medal," said Eugenie Le Sommer, France's all-time record scorer with 92 goals.

"We want to take something back to our country, do great things.

"Our situation is not the same as Australia. We have already been in the last four, but this is definitely one of the most important matches in our history." AFP

Sweden end Japan run to set up World Cup semi-final with Spain

AUCKLAND

AMANDA Ilstedt scored her fourth goal of the tournament and Filippa Angeldal netted a penalty as Sweden hung on to beat Japan 2-1 yesterday and set up a Women's World Cup semi-final with Spain.

Centre-back Ilstedt poked in just after the half-hour mark at Eden Park in Auckland to give Sweden a deserved lead and leave Japan trailing for the first time at the World Cup.

Angeldal made it 2-0 from a penalty seven minutes into the second half before Japan attempted a comeback, with Riko Ueki missing a spot-kick and Honoka Hayashi pulling one back with three minutes left of normal time.

Sweden then survived a late storm to advance to the semi-finals for the third time in four World Cups.

The exit of the 2011 champions Japan, following the United States, Germany and Norway, means there are no former winners left and a brand-new name will appear on the trophy after next weekend's final in Sydney.

If Sweden, runners-up in 2003, are to get there they will have to win a semi-final in Auckland next Tuesday against Spain, who defeated the Netherlands 2-1 earlier Friday in Wellington.

This was billed as the ultimate clash of footballing styles, between a slick and clinical Japan and a more rugged and aggressive Sweden.

Peter Gerhardt's Swedish team took the game to their opponents, who sat back in a 5-4-1 out of possession but were rarely given the



Spain's Salma Paralluelo (18) celebrates after scoring in extra time to lift her team over the Netherlands in the quarter-finals of the Women's World Cup on Friday at Wellington Regional Stadium in Wellington, New Zealand. Agencies

space to spring forward on the counterattack like they had done to such devastating effect in previous rounds.

Japan had started to dream of a run to match their remarkable triumph in 2011 but instead find themselves eliminated at the hands of the same team that beat them in the quarter-finals of the Tokyo Olympics two years ago.

The opener arrived in the 32nd minute following a set-piece, exactly the scenario where the Japanese had been expected to struggle against their more physically imposing opponents.

The Nadeshiko failed to clear their lines as a free-kick dropped in their box, and the ball eventually fell to Ilstedt to stab into the roof of the net after her centre-back partner Magdalena Eriksson had an effort blocked.

Ilstedt, who has just signed for Arsenal, had already netted three times in the group phase and is, remarkably, a contender to win the golden boot with current leading scorer Hinata Miyazawa, on five goals, now out.

- Frantic finale - Miyazawa had little influence on this game

and Sweden could have scored again before half-time, with captain Kosovare Asllani having a shot turned onto the post by the outstretched fingertips of Ayaka Yamashita.

The Japan goalkeeper then produced another fine save two minutes after the restart to push the Johanna Kaneryd shot behind for a corner.

Yet it was that corner which led to the second goal. The delivery from the right struck the fist of Fuka Nagano in her own box, and the Liverpool player's offence was spotted by the referee after a review.

Manchester City midfielder Angeldal stepped up to convert the spot-kick, sending Yamashita the wrong way.

Japan did not give up and won a penalty in the 76th minute when substitute Ueki went down under the slightest of contact from Madelen Janogy.

It was a soft award, but Ueki could not convert, smashing her kick off the underside of the bar and out.

The woodwork rescued Sweden again in the 87th minute when Aoba Fujino's free-kick remarkably hit the bar, rebounded off the back of goalkeeper Zecira Musovic and struck the post.

Yet seconds later Japan had a goal back as Eriksson failed to deal with Kiko Seike's centre and Hayashi pounced to score, setting up a frantic finale.

Meanwhile, teenager Salma Paralluelo scored an extra-time winner as Spain beat the Netherlands 2-1 to reach the Women's World Cup semi-finals for the first time yesterday and a clash with Japan or Sweden.

Over a tense 90 minutes in Wellington full of incident, Mariona Caldentey scored an 81st-minute penalty for Spain, only for Stefanie van der Gragt to equalise in added time.

With the quarter-final seemingly headed for penalties, the 19-year-old substitute Paralluelo produced a brilliant solo finish in the 111th minute to put Spain into the last four.

They will now face Sweden or Japan in Auckland on Tuesday while the tournament is over for the Dutch, beaten finalists four years ago.

Barcelona forward Paralluelo, who had started every previous game at the tournament, said she was determined to make an impact when

coach Jorge Vilda introduced her from the bench in the 71st minute.

"It means everything to me. It was a unique moment, great euphoria to have lived through it and I'm extremely happy," the teenager said.

Vilda predicted the former sprinter will blossom into a global star, having only made her Spanish senior debut nine months ago -- when she scored a hat-trick against Argentina.

She scored twice in last year's Under-20 Women's World Cup final win over Japan, before going on to taste European Champions League glory two months ago with Barcelona.

"Salma is a player with enormous potential and she's not reached her best," Vilda said. "Right now she is excellent, but in the future it's going to be much, much more."

Their maiden semi-final place was reward for a display of controlled attacking football from the sixth-ranked La Roja, who have regained their swagger after crashing to a 4-0 group-stage loss to Japan.

The 90 minutes of normal time were largely dominated by Spain -- and some VAR decisions -- but it was the Netherlands who looked stronger in extra time, before Paralluelo's clinical left-footed finish on the break.

"We've always dreamed of something like this... but we're not stopping here," said Vilda, as his Spain side chase more history.

"We've reached somewhere we've never reached before. It was a match with a lot of emotions, VAR decisions. And the goal from Salma -- it was sheer joy," he added.

- VAR plays part - Spain dominated the first half and were denied by the woodwork twice when Alba Redondo's header was parried onto the post by goalkeeper Daphne van Domselaar and her follow-up also struck the post.

Spain captain Esther Gonzalez lashed a shot into the net but the striker was ruled offside by VAR.

The Netherlands got a foothold in the second half.

They looked set to go in front when Lineth Beerensteyn tumbled over in the box following contact with Irene Paredes, who was shown a yellow card and French referee Stephanie Frappart pointed to the spot. But the decision was cancelled after VAR called for a review.

Spain went ahead from the spot with nine minutes left of normal time through Caldentey after Paralluelo's cross struck Stefanie van der Gragt's flailing hand inside the penalty box.

Defender Van der Gragt, who is now set to retire aged 30, made amends in the first minute of stoppage time when her surging run was found by Victoria Pelova before blasting past Cata Coll in the Spain goal.

The Netherlands had the better chances in extra time, going close twice through Beerensteyn, before conceding the decisive goal as penalties loomed.

"It's hard now," said Van der Gragt, whose last game in football was an eventful one. "We had the chance in extra time and we didn't score, they had one chance and they scored. That's football."

AFP

'Deserves a statue': Drama-filled finale for Dutch stalwart Van der Gragt

WELLINGTON

RETIRING Stefanie van der Gragt "deserves a statue", coach Andries Jonker said, after her career came to an end with the Netherlands' 2-1 defeat to Spain in the World Cup quarter-finals yesterday.

The defensive stalwart, who turns 31 next week, could not have imagined a more drama-filled finale when she announced she would be retiring at the end of the World Cup.

The centre-back's handball gave away a penalty on her 106th appearance for her country, scored by Mariona Caldentey in the 81st minute, to put Spain on the verge of the semi-finals.

"I wanted to block the cross. It was a split second and it was so unlucky," a tearful Van der Gragt said.

But 10 minutes later the Inter Milan player went from villain to hero in Wellington.

As the Dutch poured forward in search of an equaliser, Van der Gragt was pushed up front. A minute into added time she seized her chance, breaking away to lash home and make it 1-1, forcing extra time.

"It was a nice ball through, the only thing I was thinking was 'shoot'.



Netherlands' defender Stefanie van der Gragt has retired from all football after the Women's World Cup defeat to Spain. Agencies

It was a good feeling," she said.

But Van der Gragt's dreams of signing out by winning the World Cup were torpedoed in the 111th minute when Spanish teenager Salma Paralluelo scored on the break.

"It's hard now," added Van der Gragt. "We had the chance in extra time and we didn't score, they had one chance and they scored. That's football."

After spells as a player at Bayern Munich, Ajax, Barcelona and Inter, Van der Gragt will now become technical manager at her first club, AZ Alkmaar.

"I don't think about it now. I'll think about it at home that it was my

last game," added Van der Gragt, who said she accepted the job to be closer to her family.

She admitted it was

hard to walk off the Wellington pitch knowing she had played her last game. "I have to be proud of myself and

the team," she added.

Van der Gragt was part of the Dutch team who lost the 2019 World Cup final to the

United States. She scored the winning goal against Portugal in the group stage in this tournament.

Jonker hailed Van der Gragt's performances over the years in the famous orange shirt.

"This kind of defender is disappearing in modern football," he said. "This mentality, this huge will to win, to fight.

"She's not the best player in the world, but maybe the best defender, as she has shown in the national team for more than 100 matches. One way or another, I think she deserves a statue."

Jonker left the door open for Van der Gragt to resume her international career if she has a change of heart.

"We respect her a lot. It's her choice, but if she would change her mind, she would be welcomed." AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Sweden end Japan run to set up World Cup semi-final with Spain

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Four young models nominated to represent Tanzania in the preliminary stage of 2023 Future Face competition pose after they were introduced as winners of an audition that had involved about 200 youths and took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Pluijm bemoans Singida Fountain Gate FC's luck in defeat to Simba SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC head coach Hans van der Pluijm has bemoaned his side's lack of luck after their loss to Simba SC in the 2023/24 Community Shield semi-final, with the Dutch stating that key refereeing decisions went in favour of the victors.

The ambitious central Tanzania-based side crashed out of the 2023/24 Community Shield mini competition's last-four duel via a penalty shootout defeat to Simba SC, following a 0-0 draw after 90 minutes.

In the penalty shootout, Singida Fountain Gate FC midfielder Aziz Andabwile's opening spot kick was saved by Simba SC keeper, Ally Salim, and the former's teammate, Yusuph Kagoma, fired over the bar to see Singida Fountain Gate FC fail to convert two penalties.

The penalty misses offered goal-getter, Moses Phiri, the chance to hand Simba SC victory, which the Zambian forward did with aplomb.

Pluijm felt they had two legitimate cases that went against them. He said they scored a goal in the first half which was clear despite being disallowed for what was deemed to be Singida Fountain Gate FC's footballer being in an offside position.

The tactician also disclosed they were denied a goal-scoring opportunity in the last moment of the game when the match referee Amina Kyando decided to blow the final whistle amidst protest from Singida Fountain Gate FC players.

While Pluijm did not mention Amina directly, the Dutch tactician lamented the fact that his side did not have the rub of the green in the final.

The Dutch gaffer noted: "Tactically, I think we have played very well. Of course, there are always a few mistakes in a game with so much tension."

"What we said to ourselves is that we go all out, we are not here to just participate but we want to win the tournament," Pluijm pointed out.

"I think we were very close. In the beginning, we scored, in my opinion, it was a clear goal. Had it been 1-0, the pressure would have been on them. Unfortunately, it had to finish on penalties," Pluijm said.

The former Young Africans' boss added: "You saw in the last minute before my player could shoot he was whistled. I think that has also influenced the results a bit."

"All in all, I am happy with the spirit the boys have shown. They worked very hard, and we expected a tough game but, unfortunately, luck was not on our side," Pluijm noted.

Singida Fountain Gate FC will have to quickly pick themselves up for the 2023/24 Community Shield third-place playoff game against Azam FC slated for tomorrow afternoon.

The 2023/24 Community Shield final will be contested by Simba SC and the shield's defending champions- Young Africans- who eliminated Azam FC in the first semi-final played on Wednesday.

Simba SC's coach Robertinho uncomfortable with Singida Fountain Gate FC's defensive approach



Simba SC head coach, Roberto Oliveira. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC head coach Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho' was not impressed with tactics deployed by Hans van der Pluijm's club Singida Fountain Gate FC after the two clubs settled for a 0-0 draw before the former claimed a penalty shootout victory.

The Msimbazi Street-based Simba SC struggled in possession against Singida Fountain Gate FC- a side openly looking to exploit the former in counterattacks.

Singida Fountain Gate FC had less possession but always remained a threat on the counter-attack due to the

excellent transitional play of Kenyan winger Duke Abuya, Tanzanian winger Dickson Ambundo, and Togolese midfielder Marouf Tchakei.

There were glimpses of Singida Fountain Gate FC's counter-attacking power as early as in the second minute, Nigerian midfielder Morice Chukwu combined well with Abuya, but they could not connect well

enough in the final third for it to count.

They scored the opening goal of the game in the fifth minute when Chukwu swept home from a flowing break initiated by Abuya who beat Simba SC left full-back Mohamed Hussein.

However, Singida Fountain Gate FC's Congolese attacker, Francis Kazadi, was deemed offside as the team was notching the goal.

Powered on by the deafening noise of a partisan crowd at Mkwakwani Stadium, Simba SC cranked up the heat after the early scare but was thwarted by Singida Fountain Gate FC's center-back pairing of Biemes Carno and Abdulmajid Mangalo.

Luck was on Simba SC's side during the penalty shootout, considering the side went on to secure a 4-2 victory.

Ally Salim, Simba SC's goalkeeper, saved a spot kick by Singida Fountain Gate FC's midfielder Aziz Andabwile while fellow midfielder, Yusuph Kagoma, skied his effort to hand Simba SC the advantage.

Simba SC's Zambian attacker, Moses Phiri, stepped up to score his penalty and have Simba SC garnering a 4-2 win to set up a final date with age-old rival, Young Africans SC, also known as Yanga.

Oliveira said: "We played well. I respect our opponents but they only prioritized counterattacks."

The gaffer noted: "We had good build-up play

and were compact in the midfield, we didn't come here for counterattacks but to win while playing good football."

The tactician said: "Simba SC is a big club, my strategy is to always play offensive football in the final third of the pitch."

"The pitch here isn't the same as in Dar es Salaam, Simba SC has Samba style but it is difficult to do that today."

The Brazilian revealed: "I changed in the second half, we played more aggressively and created three or four opportunities that we lost, then it went to penalties. Congratulations to my players and Ally Salim, it will be a good derby."

On Sunday, Simba SC will take to the pitch aiming to put to an end a two-game losing streak against Yanga in the Community Shield.

However, Simba SC went undefeated against Yanga in the NBC Premier League last season, drawing 1-1 in the first phase duel before coming away with a 2-0 win in the second phase tie held in April.

NBC Bank, Tanzania Football Federation seal five-year contract extension for NBC Premier League sponsorship

By Guardian Correspondent

NATIONAL Bank of Commerce (NBC) Limited and the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) have announced the extension of the two parties' sponsorship contract for the NBC Premier League until the 2027 season, valued at 32.56bn/-.

The agreement also encompasses the Junior Premier League and first-tier league, then termed 'Championship League' but has now been re-branded as the 'NBC Championship'.

The NBC Premier League, which previously boasted sponsorship worth 9.0bn/-, has experienced extraordinary growth recently, resulting in substantial economic gains, prestigious continental upgrading, and fierce local competition.

The institution has played a vital role in this success by providing unwavering support, which extends to various areas.

Such areas include comprehensive insurance coverage for players and their families and offering bus loans to a section of clubs to ensure seamless team transportation.

NBC Bank, a renowned financial institution, has been an ardent supporter of Tanzanian football, and this extended collaboration reaffirms its commitment to the develop-



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia (3rd L), and NBC Bank's Managing Director Theobald Sabi (3rd R) display a check amounting to 32.56bn/-, the sponsorship amount provided by NBC Bank for Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League for five years- starting from the 2023/24 league season-after signing a sponsorship contract in Tanga yesterday. Others are senior officials from both sides. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

ment and growth of football in the nation.

The sponsorship is expected to significantly impact the overall landscape of Tanzanian football, fostering an environment that nurtures young talents and sustains the sport's prosperity across all levels.

Theobald Sabi, NBC Bank's Managing Director, expressed his delight over the extended partnership, stating: "We are pleased to announce our continued part-

nership with the Tanzania Football Federation as the main sponsors for the prestigious NBC Premier League."

"Football holds a special place in the hearts of Tanzanians, and we are proud to play our part in empowering the sport's future and creating opportunities for budding talents to flourish," The NBC Bank official pointed out.

Sabi noted: "Over time, the league has transformed into a platform for social-

economic empowerment, generating job opportunities, facilitating economic transactions across the value chain, and promoting financial inclusion."

"The collaboration reinforces the bank's commitment to bringing possibilities to life for the Tanzanian community, and we look forward to witnessing the continued growth of football and respective economic opportunities in our country," Sabi stated.

Wallace Karia, TFF's president, said: "We are grateful to NBC Bank for the institution's unwavering support of Tanzanian football over the years. This extended sponsorship is a testament to their belief in the potential of our football and the dedication of our athletes and administrators."

The TFF leader noted: "With this partnership, we can invest in the youth and grassroots initiatives, which are the building blocks of a vibrant football ecosystem. With NBC Bank, we are poised to take Tanzanian football to greater heights."

"The new sponsorship contract will also bolster the Championship League, now named 'NBC Championship', and the Junior Premier League- bringing together NBC Premier League clubs' junior teams-, enabling them to compete at the highest levels," he pointed out.

The TFF leader revealed: "Moreover, the support from NBC Bank will foster a more competitive and entertaining NBC Premier League, elevating the overall standard of football in Tanzania while contributing to households and national incomes."

According to Karia, the two partners are confident that the extension of the sponsorship will herald a golden age for Tanzanian football, with a shared vision of success, growth, and community empowerment.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

