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Samia appointed as GCA board member



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Japanese firm to provide health services



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Goat Race to raise 320m/-



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National Examinations Council of Tanzania executive secretary Dr Said Ally Mohamed briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on this year's edition of the national Primary School Leaving Examination, which he said will start today. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Pre-electoral reform: Bills set for tabling by late October

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government is set to table bills in the National Assembly next month for reforms of electoral laws ahead of the local government polls and the general election next year and the next, as stakeholders call for openness in the process.

Dr Jim Yonazi, the Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Coordination permanent secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, said at a political stakeholders meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday, that he government will table three bills in the coming parliamentary session towards the end of October.

"There are proposals for reforms including the constitution making process which will be debated when the bills are tabled," he

said, noting that the government was slowly implementing reforms proposed by the taskforce formed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to look into how to democratize the political landscape.

Mizengo Pinda, the former prime minister, was among various stakeholders commenting on the matter, saying that the draft bills must first be brought before stakeholders for discussion before being tabled in the legislature.

Stakeholders need to discuss and see the key proposals made by the taskforce so that the final reforms are agreed upon by all before being carried out, he said.

"As long as the stakeholders are here, we need to bring the proposed bills here so that they can discuss and give a nod to the long-

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'Techno-medicine to save 2m mothers and babies by 2030'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation yesterday released its seventh annual Goalkeepers Report, listing a series of medical technological innovations that could save up to two million mothers and babies by year 2030.

Co-authored by foundation co-chairpersons Melinda French Gates and Bill Gates, the report highlights new data that shows the potential of scaling up global access to seven innovations and practices that address the leading causes of maternal and newborn deaths.

Across the world, nearly 800 women die in childbirth every day, it says, noting that deaths of children under five have gradually declined since the mid-2010s, accounting for almost half of all under-five deaths at present.

An estimated 74 percent of child deaths happen during a baby's first year, they said, acknowledging the global efforts from 2000 to 2015 that significantly improved the health of mothers and babies, but point out that progress has stalled since COVID-19 hit.

They explain how the discovery of revolutionary information about maternal and child health in the past 10 years led to low-cost and easy-to-implement innovations and practices that control deadly childbirth complications such as post-partum haemorrhaging, infections, and maternal anaemia.

The co-chairpersons and authors call for immediate action to help put the world back on track to achieve the global goal of cutting the maternal mortality rate to less than 70 out of 100,000 births and newborn mortality to

even 12 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030.

"As is so often the case in global health, innovations aren't making their way to the people who need them most—women in low-income countries, as well as black and indigenous women in high-income countries like the United States, who are dying at three times the rate of white women. That needs to change," they declared.

The report describes how the world has collectively fallen short at the halfway point for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and where innovation and investment can fuel progress, particularly in the fight against the global epidemic of maternal and child mortality.

"By making new innovations accessible to those who need them most, two million additional lives could be saved by 2030, and 6.4 million lives by 2040. That's two million families spared an unimaginable heartbreak—and two million more people who can shape and enrich our world," they write.

Since 2016, progress in reducing global maternal mortality has stalled, and in some countries—including the United States—death rates have risen steadily.

"We have seen over and over again that when countries actually prioritize and invest in women's health, they unleash a powerful engine for progress that can reduce poverty, advance gender equality, and build resilient economies."

"Over the past decade, the field of child health has advanced faster and farther than I thought I'd see in my lifetime," said Bill Gates. "If our delivery can keep pace with our learning—if researchers can develop new innovations and skilled health workers can get them to every mother and child who needs them—then more babies will survive those crucial first days."

Many of the life-saving innovations and practices highlighted in the report can be delivered by midwives and birth attendants in communities. They include a bundle of

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By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE government is working to ensure that over 2.5m title deeds get issued to the country's residents before the year 2026.

Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister, made this observation here yesterday when addressing delegates to the fourth regional conference of national land institutions on securing community land rights in Africa, involving 13 other African countries.

Organized by the African Land Institutions Network for Community Rights (ALIN), the meeting converges those institutions to scale up law and policy implementation of community land rights.

Tanzania has signed an accord with the World Bank for the land tenure improvement project taking up \$150m to its completion, where the deputy premier said LTIP targets to deliver 2.5m title deeds to ordinary residents, including customary titles to indigenous communities, by 2026.

"This is probably the first initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa's land sector to receive such a large amount of money from the World Bank,"

Govt to issue 2.5m title deeds by 2026



By working together, national land institutions have a key role to play in protecting both people and the planet for the betterment of all

he stated.

Dr Solange Bandiaky-Badji, the Rights and Resources Group (RRG) president, had earlier affirmed that upwards of 10 percent of land in 23 Sub-Saharan countries is occupied by indigenous peoples.

"New research has found that Africa saw the greatest increase in legal recognition of community land rights globally—an increase of 12 percent or 35m hectares from 2015 to 2020," she said.

Despite best efforts, many of the laws and policies adopted in the past 15 years have yet to be implemented and few opportunities exist for regular peer-to-peer exchanges between national land institutions in African countries,

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DTP inks 11.75bn/- ICT training drive



By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Digital Tanzania Project is set to spend \$ 4.7m, (upwards of 11.75bn/-) to train a total of

500 civil servants in methods of information and communication technology (ICT).

Mohammed Khamis Abdulla (pictured), the Information, Communication and Information

Technology ministry permanent secretary, said yesterday that the government was conducting the programme in efforts to deal with emerging technological challenges.

He made the remarks at the signing of a bonding agreement for the first batch of 20 civil servants listed for ICT training abroad, hinting that the government seeks to tap opportunities available in the digital economy.

The government has earmarked a number of strategies advocating youth innovation using ICT, accession to patent rights and startup financing for ICT-based small enterprises, he said.

The government will spend 3.89bn/- for the batch, for courses like cyber security and forensics, network design and administration, business analysis, software development and administration.

The training needs assessment manual shows that they will also learn artificial intelligence (AI)

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Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (L) has an audience with China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

President Samia appointed as member of GCA advisory board

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has been officially appointed as a member of the Advisory Board of the Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA).

According to Zuhura Yunus, the State House director of communications, the

information on Samia's appointment was presented by Ban Ki-moon, GCA board chairman and retired United Nations Secretary General when he met with the President on the sidelines of the just-ended Africa Climate Summit (ACS) in Nairobi, Kenya.

"This honour is a recognition of

the smart leadership of President Samia in efforts to deal with climate change in Africa and around the world where Tanzania is a leader in the implementation of various projects in Africa," the statement reads in part.

Other members of the board are the President of the Republic of Senegal

Macky Sall, chairman of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat, President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Akinumwi Adesina and the managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva.

GCA is the world's largest institution in charge of climate change resilience issues, where so far it has been able to achieve access to more than \$50 billion. Tanzania is among the first countries to benefit from these funds in the next three years.



Muheza district administrative officer Kasti Nelson (2nd-L) pictured on Monday presenting Josephine Raphael of Mamboleo village keys to a new house she has been issued with as part of compensation for paving the way for the implementation of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. Left is EACOP representative Deogratias Mruay and right is acting Muheza District Council director Cyprian Mselem. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Seven children in Israel for major heart surgery

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

SEVEN Tanzanian children have travelled to Israel for major heart treatment, thanks Save a Child's Heart (SACH) organisation for funding the surgeries.

Dr Peter Kisenge, the Executive Director of Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) unveiled this in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the farewell ceremony for the children.

He commended Israel's government through SACH organisation for continuing to finance for heart surgery for children who are in dire situations, something which will bring new life and joy to the children and their families.

According to him, the children are accompanied by a cardiologist and a nurse who will be with them throughout their treatment where the medical specialist will also learn various things about the surgery.

"On behalf of the Minister of Health, Ummu Mwalimu, I take this opportunity to thank the governments of Tanzania and Israel for funding this treatment of the children. Our fellow Israelis are very far in the area of cardiac services, so when they come to do heart surgery camps children who are found with problems that require a higher level of expertise than what is available in the country, they take them and go to perform the surgery in their

country," he said.

Dr Kisenge said all the travel expenses of the children, their parents and health professionals as well as treatment expenses are covered by SACH where he thanked them for their generous love for the children of Tanzania.

A cardiologist at JKCI, Deogratius Nkya who has travelled with the children said that apart from bringing joy to the children and families, the journey will also help him to learn various techniques of caring for the children once they return home.

Dr Nkya thanked the governments of Tanzania and Israel for providing the opportunity to help the children and also for giving them the

opportunity for health professionals to accompany the children.

He said Israel is one of the places to go to learn various methods of heart and blood vessel surgery for children.

Jackline Patrick, one of the parents who are accompanying the children in Israel, thanked the government for the opportunity and successfully transporting the children to receive medical treatment in Israel.

JKCI treats 90 percent of children's heart diseases through the national experts available in the country and has a contract with Israel for 10 percent of patients who need the highest level of expertise to be treated in their hospitals.

DTP inks 11.75bn/- ICT training drive

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and machine learning, the internet of things and big data analytics, he stated.

"Emerging technologies are key in the digital and industrial economy as they are important factors in national development," he said, noting that the government has outlined the needs and the Tanzania Digital Project is well planned to ensure we have enough experts in ICT.

He urged the beneficiaries to study hard so that upon completion, the government can reap big from its investment, including increased performance and productivity in the digital economy since ICT is key.

Salome Kessy, the chairperson of the committee that oversees ICT experts training through DTP, had earlier underscored the need for the batch of trainees to return home and serve the country.

Of the 500 civil servants, 50 will undergo long courses and 450 are listed for short courses, the ultimate goal being to create trainers who will pass over the knowledge to others, she said, pointing out that "the training cost abroad cannot cover every one in need."

The government will construct two ICT-Centres of Excellence in Dodoma and Kigoma anchored in emerging technologies, and through DTP, eight innovation centres will be set up in Arusha, Mwanza, Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Lindi, Mbeya, Zanzibar and Dodoma, she elaborated.

Xavier Kessy, the Public Service Management and Good Governance deputy permanent secretary in the President's Office, advised the prospective trainees to study hard as the government is committed to improve skills for efficiency and obtaining value for money.

Electoral reforms bills for tabling next month

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awaited reforms," he emphasised.

John Tendwa, the former registrar of political parties, proposed that the office of the registrar be facilitated with resources to enable it to perform its duties fully including the provision of civic education during elections.

"We need to re-open regional offices for the registrar's office so that all activities at lower levels are coordinated in a harmonious way by

the responsible office," he stated.

Zitto Kabwe, the Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) national leader, said the draft bills should not be taken to the legislature on a certificate of urgency as laws passed under such conditions end up being bad laws.

"Let us use traditional ways to pass laws to carry out these reforms; we need to go slowly so that we have reforms which will be accepted by all," he added.

'Techno-medicine to save 2m mothers and babies by 2030'

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interventions that can reduce postpartum hemorrhage, the No. 1 cause of maternal death, by 60 per cent for less than \$1 per package, they wrote

Another is bifidobacteria (B. Infantis), a new probiotic supplement that, when given to an infant alongside breast milk, combats malnutrition—one of the leading causes of newborn deaths

They also include multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS) that boost survival rates for babies by helping replenish nutrient stores in pregnant women and ensuring those vital nutrients are transferred to the baby, they wrote.

This involves a new one-time infusion of IV iron for women that replenishes iron reserves during pregnancy, preventing anemia, a condition that is both a cause and effect of postpartum hemorrhage, affecting upwards of 37 per cent of expectant mothers.

This infusion is tied with antenatal corticosteroids (ACS), given to women who give birth prematurely to accelerate fetal lung growth, providing

several weeks of maturation in just a few days, they explained/

Others include azithromycin, which reduces maternal infections during pregnancy and prevents infections from spiraling into sepsis—the cause of 23 per cent of maternal deaths in the United States.

This reduces mortality when given to infants in high-mortality settings, along with an AI-enabled portable ultrasound that empowers nurses and midwives to monitor high-risk pregnancies in low-resource settings to ensure that risks are diagnosed and addressed early, they added.



Over the past decade, the field of child health has advanced faster and farther than I thought I'd see in my lifetime

Govt to issue 2.5m title deeds by 2026

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participants noted.

Initiated in 2017 in Accra and formally established in 2019 in Antananarivo, the network is a community of practice created to address the gap. Members work together to reinforce capacities, foster dialogue and promote information sharing, with the network also serving as an accountability mechanism to measure progress.

Capitalising on commitments made at previous meetings and the lessons thereof in Ghana (2017), Madagascar (2019) and Togo (2021), a diverse set of stakeholders, including ministers, policymakers, state officials, civil society organizations and multilateral agencies are meeting here to take stock

of progress from previous meetings.

Indigenous and pastoralists, local communities, women and youth in Africa are conserving some of the continent's most biodiverse lands, forests, and watersheds, the network leader noted.

By working together, national land institutions have a key role to play in protecting both people and the planet for the betterment of all, she stated.

In Tanzania there are already ongoing initiatives of providing customary land titles to indigenous communities being undertaken by the Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT) and the Pastoralists Indigenous Non-Governmental Organizations (PINGO)'s Forum, stakeholders noted.



Teachers from various Muheza District schools gathered at the district council's grounds yesterday waiting for allowances, equipment and supplies as they prepare for the invigilation of this year's edition of the national Primary School Leaving Examination set to start today. According to the District's Primary Schools Education Officer, Pili Maxmilian, 6,669 students are expected to sit the exam. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

TRC receives five refrigerated wagons worth 840m/-from WFP

By Correspondent Pilly Kigome

TANZANIA Railway Corporation (TRC) has received five refrigerated wagons worth 840m/- from the World Food Programme (WFP) to carry perishable products in Dodoma, Morogoro and Dar es Salaam.

Amina Lumuli, TRC acting director general said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the refrigerated wagons will be a solution to loss of revenues from destruction of goods which are perishable.

She said in March last year, WFP and TRC conducted a joint study to get a solution on how to prevent loss to horticulture produce and "the study came with the answer of

coming up with these refrigerated wagons that finally reduce such loss, damage and improve markets and yields."

Gerald Mweri, Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Agriculture said that in the year 2022/23 a total of 8 million tonnes were transported from 6.5 million tonnes in 2017/18.

Mweri said that the transporters have been spending \$9,000 to transport through Mombasa port, adding that the ongoing improvement at the Dar es Salaam Port will cut costs by 50 percent.

WFP country representative Sarah Gibson said that all five wagons will be used to store perishable goods such as vegetables and fruits.

"Tanzania is among 20 countries producers of vegetables and fruits in the world. The Horticulture sector is growing fast and therefore, has been connecting small farmers and the markets since 2009. Our main focus should be women and youths because it is the attractive sector between the two groups," she said.

Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa said that the government will ensure farmers and herders access quality transport service using refrigerated wagons.

"Transport ministry will continue to create a conducive friendly environment for farmers to get fast quality and affordable rail services," he said.



Outgoing Works and Transport ministry permanent secretary Gabriel Migire (L) hands over the office to newly appointed Transport ministry permanent secretary Prof Godius Kahyarara in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo courtesy of Transport ministry

TCDC calls on cooperative unions to adopt warehouse receipt system

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) has called cooperative unions to adopt a warehouse receipt system on all commercial crops as being championed by the government.

Dr Benson Ndiege, Commission's Registrar and Chief Executive Officer made the call here yesterday, noting that the system will enable cooperatives to operate commercially, competitively and reliably.

He said the move to adopt the system in all commercial crops is implementation of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directive during the recently concluded African Food Systems Forum (AGRF) in Dar es Salaam.

Dr Ndiege explained that during the meeting the Head of State called on local cooperatives to ensure that they implement a warehouse receipts system for other commercial crops as they do on cashew nuts and sesame crops.

The TCDC boss was speaking in Dodoma yesterday at a working session with secondary cooperatives and cooperative banks aimed at discussing the direction of cooperatives in the country.

Dr Ndiege said this is the right time for the cooperatives to start strengthening

their commercial systems by using a warehouse receipt system.

"Some cooperatives in Songwe, Manyara and southern regions are seriously implementing the warehouse receipt system whereby through this system the price of some crops has been increased" he said.

He cited sesame price has increased from 1300 /- last year to 4000/- this year, adding that using this system cooperative will operate commercially and will be productive for farmers.

He said that to ensure TCDC is growing, efforts must be made to ensure the development and investment in modern digital systems with the aim of increasing operational efficiency in associations and supervisory authorities.

According to the registrar, so far we have registered 5,642 cooperatives and 704,648 members in the TCDC's digital system though there is push to ensure all 7,000 parties and over eight million members are registered in this system so that all our activities are performed in digital form, but also ensure that this system is compatible with digital scales so that we can modernise our works,

Dr Ndiege has also urged secondary cooperatives to ensure the establishment process of the National Cooperative Bank which is expected to be formally established by the end of

the year is completed.

"We need 15 bn/- to be able to set up this bank, so far we have 6.7 bn/- with a deficit of 8.3 bn/-, my office issued a document for members to donate or buy shares so that they can jointly own the bank, let's discuss how we can mobilize them to be among the owners by donating or buying shares so that we can complete the remaining amount so that our bank can be established," he said.

He said that in order to ensure the growth and development, cooperatives should ensure the management and control of these associations as well as encourage the establishment of cooperatives in various sectors and special groups to ensure more citizens benefits.

"We can encourage co-operatives in BBT projects, vegetarian, livestock and fisheries sectors, encourage the establishment of Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCOS) within Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS), provide education through regional corporate platforms as well as raise public awareness about the cooperatives through media," he said.

Dr Ndiege also said that in order to strengthen the activities of the cooperatives and management, each stakeholder is responsible for ensuring that the cooperative responds to the community needs with its resilience and sustainability by solving socio-economic challenges.

Govt forms preparation committee for World Congress of Beekeepers

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has already formed a special committee to begin preparation processes of the World Congress of Beekeepers to be held on September 20 to 25 in 2027 which Tanzania will be the host.

Tanzania was announced the winner to host the congress late last week in Chile after making it to the final round with United Arab Emirates (UAE) after a stiff competition from other countries.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Natural Resources and Tourism minister Angellah Kairuki said that the congress will bring on board over 6000 stakeholders from over 100 member countries of the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (APIMONDIA).

The minister said that Tanzania has won the important opportunity due to various reasons which include having beekeepers who have perfected the art of honey harvesting, robust efforts of protecting conservation activities as well as employing techniques that not only ensure a bountiful harvest but also prioritise the well-being of their industrious bees.

Other reasons include the ability of hive management, beekeeping training and education, beehive construction, cultivating harmony where beekeepers and conservationists unite for a greener Tanzania.

She said that Tanzania is well prepared to host the big congress and will continue improving infrastructure and all needed services to make the conference a success.

She however acknowledged that, despite recording various achievements in the bee sector, the country's beekeeping sector

is still facing a shortage of needed technologies, ranging from production and harvesting of honey and other bee products as well as in packaging.

She said that honey production in Tanzania was still very low but the government in collaboration with stakeholders was taking efforts to bring changes in the changes.

"As of now, Tanzania is estimated to have the capacity of producing at least 138,000 tonnes of honey and 9,200 tonnes of beeswax per year. However, currently, the country has an actual capacity of producing 32,691 tonnes of honey which is still very low," she noted.

According to her, the government is currently implementing several programmes to promote bee keeping and processing by facilitating construction of modern factories owned both by the government and private sector.

She urged stakeholders to chip in and start investing in construction of accommodation facilities including hotels as well as improving the available ones so as to accommodate the guests come to 2027.

Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) Conservation Commissioner, Prof Dos Santos Silayo said that the institution has been implementing various programmes to encourage bee keeping and accelerate the use of the sector's products so as to ensure that they become an important source of economic growth in the country.

"In order to ensure that we produce and protect our bees to produce quality honey and other products, TFS has continued to intensify efforts and plant more trees so as to ensure that the bees find pleasant places to grow and reproduce," he said.

Prof Silayo said TFS has also established bee farms in Manyoni, Singida Region, Kondoia in Dodoma and Mwambao in Handeni District, Tanga Region to educate farmers on bee keeping as well promote mass production of quality honey.

Deudedith Bwoyo, Forestry and Beekeeping director in the Ministry said Tanzania ranks 14th country for beekeeping in the world and 2nd in Africa due to its strategic efforts of producing quality honey as well as promoting conservation efforts.

He said that bee keeping is one of the very lucrative sectors which provide both food, medicines and income.

The event organized every two years by APIMONDIA aims at facilitating the exchange of information and discussions where beekeepers, scientists, honey-traders, agents for development, technicians and legislators meet to listen, discuss and learn from one another.

THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
THE JUDICIARY OF ZANZIBAR
HIGH COURT OF ZANZIBAR-TUNGUU
CIVIL APPLICATION NO.-48/2023, NO.01/2023 AND NO.58/2023 ARISING FROM CIVIL APPLICATION NO.1/2023 FROM THE REGIONAL COURT OF ZANZIBAR HOLDEN AT VUSA
BETWEEN
ELISEO FAWARO... APPLICANT
AND
1. KILUTU INTERNATIONAL FOOD LTD
2. LA FINCE LIMITED... RESPONDENTS
3. MARCO FAWARO
SUMMONS
The High Court of Zanzibar (Tunguu) do hereby summon MARCO FAWARO and LA FINCE LIMITED
Whenever they are to appear before High Court -Tunguu on 05/09/2023 for Hearing of the Case against them, which was filed by the Applicant ELISEO FAWARO. Failure to appear before the court, the court will proceed with determining the case in their absence
Sealed and signed by the Court this 22nd day of September 2023.
REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT
ZANZIBAR

HELD UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HON. DR. DOTO MASHAKA BITEKO (MP), DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR ENERGY, MINISTRY OF ENERGY OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

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PM witnesses signing of contract involving Japan's JT, PO-RALG

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has witnessed the signing of the corporate social responsibility (CSR) agreement between PO-RALH and Japan's JT Group, the tobacco firm to enable the latter to continue providing community services in areas it buys the crop.

The three-year agreement valued at 3.2bn/- was signed in Dar es Salaam on Monday will enable the company to provide the services in health, education and water sectors as well as economically empowering the people in the areas.

Speaking after the event, Majaliwa said that the step is the result of discussions between him and the Japanese firm during his visit to Japan in September 2022 and the TICAD 8 meeting held in Tunisia in August the same year.

"The firm wants to spend the profits they earn from the tobacco buying business to assist the community, they decided to incorporate it in the agreement with PO-RALG, and already they have built a girls' school in Urambo, Tabora Region and a dispensary at Uyui as well as sponsoring youth in education," he said.

For his part, PO-RALG deputy minister, Dr Festo Dugange said that the step is "in line with the implementation of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directives to make sure stakeholders we collaborate with contribute to the development in regard to social services in areas they operate."

The deputy minister added that through the agreement JT Group will construct health centres, girls' boarding schools in one of tobacco growing districts and infrastructures for clean and safe water.

He added: "The firm has provided employment to more than 450 Tanzanians in areas they buy tobacco.

JT Group president and Chief Executive Officer Masamichi Terabatake said that the firm buys green tobacco leaves in about 35 countries in the world and Tanzania is among five major tobacco producing countries and commended the country for having in place a friendly business environment.



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Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye (R) exchanges greetings with Tigo-Pesa chief officer Angelica Pesha in Zanzibar at the weekend on the sidelines of a two-day Connect to Connect (C2C) conference organised by the ministry in collaboration with Zanzibar's Infrastructure, Communications and Transport ministry. Deliberations revolved around challenges and solutions in the digital communication sector in Africa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt: Z'bar sees a slight decline in poverty

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Minister for Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, Riziki Pembe has said poverty in Zanzibar has gone down from 34.9 per cent to 25.7 per cent, while foods had gone down from 11.7 to 9.3 per cent.

The minister revealed this when opening the general meeting on community reserves at Golden Tulip Hotel conference hall here, saying that the statistics reflect huge achievements.

He said poverty reduction on basic needs and food is a result of various strategies being implemented by

the Zanzibar government and that the aim is to see more achievements are attained in the fight against the country's poverty.

Pembe said the government is implementing various plans in order to make sure it reduces or completely eradicates poverty from among the people of Zanzibar.

He added that Zanzibar has a population of 1,889,773 people, including 974,281 women and 915,492 men out of whom 891,962 are children, equivalent to 47 per cent of the population and 85,518 elders of more than 60 years of age or 4.5 per cent of the entire population.

However, he added that everyone is witness to how the present government continues with its efforts to raise the standard of living of its people.

He explained that the efforts include establishing a community pension plan which by June this year, 28,776 elders have been registered in Unguja and 17,280 in Pemba.

Speaking at the meeting, some participants said there is the need for simplifying social services provision.

Yussuf Sijaamini, from the President's Office, Finance and Planning said there has been a lot of inconveniences in accessing services from the Social Security Fund especially when one is

pursuing his benefits.

However, he said that they are supposed to look for an alternative way in verifying retired elders by establishing a centre for the purpose in every district.

UNICEF representative Laxmi Bhawani said the government decision to review the social security policy is essential as it will help to remove existing challenges.

He also commended the Zanzibar government for its efforts to help the people in boosting social services and that UNICEF will continue to collaborate with the Zanzibar in that regard.

AfDB welcomes \$50m from Germany and US to bolster climate financing facilities

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE African Development Bank's Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) has welcomed the approximately \$50 million in new funding contributions from Germany and the United States.

The contributions will serve to boost its position as one of the continent's leading climate finance facilities.

The funding was announced recently at the just-ended high-level event organised by SEFA during the Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya. The event showcased SEFA's role in catalysing climate action in the energy sector and accelerating Africa's just energy transition.

Germany, SEFA's largest donor, underscored its strong support for climate action in Africa and its positive experience working with SEFA, with the announcement of a new EUR 40 million contribution. "With SEFA, the African Development Bank is demonstrating its commitment to seizing the opportunities presented by the energy transition and renewable energy deployment, said Dr. Bärbel Kofler, Parliamentary State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

USAID Power Africa (link is external), reflecting on its long-standing commitment to promoting a low-carbon and climate-resilient energy sector in Africa, re-affirmed its strong partnership with SEFA.

"Power Africa's additional contribution of \$6.2 million to the Fund underscores the high value and impact of our partnership with the AfDB and SEFA. Together, we are supporting Africa's low-carbon and climate resilient development through clean energy solutions that make a real difference in people's lives across the continent," said David Thompson, USAID Power Africa Acting Coordinator.

Dr Kevin Kariuki, African Development Bank Vice-President for Power, Energy, Climate Change

and Green Growth, described the new donor commitments to SEFA as "a testament to the recognition of the centrality of SEFA in supporting Africa's just energy transition."

Mauritanian Minister of Economic Affairs and Sustainable Development Abdessalam Saleh, provided a first-hand account of the importance of SEFA's support to countries, particularly in the context of implementation of the Bank's Desert-to-Power initiative. Desert-to-Power will harness the solar potential of the Sahel connecting 250 million people with electricity. Saleh also emphasised the pivotal role of SEFA in promoting private-sector-led mini-grids in Mauritania.

African Development Bank Director of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Department Dr. Daniel Schroth moderated the session during which several clients and partners testified to SEFA's influence.



Power Africa's additional contribution of \$6.2 million to the Fund underscores the high value and impact of our partnership with the AfDB and SEFA. Together, we are supporting Africa's low-carbon and climate resilient development through clean energy solutions that make a real difference in people's lives across the continent



Maasai women pose for a photo with foreign tourists a short distance from Lake Eyasi in Arusha Region late last week. The tourists were on a safari organised by a Moshi-based tour operator. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

REA stresses accountability among Tanzania employees

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

RURAL Energy Agency (REA) director general, Eng. Hassan Saidu has stressed accountability among REA staff of the agency to implement its operations to ensure people in rural areas use better quality energy like those in urban areas.

Eng. Saidu was addressing the

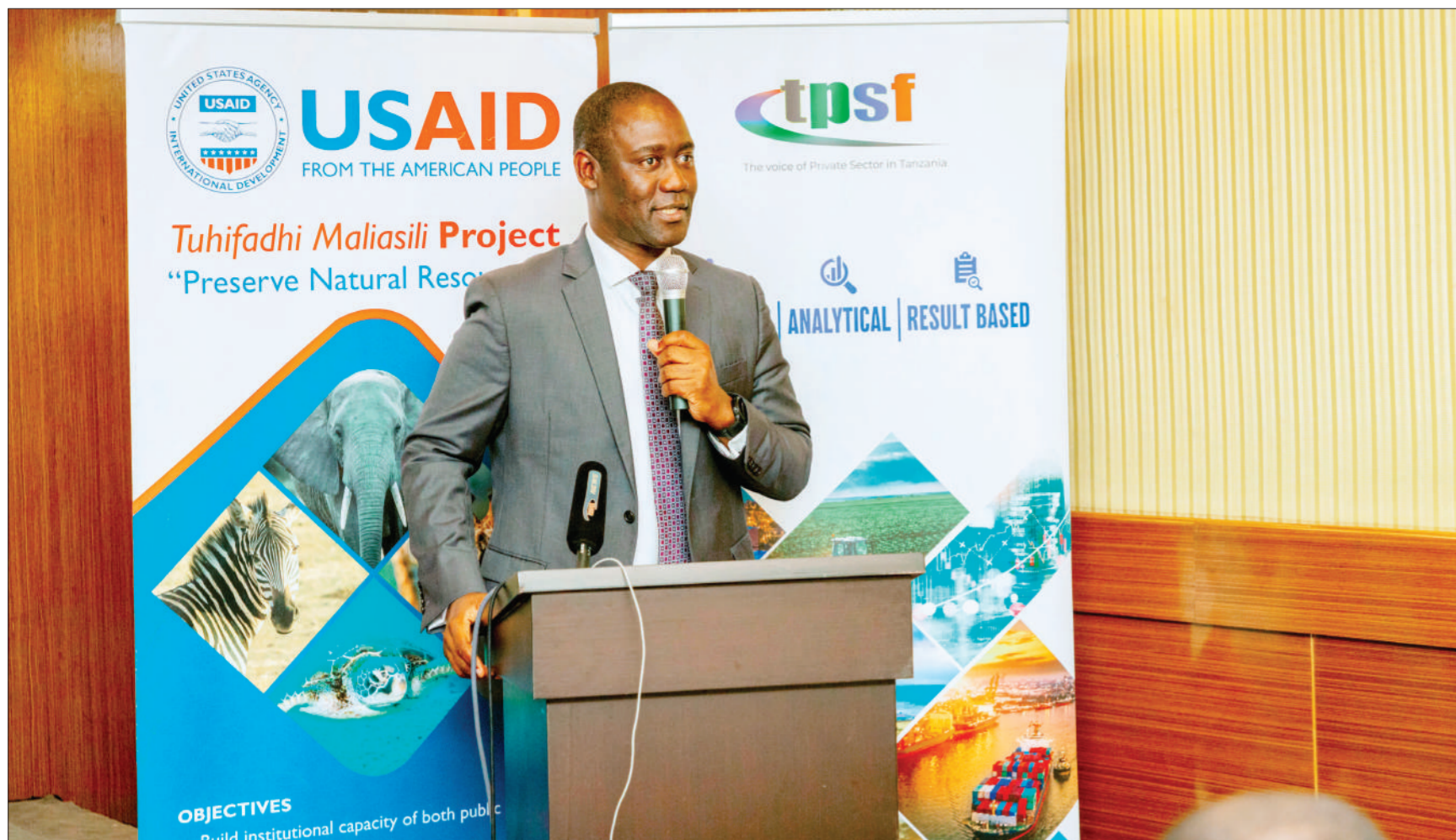
meeting of REA staff and workers here on Monday convened to discuss various issues aimed at boosting work performance. "Every one of us is supposed to adopt the urge for putting in place more efforts and skills so that the fruits from our tasks are discerned by Tanzanians," he stressed.

He explained that REA workers are supposed to make sure that their work

performance goes in tandem with the government goals to provide rural people with better energy, like those in urban areas. He added that various projects implemented by the agency were going on well and appealed to the workers to continue with their urge to work hard so that new projects for implementation are completed.

For his part, Swalehe Kibwana,

chairman of Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees (TUGHE) REA branch thanked REA management for adopting the procedure of talking with the workers in order to give them the opportunity to speak about challenges facing them at their workplaces as well as airing their views on various issues of the agency.



Tanzania Private Sector Foundation CEO John Ulanga pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday giving opening remarks at the start of four-day training for public and private sector shipping stakeholders. The training, an integral part of USAID's Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity, is expected to arm participants with skills on combating wildlife trafficking. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TPSF in drive to combat wildlife trafficking in the shipping sector

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has organised a capacity building training of trainers (ToT) from both private and public sectors in the marine sector on combating wildlife trafficking.

Being part of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s project, dubbed: "Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity", the training engaged marine and shipping stakeholders operating at the Dar es Salaam port, Mtwara port and Tanga port.

The aim of the training is to empower personnel in the shipping industry to combat wildlife trafficking in Tanzania with the goal of disrupting wildlife trafficking by reducing the use of legal transportation supply chains through training of law enforcement agencies and private sector actors in the shipping industry in Tanzania.

The four-day training which kicked off yesterday in Dar es Salaam, will create awareness amongst staff dealing with cargo, clearing, handling and transportation on the importance of areas of connectivity in combating wildlife trafficking in Tanzania. The training of trainers is the kick off of a series of training that will be imparted to other stakeholders in the transportation supply chain including truck and bus owners.

TPSF CEO Mr John Ulanga said: "We are here to support the role of the private sector in combating wildlife trafficking, we thought it was important to take part in this project to make sure the private sector does not take part in broadening the burden to the tourism sector."

"Wildlife trafficking will not stop in a day or two, so we are hoping that this is going to be the beginning of a continuation for collaboration between USAID and TPSF and the private sector in general towards ensuring that we collaboratively minimize the problem. We saw the value of this intervention, and we are grateful to USAID for their strategic partnership."

Dr Thadeus Binamungu, USAID

Tuhifadhi Maliasili Chief of Party said tourism contributes 21% of the GDP and most of tourism in Tanzania comes from wildlife and if the wildlife is eliminated, the tourism industry will be highly affected, therefore the project saw the importance of engaging the private sector as the role of the private sector is key to ensure sustainability of the tourism industry.

Kiza Biraga, acting assistant Director Anti-Poaching from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism said the transport and logistic sector plays a crucial role in moving of goods including wildlife, hence coming together to address the challenge of illegal trafficking of wildlife by building capacity to the shipping sector to effectively combat wildlife trafficking. "Illegal transportation of wildlife affects revenues that could have been invested in education or health sectors. Our commitment in addressing this challenge in the shipping industry goes beyond our borders. We aim to preserve our natural heritage, therefore effective management and protection are paramount to preserve our biodiversity," he said.



We are here to support the role of the private sector in combating wildlife trafficking, we thought it was important to take part in this project to make sure the private sector does not take part in broadening the burden to the tourism sector

Use recommended weighing scales, Moro traders advised

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TRADERS of agro-produce in Morogoro Region's markets have been urged to use weighing scales and stern legal steps will be taken against those who disobey the directives.

They are required to abandon the use of illegal fake measures including plastic containers, and metal tins.

The remarks were given here at the weekend by Morogoro Region Weights and Measures Agency (WMA), Phanel Matiko at a meeting held at farmers' market in Morogoro municipality.

The meeting also involved market officials from Fire, Chamwino, Mazimbu, Kihonda Maghorofani, Nane Nane, Kingalu, Mji Mpya, Bigwa markets and local council officials.

Matiko said the aim of WMA is to make sure there is equality during selling and buying of various products to ensure the seller gets the rightful money from the goods sold without being defrauded.

"Its aim is to protect the consumer and to ensure there is an enabling environment for conducting trade without complaints from both sides,"

he said.

He added that counterfeit measures deny the government the correct statistics as plastic containers differ in volumes, hence, he said stern measures will be taken against all those who use them.

For his part, Mawenzi market manager, Abdul Mkangwa called on traders of the market to obey the laws and urged all traders to make sure they have weighing scales.

Mkangwa said the aim is to avoid inconveniences of being fined for breaking the laws.

Seleman Rashid, a trader at the market said there are some markets that do not use plastic containers including the Nyandira Market at Mgetra, Mvomero district, Kisutu Market in Dar es Salaam, Kilombero Market in Arusha as well as other markets.

He said at Mawenzi Market more than 80 per cent of the trade is done through weighing scales including for potatoes, onions, rice, beans and other commodities.

Rashid added that there are some businesses that are difficult for traders to sell using weighing scales including tomatoes and bananas.

For his part, Mustafa Hoza, a trader, advised fellow traders at the market to submit their complaints to their MP to take to the Parliament for amendments of some laws.



Ridhiwani Kikwete (2nd-R), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), exchanges greetings in Musoma municipality late last week with beneficiaries of the Poor Households Rescue Programme. It was shortly after addressing them in the course of a visit that saw him assess the implementation of projects supported by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) in Mara Region. Photo: Special Correspondent

TADB starts training farmers and cooperatives on accessing loans

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has started to train farmers and cooperative officers in the southern highlands regions in regard to loans for agriculture development aimed at increasing various kinds of crops to make Tanzania Africa's food basket.

The training has begun to be provided in Mbeya Region one week after the completion of the Africa Food Systems Forum (AGRF) Conference held in Dar es Salaam attended by various heads of states and governments.

On Monday the training began with cooperative officers from all seven

districts of Mbeya Region including cooperative registrars before going out to farmers and to other regions in the southern highlands zone.

TADB Commerce Development Officer (Small Farmers Department), Angelina Nyansambo said up to now 2,000 farmers from the Zone have already been empowered in various issues on agricultural development.

She said for Mbeya Region, they decided to start with cooperative officers because they are closer to farmers, hence they will use them as ambassadors to spread the education to farmers in their areas.

Nyansambo said that so far the Bank has already dished out loans to more than one million farmers countrywide

to help them with capital to run their activities, farming and livestock keeping in particular, the sectors targeted.

However, she added that the training is being provided countrywide and TADP plans to reach 28,000 farmers.

Some cooperative officers from various districts of Mbeya Region who attended the training said education provided will be of great benefit to them and farmers and claimed that farmers are still facing challenges on how to access loans to develop their activities.

For his part, Assistant Cooperative Registrar for Mbeya Region, Irene Luoga requested TADB to utilise general meetings of Cooperative

Unions as platforms to provide education to farmers, saying in doing so they will reach many more farmers.

He said cooperative unions are the ones 'owning' farmers and that even after receiving the training they plan to utilise the general meetings of Cooperative unions to convey the education to farmers.

For his part, Chunya District cooperative officer, Kongwa Nkinda said many farmers, especially small farmers lack the knowledge on farm loans, hence he called for more efforts to reach them.

Southern highland regions are leading in food crops production in the country, the situation that has earned them the national food warehouse.

Cooperation among Ecowas members vital in launch of common currency: official

ACCRA

A SENIOR official from the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) has stressed a strong collaboration among member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to achieve the target of launching the proposed common currency Eco for the sub region amid the global economic challenges.

Olorunsola Olowofeso, director general of the WAMI, made the call during the official opening of the 53rd meeting of the technical committee of the member states of the West African Monetary Zone in Accra, the capital of Ghana.

Olowofeso said the governments and the central banks of ECOWAS member states have been working hard to hold the economies together and sustain the drive toward achieving the common currency on schedule.

To sustain this drive, the official emphasized that there is a need for an all-hands-on-deck approach.

"We need to talk to all stakeholders and work together to synchronize our institutions and regulations to drive this process. One institution can not drive it alone. All hands must be on deck to achieve this. So we need to strengthen our relationships by bringing all the stakeholders together to inform them of the challenges and see how to solve them," he said.

He conceded that the ongoing global challenges constituted a major challenge to achieving the primary and secondary convergence criteria for introducing the common currency.

"But the challenges are not insurmountable and must not stop ECOWAS from going forward with the agenda," the director general said. "For fiscal integration in terms of payment systems, we have gone far. We have also gone far with the domestic debt, capital market integration, and the unique bank identification."

He said the WAMI has received support from the African Development Bank to help the remaining countries to bring these programs on stream.

"With cooperation among the member states, the regional institutions, the West African Monetary Agency, and the WAMI, which are driving this process, we can achieve the targets," Olowofeso concluded.

The leaders of ECOWAS adopted a new road map in 2021 toward the launch of the Eco by 2027, requiring all member states to meet all the primary convergence criteria requirements sustainably by the end of 2026.



With cooperation among the member states, the regional institutions, the West African Monetary Agency, and the WAMI, which are driving this process, we can achieve the targets

New partnership out to support insurance industry in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank Tanzania has announced its partnership with the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) geared towards operationalising the trust account for insurance companies.

The move aims at fulfilling the legal requirements and regulations set by the insurance regulatory body and reiterates the bank's commitment to support growth of Tanzania's insurance sector.

Speaking during the launch of the Trust Account together with a workshop organized by the bank that brought together various players in the insurance sector including TIRA, Exim Bank and insurance firms, the Exim Bank Chief Executive Officer Jaffari Matundu commended TIRA for offering the bank an opportunity to participate in the establishment of the Insurance Trust Account.

"At Exim Bank, we believe that the insurance sector is a catalyst and can play a crucial role in financial and economic development. We are glad for this opportunity to participate in the establishment of the Insurance Trust Account and we strongly believe that this move will create transparency and accountability in the insurance sector," he said.

Matundu said the bank has for years been working with a number of insurance companies in the country to offer tailor-made solutions, adding that the bank will continue working with all the stakeholders to support growth of the sector.

"As part of our commitment to accelerate insurance uptake, Exim Bank debuted the Insurance Premium Finance (IPF) Facility, a financing product which allows you to finance your annual insurance premium, rather than pay the lump sum upfront. In repaying fixed monthly amounts, you can avoid premium increases during the year and it allows you to manage your cash flow more effectively," Matundu said.

He added: "The Insurance Premium Finance (IPF) Facility is available to finance the full premium payment to the Insurance Company giving you the freedom to spread the repayments for the premiums whilst preserving your cash flows for other business opportunities."

Abubakar Ndwata, Director of Supervision for Tanzania Insurance

Regulatory Authority (TIRA) said that the Trust Account will help in strengthening management of the insurance sector.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate Exim Bank for being amongst the few big banks in Tanzania to implement the process of establishing a Trust Account. This is a good move that will help strengthen the supervision of the insurance industry in line with the legal and regulatory requirements set out by the TIRA," he said.

Ndwata said that last year TIRA in collaboration with the Association of Tanzania Insurers (ATI), agreed to prepare a Liquidity Management and Investment Guidelines which also directed the establishment of a Trust Account through commercial banks to overcome the problem of capital challenges or failure to pay the claims.

"The decision to open a trust account in commercial banks is a reflection of the challenge, as we will now be able to manage the deposit funds of the insurance companies hence improving the development of the financial sector."

He added that the origin of the Insurance trust account is the Insurance Act of 2009, Section 20, which requires insurance companies to deposit at least 50% of the minimum capital of the insurance company.



I take this opportunity to congratulate Exim Bank for being amongst the few big banks in Tanzania to implement the process of establishing a Trust Account. This is a good move that will help strengthen the supervision of the insurance industry in line with the legal and regulatory requirements set out by the TIRA

African leaders mitigate climate change impacts

By Correspondent Khairat Haji

AFRICAN leaders have committed to mitigate the effects of climate change and seek solutions to prevent further impacts on the people's lives.

They made their commitments in the Nairobi Declaration, after the just-concluded three-day climate change meeting.

The leaders emerged with resolutions on addressing climate change.

In their declaration, leaders expressed their concern that many African countries are currently facing the effects of climate change, including unpredictable weather patterns such as prolonged droughts, floods, and forest fires. These phenomena pose a significant humanitarian crisis and have adverse impacts on the economy, health, education, peace, and security.

They called for urgent and collective actions from all nations to reduce emissions and lower the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, major drivers of climate change.

"We recognize that Africa bears no historical responsibility for the global temperature rise, yet it bears the brunt of its impacts, affecting people's health, livelihoods, and economies," their declaration reads in part.

They also noted that Africa has the potential and determination to be part of the global solution to climate change, highlighting the region's youthful workforce, abundant renewable energy resources, and other factors that can contribute to a more effective approach to combat climate change and achieve their carbon neutrality goals.

They also urged the international community to take swift action in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, fulfilling their roles as major contributors, meeting past commitments to provide \$100 billion annually as promised 14 years ago in the Copenhagen conference, and discontinuing the use of coal and all harmful energy subsidies.

They called positive investments in climate-related initiatives that will promote economic growth and transform the planet, enabling African countries to achieve middle-income status by 2050.

African leaders pledged to promote and implement policies and regulations that attract domestic, regional, and international investors in green growth and sustainable economies. This will help address the impacts of climate change, such as droughts and floods.

On food security, African leaders agreed to strengthen efforts to increase agricultural yields and shift away from traditional farming practices that do not guarantee food security.



We recognize that Africa bears no historical responsibility for the global temperature rise, yet it bears the brunt of its impacts, affecting people's health, livelihoods, and economies



Shinyanga regional commissioner Christina Mndeme (L) and Shinyanga Municipal mayor Elias Masumbuko lend a hand in the construction of the municipal's main market during an inspection tour of progress in the implementation of the project on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

DED allays fears over Std-VII exam cheating and theft

By Correspondent Judica Tarimo,

Bagamoyo

BAGAMOYO District Council Executive Director, Shauri Selenda yesterday allayed public fears over widely-spreading speculations related to theft, cheating and sabotage in the Standard-Seven national exams scheduled for today across the country.

"Yes, we have received some reports on the alleged plans to

sabotage Standard Seven exams in our district, but I want to assure the public that the evil plan will not work," said Shauri Selenda as he responds to the reports circulated in the social media on exams theft and cheatings at one of the primary schools in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

Speaking to reporters at his office yesterday, the district director said after receiving such reports, the district authority had taken bold steps to control the situation and any

possible ill-plans to prevent exams cheatings at the respective school and all primary schools in the district. Selenda said that his office has received a report that some of his district and ward education officers have been linked to sabotage and theft of the 2023 exams in one of Bagamoyo primary schools.

"We have already taken steps by forming a team to investigate the matter, as investigations continue, we have removed all people who have been mentioned in the circulated

report, and completely skipped them from the list of people assigned to supervise the exams," he said.

"In other words, we have completely restructured exams-monitoring and supervision team, and put in new people, and skip those mentioned in the reports," he stressed.

He added: "If we find out that those mentioned in these rumours/reports were actually involved in the evil plans, disciplinary and legal measures will be taken against them."



Opposition ACT-Wazalendo Secretary General Ado Shaibu pictured at the weekend addressing a rally attended by residents of Mtambwe, Wawi, Wingwi and Kiwani in Zanzibar. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Rotary club organises race for raising 320m/- to support education, health, social services

By Guardian Reporter

THE Rotary Club of Oysterbay has organised the Goat Race aimed at raising 320m/- to support education, health and social services including scholarships for Tanzanian youth, infrastructure support in public schools and other efforts in primary education.

Organised over the weekend the light-hearted event was under the

motto: "Who is your G.O.A.T.?" and attracted more people to come to the Green in Oysterbay.

At the well-attended event East Africa TV and East Africa Radio presented prizes to the winners of the six goats' race, which won Barack Obama's group.

"I am delighted to say that the Goat Races 2023 were an exciting and impressive event. I am thrilled that EATV/Radio could sponsor

this incredible event, as it provides an excellent opportunity for our brand to reach out to a diverse audience. We appreciate the efforts of the organizing team, and we look forward to partnering with them again in future events" says Edwin Lotti, Sales Manager EATV & East Africa Radio."

People from different countries participated in the game, which is always popular because it happens

once a year

Representative of the winners of race number six of Barack Obama's group, Shyrose Ismail said that they were happy with the victory and that they will continue to participate every year to help people in need in society.

"The competitions were wonderful and this year we succeeded to win and we shall keep participating each year," she said.



KFC Tanzania staff cut a cake at the weekend to mark the tenth anniversary of the firm's services in the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

487 Tanga food vendors get support from Cola Kwanza

By Guardian Correspondent

IN a significant boost to women entrepreneurs in Tanga, 487 food vendors received essential business support from Cola Kwanza Ltd, a subsidiary of Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA).

Coca Cola provided the tools in partnership with Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited, and the Institute of Social Work (ISW). The initiative forms part of the 'Mwanamke Shujaa' campaign, meaning "A Brave Woman."

The women entrepreneurs were gifted with cooking equipment, clothing items, and also participated

in workshops aimed at enhancing their business and entrepreneurial skills. Training focused on essential areas like bookkeeping, customer care, stress management, and capital growth.

The handover ceremony took place at the Usagara Secondary School over the weekend, in the esteemed presence of Ummu Mwalimu, Minister for Health and Member of Parliament for Tanga Constituency.

Each woman received a 15kg gas cylinder, a two-plate gas cooker, an apron, a cooking table, and a crate of soda. This effort has increased

the beneficiaries of the Mwanamke Shujaa campaign to 843 this year, reflecting a strong commitment by Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd to empower women economically.

Mwalimu expressed her gratitude towards Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd and Oryx Gas Tanzania for providing this timely support, which will not only improve food vendor operations but also align with the government's agenda of promoting clean energy use.

Salum Nassor, Public Affairs, Communications, and Sustainability director at Coca-Cola Kwanza, reaffirmed the company's

commitment to creating greater shared opportunities for the business and the communities they serve. He emphasized that the company's growth strategy is centered on creating Inclusive growth opportunities for communities, women, youth, and people with disabilities.

Shaban Fundi, the Oryx Gas Head of Retail Sales, expressed his company's commitment to collaborate with Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd on this noble cause.

He underscored Oryx Gas's mission to support enterprises and society in boosting the economy, increasing the usage of gas in the country, and preserving the environment.



Mwanaidi Ali Khamis (L), Deputy Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, pictured in Geita Region on Monday exchanging greetings with members of Tunawake Wanawake SACCOS group. She was on a tour whose focus was on assessing progress in the implementation of the ministry's policies and programmes. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

28,8bn/- to construct roads in Mwanza in FY 2023/2024

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) has been allocated 28,8bn/- in the 2024/2023 financial year to construct roads in Mwanza region.

Chagu Nghoma, Mwanza Regional assistant administrative secretary (infrastructure) told journalists yesterday in Mwanza that 9bn/- from road funds have been set aside for periodic maintenance of the roads.

He said that Buchosa has been allocated with (667.44m/), Ilemela (1.21bn/-), Kwimba (786m/-), Magu (812m/-), Misungwi (778m/-), Mwanza City Council (3.1bn/-), Sengerema (748m/-) and Ukerewe (719m/-).

Nghoma said that funding for charges projects is 10.1bn/- with Ilemela getting (2bn/-), Misungwi (1bn/-), Kwimba (2bn/-), Nyamagana (0.5bn/-), Magu (1bn/-), Buchosa (1bn/-), Sengerema (1.5bn/-) and Ukerewe (1bn/-).

He pointed out that funding for election constituencies Ilemela is (0.5bn/-), Misungwi (0.5bn/-), Kwimba (1bn/-), Nyamagana (0.5bn/-), Magu (0.5bn/-), Buchosa (0.5bn/-), Sengerema (0.5bn/-) and Ukerewe (0.5).

He stated that funding for special projects for Ilemela Municipal Council is 0.5bn/- while road development for Magu District Council is 1.44bn/- and Mwanza City Council (Nyamagana) is 0.5bn/-

According to him, Mwanza City Council set aside 660m/- from its own sources for construction of concrete

road at and road lights at Nyegezi Bus Terminal.

He elaborated that emergency road fund in the said financial year is approximately 943m/- with Ilemela (247m/-), Sengerema (200m/-), Mwanza City Council (207m/-), Ukerewe (105m/-) and Magu (184m/-)

All district councils in Mwanza Region have a network of roads with 8,586.76km long until June this year as per the Ministry of works, whereby out of that network 99.89 roads are tarmacked, 1,797.79km are gravel, 6,659km are earth, 11.34km are concrete and 18.74km are stone paved, he said.

He noted that as of now lengths of 3,255.4km of roads under TARURA in Mwanza Region are in bad condition; that is 37.9 percent of the road length managed by the agency.

He mentioned the districts with the road length in brackets as follows: Kwimba (226.69km), Buchosa Constituency in Sengerema District (464km), Mwanza City Council (482km), Misungwi (229km), Ukerewe (219km), Magu (679.75km), Ilemela (296.67km) and Sengerema (657.5km).

The Office of the Region's Administrative Secretary through Assistant Administrative Secretary (infrastructure) is responsible for managing implementation of road projects so that they can meet required standards for value of money, he said.

"We will continue to support efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan by managing implementation of development projects accordingly for the well-being of people and further development of the nation," he pointed out.

Health experts report suggesting adoption of WHO-sanctioned heat-stable medicine

By Henry Mwangonde

HEALTH experts have suggested the adoption of the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended heat-stable carbetoicin (HSC) and tranexamic acid (TXA) medicine to manage excessive bleeding which is a leading cause of maternal mortality.

Speaking during a meeting between journalists and scientists dealing with management of maternal health, experts delved into innovative ways to cut down maternal deaths in Tanzania by discussing current interventions.

"The practice of medicine is evolving and there is a need to improve how we treat patients. For many years, we have relied on the use of uterotonics such as Oxytocin but in recent years the WHO recommended the need to incorporate in the national guidelines to accelerate the efforts to cut down maternal deaths," said Dr Lilian Mwabiru, specialist in gynaecology and former General Secretary of the Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT) said.

For 30 years, the medicine has proved to be effective in management of excessive blood loss of 500 ml or more within 24 hours of birth - (post-partum hemorrhage (PPH) which still accounts for the highest number of deaths.

Many countries in sub-Saharan African countries, including Tanzania still face challenges in updating their national guidelines and essential medicines lists to include the WHO recommended postpartum hemorrhage medicines.

She said healthcare providers can contribute significantly to curbing preventable maternal deaths in Tanzania if they adapt to innovative solutions and emerging global best practices in managing pregnancy-related complications.

The meeting was organised by RESEARCHCOM, a research communication organisation, aiming to bring together maternal health experts with journalists and build the capacity of the media to keep pace with evolving medical science on maternal health.

One of the notable developments which was highly discussed is the recent release by the World Health Organisation (WHO) of a roadmap to combat postpartum haemorrhage between 2023 and 2030 which was released after realising that global efforts to tackle PPH "have failed to gain traction" over the past decade, despite the clear need to deal with the

leading cause of maternal death.

Dr Mwabiru highlighted other major causes of maternal deaths in Tanzania as eclampsia, Infections of the female reproductive tract and abortion.

Maternal deaths have remained stubbornly high in Tanzania, with current data indicating that 524 deaths still occur per 100,000 live births, with most of them attributed to pregnancy-related complications, mainly PPH.

Experts believe current interventions and national treatment guidelines need to be improved, alongside generating more evidence with potential to significantly change policies and modify the landscape of Managing PPH.

According to the current demographic and health survey which was last released in 2017 maternal death in Tanzania accounts for 524/100,000 live births.

In January 2023 the WHO released a global estimate of MMR and for Tanzania it is now at 238/100,000 with lower limit of 174/100,000 and upper limit of 381/100,000, indicating that the deaths have been declining steadily but slowly over the years.

However, it's until a new Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey is released that the latest data on maternal deaths in Tanzania can be revealed.

Dr Chetan Ramaiya, the Vice President of the Association of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians of Tanzania (AGOTA) said there is an obvious need for improvement in the practice.

"There has been a lot of improvement in the use of digital technology and other methods and the government has invested a lot and engaged maternal health professionals in controlling maternal mortality," he said.

"It is important that, as a country, we improve our treatment guidelines to accommodate the new life-saving medications and interventions which have shown effectiveness in reducing maternal deaths," he said.



The practice of medicine is evolving and there is a need to improve how we treat patients

Noise pollution resurfaces, NEMC warns perpetrators

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environment and Management Council (NEMC) has received more than 230 complaints from the public on the resurfaced noise pollution in Dar es Salaam.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr. Samuel Gwamaka, NEMC director general warned bar and entertainment venues owners to stop the vice as the council will shut down their businesses, if they continue with such behaviour.

He said that there has been an increase of noise pollution that exceeds the standards, despite the council providing education to the public and the owners of the halls and bars.

"The ones we had closed for them obeyed and fulfilled the conditions we gave them and we opened their businesses but within three months we have received more than 230 noise complaints so we warn them to stop making noise before we start taking strict measures like we took last time," he said.

"Recently a national leader called me at night saying that he and his family couldn't sleep because there is a bar next door, playing very loud music, so we will take action," he said.

Dr. Gwamaka reminded the owners that the law still exists and is working and NEMC will continue to educate them that noise is pollution but those

who disobey will not hesitate to take measures like the recent ones.

"Noise pollution when it is done four hours after people go to sleep causes a very big impact because if children do not sleep well they are unable to wake up to go to school on time, there are patients and adults who need calmness," he said.

"It's not that NEMC feels proud in closing someone's business, we know that those businesses employ many people and pay taxes, but the noise has been causing a big impact on the people, so do your business without affecting the lives of others," he said.

In May of this year, NEMC conducted an operation to close down the pubs and bars due to violating the conditions of their licenses and making noise that exceeded the legally acceptable level.

In the May operation, Dr. Gwamaka said there were 19 closed bars in Kinondoni District, 25 in Ilala, 22 in Kigamboni, 12 in Temeke, 5 in Dodoma and 6 in Mwanza and that they started in those areas due to many complaints.

He said that the owners of entertainment halls and bars that have been repeating these mistakes will be fined 5,000,000/- which they will have to pay within 14 days.

He said that first-time offenders will be required to pay a fine of 2,000,000 shillings within those 14 days and that they will all be allowed to continue with their businesses if they follow the conditions set by the council.

Housing sector opening up is path to modernity

POLICY change was in the air in the manner in which the government is coming out strongly on allowing foreigners to purchase houses and bringing in foreign direct investment. This awareness is also essential to boosting foreign exchange earnings which is starting to be shaky, as the value structure in world trade is shifting, making our exports of goods and services insufficient for our import needs, for instance fuel. Altering real estate markets can improve things.

As the incoming Lands minister affirmed, this will require reviewing and improving policies and laws in the housing sector, with staff and management of the National Housing Corporation (NHC) in the forefront of the matter. They have skyline changing projects saddled with debt and stagnation, as banks can't cough up more money and they find it hard to enlist foreign investors. The situation is now being revisited for the projects to be put on a new dynamic.

While the minister attributed this conviction to his brief presence in the ministry, it is clear that it has taken a long time to come by. Partly the shift reflects guidelines issued by President Samia Suluhu Hassan when addressing Diaspora communities especially in the United States, where she paid visit for two weeks meeting all sorts of interest groups, communities, global agencies and US government officials. She said that dual citizenship was not in the offing but special arrangements can be made to enable the Diaspora to invest at home.

What thus comes up is that land policies remain unchanged especially in relation to land being owned by the government, while house ownership or any real estate structure is a regulatory prerogative. That is what the minister is initiating, to lessen own financing by the

NHC, cut its debt liabilities from further growth, and boost economic prospects as a whole. It has taken a long time to recognise this need, but as they say, Rome was not built in one day.

Diaspora individuals, likely to be a major stakeholder in this arrangement, can also initiate investment partnerships with locals or come with people from their countries of residence for such partnerships. In the Chinese reform process the coastal zone became a special investment area with high rise structures coming up belong to local collectivities in partnership with foreign investors. As in Kariakoo in Dar es Salaam, purchasing houses stopped by the mid-1990s as prices skyrocketed, with investors, original owners striking partnerships.

There are cultural parameters as to who can strike partnership with a housing owner in a traditional housing segment of the city, areas which are poised for redevelopment. Most investors will seek to actually purchase a house and that means they may skip prime areas, whilst many billionaires with local roots can more easily enter into land redevelopment partnerships. All these precepts will be at work in the manner in which investors purchase houses, as many local billionaires will come in as foreigners, using companies, agents or law firms.

Those receiving big amounts of money will proceed to purchase land in less expensive areas, and finally those selling there buy at rural areas, improving capital for agro-sector activities. This way the government will gradually shift from direct financing of agro-sector infrastructure to underwriting bank loans as modernised farmers will pay for those services. Poverty is what hinders all this.

Pesticides are inherently hazardous: World governments must act now

THE report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food launched in January 2017 stated: "Pesticides can persist in the environment for decades and pose a global threat to the entire ecological system upon which food production depends. Excessive use and misuse of pesticides result in contamination of surrounding soil and water sources, causing loss of biodiversity, destroying beneficial insect populations that act as natural enemies of pests and reducing the nutritional value of food".

In 2015 the International Conference of Chemicals Management adopted a resolution that recognises HHPs as an issue of international concern and calls for concerted action to address

The environment includes all of the living and non-living things that surround us, including the air, water, plants, soil and wildlife.

The impacts of pesticides on wildlife are extensive, and expose animals in urban, suburban and rural areas to unnecessary risks.

Wildlife can be impacted by pesticides through direct or indirect applications, such as pesticide drift, secondary poisoning, runoff into local water bodies, and groundwater contamination. It is possible that some animals could be sprayed directly, while others consume plants or prey that have been exposed to pesticides.

Tanzania is among the African countries that register pesticides including the highly hazardous bug repellents (HHPs) for use in controlling pests and diseases for crops and livestock.

Unfortunately, many sellers, users and the public at large have low awareness on how to identify banned and unrestricted HHPs among other pesticides that are sold in shops due to lack of information and knowledge.

The Agenda for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA) is now urging the government to put in place robust strategies to make it openly and educate the public on all banned highly hazardous pesticides.

According to the organisation, the government banned a total of 44 HHPs but the majority of stakeholders are unaware of the pesticides, something which poses a huge threat to users and the environment.

African and other governments must ensure adequate investment in scaling up alternatives, especially ecological options for pest management so as to protect the sector and people's health.

HHPs have been successfully phased out from agriculture in a number of countries without affecting agricultural productivity. National bans on HHPs are a cost-effective and affordable intervention for reducing deaths and harm from pesticide poisoning, we need to tell Tanzanians what pesticide to buy and not to buy.

Indeed highly hazardous pesticides harm biodiversity and ecosystem services on which agricultural productivity depends and have been linked to significant declines in terrestrial insect and vertebrate species and adversely affect pollination and natural pest control.

African governments ought to strongly control the importation of the banned HHPs in the countries with the aim of protecting human health and the environment.

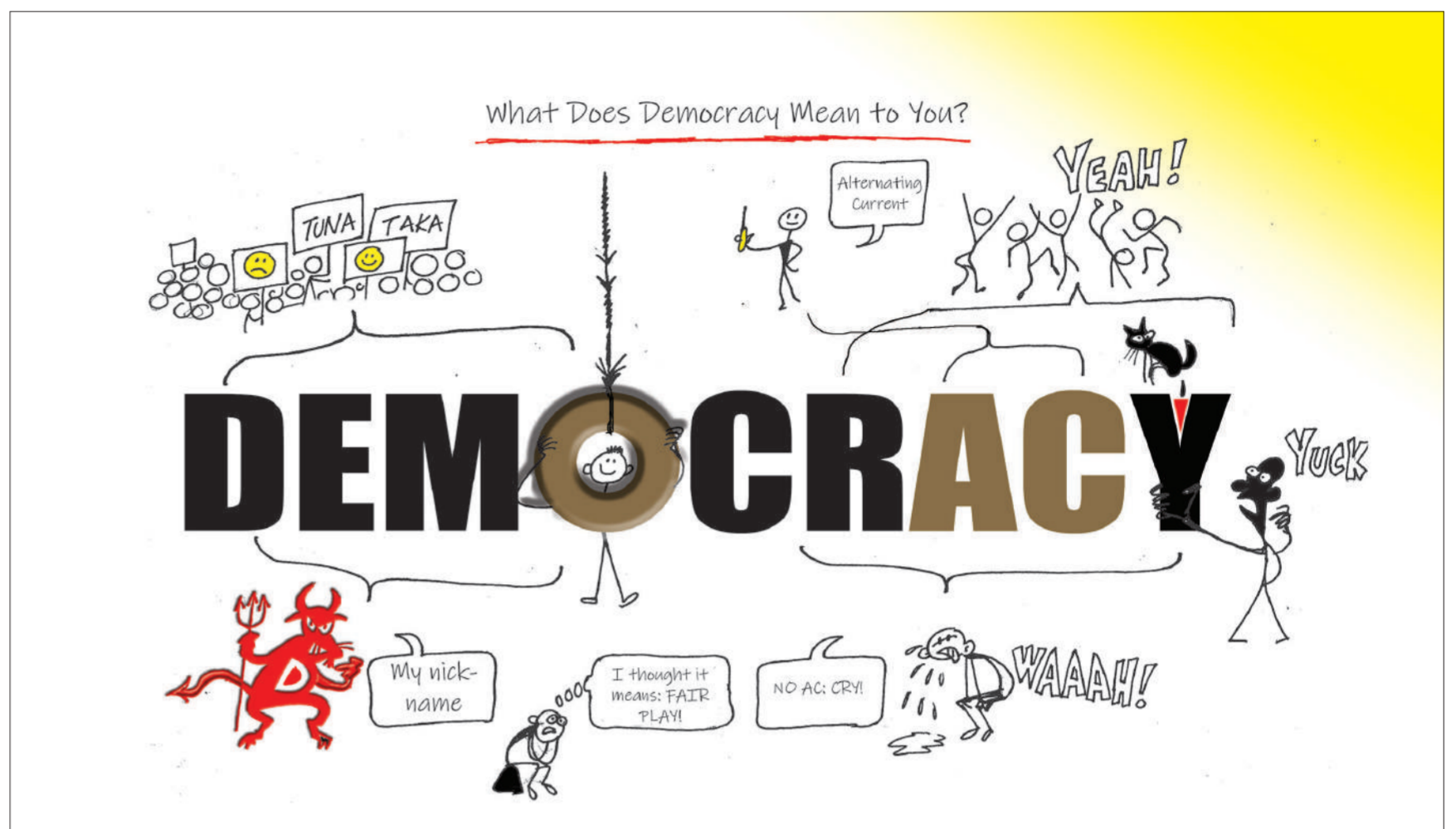
These measures will increase the engagement of stakeholders in controlling the use of pesticides that have serious effects on human health and environment.

Some of the effects include cancer, sterility and defects to unborn children, effects that pass from mother to child, and loss of biodiversity.

African governments need to invest and promote research and registration of non-chemical pesticides while also disseminating their information to the public so as to increase their use in agriculture.

This will greatly enhance production of safer crop products without effects to humans and the environment as well as improving ecological agriculture and increasing the foreign market of ecologically produced products.

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By Kayode Komolafe

Coups and mega trends of democracy

IN a very engaging interview on ARISE NEWS last week, a former permanent representative of African Union to the United States, Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao, drew attention to the mega trends that should be studied in order to understand the epidemic of coups in Africa.

For clarity, she made this statement without prejudice to the immediate steps that the AU and ECOWAS should take in response to the military take-over of power in some African countries. The bigger picture of things in the African democratic landscape is really the focus of the Zimbabwean medical doctor and activist.

Conceptually, to study mega trends is to look at the patterns of events and locate major shifts while relating the whole movement to the macroenvironment. In the specific matters of recent coups in Africa, Chihombori-Quao pointed to a fact: "Interference from the Western world is the biggest challenge that all African countries are running into."

For instance, in the case of the latest coup in Gabon, she called for restraint in drawing hasty conclusions: "We don't know if France is involved. We need to take time, the situation is too fresh and fluid, and premature for us to make a statement to say France is not involved." With a compelling analysis of event, Chihombori-Quao put at the centre the factor of France, a neo-colonial power, in apprehending the plague of coups afflicting Francophone Africa.

She drew a pattern of the West always supporting the "opposition" regardless of the political dynamic in the respective African countries. Such a blind support for a so-called democratic opposition and an irresponsible intervention in Libya by the West has put that country in a political quagmire with terrible consequences for regional security. Before the neoliberals dismiss Chihombori's position as another case of an African needlessly blaming the West for a problem for which Africans themselves are responsible, they should, at least, ponder the mega trends of what passes for democracy in Africa today in historical terms.

In recent years, military coups have succeeded in Burkina Faso (January 2020); Chad (April 2021); Mali (August 2021); Guinea (September 2021); Sudan (October 2021); Niger (July 2023) and in Gabon only last week. In one study, it has been shown that of the 242 coups which have succeeded in the world in over seven decades, Africa has had a share of 106. No fewer than 45 of the 54 African countries have also experienced coups.

Chihombori's position that what happens in Africa is largely inspired or influenced by the West has a lot of proof in history. Take a sample. A political symmetry could be drawn between coups happening in Francophone Africa today and the "wave of democratisation" sweeping the Francophone Africa in the early 1990s. It is akin to a 30-year cycle of autocracy and liberal democracy.

Today, from the landlocked Burkina Faso in West Africa to the oil-rich Gabon in Central Africa, there have been stories of the military torpedoing civil rule. Correspondingly, about 30 years ago there were popular revolts against autocrats in power from Togo in West Africa and Zaire in Central Africa. That was when the convocation of Sovereign National Conference ("Conference Nationale Souveraine") was the political fashion.

For instance, the 1991 Togolese Sovereign National Conference was convened by opposition elements with a lot of support from abroad to put an end to the rule of President Gnassingbe Eyadema, who had been in power for 24 years at the time. While the conference proceedings went on, Eyadema was beleaguered in the presidential palace as delegates seemed to be determining the fate of Togo at last.

But this turned out to be a pyrrhic victory for the democrats. All the Sovereign National Conference (SNC) achieved was the setting up of a transitional government that organised a multi-party elections which Eyadema eventually won. Eyadema remained president until his death in 2005. His son, Faure Gnassingbe, who succeed him, is still in power. Does this look like a parallel to the Gabonese story? By the way, Eyadema was in the group of soldiers who assassinated President Sylvanus Olympio in 1963 and installed another civilian, Nicolas Grunitzky, as President. Eyadema was made Chief of Army Staff. Eventually the military took over fully in 1967 and Eyadema became President.

Eyadema's story was also similar to that of Mobutu Seseko in Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo). Mobutu seized power in 1965, removing President Joseph Kasavubu. Earlier in 1961, as the minister of defence, Mobutu had supported the same Kasavubu in the power tussle between Prime Minister Lumumba and the president after the Congolese soldiers mutinied against Belgian officers. Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba was arrested and killed in Katanga.

Aided by the West, Mobutu embarked on a process of "neutralising" politicians. Not a few of such politicians were killed in a resurgence of a right-wing dictatorship Mobutu remained in power until he was forced to relinquish power following the rebellion led by Laurent Kabila in May 1997. Mobutu died four months later. Such was Mobutu's enormous hold on power despite the efforts at democratisation in the country. The name of the country was changed from Zaire (given to it by Mobutu) to Democratic Republic of Congo. But Mobutu remained in power for almost a decade after the Sovereign National Conference convened to steer the country on the democratic path.

The examples of Eyadema and Mobutu are to illustrate the point that the West selectively embraced dictatorship on the

continent for about 30 years after the independence was achieved by African nations in 1960s in the spirit of the Cold War. Mobutu was a welcome guest in the White House in the United States just as Eyadema was warmly received in Elysée Palace in France. Mobutu, for instance, was a veritable tool in the hands of the West to fulfil its geo-political mission in the neighbouring countries of Congo Democratic Republic.

The exogenous inspiration and background to the ferment of democratisation in Africa were already manifest early 1990s. Things began to change in the political macroenvironment with the Fall of the Berlin Wall marking the end of the Cold war in 1989. The Soviet Union collapsed in late 1991. Francis Fukuyama became the intellectual toast globally with his famous 1992 book, "The End of History and the Last Man," putting liberal democracy magisterially as the apogee of political and ideological evolution for humanity.

A nexus was drawn between liberal democracy and development. Capitalism and democracy were presented to Africa as two sides of the same coin. Africa could not have one without the other, according to the victors of the Cold War. Globalisation (a euphemism for the unrestrained spread of global capitalism) became the orthodox economic doctrine. Logically, if the West led by America was celebrating the "victory of liberal democracy" in Eastern Europe following the disappearance of the Warsaw Pact, it could have no reason not to frown at activities of its autocratic proteges in Africa. This was a factor in the so-called spread of democracy in Africa. It was more than a coincidence that dismantling of apartheid in South Africa also took place at this period. Up till, the late 1980s America insisted on "constructive engagement" with the apartheid regime while opposing economic sanctions against the racist government.

The feeble argument was that sanctions would hurt the oppressed black people. As recent as 1988, the British Minister, Margaret Thatcher, still called the African National Congress (ANC) a "terrorist organisation." Barely six years later apartheid was dismantled and Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as the president of a multi-racial South Africa. Non-governmental organisations pursuing various democratic projects mushroomed in Africa with steady official and non-official funding from the West. The mood in many parts of Africa was that of a festival of democracy.

Now, after 30 years of the experiment with liberal democracy the external and internal contexts have changed in the politics of African countries. For instance, the democratic enthusiasm is waning in the West itself what with the upsurge of right-wing populism and pure illiberalism in some western democracies.

Only yesterday, a former leader of the right-wing Proud Boys group, Enrique Tarrio, was sentenced to 22 years in prison for his ignoble role in the January 6, 2021 grand assault on the United States Capitol by supporters of former President Donald Trump. They were trying to overturn the 2020 election won by President Joe Biden. It would be unpredictable in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed that 30 years later some thugs would storm the American parliament to truncate an electoral process under the inspiration of an American president. Well, such is the new climate of liberal democracy. America is the self-appointed global policeman of democracy. Now some American right-wing extremists are inflicting unimaginable assaults on democracy at home. The world policeman of democracy now has a lot of job to do at home. Indeed, the West has lost the moral basis to teach "the third world" anything about democracy.

In fact, the theoreticians of western democracies are already documenting these mega trends and their universal implications. For instance, the author of the 1992 book entitled "The End of History" has reversed himself with a tempered optimism about the triumph of liberal democracy. With the stupendous socio-economic success of China, putting liberal democracy as a condition for development is more debatable today that it was 30 years ago. Globalisation itself appears to have reached a dead end in spite of the neo-liberal pontifications around the globe.

What is left of globalisation when western democracies are already documenting these mega trends and their universal implications? Is that part of the logic of global capitalism? Whatever happened to the free movement of capital across national boundaries that is the holy grail of globalisation? The ruinous effects of the excesses of neo-liberalism in the economy, polity and society of nations constitute a grave threat to democracy.

An environment of poverty and injustice is not the most suitable for the growth of liberal democracy. Some western scholars have admitted the retreat of liberalism in recent years. This is one of the points emphasised in Fukuyama's 2022 book entitled "Liberalism and its Discontents."

So the point is that while democratic observers should worry about spread of coups in Africa the trend should be put within the context of the global assaults on liberal democracy and the huge democratic reversals. In early 1990s the triumph of liberal democracy from the view-point of the West provided the canopy for demilitarisation and democratisation in Africa. Is it not also possible that the attack on liberal democracy in its metropolitan centres could also be an external factor encouraging the surge of militarism in Africa?

Morocco earthquake: Why authorities accept only limited international help

By Damian Zane

ALMOST as soon as news broke of Friday's earthquake in Morocco, offers of help from around the world came in. But the country has so far been selective in what it has chosen to accept.

A statement on Sunday from the interior ministry said Morocco had "responded in this particular phase to offers of support from the friendly nations: Spain, Qatar, the UK and the United Arab Emirates".

Spain has sent a search-and-rescue unit with sniffer dogs and the UK has deployed a similar team, but there have been questions over why Morocco has been slow to accept other offers.

French help is on standby but the head of one rescue charity, Secouristes sans Frontières, said his aid workers had not been given the go-ahead from the Moroccan government, the AFP news agency reports.

Algeria, which cut diplomatic ties with its North African neighbour two years ago, said it could send 80 specialised rescue workers from its civil protection force.

There have also been offers from the US, Tunisia, Turkey and Taiwan among others.

But the decision over what assistance to welcome has got caught up in questions of sovereignty and geopolitics.

There are strained relations between France and Morocco, for instance, partly as a result of moves by French President Emmanuel Macron to get closer to Algeria.

But the French authorities have tried to play down any idea that they had been snubbed.

"This is a misplaced controversy," Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna is quoted by the Reuters news agency as saying.

"We are ready to help Morocco. It's a sovereign Moroccan decision and it's up to them to decide," she said.

Morocco says it wants to maintain control and does not want to risk a potentially chaotic situation with dozens of countries and organisations coming in to help.

"A lack of co-ordination in such cases would be counterproductive," authorities there have said.

But government critic and activist Maati Mounjib has said it is the wrong response when help is desperately needed, especially in more remote areas.

"I think it is really an error [to insist on] sovereignty and national pride. This is not the moment to refuse because the aid is essential, even developed countries accept outside help [in disasters]," he told the BBC's Newsday programme.

Hossam Elsharkawi, the Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), was reluctant to criticise the Moroccan authorities at such a difficult time but argued that more outside help would inevitably be required.



Small groups of international workers will soon be joining the Moroccan search-and-rescue efforts

The organisation is giving money to the local Red Crescent branch, but the IFRC also has specialist teams on standby, ready to go into the country.

"We have experience of 30 years in these types of scenarios, we know the playbook - they will need international assistance."

"The local response has done a fantastic job to date but

they are exhausted on the third day and they will need that additional help," Mr Elsharkawi said.

A four-person British team, including health, sanitation and logistics experts, from the charity UK-Med, arrived in Morocco on Monday. They describe themselves as an "advance party" with others waiting to come.

They will travel south to Amizmiz where they will "link up

with the central rescue team and work with local health authorities", the team leader Tom Godfrey told the BBC.

Though others can come, "we don't want to bring in additional capacity unless the Moroccan government needs it", he added.

Nigerian refugees in Cameroon find solace in trees

YAOUNDE

LUKA Isaac Batakwa reminisced about the scary night when he lost his four relatives when gunmen belonging to the terror group Boko Haram raided his village in Nigeria.

He had seen and had enough and made up his mind to flee to neighboring Cameroon. There, he joined thousands of other refugees who had fled to seek sanctuary in Minawao in Cameroon's Far North region, about 64 km east of the Nigerian border.

Batakwa was finally beginning to feel he had found peace when, again, life became unbearable. "We were looking for shade everywhere, and our houses were blown off by the winds... During rainy season like this, the wind will come from nowhere with full force to blow off our houses all the time."

I (used to go to) the neighboring villages to seek shelter. At times in the daytime, this place was very hot," recalled the 46-year-old man. The new arrivals accelerated the desertification process in the semi-arid region, ripping up the few surrounding trees for firewood and leaving nothing but sand and rocks.

There is hope now. Since 2018, trees, including neem, acacia and moringa, dot the over 600-hectare landscape of the Minawao refugee camp, where approximately 70,000 Nigerians have sought shelter from violence in their homeland.

The land is sandy, dry and scorched by the searing sun of the African Sahel, but that has not stopped refugees from planting nearly half a million trees, which has turned an extensive area of desert into forest and changed people's lives.

"Now we have enough trees in the camp, our houses are not blown off like before, and we have good air to breathe," Batakwa, now the president of Nigerian refugees in the Minawao camp, told Xinhua standing in front of his mud-walled house roofed with white tarpaulins and surrounded by trees.

Shouck Ali, another refugee, was one of the first to begin planting trees when he arrived at the camp in 2013. "I decided to plant the trees simply because I know it will give me shade where I can have some fresh air during the dry season because, in my country, where I come from, I have a lot of trees surrounding my house," said Ali, 45, who regularly left the camp in search of firewood, a dangerous and exhausting task.

"When I look at the trees and the wind that blows on the trees, I feel at home. So that at least gives me a rest of mind sometimes when I am upset."

Sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and partner organizations, the project, dubbed "Make Minawao Green Again," is



Refugees work in the tree nursery at the camp in Minawao, Far North region, Cameroon, Aug. 6, 2023. (Xinhua/Kepseu)

working to make a difference for everyone and reverse deforestation both in the camp and surrounding villages, said Kimberly Roberson, head of the UNHCR sub-office in Maroua, capital of Far North region. "Some of the trees that are planted have roots that have different types of nutrients."

And so, the trees not only provide wood, not only provide shade, not only provide shelter and building materials, they also provide food," Roberson said.

Refugees and local communities received

training on how to give seedlings the best chance of survival in the harsh environment through a technique called "cocoon technology." Before now, dwindling sources of energy were a source of tension between the refugees and host communities. Roberson said she knows how important the new trees have enhanced cooperation with the host community.

The project is expanding, and more seedlings are being grown in a tree

nursery. Once rooted, they will be transferred to the camp and host communities, and in their own small way, they will help contribute to climate change mitigation. "While it (the project) won't fight climate change, it helps reduce the impact of climate change on people and their lives."

So it's not a huge contributor to the global fight against climate change when we talk about ocean warming and temperature rising, but it certainly

brings an awareness and a certain level of returning to the earth," Roberson said.

The project is contributing to the Great Green Wall, an African-led initiative that aims to grow an 8,000-km continent-wide barrier to stop the ongoing desertification of the Sahel, a territory on the border of the Sahara and the Sudanian savanna, environmentalists said.

Batakwa said there is a need to mobilize donors to expand the tree-planting campaign to all the other villages in the zone. **Xinhua**

Nuzo Onoh: The Queen of African horror who is terrified of ghosts

By Marco Oriunto

KKNOWN to her fans as the "Queen of African Horror", British-Nigerian author Nuzo Onoh says her prestigious literary prize is a signal that African folk horror has finally become an internationally recognised genre.

"When I started writing, if you googled 'African horror', what you would get was Aids, war, famine. But now you'll get books, films. They are part of the literary genre pool," she tells the BBC's Focus on Africa.

Onoh formally received the Bram Stoker Lifetime Achievement Award from the Horror Writers Association (HWA) in June. It described her as "a pioneer of the African horror literary genre [whose] writing showcases both the beauty and the horrific in the African culture".

Previous winners of the award include household names in horror fiction like Stephen King, Anne Rice and British actor Christopher Lee, famous for playing Dracula in numerous films.

Born in Enugu in south-eastern Nigeria, Onoh comes from the Igbo community.

Her most recent book, *A Dance for the Dead*, draws heavily from Igbo culture and traditions.

It follows the journey to redemption of character Diké, first son of the fictional king of Ukari and heir to the throne.

Diké is tragically cast as an "Osu" - an outcast - after he is found in mysterious circumstances within the sacred shrine of the village god.

In Igbo tradition, Osus were people who ran into the shrines of deities to seek protection from threats from other community members.

Anyone who ran into such a shrine would no longer be troubled, but at the cost of becoming an Osu - someone who'd dedicate their whole life to worshipping the deity while at the same time being an outcast in their community.

Their new condition would prevent them and their offspring taking chieftaincy titles or marrying a freeborn.

"Outcasts exist in every society, when you think about the outcasts of racism, of classism here in the UK," Onoh says.

"But some countries have taken things further. To create a caste of people that are excluded and made out to be inferior."

Although Nigeria passed a law in 1956 that banned the practice of referring to people as Osu, some people still do it.

Up to today, a marriage can be cancelled at the last minute if one of the partners finds out that the other is an Osu, or a descendent of one.

"It's a cultural thing," Onoh says "in my village we had ones called 'Ofu', and those ones are slaves to man, not to gods. They are not allowed to go to the village stream and they can't take titles."

Her father, who served a short term as governor of Nigeria's south-eastern Anambra State before being ousted in 1983 by then-military ruler Muhammadu Buhari, opposed the Osu practice.

In *A Dance for the Dead*, Onoh also condemns the discrimination of people living with albinism and the use of interclan violence.

The hero, Diké, has to withstand terrifying ordeals before being accepted in the realm of his ancestors.

He survives torture inflicted by creatures belonging to a persecuted community of people living with albinism and endures the vendetta of a clan that his dad - the king - formerly oppressed.

"Black people are discriminated against because of the colour of their dark skin [but] back home they are discriminated against because of the colour of their pale skin, and the worst part is that they fear for their life because their body parts are harvested," Onoh says.

She also admits that she adds her own spin to traditional practices to spotlight the role of strong women.

In the novel, Diké is surprised to find out that the ancestors who helped him undo his curse are all women.

"It's a creative licence. Growing up, the ancestors we would worship were all men. So, I decided to make them women this time," she tells the BBC.

But promoting culture through the lens of the horror genre can also cause misunderstandings. She says some critics back home have described her work as "satanic".

Her previous books - *The Unclean*, *The Reluctant Dead* and *Dead Corpse* - reveal Onoh's profound interest in the relationship between the living and the dead.

But it's not only about narrative fiction.

In 2017, she published a self-help book, *Call Your Ancestors For Success and Happiness*, where she gives practical advice on how to worship one's ancestors, and departs from tradition by combining Igbo rituals



and personal practice.

Onoh believes young Nigerians are increasingly interested in reconnecting with their traditions.

"I get emails from people asking me how do you do it? After the Black Lives Matter movement there seem to be this switch. You find a lot of young people now going back to the original traditional religion," she says.

"It's like this spiritual movement of everybody trying to reconnect once

again with their roots through the ancestors."

In one of the anecdotes, she tells how reflecting on a dream she had about her deceased mother saved her from a potentially lethal electrocution while mowing the garden.

Onoh also believes that the spirit of her mother is behind her recent award.

"It's her blessing. The day that I was officially given the Bram Stoker award happened to be the same day my moth-

er had died [seven years earlier]".

Now in her early 60s, Onoh has developed an idiosyncratic relationship with the horror genre.

"I am terrified of ghosts and darkness. I still sleep with a bright light on. I can't sleep without [it]," she says.

"As I grow older, I found that I struggle to watch horror films or read horror books," Onoh says, while admitting that

"it's my natural thing to write horror. I don't know why."

She believes it's a way to process the real-life horrors she witnessed growing up during the Biafran war between 1967 and 1970.

Conflict broke out after an Igbo general declared the breakaway state of Biafra. The military crushed the secessionist movement, with about a million people dying from famine, disease and fighting.

Onoh was a child refugee in various towns and villages until the war ended. Then as a teenager she moved to the UK to study in a Quaker boarding school for girls.

"When I write it's like a form of exorcism," she says. "We grew up during the Biafran war, surrounded by a lot of death. You sort of have this morbid fascination with everything horror," she says.

Onoh's forthcoming book, *The Ghosts in the Moon*, is an intergenerational tale looking at how traditional magic is passed down through women of the same family. It is due to be published next year.

She holds a Masters degree in Writing from the UK's Warwick University, but says she doesn't use much of the skills learnt on the course, favouring a non-structured and spontaneous approach.

"I don't do plots. I don't do structure. The characters come into my head and they start dictating, and I'm just writing," Onoh says.

Agencies



Nuzo Onoh's next novel is called *The Ghosts in the Moon*

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RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Women become WASH heroes, inspiring many

By Correspondent Mohammed Hammie

FETCHING water for their families is still an arduous task for many women in the rural areas of Tanzania. It is a reality that is often overlooked in many rural areas in Tanzania. The idea is to make women and girls have access to clean and safe drinking water.

Lack of piped water extensions or simply high-water bills are forcing women and girls to walk for hours through dangerous areas to fetch water and face long waiting lines at the water point.

But, Hadija Rashid, is one of the strong, courageous women and change-maker in Tangini sub-village in Ifakara, Kilombero District, Morogoro Region.

She is now one of the female water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) heroes, who are providing inspiration for the village and the entire nation.

Being a Tungini sub-village chairman, Hadija successfully drilled twelve water wells in her own area, and another eight in the neighboring village.

Experiencing the hardships of fetching water as a girl made her determined to ensure that one day her community would get safe and

clean water.

Not only has she kept the promise she made to herself, but she also encouraged women leaders in the village to work with her towards water delivery for each and everyone. Water can not only be the starting point for healthy lives, but also a steppingstone for women to realise their full potential.

Margreth Augustino, of Ilkirevi village in Olturoto Ward in Arusha Region is another WASH hero who was elected as the only woman on the water committee, but wasn't able to convince her fellow members to pay more attention to the challenges women and girls face. Instead of giving up, she decided to take matters in her own hands. Thanks to her, about 200 households now have access to water, for free. And she is not done yet.

Hellen Mollel of Siwandeti village on the outskirts of Arusha city becomes the only woman on the Moktaiso water committee, which covers 10 villages. She is permanently on the go to properly manage the water sources and is pushing the eight men on the committee to help her.

"I believe that women can do something great in the community, regardless of their gender. They can lead and bring a huge change,"



Margreth Augustino, a resident of Olturoto ward in Arusha Region who drilled a water well at her home that benefits many people in the area

Mustafa Lazaro, a Kiberege village-based man said.

Another Namawala village man said: "Hadija is a role model to learn from, she has shown that women can do it! Tanzania needs more female leaders in solving water challenges."

"Women have been at the forefront

of solving the water problem in the villages, and we must support and encourage them," he said, adding: "If a woman like Hadija, who started with absolutely nothing, manages to have such impact on improving the drinking water situation in her ward, how much more our political leaders could accomplish if

they would set their mind to it and use the resources, skills and power available to them."

Giving a platform to the voices of WASH heroes like Hadija, Margreth and Hellen, will not only empower other women and their communities, but also enlighten the political debate about the

importance of investing in clean and safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in even the most remote areas of Tanzania.

Mohammed Hammie is a journalist and storyteller for social change.

It's the dawn of a genuinely new era in Zanzibar

By Khalid Gwiji

AS Zanzibaris stride into the new era, there is no doubt that this could be a very sober year for the 'Spice Isles'. The year comes with hope for better times. It represents a moment of great expectations but much less anxiety, going by the experience of previous elections when the country was set on the knife-edge of a precipice.

That experience showed that politicians and political parties represent the weakest link in the chain leading up to Zanzibar's future and, paradoxically, they are an important part in solving the jigsaw of Zanzibar's instability. It is not politics which is wrong; it is the people who are using politics as an excuse.

At last, Zanzibar has a government of national unity (GNU), with CCM stalwart Dr Ali Mohammed Shein as President and his coalition partner Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad of the Civic United Front as First Vice President.

It is not a normal political arrangement in Zanzibar. But an "inconclusive" election outcome last week and the July referendum results led to days of brilliant negotiations and a GNU - the first in 46 years.

We believe that it will be an administration united behind three key principles, namely, freedom, fairness and responsibility. And it will be an administration united behind one key purpose, that is, to give our country a strong, stable and determined leadership.

At this time of enormous difficulties, our country surely needs a strong and stable government as well as a positively ambitious government determined to work relentlessly for the better future of our people. And that is precisely what we have come together in this coalition to provide.

Just a couple of weeks ago, CCM and CUF were bitter rivals mainly owing to the fact that they have major policy differences. But that should not keep them from leading Zanzibar as partners. There is no reason for the arrangement not to work since both parties have invested a lot in it and it would be strange for them to want to see the GNU crumble.

We believe beyond any shadow of doubt that both parties agree that change is needed but that they have differences on issues like policies and the importance of electoral reform. However, we predict success in the short term. It is not wrong to be different, but it is wrong to be treated differently when you are.

Ideally, all these issues risk leading to very real tensions. Fortunately, both sides seem to have shown genuine willingness to compromise and accept that changes have to be made if the newly installed government is to work.

We emphasize and stress the need for cooperation in seeking ways to resolve or end any remaining differences and to work to end the age-old feeling that our differences are more important than our common humanity.

That could lead to a historic seismic shift as far as Zanzibar's political landscape is concerned by ensuring a new progressive partnership in the government.

We stand believing that the new five-year coalition arrangement will work. Yes, giants CCM and CUF are different parties and have different ideas but they are united by a common purpose



Dhow construction site at Nungwi, Zanzibar

- the job they want to do together in the next five years - and there is thus no reason for the Shein government not to defeat and outlast those differences.

The GNU or coalition government arrangement is not a new or recent phenomenon. It is commonly in operation in the Nordic countries, Benelux (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg), Australia, Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Turkey, Israel, New Zealand, Kosovo, Pakistan, Kenya, India, Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, etc., and is doing well in most of these states.

Studies show that coalition government leads to more consensus-based politics in that a government comprising differing parties based on different ideologies would often need to concur with respect to governmental policy. Another crucial advantage is that a coalition government better reflects the popular opinion of a country's electorate.

Essentially, Zanzibar's optimism over the GNU arrangement is founded on the belief that the system can improve their individual lives and the lives of Zanzibaris in general.

Employment, especially among the youth, is a nagging problem fully appreciated by all Zanzibaris. The number of highly educated Zanzibaris has risen appreciably over the years, but the economy has not been growing in tandem with the human resource base.

This has resulted in thousands of frustrated youths with little hope of landing gainful employment. They include Standard Eight leavers

as well as fully qualified university graduates. It is therefore not surprising that job creation ranks high among this year's expectations.

Healthcare, the war against corruption, affordable education, peace and love are some of the other dreams Zanzibaris have.

Going by many expectations, it is clear that Zanzibaris know what they want. It is also clear that they understand that they can only realise their dreams if there is adequate commitment right from the top.

It is heartening to note that President Shein and VPI Maalim Seif are generally in sync with the aspirations of the people. But saying the right things is one thing; making it happen is a different matter altogether. The two leaders must therefore be ready and willing to walk their talk.

The new government's belief that the future will be bright is premised on the hope that the Isles will head to a new direction and a new political dispensation that will put an end to needless disparities in resource management as well as historical and cultural biases - and guarantee individuals equal opportunity, irrespective of wherever they live.

We should help to form an all-inclusive Zanzibar GNU by widening the circle of opportunity, deepening the meaning of freedom, strengthening community bonds, building a more peaceful country and a more integrated country of shared responsibilities, ensuring shared benefits and shared values, as well as

leading Zanzibar into the new era with a sense of hope and optimism about what we can do.

There was a gap between the politics we had and the politics we needed or deserved. To us, the GNU format is a positive development that should be further internalised and supported.

The key question is that of political good will, a culture of mutual trust and mutual reassurance and confidence building. Without it, conflicts and tensions will continue. This kind of government can be utilised to produce changes that will have great significance to the search for progressive constitutionalism and better mechanisms of political governance by preserving peace and stability.

Peace is still an objective for us. Without it, no matter how much we prosper, we won't be able to realise the future we are looking for. It's only when we have peace that we can think of the future in a much more dynamic way.

Admittedly, there are bound to be those few diehards opposed to the GNU idea partly because their survival depends on conflicts among Zanzibaris. Of course, they would be in the wrong. What they are saying has no intellectual content whatsoever.

Without constructive thought, it's all a bleeding heart. So far, their efforts to get that view across have horribly failed. They are morally and intellectually bankrupt.

Their opinions are no longer of any interest to anyone except themselves. They have risked everything. They will represent nothing. They

will mean nothing. They will be nothing. Their opinion does not count for very much now.

All this is because to them politics is just business, not a mission. They are politicians without politics. Let them play politics while we make the history of a new Zanzibar of peace, love, hope and prosperity.

We have reached a point where this is not a give and take approach any more. Rather, this is a win-win situation.

In making this GNU possible, there is a need to have comprehensive discussion of all crucial constitutional and governance issues in Zanzibar and Tanzania.

The deliberations should revolve around the review of existing constitutional instruments for their relevance as well on the examination of the content of laws and regulations that do not pass muster as far as constitutional requirements are concerned.

This is a new age. Whether our historical analysis was right or wrong, we should judge our leadership primarily in terms of the impact of their leadership on our people's lives. That is how we will keep score: all the thousands of people with new jobs and new homes.

Life will be better for all Zanzibaris because the water will be safer and cleaner and more of our natural heritage will be better preserved so as to bring more hope for peace, freedom and prosperity to people all over Tanzania in general and Zanzibar in particular.

We have a long and honourable history and civilisation behind us. Just as it is for so many of the other great peoples of this world, our roots have sprung from many different sources - from Africa primarily but also from Arabia, from the civilisations of Asia and Persia, from India and from many other places.

During their great voyages of exploration, the Europeans "adventurers" found succour and sustenance on our shores. People of a whole range of races found rest and stability in our islands, from where they organised their "discovery" expeditions in central and eastern Africa.

It is chiefly these roots established over the centuries and the mixing of so many cultures that make us proud of our reputation as a proverbially moderate and friendly people.

While in today's modern world we do not intend looking back to our past, it is this tradition on which we intend to build our future.

We have to ask ourselves how much, despite all our differences, we share our common hopes and dreams that combine to form a bond that will never break.

We had watched those who don't wish Zanzibar well. They believed in their ways as deeply as we do believe in ours, but I think the evidence and weight of history favoured our side. We mark the change and make the grade. A new era has dawned - a Zanzibar for all Zanzibaris.

The Guardian originally carried this piece in the Tuesday Nov 09, 2010 issue, with its author identifying himself as a University of Dar es Salaam graduate. We are running it again owing to what we see as its timeless importance and relevance. - Editor.

Boats, planes and armoured train: How Kim Jong Un travels abroad

NORTH Korea's leader Kim Jong Un is on his way to Russia's port city Vladivostok via bulletproof train to meet President Vladimir Putin.

In line with a long-standing tradition among North Korean leaders, Mr Kim will likely spend over 20 hours travelling some 1,180km (733 miles) on the slow-moving locomotive - said to include a restaurant serving fine French wines and dishes such as fresh lobster.

The train rattles along at about 50km/h (31mph) because of its heavy armoured protection.

By comparison, London's high-speed rail runs at about 200km/h while Japan's Shinkansen bullet trains can hit 320 km/h.

The long journey also takes into account the North's sometimes archaic rail network.

The train has been christened Taeyangho, the Korean word for the sun, and a symbolic reference to North Korea's founder Kim Il Sung.

Time-honoured trains

The tradition of long-distance travel via train was started by Kim Il Sung - Kim Jong Un's grandfather - who took his own train on trips to Vietnam and Eastern Europe.

These luxurious trains are said to be heavily guarded by security agents who scan routes and upcoming stations for bombs and other threats.

Kim Jong Un's father Kim Jong Il, who ruled North Korea from 1994 until his death in 2011, reportedly travelled by train because he was afraid of flying.

Kim Jong Il famously took 10 days to get to Moscow in 2001 to hold a meeting with Putin.

Russian military commander Konstantin Pulikovskiy, who accompanied the former North Korean leader on the 2001 ride, spoke of its opulence in his memoir Orient Express.

"It was possible to order any dish of Russian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and French cuisine."

He recalled live lobsters being transported to the train to ensure the availability of fresh delicacies, while cases of red wine from Bordeaux and Burgundy were also flown in from Paris.

Even Putin's private train "did not have the comfort of Kim Jong Il's train," he said.

Another former Russian diplomat, Georgy Toloraya, wrote in 2019 about his experience of travelling on the same 2001 train ride. He recalled dishes considered delicacies such as donkey meat and abalones - a type of mollusc - being flown in from Pyongyang. Russian Standard vodka was also a fixture.

Both Russians described performers and singers entertaining guests aboard the train.

North Korean state media said that Kim Jong Il died of a heart attack while travelling on the train in 2011.

In November 2009, conservative South Korean daily Chosun Ilbo reported that the armoured train featured around 90 carriages. The green vehicle with a yellow stripe also had conference rooms, audience chambers and bedrooms, with satellite phones and flat-screen televisions installed for briefings.

Other images show carriages filled with red leather armchairs.

Kim Jong Un may not share his father's fear of flying, as he has flown on his Russian-made private jet for several trips.

But when he last met Putin in Vladivostok in Russia's far east in 2019 - likely to be the last time Mr Kim travelled abroad - he also arrived by train. He was welcomed by officials with a traditional offering of bread and salt.

His rumoured trip, if it happens, will most likely start in Pyongyang and go through Tumangang station at the Russian border, where wheels on the train will be switched for the Russian tracks.

The wheel switch is expected to take at least a few hours.

Private planes

In addition to trains, Kim has also been seen getting about on other forms of luxurious transport that paint a sharp contrast to the impoverished lifestyles of the North Korean people.

Having attended boarding school in Switzerland, Kim Jong Un is no stranger to flying.

In May 2018, he made his first international flight since assuming power, to the Chinese city of Dalian to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Media reports suggest he has previously used his private jet for travel within North Korea.

The aircraft that flew him to China was a Soviet-made long-range aircraft, the Ilyushin-62 (Il-62).

North Korean watchers at website NK News say locals call it "Cham-mae-1" named after the goshawk, the country's national bird.

The white exterior of the plane is emblazoned with North Korea's official name in Korean on two sides, with the national flag next to the text. The tail features a red star inside red and blue circles.

The aircraft has modern interiors, and Kim has occasionally been photographed working and holding meetings on board.



Kim Jong Un waving before boarding his train for a previous trip

The Chammae-1 made headlines when it carried Pyongyang's high-level Olympics delegation, including Kim's sister Kim Yo Jong, to South Korea in 2018.

South Korean news agency Yonhap reported that the flight used the identification number "PRK-615", possibly a symbolic reference to the 15 June North-South Joint Declaration signed in 2000 by the two countries.

Kim has also been seen using a Ukrainian Antonov-148 (AN-148), featuring state airline Air Koryo's logo, in a 2014 documentary aired by state-owned Korean Central Television.

In 2015, North Korean state media even carried footage of Kim Jong Un piloting a "home-grown" light aircraft and sitting at the controls of an AN-2 military biplane.

Luxury cars

In March 2018, Mr Kim travelled to the Chinese capital Beijing via train, but used his personal Mercedes-Benz S-Class to travel within the city.

According to South Korean daily JoongAng Ilbo, the car was specially transported on board the train.

The car, manufactured in 2010, cost roughly 2 billion Korean won (\$1.8m), the paper re-



Kim Jong Un also uses luxury cars and favours the Mercedes-Benz S-Class

ported.

Kim's favoured S-Class model was prominent during the 2018 inter-Korean summit at Panmunjom, when he drove across the border with bodyguards running alongside.

His convoy at the summit was also reported to feature a private toilet car, used by the leader to answer the call of nature while travelling.

This was also mentioned in a 2015 report by Seoul-based website DailyNK, which said that a customised bathroom is built into one of the cars of Kim's convoy of armoured vehicles.

Mystery yacht

State media in North Korea have shown the leader riding on boats, a submarine, buses and even a ski lift.

He is also rumoured to use other forms of transport, but these are yet to be seen in his excursions abroad.

When state media published photos of his visit to an army-run fishing station in May 2013, NK News observed a yacht in the background.

There was no clear confirmation that the vessel, estimated to cost \$7m, belonged to Mr Kim, or even how it was imported despite international sanctions on luxury goods.

Given the price, however, many international media outlets singled out the nation's ruler as the most likely owner.

In June 2015, Washington-based Radio Free Asia reported that a researcher had spotted a new helipad at Mr Kim's lakeside villa in South Pyongan province.

The researcher, working at the US-Korea Institute of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, suggested that the helipad may be used by Kim's family or visitors. **AGENCIES**

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BUSINESS



Broking firm expects DSE investors to start shifting into fixed incomes

By Guardian Reporter

EQUITY investors at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) are expected to further migration to the fixed income market, after the end of financial reporting activities by companies and distribution of dividends.

The monthly market report for August by Exodus Advisory Limited, member of the DSE, says it expects reduced market activity on the equity market.

"There is an expectation of a reduction in market activity as companies have completed their financial reporting. Many stock prices have decreased due to the distribution of dividends. This has led to a shift towards the fixed income market," the report says.

In the month of August, the report says,

the stock market exhibited significant dynamics, characterized by a notable 9.14 percent decline in market turnover.

"This decline can be primarily attributed to a decreased investor appetite for equities," it says.

Similarly, the total market capitalization experienced a marginal decline of 0.39 percent, reflecting a modest decrease in the overall value of market assets.

In contrast, the domestic market capitalization, which represents the value of domestic companies stocks, demonstrated a more positive trend with a 1.44 percent increase, suggesting that local businesses may have performed well during this period.

"Generally, the local market has experienced a downward trend as a result of corporate actions undertaken by prominent

domestic companies. Consequently, it is anticipated that dividend investors will opt to either divest or maintain their positions for foreseeable future," the report notes.

Similar to the market cap performance, all share index (DSEI) declined from 1,782.24 to 1,775.35 points while the Tanzania share index increased by 1.44 percent.

This indicates that the cross listed counters recorded a negative performance in the period while local listed counters had a positive performance, the bro-

king firm says.

The Banks, Finance & Investment index had the most significant growth among the listed indices, surging from 3,933.44 in July to 4,134.27 in August, a notable increase of 5.11 percent.

Meanwhile, the Industrial & Allied index experienced a marginal decline, falling from 5,126.80 to 5,124.56, representing a slight decrease of 0.04 percent.

Finally, the Commercial Services index also saw a minor decrease, moving from 2,161.21 to 2,159.53, indi-

ating a decrease of 0.08 percent.

Locally, NMB recorded the highest appreciation of 11.56 percent followed by DSE (8.14 percent), DCB (3.57 percent) and NMG (2.99 percent).

On the other hand, MKCB recorded the lowest performance falling by 11.54 percent followed by MBP (10 percent).

Treasury bonds

In August the Government issued 5 years, 10 years and 25 years Treasury bonds with 25 years was the most demanded bond in the market with oversubscription of 73.6 percent.

Secondary Market Secondary trading was relatively active where total volume traded in the August declined by 6.8 percent from 468.09bn/- to 436.31bn/-.

Consecutively, the most liquid papers were 20 years and 25 years Treasury bond.

"As the market shifts away from the equities market, demand for fixed income securities is expected to rise continuously," Exodus says in its report.

The upcoming auctions include the 15 years Treasury bonds as is expected to trade at a discount.

"Due to lower coupon rate and yield, we expect the bond to be under-subscribed relative to 20 and 25 year bonds," the report adds.

By Correspondent Peter Nyanje

NIC plans to go public through DSE

State-owned insurance firms, NIC Insurance, is planning to list its shares at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), to enable Tanzanians to directly own the country's largest insurer.

Though he could not categorically state when the listing process will happen, the NIC Insurance Executive Director, Dr Elirehema Doriye, told reporters in Dar es Salaam on Monday that the government has already indicated "no objection" for the plan.

DSE is sole stock market operating in Tanzania, facilitating trading of various financial instruments involving stocks, corporate and treasury bonds.

It provides a platform for investors to buy and sell securities and companies to raise

capital through issuing equities or bonds.

Dr Doriye noted that in a meeting with CEOs of state-owned firms in Arusha recently, the Treasury Registrar stressed that they are not government but public institutions.

"Therefore, at the end, it is only logical for them to be owned by the public. I want to assure you that we will issue shares at the DSE," said Dr. Doriye.

He said they need time to prepare, as in order to be accepted at DSE's main market segment, NIC is supposed to be resonate to Tanzanians in terms of services offered and sustained positive financial results.

Touted to be a leading insurance company in the



NIC Insurance Executive Director, Dr. Elirehema Doriye

country, NIC Insurance provides a wide range of insurance products and services in categories of general and life insurance.

If NIC will manage to make its promise true, will be the first firm, which is currently whole owned by the government to float its shares at DSE.

Currently, there are number of institutions which the government own some shares, including banks, cement company, which are currently listed on DSE.

Dr Doriye told journalists that in the last four years, NIC has recorded impressive performances, meeting one of basic criteria needed for listing, specifically profitability.

"Listing at DSE is also part of directives from the President that eventually, all these

companies under the government arms should be directly owned by 'Tanzanians,' he said.

He also noted that that was the longtime government goal as even former President Benjamin Mkapa outlined in his book that for it to have a meaningful impact, privatisation should benefit local Tanzanians.

Dr. Doriye said because the ultimate decision to join DSE should be given by the owner, it was NIC Insurance management quest to improve the value of the company and make it attractive to prospect investors, as a way of persuading the owner to make the decision.

"We believe that if we manage to build a company which will attract many people to invest, the government will not hesitate to make a decision to float shares at the DSE," he said.

SADC, partners seek to discuss water resources management

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC), in collaboration with the Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM), and with the technical support of the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA), is scheduled to convene the 10th SADC River Basin Organisations / Shared Watercourse Institutions (RBOs/SWIs) Workshop on 2-4 October 2023.

The workshop will be held in a hybrid format, and the physical event will be hosted in Maputo by the Government of Mozambique through the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources (MOPHRH). The theme of the workshop is "Promoting water security through inclusive transboundary conjunctive management and development of water resources."

According to the press statement issued yesterday, the workshop aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas that will enhance effective trans-boundary water resources planning, development, and management in the

region whilst ensuring environmental sustainability and resilience, to improve regional water security towards poverty reduction, and increase regional integration, economic productivity, and industrialisation.

The event is also intended to support the efforts of SADC Member States regarding the establishment, institutional development, and strengthening of RBOs/SWIs, as well as other transboundary water resources development and management mechanisms in the region.

RBOs and SWIs will share various experiences and lessons on strategies on development and implementation of transboundary projects and programmes, best practices on establishing flood forecasting and early warning systems (FFEWS) and decision support systems (DSS) in the SADC region, approaches and lessons learned in the development of RBO information management systems. Procedures and implementation of the notification of planned measures in SADC as well as strategies

towards strengthening groundwater management governance in RBOs/SWIs will also form part of the outcomes of the workshop.

The SADC RBOs/SWIs Workshop is a biennial event, which is organised with the aim of engaging RBOs as a vehicle for strengthening regional integration and cooperation. The workshop further serves as a forum for RBOs/SWIs to share experiences and learn from each other.

It is also used to build consensus on the region's strategic approaches being promoted by SADC to increase water security and resilient development in the region.

This year's event will bring together representatives RBOs/SWIs, SADC Member States, regional institutions, funders (such as development finance institutions, international financiers, climate funds, official development assistance funders and private financiers) and other key SADC sectors (including energy, food security and trade.)



The base funding support for the workshop is provided by the GIZ through the Transboundary Water Management in the SADC Region (TWM) and Climate Resilience and Natural Resources

Management (CNRM) programmes. Other funding will come from the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the SADC

Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI), the Komati Basin Water Authority (KOBWA), RBOs/SWIs and other SADC implementing agencies in the region.

By Guardian Reporter

Nicol basic earnings per share up by 30pc

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed National Investments Plc (NICOL) basic earnings per share increased by 30 percent to 120.43/- during the first half of this year, compared to 92.98/- during similar period last year, thanks to increased incomes.

The group investment income increased by 28 percent to 8.72bn/- against 6.9bn/- recorded in prior

comparison period. The changes attributed to increased investment income and interest income from investments.

The NICOL Group's interim financial statement for the half year period ended 30th June 2023, interest income more than doubled to 2.7bn/- compared with 1.7bn/- respectively, while dividend income went up by

14 percent to 6.02bn/- compared to 5.2bn/- respectively.

Net assets per value also increased to 1,955.50/- during the first half of this year, compared to 1,686.80/- recorded in the first half of last year.

The financial statements show operating profit by 51 percent to 9.0bn/- during the first six months of this

year, compared to 6bn/- in the first six months of last year due to strengthening of diversified income and 1.2bn/- write-back provision from impaired assets in the prior year.

The Group's profit before tax by 30 percent to 7.76bn/- during the first half of this year, compared to 5.99bn/- recorded in the first half of last year.

According to the financial statement total assets gained by 14 percent to 143.18bn/- compared to 127.52bn/- respectively due to strengthening investment in government bonds and other investment assets.

The shareholder's equity also went up by 16 percent to 120.53bn/- during the first six months of this year, compared to 103.96bn/- in the

first six months of last year.

The achievements also enabled the group to increase its tax payment to the government as it increased to 347.16mn/- during the first half of this year from 265.19mn/- paid during the first half of last year.

The DSE report shows the group's share price gained by 1.02 percent to 495/- on Monday's close, compared

to 490/- recorded during the end of last week.

On Monday this week, groups counter recorded a transactions of 40,668 shares valued 20.16mn/- traded at a price ranging from 490/- and 500/- per share in 11 deals.

NICOL was initially formed in 1999 with the main goal of economically empower ordinary Tanzanian citizen by acquiring stakes in the economy through joint ownership in viable economic ventures.

Clinton Initiative invites partners to support farmers in producing seeds

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE Clinton office of the Development Initiative (CDI) in Iringa Region has called on donors and investors to support smallholder farmers in terms of capacity building to help them produce high-quality seeds that will be distributed to their peers.

Monsiapipe Kajimbwa, the CDI's country director, told the Guardian that the capacity building will help them to have own good quality seed, instead of depending on seed companies.

Also CDI is looking for donors or investors from different countries to support them funds that will help to scale up Community Management Seed Supply System in other regions.

He also noted that, there is a need to invest heavily in seed area to help farmers increase productivity, and allow businesspersons to ac-

quire high quality produce from the farmers all the time for domestic and international markets.

"For relevant trade, you need quality seed and consistency supply, if farmers have no access and availability of seeds, it will be difficult for them to improve their livelihoods and will not be able to earn more money in the pocket and engage in farming activities," he said.

In a bid to help farmers to produce high quality seeds and distribute to their peers, so far CDI has been able to introduce Community Agribusiness Programme as pilot project in Iringa Region.

The incubation programme was officially introduced in August 2018, under the programme farmers were trained on how to produce high quality seeds as well as providing them with mentorship and coaching on various aspects relating to the farming activities.



Smallholder farmers

"The programme was proved success because smallholder farmers engaged in soya beans production; sunflower, kidney beans and dry beans were able to put money in their pocket, become seed producers and increasing value of crop sales collectively through farmer's cooperatives something that was not the case in the past years," he said. Right now, farmers have capacity to multiply Quality Declared Seeds (QDS) to improve production.

The programme was being implemented by Clinton Development Initiative Foundation in collaboration with Kilolo, Iringa and Mufindi District Councils to help farmers improve economic growth in Tanzania and improve their livelihoods.

According to Kajimbwa, the training was offered by Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) and a total of 161 farmers were able to obtain training.

Through the knowledge and skill gained from TOSCI and CDI, farmers have been able to establish five Village Based Seed Suppliers in Iringa Region and linked to 28,000 farmers clubs for seed production mainly soybeans seeds, sunflower, beans

The programme was being implemented by Clinton Development Initiative Foundation in collaboration with Kilolo, Iringa and Mufindi District Councils in Iringa Region.

"Farmers should be supported to obtain high quality seeds because right now China is looking for soya beans that has a high protein and oil content to buy it, the demand for soya beans in china very high, so it's a time for Tanzanian research institutes to take action on it and come up with new variety required in China's market," he said.

He named the percentage required for soya beans content required in China market as protein content should be 40 percent and oil content should be 18 percent.

Elaborating on why china prefer soya beans, he said China like better soya beans because is rich in protein content that is rare in other crops and they can be cooked and used in sauces, stews, and soups.

GLOBAL MARKETS:

Stocks steady, dollar catches breath as traders eye US CPI

SINGAPORE

ASIAN stock markets nudged sideways on Tuesday while the dollar took a breather, its recent gains chastened by resistance from central banks in China and Japan and by traders waiting on US inflation data to signal that interest rates may have peaked.

The yen notched its best day against the dollar in two months overnight, after Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda said policymakers might have enough economic information by year's end to determine that short-term rates will need to rise.

The yuan had its best day in six months after authorities vowed to correct one-way moves and Reuters reported the central bank had stepped up scrutiny of dollar buying.

Both, however, remain near their weakest levels of the year and with the yuan at 7.3022 per dollar in offshore trade and the yen last a little off Monday highs at 146.68 per dollar.

Japanese government bonds remained under pressure on Tuesday, with 10-year JGB yields up 1 basis point to a fresh high of 0.71 percent. "The result of Ueda's comments was an intense move higher in Japanese swaps and government bond

yields," said Chris Weston, head of research at brokerage Pepperstone in Melbourne.

"(It) is certainly constructive for yen longs. (But) I refrain from getting too excited at this stage...where the actions are more of a medium-term issue - we won't get the outcome of the spring wage negotiations until April 2024."

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was flat. Japan's Nikkei rose 0.3 percent, with markets looking to US inflation data and this week's European Central Bank meeting to set interest rate expectations and the mood.

Due on Wednesday, markets are expecting the US figures to show annualised core inflation falling to 4.3 percent in August though the headline number is seen ticking up to 3.6 percent.

"A lower-than-expected print may slow the US dollar's rise while higher print could potentially un-nerve risk sentiments as it would reinforce market expectations for further rate hikes, and this could fuel dollar strength," said OCBC strategist Christopher Wong.

Interest-rate futures markets are pricing about a 45 percent chance of another U.S. rate hike by year's end.

Investors' appetite for risk is also to be tested this week when British



chip designer Arm Holdings lists in New York with a goal of raising almost \$5 billion. Overnight, the weaker dollar and

upgrade on Tesla from analysts at Morgan Stanley helped U.S. stock markets gain. Tesla rose 10 percent. The S&P 500 rose 0.7 per-

cent. In early Asia trade, US futures slipped 0.2 percent. Elsewhere in currency trade,

the Australian dollar was weighed by a further slip in consumer sentiment, which has been below the neutral 100 mark since March 2022 - the longest streak since a recession in the early 1990s.

The Aussie, which bounced on Monday with gains in the yuan, was last down 0.1 percent at \$0.6424. The New Zealand dollar also dipped 0.1 percent to \$0.5911.

The euro gained on the dollar overnight but moves have been muted with investors dialling back long euro positions ahead of Thursday's ECB meeting. Pricing implies about a 56% chance that policymakers leave rates on hold.

"There is a sense that ECB is already done for the cycle," said Maybank analysts in a note to clients.

"Recent PMI prints suggest that growth outlook could be deteriorating and puts the euro at risk of further downside. This is all the more amplified by lingering expectations for the Fed to hike further."

Benchmark 10-year Treasury yields were steady at 4.2980 percent.

In commodity markets, Brent crude futures were steady at \$90.59 a barrel. Gold hung on at \$1,921 an ounce, while bitcoin was out of favour and dropped below \$25,000 for the first time in three months.

US exceptionalism thwarts dollar bears, Fed test looms

NEW YORK

RESILIENT US growth is fueling another rebound in the dollar and sending bearish investors scrambling, though the rally will be tested by a gauntlet of data and the Federal Reserve's meeting later this month.

The US dollar index, which measures the currency against a basket of its peers, has surged 5 percent since late July and stands at its highest level in around half a year.

The greenback's gains have pressured the currencies of the world's biggest economies, sending China's yuan to its lowest since December 2007 and spurring expectations for the Japanese government to intervene and prop up the battered yen.

Many market participants had expected the US economy to soften this year under the weight of the Fed's rate increases, pushing the dollar lower.

While the dollar faltered over the summer, growth has wobbled in many of the world's major economies while remaining comparatively robust in the United States. That has supported the idea that the Fed will

leave rates at around current levels for longer than previously expected and boosted the relative attractiveness of the greenback.

Signs that the dollar will continue enjoying its yield advantage over other currencies have undercut support for bearish views on the greenback. Speculators' net short bets on the dollar shrank to \$7.17 billion last week, from a two-year high of \$21.28 billion in late July, data from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission showed.

"It's really just the strength of the U.S. economy, relative to the rest of the world," said Vassili Serebriakov, foreign exchange and macro strategist at UBS. "Markets have really come back to the theme of US exceptionalism."

That theme will be tested in September, as the market braces for a flood of key U.S. economic data as well as the Fed's monetary policy meeting. Among the data points in focus will be Wednesday's report on U.S. consumer prices; signs that inflation is cooling faster than expected could see investors reassess bets on how long the Fed will leave rates at current levels.

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell's



message at next week's monetary policy meeting could also influence the dollar's trajectory.

Most investors believe the Fed is done hiking interest rates and are gauging when the central bank might start easing monetary policy - though expectations have been pushed back from late 2023 to early 2024 due to the US

economy's strength.

Investors would likely need to see a noticeable turn in US economic data that argues for the Fed to soon begin easing rates in order to change their sentiment on the dollar, said Steven Englander, head of GIO FX research at Standard Chartered. While Englander is bearish

the dollar in the medium term, the currency's "underlying drivers have been going so much in the opposite direction," he said.

A stronger dollar can be a headwind for risk assets as it helps tighten credit conditions while weighing on the profits of US exporters and multinationals. The S&P 500 is down 2

percent from its late July high, though it is still up 17 per cent for the year.

A Reuters poll found that 81 percent of analysts surveyed believe the risks to their dollar forecasts are to the upside for the remainder of 2023, though many still believe the greenback will trade lower a year from now.

Some bearish investors, on the other hand, said risks in the dollar are asymmetric, that is, the downside on the dollar far exceeds its upside following a multiyear rally that has seen it rise 28 percent from its January 2021 low. The dollar index is 8 percent off from a high reached in September.

UBS' Serebriakov said it's a good time to gradually start accumulating short positions that favor the yen and British pound against the dollar.

Other dollar rebounds this year, in March and May, failed at levels not far from where the dollar index trades now.

Meanwhile, analysts at TD Securities said the dollar is vulnerable to sudden changes in data. They believe retail sales numbers, due out on Wednesday, could badly miss their mark.

Still, even staunch dollar bears are reluctant to bet against the currency.

Kit Juckes, chief FX strategist at Societe Generale, has a longer term bearish view on the dollar but is nevertheless a buyer of euro-dollar puts on expectations that the US currency will mount a final push higher.

Russia's cooperation with East 'historical trend,' Lavrov says

VLADIVOSTOK

RUSSIA has never turned its back on the countries of the East, cooperation is a historical and objective trend, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

"We have never turned our back on the East, and almost 20 years after [Vladimir] Putin became president, our foreign policy has always taken into account the advantages we have in the east of our country, first of all on the Eurasian continent.

The trend of cooperation is historical and objective, and it will be strengthened," he told Izvestia on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF).

Lavrov pointed out that Russia is currently taking a number of steps to establish contacts with its eastern neighbors. "Long before the current events, we've started to pay more attention to the eastern flank of our country.

We can see this in the creation of investment projects, transport and logistics routes, new ports and ships," the top diplomat added.

The 8th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) is being held in Vladivostok on September 10-13, 2023. The slogan for this year's forum is: On the Path to Partnership, Peace and Prosperity. The Roscongress Foundation is the event organizer. TASS is the EEF's general information partner. **Agencies**

US welcomes India's nod to lower tariffs on several American agri products

WASHINGTON

THE United States has welcomed India's consent to reduce tariffs on several American agricultural products.

US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in a statement said that the US welcomes the news that "India has agreed to reduce tariffs on its imports of US turkey, duck, cranberries and blueberries" and noted that it will create new market opportunities for American producers and exporters in New Delhi.

Vilsack's statement comes after United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai announced last week that the two nations have agreed to resolve their last outstanding dispute at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and lower tariffs on certain US agricultural products, including a frozen turkey, frozen duck, fresh blueberries and cranberries, frozen blueberries and cranberries, dried blueberries and cranberries, and processed blueberries and cranberries.

The announcement came as US President Joe Biden met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 8 in New Delhi ahead of the G20 Leaders' Summit.

The joint statement released by India and the US after the meeting between the two leaders said, "The leaders lauded the settlement of the seventh and last outstanding World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute between India and the United States." Notably, the six disputes in WTO were resolved during PM Narendra Modi's State visit to the US in June.

Vilsack said, "Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA and USTR have focused on rebuilding trust and strengthening relationships with our global trading partners, including India, and working through the World Trade Organization and other venues to ensure that those partners live up to their obligations so that US agriculture has full and fair access to key export markets," according to US Trade Representative Office's press release.

Congressman Rick Larsen called India's move to reduce tariffs on frozen blueberries "good news" for Washington state. Larsen thanked Katherine Tai for their continued work to ensure that Washington blueberry farmers can "compete on level terms with other blueberry exporting countries and feed the world," according to the US Trade Representative Office's press release. **ANI**

Biden asks Americans to honor 9/11 dead by rejecting extremism

ANCHORAGE

US President Joe Biden urged Americans on Monday not to succumb to the "poisonous politics of difference and division" as he sought to revive the spirit of national unity after the deadly Sept 11, 2001, attacks 22 years ago.

"It shouldn't take a national tragedy to remind us of the power of national unity, but that's how we truly honor those we lost on 9/11," Biden told about 1,000 US military personnel at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska.

Biden, his wife Jill, Vice-President Kamala Harris, her husband Doug Emhoff and US military commanders participated in separate events to remember those who died in the Sept 11 attacks and the war in Afghanistan that resulted.

On Sept 11, 2001, Islamist hijackers seized control of three jetliners and crashed them into the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing nearly 3,000 people. A fourth plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after passengers overcame the hijackers.

Biden's event took place in Alaska because he was on his way back from a five-day trip to India and Vietnam.

His decision to hold the event in Alaska, instead of Washington or New York, was a departure from what has been presidential custom.

With 14 months to go until the 2024 presidential election, his remarks included a political message.

Biden decried what he called a "rising tide of hatred, extremism and political violence" in the United States. There is growing evidence that the country is grappling with the biggest and most sustained increase in political violence since the 1970s.

"We must not succumb to the poisonous politics of difference and division. We must never allow our-



US President Joe Biden speaks at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to mark the anniversary of the Sept 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, on Monday, in Anchorage, Alaska. AP

selves to be pulled apart by petty manufactured grievances," said Biden, recalling his friendship with John McCain, the late Vietnam war hero and Republican senator.

McCain, he said, put duty to country "above party, above politics, above his own person. This day reminds us, we must not lose that sense of national unity."

Harris and other officials joined families of those who died at the 9/11 Memorial in New York, which occupies the footprints of the downed buildings.

"It's 22 years and this is the way I still feel, like it was yesterday," said Sybil Ramsaran, whose daughter Sarah died in the attacks. Also at the New York event was Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, a candidate for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

Donald Trump, the leading Republican candidate for



In this file photo taken on Sept 11, 2001, smoke rises from the burning twin towers of the World Trade Center after hijacked planes crashed into the towers, in New York City. (PHOTO / AP)

US Congress faces spending, impeachment brawl

WASHINGTON

THE US House of Representatives returns this week for an expected political brawl over spending cuts and impeachment that could paralyze the Republican-controlled chamber, as Congress struggles to avoid a government shutdown.

The House and the Democratic-controlled Senate are due to be in session for about 12 days before funding expires on Sept 30, leaving little time to agree on a package of 12 appropriations bills that can pass each chamber and win Democratic President Joe Biden's signature.

The main bone of contention among House Republicans is a demand by roughly three-dozen members of the hardline House Freedom Caucus to cut spending for fiscal 2024 to \$1.47 trillion -- about \$120

billion less than Biden and Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy agreed in May.

The White House and Senate leaders -- including top Republican Mitch McConnell -- have rejected that demand.

That dispute and other hardline demands, including opposition to Ukraine aid and calls for an impeachment inquiry against Biden, could imperil efforts to pass a short-term stopgap, known as a continuing resolution or "CR," which would keep federal agencies afloat while lawmakers debate full-scale appropriations.

"Everything's coming to a head after a long recess," Republican Representative Kelly Armstrong told Reuters, referring to the six-week-long House summer break that ends Tuesday. "We're a pretty diverse caucus, with a five-vote majority. So, thread-

ing the needle is something that's really difficult to do."

McCarthy's eight-month-old speakership could be threatened if he seeks Democratic support to avoid a shutdown or fails to move forward with an impeachment inquiry that former President Donald Trump's House allies are seeking despite a lack of votes.

Political brinkmanship over the debt ceiling has already prompted the Fitch rating agency to downgrade US debt to AA+ from its top-notch AAA designation, partly because of repeated down-to-the-wire negotiations that threaten the government's ability to pay its bills.

White House spokesperson Andrew Bates warned that failure to enact \$24 billion in supplemental funding for Ukraine and \$16 billion for disaster-stricken US communities

in states including Hawaii and Florida could put lives at risk, while delaying money to combat the deadly opioid fentanyl.

Some prefer shutdown

Hardline Republicans want offsets for spending on disaster relief and Ukraine aid included in any CR, as well as tighter immigration and border security policies.

"Without these spending cuts, we're a 'no' vote. I say 'we' - me and a good many others," Representative Ralph Norman, a Freedom Caucus member, said in an interview. "I'd rather shut the government down."

That could mean trouble for McCarthy's hopes of restarting action on spending legislation this week with an \$886 billion defense appropriations bill.

Agencies



Developing Far Eastern region is Russia's top priority for 21st century, Putin says

VLADIVOSTOK

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said that the government will not allow the pace of development to slacken in the Russian Far East as it is a strategic region for the country.

"We will definitely not be scaling down the pace of development in the region, because the development of the Far East is an absolute priority for Russia, a direct priority for Russia as a whole for the entire 21st century, because it is a colossal region with a small population but huge potential. Of course, this is a strategic interest for the country," the president said at a meeting with session moderators at the Eastern Economic Forum, which Vladivostok is hosting on September 10-13.

Putin pointed out that it is necessary "not only to hold on to this region, but also to develop it and put its resources to work for the benefit of the state." According to the president, "it is necessary to talk not only about the development of mineral resources; here [in the Far East] it is necessary to build even more enterprises for the processing of industrial raw materials, so as to increase the added value."

"We will be working on this; we will strengthen aircraft construction [and] shipbuilding; we will engage in developing industrial production across the most diverse range of sectors," the head of state said.

As an example, he mentioned plans to build the Kolyma highway. "Of course, everything there should not only be fixed up and put in order, but essentially everything must be built from scratch and, of course, work should be carried out on the infrastructure. When modern highways are built, this automatically presupposes the development of infrastructure there; we will definitely be engaged in that," the president em-

phasized.

Environmental issues

Putin addressed environmental issues separately. "As for Lake Baikal and other specially protected areas, it is of course necessary to act with particular care," he noted. According to the president, when pursuing industrial development in areas like the territory surrounding Lake Baikal, one must act very carefully so as not to cause harm to the environment. "But, at the same time, not prevent the people inhabiting such territories from living a full life, but, on the contrary, to help them by using advanced technologies," the head of state specified. "This, of course, can be done, and we will do it," he promised.

Putin praised the meeting participants for the idea of carrying out an expedition that would traverse the territory of the entire country along its land borders, including the four new regions.

The progress of such a patriotic educational project would be documented in a multi-part film, and the president was asked for his personal assistance in having it broadcast on nationwide television. "I wish you, as the famous authors (Soviet writers Ilya Ilf and Yevgeny Petrov in their 1931 satirical novel 'The Little Golden Calf' - TASS) said, 'Let the auto rally be a weapon against bad roads and careless hack work.' We will be following with interest this event, which will not only be entertaining but also very useful," the president said.

Putin pointed out that "no one has ever done such a thing; it will pique the interest of millions of people." He promised his assistance in making the project a reality, including through the auspices of the Russian Geographical Society.

Agencies

Regional bloc COMESA experts gather to tackle integration issues

LUSAKA

THE 10th edition of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) annual research forum opened Monday in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, with the aim of discussing emerging topical issues in regional integration.

The two-day event has brought together policymakers, representatives from academia, think tanks and the private sector to discuss eight research papers prepared by researchers from across the African region, according to organizers. The forum, themed "30 Years of COMESA Regional Integration: Retrospect and Prospects," was part of capacity-building

initiatives in economic and trade policy research and analysis to strengthen integration and trade policy in the COMESA region and the African continent.

It is intended to narrow the gap between academia, the private sector and policymakers in economic integration and regional trade policy formulation process.

Chileshe Kapwepwe, the COMESA secretary-general, said at the start of the forum that the event was one of the key avenues through which the secretariat harnesses knowledge and policy insights from eminent scholars, researchers, academics, and policymakers.

Xinhua

China promotes integrated development of vehicles, energy, roads, cloud

CHINA became the world's largest producer, consumer and exporter of automobiles in the first half of 2023, and new energy vehicles (NEVs) played a pivotal role in driving this remarkable achievement.

The development of the NEV industry, the evolution of energy storage, big data, cloud computing and intelligent connected vehicle technologies, as well as the improvement of roads and other infrastructure, are all creating a promising future for the development of an integrated "vehicle-energy-infrastructure-cloud" industrial ecosystem.

The ecosystem, which means smart vehicles, reliable new energy industries, intelligent road infrastructure and real-time cloud computing services, is expected to make transportation smarter, greener and more convenient.

To achieve this, it is crucial to have reliable energy infrastructure in place for smart vehicles.

Over recent years, Chinese NEV manufacturers and battery charging and swapping enterprises have collaborated to drive innovation in technology and business models, such as combined

power exchange and high-voltage fast charging. Together, they have established the world's largest network for battery charging and swapping, laying a solid foundation for the popularization of NEVs.

For some NEV users, however, the inconvenience of battery charging and swapping still poses a challenge. Relevant enterprises are accelerating technological development to further improve relevant infrastructure, alleviate the "range anxiety" the NEV driver's fear that the battery will not have

sufficient charge to complete a long journey, and expand the NEV industry.

The profound integration of "smart vehicle" and "reliable energy" is also reflected in the fact that NEVs are both energy consumers and energy carriers, serving as highly efficient energy storage units.

On the one hand, clean energy powers NEVs, effectively lowering carbon emissions and contributing to green transportation. On the other hand, the technological development of automotive

power batteries drives the further maturation of energy storage batteries, reducing the cost and promoting the upgrading of the energy storage sector.

Besides, the increasing NEVs, serving as mobile energy storage units, also help address the issues of generating instability and volatility in clean energy sources, particularly photovoltaic and wind power.

Therefore, NEVs are both terminals and medium. The mutual promotion and synergetic development between "smart vehicles"

and "reliable energy" are conducive to driving the energy revolution.

To make NEVs smarter, intelligent road infrastructure and real-time cloud computing services are necessary. Autopilot systems are becoming a standard feature of NEVs.

According to statistics, 7 million intelligent connected vehicles sold in China last year were equipped with autopilot assistance systems, up 45.6 percent year-on-year, and 48 percent of NEVs were installed with such systems.

In the past, the autopilot relied more on the vehicle's configuration, such as millimeter-wave radar and LiDAR. Future versions of such systems will make greater use of external assistance.

Building intelligent road infrastructure aims to achieve vehicle-road coordination, which not only expands the intelligent perception range of individual vehicles to promote autonomous driving, but also provides an efficient and reliable decision-making basis for traffic command and dispatch, enhancing the overall capacity for road traffic management.

People's Daily

Indian efforts as African Union becomes permanent member of G20

AVITA. CHAMI

ON 09th September, 2023 in New Delhi, a group of 55 nations in the global south titled African Union officially joined a group of 20 largest economies in the world. In his opening remarks at the inaugural session of the two-day G20 Summit in the Indian capital New Delhi, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the announcement welcoming African Union as the new member of the top body in global governance.

It was soon after the announcement, that Union of Comoros President and AU Chairperson H.E. Azali Assoumani took the seat on the stage as a full member of the G20.

This groundbreaking success for AU was in the heart of India's move for a long time ago.

The idea was floated in June this year, when Prime Minister Modi wrote to G20 leaders to propose that the African Union be given the full membership at the upcoming Delhi Summit of G20, as it has been requested by the African Union long time ago. Being a strong voice of the global south, India officially deposited the agenda in June this year and luckily it has paid off under her G20 presidency.

Being supported by many G20 members including US, France, Russia, China etc, the recent New Delhi summit concluded the move that the grouping that represents 55 countries was officially admitted AU as a new member of the G20 as of Saturday, September 9th, 2023.

The G20 was founded in 1999 in response to several world economic crises. The G20 member countries represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade and about two-thirds of the world population.

This year G20 New Delhi summit is the 18th meeting of the strongest global economic hub in the world. This is the first G20 summit held in India as well as in South Asia leaving behind a remarkable achievement of taking on board the AU as an influential organisation in the global governance architecture.

The just joined AU block with 55 member states joins in the list of 19 countries with her counterpart the European Union (EU), an influential supranational political and economic union of 27 member states primarily from Europe.

Now as of September, 2023, there are 21 members in the group namely; Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Union and the African Union. During its G-20 Presidency this year, India under the humanistic theme namely "One Earth, One Family, One Future", has managed to constantly position herself as the leading voice flagging concerns, challenges and aspirations of the Global South or the developing nations, especially the African continent.

"It is in the spirit of taking everyone along, India had proposed membership of the G20 for the African Union" said Prime Minister Modi while urging all G20 members to support and approve the proposal during his opening speech of the G20 Summit in New Delhi recently.

The move of taking the AU in the G20 proves the existing historical ties and the real sense of brotherhood between India and Africa. The witnessed India's brotherly relationship with Africa date back several centuries.

The geographical proximity and easy navigability in Indian Ocean resulted

in well-established trade network between India and the Swahili Coast in East Africa region predating European exploration.

The ties further roots on political connection during the colonial era as Mahatma Gandhi began his political career in South Africa as he passed through Zanzibar, in the Eastern Africa coast towards south and later became the leader of colonized and established Indian Natal Congress in 1894.

After India got independence, it raised voice for African liberation taking their case to all the available international forums. Mahatma Gandhi who came later to be considered the father of India, he spent more than 21 years of his life in Africa during the pursuit of antiracial struggle and decolonization hence became the rallying point of India-Africa relations.

The historical clinches further exhibit India's role as a forerunner as a champion of the interests of the developing countries from Africa, particularly through the Bandung Declaration of 1955, the Group of 77, and the Non Aligned Movement (NAM).

In advocating her foreign policy clearly to the world, various Indian leaders joined various African revolutions including the one of 1950s when Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's joined African leaders like Kwame Nkrumah and Gamal Abdel Nasser to form and participate in the Non-Aligned Movement.

It was the India's policy of NAM provided the world with the third front at the time of heightened cold war rivalry between US and USSR, where African nations acted as the strengthening factor from the global south powerhouse.

The fact that Africa is undergoing significant changes in its demographics, economy, politics and society, the region has gradually moved towards regional integration and is committed to promoting democracy, peace, and progress as well as overcoming various geopolitical challenges in the globe.

This has made the continent qualify to host people of diverse cultures from across the world. The India-Africa brotherhood roosts from the fact that all of the 55 African countries host Indian communities in good terms as a part of their communities.

To date a large chunk of Indian diaspora continues to live in African countries such as Tanzania, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Mauritius, and Nigeria in the name of 'People of India Origin'. It is this sense of solidarity, mutual trust and confidence born in the difficult days of the Cold War which continues to drive IndiaAfrica cooperation to this day.

The groundbreaking achievement of bringing a block of 55 African countries AU in the G20 body concludes India as a proper voice of the developing and underdeveloped countries from global south. This step is also envisaged to serve as a useful gear for India's aspiration for vying for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council, as the old saying goes A friend in need, a friend indeed Delhi is assured to garner brotherly support from the African 55 votes in the UN.

Consequently, India-Africa ties seem important in these days as it is mutual co-existence of two parties such that both sides have been forging their interests.

The fact that Africa is home to over half a dozen of the fastest growing countries of this decade such as Rwanda, Senegal, and Tanzania etc making it one of the growth pole of the world. African continent has a population of over one billion with a combined GDP of 2.5 trillion dollars making it a huge potential market for any side of the globe.

The economic boom and opening up



President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi received African Union Chairperson and Comoros Union President Azali Assoumani (2nd-L) at the Bharat Mandapam during the G20 Summit Gala Dinner hosted by the President, in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

of India to the world in this decade precipitated a dramatic change in India-Africa relations. Large private sector firms started investing in the African continent backed up by various initiatives by the Indian government including significant increases in technical cooperation, grants, lines of credit and increased scholarship opportunities in India. The high-level India-Africa conference namely The India-Africa

Forum Summit in 2008, 2011 and 2015 and subsequent high level state visits pose the question of whether relations between India and Africa are entering a new era of even greater and promising density economically, politically and socially.

While India and the rest of the world are seeking diversification of their oil and energy supplies away from the Middle East and Africa can play an important role in their energy supply matrix in the future.

This is due to an undeniable fact that Africa stands as a resource rich region dominated by high value commodities like crude oil, gas, pulses and lentils, leather, gold and other metals, all of which majority strong economies on earth lack sufficient quantities of oil and energies.

The evident supersonic economic growth in all terms among African economies attracts competition and cooperation with various external players and partners across the world including China, Russia, the United States, the European Union, Japan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

Since various international players are actively competing to strengthen their relations with different parts of Africa aiming to secure market access, energy and mineral resources and enhance their political and economic influence in the region, the deliberate G20 Indian push has taken Indian-Africa relation into the new heights.

The engagement of India in Africa like many other global players in various domains leaves positive marks due to its own humanistic approach of development partnership.

India ties in Africa countries ranges at all levels leading to tremendous increase in the last two decades with a large number of public and private sector companies from India investing in Africa.

India's engagement with African nations remains at three levels: Bilateral, Regional and Multilateral. With a lot of effort to continue harnessing good brotherly relationship, India's duty-free tariff preferential scheme for Least Developed Nation (LDCs) was launched in 2008 has benefited majority of African states to date.

While multilateral engagement strategy was launched with the first India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) in 2008 followed by two other summits in 2011 and 2015, India has managed to bring her long-time friend The African Union's into the group of the world's 19 most influential nations and the EU, leaving a remarkable gesture to the world.

The matter of African Union becoming a permanent member of G20 does not only stand diplomatically a feather in the cap for India but also making India a strong and reliable actor for championing the cause of the 'Global South'.

This brotherly AU G20 advocacy marks one of unforgettable achievements of the Indian G20 Presidency. In the course of strengthening

India's brotherhood to Africa, during his state visit to Uganda recently, PM Modi told the Ugandan parliament the new Indian gear towards taking her African ties to new heights including opening new 18 new embassies in African countries.

The new 18 embassies will bring full Indian diplomatic missions in Africa to a total of 47 embassies in the continent. Beside many ongoing development projects in almost every African country, India continues to demonstrate the real India-Africa brotherhood in various sectors.

For instance in trade sector where by Indian-African synergies have been used for expanding sectors like tourism, banking, telecommunications, manufacturing and agriculture, much more taking place in education, health, security through various capacity building interventions etc.

The historical India-Africa ties have widely extended to many other development domains which make countries cooperation synergy converge. The domains include the development of blue economy and renewable energy since the continent's growth needs Indian experience and the expertise to develop and manage the wide range of maritime resources. On the other hand in the area of food security where for a long time India and Africa share similar challenges in regards to hunger and severe food insecurity.

Exporting and Importing food grains from each other will address the food security problem in India and Africa, hence win-win co-existence for a total of 2.4 billion people.

The shared patterns of their populations where agriculture domain holds huge labour force, hence enhanced interaction between the two sides gives opportunities to farmers of India and Africa to improve their livelihoods through increasing income, productivity and generate employment.

Being able to make African Union a permanent member of G20, ensure life-long India-Africa strong ties. This stands a high time for each African country to start harnessing G20 opportunities in their own internal economic strategies. As a sign of real IndiaAfrica brotherhood, India is envisaged to continue maximizing historical, political, economic and cultural connections with the African continent for a long time to come.

The Indian plan of opening 18 new embassies across Africa to add up the other existing 29 embassies in the continent will highly leverage Indian influence and prospects to the booming continent with a population of over one billion with a combined GDP of 2.5 trillion dollars.

The successful extension of G20 membership to the AU was one of the Indian primary tasks in her G20 presidency, hence calling for deeper cooperation in development domains among each of the 55 countries from the resource-rich region which extends from Indian ocean to Atlantic ocean.

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Morocco quake death toll passes 2800, rescue operation underway

RABAT

THE death toll in the Morocco earthquake has passed 2800 after a powerful 6.8 earthquake hit the country on Friday last week, Al Jazeera reported.

The rescue operation is still underway in the country in order to find the survivors.

Search and rescue teams from Spain, the United Kingdom, and Qatar have joined Moroccan rescue efforts after a magnitude 6.8 earthquake slammed the High Atlas Mountains late Friday, with the epicentre 72 kilometres (45 miles) southwest of Marrakesh, according to Al Jazeera.

According to state television, the death toll has grown to 2,862, with 2,562 people injured.

The traditional mud brick buildings that were common in the area, according to rescuers, limited the odds of locating survivors because they had disintegrated.

Nearly every building

in the mountain village of Tafegghaghte, which is 60 kilometres (37 miles) from Marrakesh, has been destroyed due to the quake. Both survivors and the bodies of the deceased were sought by civilian rescuers and Moroccan military personnel.

Earlier on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives in the quake.

Taking to X, PM Modi said, "Extremely pained by the loss of lives due to an earthquake in Morocco. In this tragic hour, my thoughts are with the people of Morocco. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover at the earliest. India is ready to offer all possible assistance to Morocco in this difficult time."

The earthquake took place at 03:41:01 (UTC+05:30) at a depth of 18.5 km. The magnitude of the earthquake caused pulses to travel from Sidi Ifni in the south to Rabat in the north and beyond.

ANI

Prost! Emirates toasts Oktoberfest onboard and in lounges

DUBAI

EMIRATES will be toasting the world-renowned German festival Oktoberfest, with traditional Bavarian cuisine and beloved German entertainment onboard flights to and from Munich, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, and Frankfurt, as well in select airport lounges, between 16 September and 3 October.

The vibrant celebration of Oktoberfest will see passengers enjoy a Bavarian starter, main course and dessert for both lunch and dinner across Economy outbound and in Business and First Class inbound and outbound, bistro bites in the iconic onboard A380 lounge, and a variety of classic Oktoberfest dishes in the world-class airport lounges, washed down with Loewenbrau beer.

First and Business Class passengers will enjoy appetisers of Obatzda, Emmental and cream cheese with radishes, hard-boiled egg and cornichons, followed by main courses of slow cooked veal cheeks, accompanied by braised red cabbage and bread dumplings, or fleischnpflanzerl - a succulent minced beef steak served with butter, veal jus, mashed potatoes, blanched cauliflower, green beans, carrot, braised onions and sauerkraut.

Meals will be accompanied by a choice of classic Kaiser roll, Austrian roll and garlic bread swirls. Delectable desserts in First Class will be Apfelstrudel with a dollop of vanilla sauce, while Business Class passengers will enjoy German Apple Cake drizzled with crème anglaise.

Economy passengers can feast on roasted chicken with paprika, served with a delicious jus, potato wedges and braised red cabbage, followed by moist apple cake with almonds and vanilla sauce.

Bite size Oktoberfest sandwiches available in the A380 onboard lounge will include cream cheese with chives, roasted beef with horseradish, grilled chicken with sundried tomato olive spread, Emmental with gherkins and the ultimate German savoury snack - pretzels irresistibly flavoured with rock salt and butter.

Complimentary pastries will include lebkuchenherzen, pistachio maamoul, cashew and pine nut boukage, chocolate and raspberry brownie, rhubarb tart, strawberry cheesecake and lemon drizzle cake. Before landing, passengers will be given a parting gift of individually wrapped gingerbread hearts with Oktoberfest decoration.

In the airport lounges of Munich and Düsseldorf, an array of dishes will be available to customers including Käsepatzle - the German version of mac and cheese, made with egg noodles, roasted onions and Emmental, light bites of Obatzda and pretzel - a cheese delicacy, moreish potato salad with parsley, essential pretzels and flavoursome chicken thighs topped with parsley.

Passengers can have a taste of home with Emirates award-winning inflight entertainment on ice, featuring up to 45 German movies, 300+ Hollywood movies dubbed in German and a collection of 13 classic Bud Spencer and Terence Hill movies available in German, Italian and English - classic spaghetti westerns beloved in Germany such as Banana Joe, Die Miami Cops, Zwei außer Rand und Band. Music lovers can get into the Oktoberfest mood with 28 playlists and albums of German music, amidst the huge library of 6,500 channels.

Agencies

China firmly supports Africa to enhance its status with greater voice on world stage

THE admission of the African Union (AU) as a permanent member to the Group of 20 (G20), agreed by G20 members at a recent summit, is a highlight of the Global South.

China was the first country to explicitly express its support for the AU's membership of the G20, which marked a vivid practice of promoting the building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future, and demonstrated China's responsibilities as a major country in improving global governance.

Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed at the 17th G20 summit held in Bali last November that China supports the AU in joining the G20. During the recent China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue in Johannesburg, Xi once again noted that China would work actively to support the AU's full mem-

bership in the G20.

China's firm support for Africa to enhance its international status and develop its voice in international discourse fully demonstrates the spirit of China-Africa friendly cooperation, and will continuously strengthen the progressive force safeguarding world peace and stability.

At present, the global governance system is facing profound adjustments, and the representation and say of developing countries need to be enhanced. The admission of the AU to the G20 helps make global governance fairer and more equitable.

The African continent is home to the largest number of developing countries, and has 54 member states of the UN. As one of the largest regional intergovernmental organizations in the world, the AU serves as a

great banner and the most important platform leading Africa's peace and development.

In the maintenance of regional peace and security, the AU actively prevents and mediates hotspot issues in Africa. It is a staunch supporter of peace in the continent. In international affairs, the AU proactively coordinates its members and speaks with one voice on the international stage, drawing attention from all parties while demonstrating the strength of Africa.

Its admission to the G20 will allow the organization to make louder voices globally, strive for more benefits for developing countries, and enhance the Global South's strength in seeking strategic independence.

The admission of the AU to the G20 helps vitalize global development.

The AU was officially launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organization of African Unity, aiming to achieve the development and revitalization of the African continent by promoting unity and solidarity amongst African countries.

In recent years, the AU has steadily advanced its Agenda 2063, put into operation the African Continental Free Trade Area, and strengthened coordination among subregional organizations. The economic vitality and market potential of Africa are being further released.

It is the broad consensus and common responsibility of the international community to support the development of Africa. The G20 welcomes the AU as a permanent member, and will keep supporting Africa with the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industriali-

zation in Africa and Least Developed Countries, which is conducive to promoting more resilient global development.

China was the first country to explicitly express its support for the AU's membership of the G20, which manifests the efforts to promote the building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

China and Africa have always been a community with a shared future. On major international and regional issues, they have coordinated their positions and jointly safeguarded international equality and justice, which is the inevitable choice for China to develop solidarity and cooperation with African countries.

China firmly supports African countries and the AU in playing a greater role in international and regional

affairs, supports making special arrangements on the UN Security Council reform to meet Africa's aspiration as a priority, and calls on multilateral financial institutions to enhance the say of African countries.

China always bears in mind Africa's concerns and priorities. It supports Africa in implementing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The admission of the AU to the G20 will guide the Chinese and African sides to better practice true multilateralism and jointly advance modernization.

China was the first country to explicitly express its support for the AU's membership of the G20, which showcases the country's responsibilities as a major country in improving global governance.

People's Daily

SPORT

Soccer fanatic wins prize money from betting firm

By Guardian Correspondent

A Dar es Salaam soccer fan, Paulo Martin, has raked in 120,989,610/- after precisely predicting the results of 12 soccer encounters that took place in various leagues across the world through the 'Perfect 12' betting platform coordinated by M-Bet Tanzania.

Martin, who resides in Mbagala, was awarded his prize money by the firm's Marketing Director, Allen Mushi, in a brief handover ceremony held yesterday.

The winner used only 1,000/- to place his bet and win such a huge amount of cash.

Speaking yesterday, Martin said he had been predicting for three years while winning a small amount of money that however did not discourage him.

Martin disclosed he faced many challenges in his predictions due to the current status of various teams in many leagues.

The winner noted: "I am an entrepreneur and I have been predicting using notebooks or 'counter books', I have



M-Bet Tanzania's Marketing Director, Allen Mushi (R), hands over a dummy check of 120,989,610/- to Yanga supporter, Paulo Martin, after the latter had correctly predicted the results of 12 football matches in a draw for a betting game coordinated by the company, known as 'Perfect 12'. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

done this for three years while winning small cash prizes."

Martin stated: "However, I could not get discouraged as I witnessed some people winning millions of shillings through M-BET's 'Perfect 12' betting platform."

"I knew there was a day I would win because there is no manipulation, so, I call upon young people from the age of 18 to start to predict through M-BET," the winner said.

He said he hardly believed he emerged victorious once he received a phone call informing him that he had won a significant amount of money, which, according to him, would be invested in developing his business and addressing other development issues.

Allen Mushi, M-BET Tanzania Marketing Director, said his firm feels very proud of transforming the lives of Tanzanians through the firm's betting game.

According to Mushi, many Tanzanians have been predicting and winning cash through the firm's betting platforms to make great strides in their development.

"We will continue to be the home of the winners and change the lives of Tanzanians," Mushi insisted.

Al Ahly legend underestimates Simba SC ahead of AFL clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

EGYPT'S AL AHLY SC legend and former coach, Mokhtar Mokhtar, believes Tanzania's Simba SC can hardly match the former, adding that he is only worried about the Mamelodi Sundowns' game.

The 2023/24 CAF Champions League defending champion Al Ahly SC has drawn Tanzania's Simba SC in the quarter-finals of the inaugural African Football League (AFL).

The first leg will take place in Dar es Salaam on October 20, before both teams face a week later in Cairo to decide the team that reaches the semi-finals.

In case Al Ahly makes it through, they will face either South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns or Angola's Petro de Luanda, whose participation in the competition is yet to be confirmed.

The Al Ahly SC legend Mokhtar Mokhtar believes the outfit should make it past Simba SC easily, but expressed his concerns about a potential clash with Mamelodi Sundowns.

"Simba SC is the one which should be concerned about facing Al Ahly SC, but I am worried about facing South Africa's Mamelodi

Sundowns," Mokhtar said.

"Al Ahly are capable of beating any team in Africa, but our calculations always change before facing Sundowns," he added.

Mamelodi Sundowns, nicknamed 'Masandawana', lastly faced Al Ahly SC in the Group Stage tie of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League in March this year and beat Africa's Club of the Century 5-2.

Al Ahly SC has won a record 11 TotalEnergies CAF Champions League titles while Simba SC is seeking a maiden semi-final appearance in the new AFL.

In another development, the AFL quarterfinals' first leg duels have been scheduled for October 20-22, with the returns leg encounters have been slated for October 24-25 to decide the semi-finalists.

The inaugural AFL final will be in early November to crown Africa's new champions.

These quarterfinal clashes pit teams with 43 CAF Champions League titles between them in a battle of the continent's heavyweights.

The AFL path to glory promises engrossing encounters between African club football's most decorated sides.



Footballers making Kwanja FC and Mrito football teams take on each other during the 2023 Kemanyanki Cup tournament's final held at Nyamongo in Tarime yesterday. Barrick North Mara Kemanyanki Company sponsored the tournament, which ended with Kwanja FC emerging as the champion having cruised to a 4-2 win over Mrito FC in penalty shootout. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

SPORTS

Hooray! We did it!

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

All Tanzanians must be utterly elated following the sterling heroics of Taifa Stars, who last Thursday sealed their spot at the 2024 AFCON finals.

In what was a tense and all-important run-in against their hosts Algeria last Thursday, Taifa Stars needed to avoid a defeat at all costs if they were serious about earning a berth in the AFCON finals next year.

Pleasingly, the Taifa Stars deservedly earned a share of the spoils with their highly touted hosts to assure themselves of a coveted place at continental football's premier championship.

Having put that issue to bed, Taifa Stars must now begin readying themselves for African football's most riveting extravaganza in a bid to leave a lasting positive impression on all ardent fans of continental football.

It should be noted that no effort should be spared as our beloved national men's football team goes about the serious business of adequately preparing for the ever-dramatic AFCON finals.

Granted, it is an incontrovertible fact that we are likely to cross paths with some of the continent's most formidable teams at the biennial feast of continental football next year.

Nevertheless, as was seen at this year's Women's World Cup, stunning upsets can indeed happen to the embarrassment of the sport's mightiest teams.

Thus, one would like to call upon the Taifa Stars and their seasoned tactician, Adel Amrouche not to harbor great trepidation at the thought of facing off against the towering giants of the sport.

Indeed, if Taifa Stars can steer well clear of a defeatist mindset, then they could gain some potentially jaw-dropping results at next year's AFCON Finals.

Let us now stick with football and ponder about the club game where our two colossal clubs Simba SC and Yanga kick off their respective campaigns in the highly



Tanzania's senior national football team's striker, Clement Mzize (C), connects a header past Algeria's defenders, Mohamed Amine Tougal (L), and Aïssa Mandi when the two sides took on each other in a 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' Group F match at 19 May 1956 Stadium in Annaba, Algeria last week, ending in a 0-0 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

prized CAF Champions League this weekend.

Come this Saturday, Simba SC will lock horns with Zambian side, Power Dynamos, on the latter's home turf in the first leg of their CAF Champions League second-round clash.

Meanwhile, on the same day, Yanga will go toe-to-toe with Sudanese outfit Al Merreikh SC in Kigali, Rwanda in the first leg of their CAF Champions League second preliminary round tie.

Indeed, our two domestic behemoths head into the elite championship with high hopes and lofty ambitions of making a deep run in the greatly esteemed competition this season.

For Yanga's part, the first leg against Al Merreikh will likely serve as a litmus test of their new Argentinean coach Miguel Gamondo's tactical nous.

However, Simba SC will be seeking to end their miserable hoodoo on Zambian soil as the Msimbazi Street side has not claimed a victory in Zambia from 1979 to the

present day.

To sum up, all the right ingredients are in place to ensure that both Simba SCs and Yanga's ties are scintillating football affairs.

The only thing left to do then is to ensure that a bag of salty crisps and a drink of our choice are at hand on D-Day so that we can watch Simba SC's and Yanga's exertions to claim what would be invaluable triumphs away from home.

COSOTA should use works of art to boost economy

By Guardian Correspondent

MINISTER for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro has asked the Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA) and Tanzania Film Board (TFB) to improve the country's economy through works of art.

Ndumbaro (pictured) issued the call when he graced the launch of the TFB and training for the leaders that took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The minister said he looks forward to seeing the two boards' merger play a part in improving the country's economy, particularly in the arts and culture sector, from the current 19 percent.

He said that Tanzanians always consider arts and culture as normal, a notion which is quite the opposite, considering the sector, including sports, is leading in improving the country's economy.

The minister noted: "I expect the merger of these two boards will help to grow the country's economy from 19 percent, Tanzanians always consider arts, culture and sports as easy endeavours, but that is not the case."

"You have a lot to do to see to it that the institutions you are managing improve the economy and create jobs," he told the bodies' officials.

"The arts and culture sector should make sure that it turns into a better sector and, if we will also use this sector to offer jobs, such a move will benefit artists as is the case in football," Ndumbaro stressed.

The minister added he believes the board's leaders can achieve what he wants to see- improving the economy and young people benefiting from their work- because Tanzanians are fond of entertainment.

"I believe that after this merger, the ministry will receive many calls from abroad, as is the case in football, we receive calls from various countries to be informed of the presence of Tanzanian players playing abroad and being asked to select them for national team 'Taifa Stars'," the minister noted.

He said: "I would also like to emphasize to the leaders that the check is a guarantee, you need to make full use of your authority. There were many conflicts in this sector including



personal interests, I do not want to see these conflicts continue again."

In another development, the minister asked the COSOTA ambassadors, including musician Elias Barnaba nicknamed 'Barnaba Classic', to make good use of the opportunity to advertise the board's work in and outside Tanzania so artists can realize the body's importance.

Victor Tesha, COSOTA Board Chairman, promised the minister the institution will value cooperation when it comes to taking charge of the safety of the artists' works and meeting artists to see to it they get their dues from the works that will be used without their consent.

"We have recently seen Tanzanian athlete Felix Simbu got a lot of money after he received compensation from one of the companies that used his

picture," Tesha revealed.

He disclosed: "Simba SC's striker, John Bocco, also got millions of money after a betting company had used his picture."

"The board needs to see to it that our artists are benefiting from their works- as directed by the minister- by ensuring that they get their rights from various companies that use their works irregularly," Tesha stated.

'Coaches know what to expect': Deschamps not surprised by Flick sacking

PARIS

FRANCE manager Didier Deschamps said on Monday he was not surprised by the sacking of his Germany counterpart Hansi Flick.

Speaking to the media ahead of later yesterday's friendly between the sides in Dortmund, Deschamps said he felt sorry for Flick but explained "all coaches know what to expect if the results are not right".

Flick became the first manager to be sacked in German history after a poor run of form which included just one win from six games since Germany's group stage exit at the Qatar World Cup.

"There are always high expectations on Germany," the 2018 World Cup-winning coach told reporters. "I wish Hansi all the best".

Despite the sacking, Deschamps said Euro 2024 hosts Germany still posed a threat.

"There are great players in the team. They come from the best clubs in the world."

France forward Antoine Griezmann said he was "surprised" by Germany's poor results.

The Atletico Madrid player told reporters Germany "just needs to find the right formula" to return to the elite, with the side made up of "big players from big clubs who can ensure German football shines again".

Griezmann, 32, also revealed his "main goal" was to end his career playing in Major League Soccer, while telling reporters he could also imagine joining the dozens of players who have moved to Saudi Arabia. The forward, who has a contract at Atletico until the summer of 2016, said he could "very well" understand players who had made the move to the Saudi Pro League. "We're talking about incredible sums of money here. They're thinking about their children, their grandchildren. I think going there is normal."

Meanwhile, nine months before Euro 2024 kicks off in Germany, the hosts have turned to Rudi Voeller to get the team back on track before later yesterday's friendly against France after coach Hansi Flick was sacked.

Flick became the first Germany coach in history to be relieved of his duties after his side slumped to a 4-1 loss to Japan in Wolfsburg on Saturday, the latest in a run of poor results which included a group-stage exit at the World Cup in Qatar last year.

The German Football Association (DFB) have turned to 1990 World Cup winner Voeller to take over on an interim basis for the friendly against 2022 World Cup finalists France in Dortmund.

While Voeller's first point of call will be to inject some pride and

stability into the struggling team, his broader task is to right the ship before next year's European Championship on home soil.

Voeller was asked in Dortmund on Monday about whether the well-known statement, commonly attributed to England's Gary Lineker, that 'football is a simple game with 11 v 11, and Germany wins at the end' still rang true.

"Those times are over" Voeller said, "we've been booted out at the group stage in the World Cup twice in a row. In the meantime other countries and associations have caught up."

- 'Urgent task' -
Voeller, who was part of the Flick set-up as the DFB's sporting director, was also appointed on an interim basis after Germany's disastrous group stage exit at Euro 2000.

He took the side all the way to the final at the 2002 World Cup, before losing 2-0 Brazil, but 63-year-old Voeller said on Sunday this time he will not be in the hot seat for long.

Speaking on Monday, Voeller said his appointment was a "one-time thing" and he would not stay on, regardless of the result against France.

"The most urgent task is to hire a national coach who will quickly get the team back on track and prepare us for the big European Championships next year," Voeller said on Sunday.

He said the sacking was "not an easy moment for me... I joined in February to support Hansi Flick so that he could be successful."

"I firmly believed that as a national coach he could manage to get our team back on track."

Germany captain Ilkay Gundogan said on Monday the players were feeling "a mixture of disappointment, sadness and frustration" that their performances cost the coach his job.

"I feel like I let Hansi down and the other players feel that way also."

Voeller will be assisted by Germany Under-20s manager Hannes Wolf and former Bayern striker Sandro Wagner.

Several candidates have been mentioned to take the position on a permanent basis, with Julian Nagelsmann, who replaced Flick at Bayern Munich only to be sacked in March, believed to be the frontrunner. Oliver Glasner, who took Eintracht Frankfurt to the Europa League title in 2022 -- their first European trophy in 40 years -- and Matthias Sammer, who won the Bundesliga as Borussia Dortmund coach in 2002, have also been mentioned.

Voeller will need to start by giving the struggling side some defensive stability.

AFP

'Maximum respect' for Rubiales resignation - Spain coach

MADRID

SPAIN men's coach Luis de la Fuente said Monday he "respects" former football federation president Luis Rubiales' decision to resign after causing outrage by kissing a Women's World Cup player on the lips.

Rubiales stood down from his post on Sunday, three weeks after forcibly kissing Spain midfielder Jenni Hermoso after her side won the World Cup on August 20 in Sydney.

The incident provoked unprecedented uproar and Rubiales was provisionally suspended by FIFA for 90 days, while a judge at the country's top criminal court opened an investigation into Rubiales earlier Monday.

"(I have) maximum respect for the decision of Luis Rubiales," De la Fuente told a news conference ahead of Spain's Euro 2024 qualifier against Cyprus in Granada.

The coach, 62, did not want to talk about the Rubiales scandal, which he too was criticised for after applauding the former federation president during a fiery defensive speech in which he pledged not to resign.

De la Fuente said he wanted to focus on football and did not know any details about the process of electing a successor to Rubiales.

"I think that the calmer we professionals are, the better," added De la Fuente. "I don't know about (election) times, we will keep thinking about football, football and football. If God wants it, we'll be working at Euro 2024 and only thinking about that."

Spain thrashed Georgia 7-1 in Tbilisi on Friday and are second in qualification Group A, behind leaders Scotland.

Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal, 16, became Spain's youngest ever player and goalscorer in the emphatic triumph.

"The veterans take care of the new players and give them all kinds of assistance," said De la Fuente. "Now (Yamal) has to develop his full potential, and he will have his peaks and troughs."

"He will have his low moments and we don't have to be so cruel, but take it as a normal part of his development -- we are delighted with him."

AFP

Bruce Arena: US soccer's Alex Ferguson approaches a murky end

By Tom Dart

THE most successful coach in the history of MLS and the US men's national team must beg the league commissioner for permission if he ever wants to return to a job in MLS. And yet, six weeks after Bruce Arena was placed on leave and a couple of days after he resigned as New England Revolution head coach and sporting director, it's still unclear precisely what he did to deserve such a severe sanction.

Allegations of inappropriate comments were followed by a virtual omerita from the club, the league and Arena himself, resulting in a level of transparency during the disciplinary process that's in inverse proportion to his status in the American game.

A giant of the sport in the US, coaching a title contender in the middle of the season, has been ousted in what look like career-ending circumstances. But what should feel momentous mainly seems mysterious.

A news vacuum engulfed the story after it was announced on 1 August that Arena was on administrative leave pending a league review into allegations of "insensitive and inappropriate remarks". Substantial additional details did not emerge from official channels.

Finally, just as their match against Minnesota United ended last Saturday night, the Revolution issued a terse statement saying they had accepted Arena's resignation. They then cancelled their postgame press conference, The Athletic's Pablo Maurer reported, "in light of the major news". In other words, the team scrapped a news conference because there was news.

An MLS statement said the investigation confirmed "certain of these allegations", indicating it found that Arena did not "conduct [himself] appropriately in the workplace", making comments that did not foster a "safe and welcoming work environment".

When US Soccer hired a law firm to investigate a domestic violence incident involving USMNT head coach Gregg Berhalter, the federation published the 36-page report. Findings from two investigations into widespread misconduct in the NWSL were made public last year. So far from MLS we have two paragraphs of muted corporate-speak disclosing what amounts to an indefinite suspension for a coach who has been a monumental presence in the American soccer landscape since the inception of MLS in 1996.

Arena himself said, in an atypically contrite statement: "I know that I have made some mistakes and moving



Bruce Arena

forward, I plan to spend some time reflecting on this situation and taking corrective steps to address what has transpired." Spokespeople for the Revolution and MLS did not respond to requests for comment.

Arena is the American equivalent of Sir Alex Ferguson due to his long track record of success, overbearing and unrepentant character, the loyalty he inspires from players and his antagonistic relationships with officials and the media. While Ferguson managed Manchester United for 27 years before retiring on his own terms aged 71, Arena, who turns 72 later this month, coached DC United, the New York Red Bulls, the Los Angeles Galaxy and the Revolution and had two spells in charge of the USMNT.

While Ferguson was often apoplectic, Arena tended to be sarcastic -- so caustic that the quotes from some of his press conferences could corrode a notepad. He does not suffer fools gladly. (His definition of a fool appeared to be anyone who doubts, disagrees with or rigorously questions Bruce Arena.)

Now a man who was elected to the National Soccer Hall of Fame back in 2010 can't even lay out the cones at an MLS training session unless commissioner Don Garber says so. That is a stinging humiliation, and the two have repeatedly clashed down the years, with Garber fining and suspending Arena for critical comments and lamenting that he preferred to be an antagonist rather than an ambassador.

"Bruce has the opportunity to be our Tom Landry, our Pat Riley, and he continually puts himself in a position where he acts unprofessionally and he emotionally misstates the facts," Garber told SI.com in 2014.

Like Ferguson, Arena faithfully defended his players from media criticism and official punishments, even when

Nigel de Jong tackled like, well, Nigel de Jong. A "them against us" mentality seemed to be a sincerely held belief as well as a shrewd morale-boosting tactic.

A former Revolution player and current assistant coach, Shalrie Joseph, lauded Arena on social media last week, writing: "Thank you for being the man you are. I appreciate every lesson and early morning conversations we used to have... love you big guy."

But the allegations include complaints by Richie Williams, a 53-year-old assistant coach who joined Arena's staff in 2019, according to The Athletic. Their long association began when Arena coached Williams at the University of Virginia, where Arena won five national titles over 18 seasons. Arena then signed Williams for DC United in 1996 and hired him as an assistant at the New York Red Bulls a decade later, also bringing him into the USMNT as a player and a coach. Williams has been interim coach since Arena was placed on leave.

Arena has expressed retrograde views. In 2013 he implicitly criticised then-US head coach Jürgen Klinsmann's recruitment of dual-nationals, telling ESPN, "If they're all born in other countries, I don't think we can say we are making progress." (He later said that passion matters more than birthplace.) Old-fashioned or not, he has clearly adapted -- the top MLS coach in the mid-90s was still one of the best in a vastly-transformed competition in 2023. His exit robs American soccer of a figure who has bridged generations and made the most of MLS's pathway to professionalism and increasingly generous rewards.

Born in New York, and a goalkeeper who was briefly on the books of the New York Cosmos, he won his solitary cap for the US while coaching his

primary sport, lacrosse, at Cornell University and teaching business management in a junior high school in 1973. He was also called up for another match but was unable to get the time off work.

By 2017, the sport had developed so much that Arena was paid nearly \$1.3m for less than 10 months of work coaching the US before resigning after the failure to reach the 2018 World Cup. Following the debacle he co-wrote a book on the state of American soccer titled What's Wrong with US?

Back-to-back MLS titles with DC United in 1996 and 1997, the league's debut seasons, led to his first stint in charge of the national team. Arena coached the US from 1998 to 2006, taking them to two World Cups. Reaching the quarter-finals in 2002 is the nation's best achievement in the modern era and his 81 victories from 148 games is far ahead of the runner-up, Klinsmann, who won 55 of 98 matches.

Arena then had a short and fruitless spell in New York before joining the Galaxy, coaching David Beckham, Robbie Keane and Landon Donovan and winning MLS Cup three times in four seasons. He returned to the USMNT in 2016, replacing Klinsmann two fixtures into the 2018 World Cup qualifiers, but resigned when a shocking loss to Trinidad & Tobago saw the team fail to reach the finals for the first time since 1986.

Named New England head coach and sporting director in May 2019, replacing Brad Friedel, his arrival sparked a dramatic uptick in results. The Revolution reached the Eastern Conference final the following year and claimed the Supporters Shield for the first time in 2021, setting an MLS points record but bowing out of the playoffs in the Conference semi-finals on penalties to eventual MLS Cup winners New York City FC.

A woeful 2022 saw the Revolution miss out on the playoffs but the team rebounded and are presently second in the Eastern Conference and virtually certain to make the playoffs.

Perhaps Arena's defenestration signals a cultural shift for the men's game in the US: that it is entering an era when unacceptable behaviour is not ignored or excused on the basis of reputation and results, and conduct that would not be tolerated in an office or factory is no longer accepted at a stadium or training ground. That would be progress. But a lack of candour from those involved means that the career of one of American soccer's most visible and forthright personalities appears to be concluding in a murk of reticence and obscurity.

THE GUARDIAN

Paul Pogba provisionally suspended by Juventus after anti-doping investigation

By Ben Rumsby

PAUL Pogba has failed a drugs test, leaving him facing the threat of a career-ending doping ban.

Pogba, one of the biggest names in world football and formerly its most expensive player, was on Monday handed a "precautionary suspension" after testing positive for a banned substance -- reportedly testosterone -- on the opening weekend of the Serie A season.

His club, Juventus, confirmed the shock news in a statement the same evening, which said: "Juventus Football Club announces that today, September 11, 2023, the footballer Paul Labile Pogba received a precautionary suspension order from the National Anti-Doping Tribunal following the results of tests carried out on August 20, 2023.

"The club reserves the right to consider the next procedural steps."

Should the former Manchester United midfielder's B sample also test positive, he faces a two-year ban unless he shows the result is unreliable or that he bears no responsibility for it.

If he is proven to have intentionally doped, that suspension would be doubled, potentially leaving the 30-year-old's career in ruins.

News of Pogba's failed test came on the same day as the emergence of an interview with the World Cup-winning star in which he said he considered retiring from football over alleged extortion and threats from an organised gang, including his older brother Mathias.

The drugs test itself, meanwhile, was carried out on the day Juventus beat Udinese in their opening Serie A fixture.

France's 2018 World Cup-winning star was an unused substitute in that



Paul Pogba may have landed himself in very hot water. Agencies

game but came off the bench the following week in his club's 1-1 draw at home to Bologna and in their 2-0 win at Empoli last weekend.

Pogba's failed test is the latest in a litany of setbacks for a player for whom United paid a world record £89.3 million to re-sign from Juventus seven years ago.

He left Old Trafford on a free transfer for the second time in the summer of last year but injuries have severely limited his appearances and saw him miss France's World Cup defence.

But it was the alleged blackmail plot that had the biggest impact upon him before Monday's news, with Pogba having filed a complaint with Turin

prosecutors in July last year claiming he was the target of a 13 million euro (£11.1 million) scheme.

That saw his brother detained three months later but the latter denied all the allegations against him and was released in December under judicial review.

Speaking to Al Jazeera about the impact the incident had on him, Pogba said: "When there is money you have to be careful. Money changes people. It can break up a family. It can create a war."

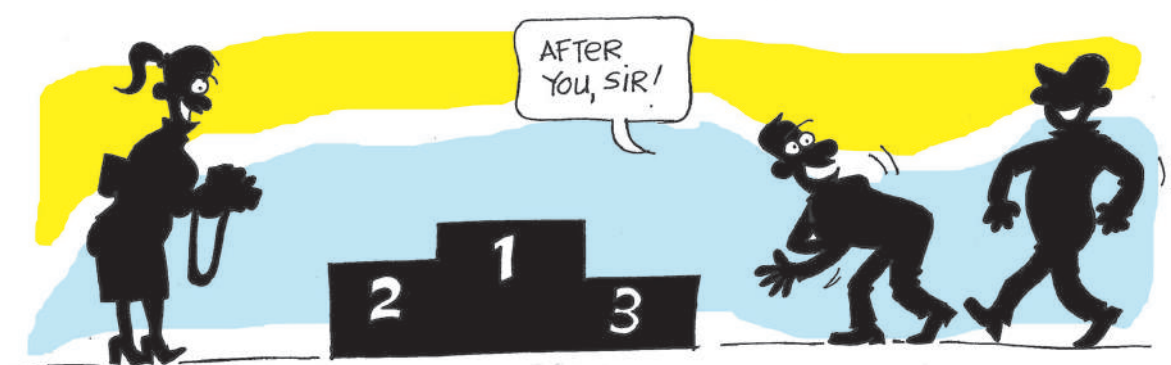
"Sometimes I was just by myself thinking, 'I don't want to have money anymore. I just don't want to play anymore. I just want to be with normal people, so they will love me for me -- not for the fame, not for the money'."

"Sometimes it's tough. This life, you have to go through it. It will only make me stronger."

A number of drugs and medications contain testosterone, a hormone which can provide increased muscle size and strength, including faster recovery from physical exertion.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Bruce Arena: US soccer's Alex Ferguson approaches a murky end

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzanian artist Elius Barnaba is pictured entertaining attendees of the International Conference of the African Food Systems Forum in Dar es Salaam last week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Union Netball League cements unity- official

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Deputy Minister for Community Development, Gender, Elders, and Children Anna Athanas has said the Union Netball League is essential in building historical unity between the Isles and Mainland Tanzania.

She said so when she graced the conclusion of this season's Union Netball League, which witnessed Zanzibar's KVZ squad locking horns with Mainland Tanzania's Jeshi Stars at Gymkhana grounds, Unguja at the end of last week.

Anna said through the championship they get the opportunity to invent various strategies for cementing the union and boost love and solidarity among sports people from both sides of the union.

The Deputy Minister added that through the championship, participating teams get the opportunity to gauge their competence and, after the tournament, the teams sit down to assess themselves and later plan various strategies for performing much better in other assignments.

She explained that the government understands that the sports sector, especially netball, is facing various challenges including a lack of sponsorship and indoor playgrounds.

Anna said: "Those of you given the responsibility to supervise should keep on assisting the government in making sure sports clubs thrive."

She added that the government will make efforts to build modern indoor stadiums that meet international standards to enthruse sponsors to come to cooperate with the government to boost the sports sector.

Anna, moreover, disclosed the government will also make sure it addresses all existing challenges to have good participation in sports from the national level to zonal and international levels.

Zanzibar Netball Association (Chaneza) Secretary-General, Said Ali Mansab, and the Assistant Secretary of Tanzania Netball Association (Chanta) Hila Aunsi appealed to the government for assistance to help the associations secure sponsors to successfully organize various competitions.



Zanzibar's Deputy Minister for Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children Anna Athanas Paul.

Singida Fountain Gate FC official tips Kenyan marksman Rupia to break Kagere's record

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC has high hopes over the club's new signing, Elvis Rupia, who left Kenya Police FC for the NBC Premier League outfit early this month.

The striker signed a two-year deal with the club while the outfit's Ghanaian forward, Bright Adjei, has been sent on loan to his home country's club, Aduana Stars FC.

Rupia is yet to land in Tanzania as he was included in his country's national team 'Harambee Stars' in international friendly matches against Qatar and South Sudan.

The forward joined Singida Fountain Gate FC on the back of a record-breaking campaign in the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League, in which he scored 27 goals last season.

The attacker, therefore, laid his hands on the top flight's Golden Boot award and smashed the 47-year record of 26 goals set by Gor Mahia legend, Maurice 'Sonyi' Ochieng.

With that in mind, his new club feels he can equally break the record of 23 goals set by Rwandan striker Meddie Kagere, who is now the former's teammate at Singida Fountain Gate FC.

The Rwandan forward set the record while he was playing for Simba SC two years ago.

Rupia is, moreover, out to break the record attained by last season's Golden Boot winner, Congolese Fiston Meyele, who notched 18 goals for Yanga before leaving for Egyptian side Pyramids FC at the end of the season.

"He's a good player and it should not be hard (for him) to cope because we have a lot of professionals from various countries in our team," Singida Fountain Gate FC's information officer, Hussein Masanza, said.

The official revealed: "We have had top goal scorers, who are foreign, like Kagere whose record has not been broken yet. We expect him to break Kagere's record and even do better than Meyele."

"Being the top scorer in Tanzania is a big achievement because it brings respect to our team and the player," Masanza added.

Masanza also expressed his excitement over having both Rupia and Kagere on his team, saying they will complement each other and benefit from the increased competition.



Singida Fountain Gate FC's attacker, Elvis Rupia.

Both strikers know each other, having played for rival teams in Kenya, as Kagere turned out for Gor Mahia whereas Rupia was playing for Nzoia Sugar.

The two boast varying profiles given that Kagere can play either as a central striker or out wide and can further drop into space.

Rupia is an out-and-out striker who is at his best playing with his back to the opponent's goal, the attacker is also blessed with great pace and power.

"It's an advantage having Rupia and Kagere in the team and we expect positive competition. We have signed them because we want them to do big things for

the club which will be a win-win for both parties," Masanza said.

He revealed: "We have title ambitions this season, we want to win the Premier League and advance to the Group Stage of the CAF Confederation Cup."

Singida Fountain Gate FC appointed former South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs head coach Ernst Middendorp to replace Dutch tactician, Hans van der Pluijm.

The German tactician's first task will be this season's CAF Confederation Cup Second Preliminary Round's first leg clash against Future FC of Egypt slated for the coming weekend in Dar es Salaam.

Tarime MP applauds mining firm for promoting sports

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

TARIME Rural Member of Parliament, Mwita Waitara, has commended North Mara Barrick Gold Mine for the firm's efforts in promoting sports in Tarime District through its sponsorship of various sports competitions.

Waitara also expressed his satisfaction with the collaboration displayed by the gold mining firm to indigenous communities around the mining area.

The MP made the remarks during the Kemanyanki Cup tournament's final between Kewanja FC and Mrito FC, which took place at Ingwe Secondary School's ground in Nyamongo Town on Sunday.

The showpiece, which brought together 12 youth teams from 11 villages around the mining area, was organized by the indigenous-owned firm working at North Mara Gold Mine.

Kewanja FC emerged as the showpiece's winner after beating Mrito FC 4-2 in the penalty shoot-out of the final.

The tournament's eventual champion was presented with a trophy, jerseys, medals, and a cash prize totaling 800,000/.

Runner-up Mrito FC received jerseys, medals, and 450,000/- in cash prize, while third-placed Nyangato FC walked away with medals, jerseys, and 300,000/- in cash prize.

Waitara pointed out: "I commend the youth who established Kemanyanki, an indigenous firm by its decision to hand out the little they have to the community."

The MP, who was the chief guest at the final, noted: "I also congratulate North Mara Barrick Gold Mine for the cooperation from time to time, this is what we want to continue."

Kemanyanki Managing Director, Nicolaus Mgaya, thanked Barrick Gold Mine for valuing the importance of working with indigenous firms in the mine area.

Mgaya said people living around the gold mine have every reason to be proud of the existence of Kemanyanki and the gold mine owing to the various jobs and economic opportunities the firms create for the youth.

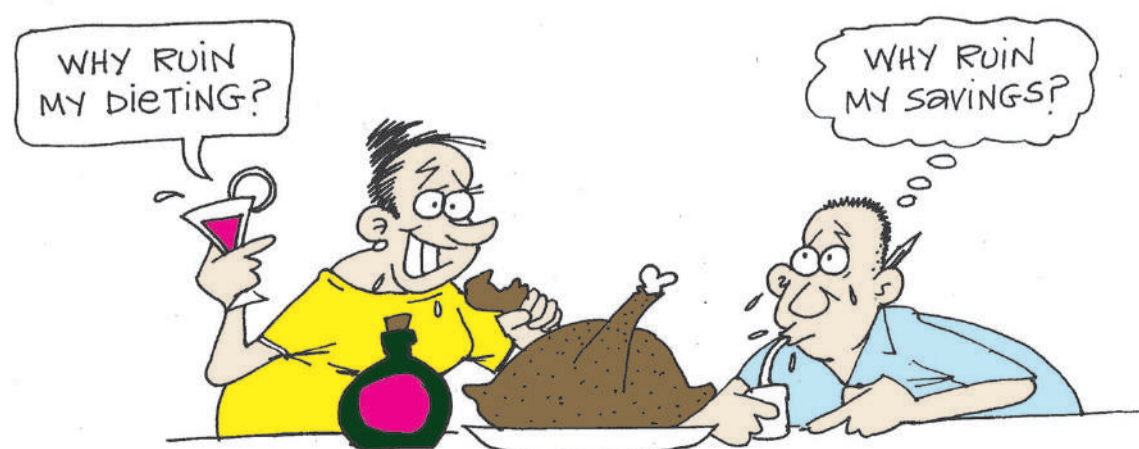
Commenting on the Kemanyanki Cup tournament, Mgaya said it has enabled the youths to understand North Mara Barrick Gold Mine, as well as its benefits to the community, better.

The official revealed that they have also been able to exchange experiences that are beneficial to their lives and those of the community around the gold mine.

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Runner-up Mrito FC received jerseys, medals, and 450,000/- in cash prize, while third-placed Nyangato FC walked away with medals, jerseys, and 300,000/- in cash prize

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (r)
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Mpera Mpera
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zole Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kall Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid week Movie
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 EATV SAA 1

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

eastafrika RADIO
05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise
88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM