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President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Anne Beathe Tvinnereim, the Norwegian Minister for International Development responsible for international development efforts in Nordic countries. Photo: State House

Take up popular views on mobile transaction levy, ruling CCM says

By Guardian Reporter

THE GOVERNMENT must find ways of accommodating people's views on mobile phone and bank transaction levies whose implementation started recently, the ruling party said yesterday.

Shaka Hamdu Shaka, the head of the Ideology and Publicity department in the CCM Secretariat, told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that this directive arose from a resolution of the central committee, the policy setting organ of the National Executive Committee of the ruling party.

The committee has directed the government to look at current living costs and come up with solutions to help reduce the pain, after party

leader President Samia Suluhu convened the meeting on Wednesday to discuss the nationwide disquiet on the levies.

The government has to take action to respond to the people's complaints which have come due to various changes in tax laws, the secretariat department head intoned.

"After discussing deeply, the central committee saw it better to work on the challenge which has resulted due to the several budgetary measures which started to be implemented on July 1. It is important to listen to people's views," he emphasized.

The ongoing implementation of budgetary measures such as mobile transaction levies may affect people's efforts to improve individual

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Germany grants 13.2bn/- for conservation, wildlife threats

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has received euro 6m (13.2bn/-) from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) for efforts to reduce conflicts pitting humans and wildlife in areas around national parks.

Mary Masanja, the Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister made this observation on a visit to Likuyu Natural Resources Training College, Sekamaganga, Namtumbo District in Ruvuma Region.

She said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has sourced 13.2bn/- for examining challenges on human settlements in the face of destructive wildlife, including educating

communities in national park environs and how to deal with the problem.

The three-year project is meant to enable the communities to learn how to deal with destructive wildlife, bringing such skills to other communities as well, she stated.

Village game wardens will be posted to boost efforts in dealing with destructive animals, she elaborated, specifying that where communities understand how to conserve and sort out destructive wildlife, they will be in a position to support conservation activities.

Jane John, the college administrator, said the college provides training to village

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Korea inks fourth framework accord, set to disburse 2.3trn/-

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government yesterday signed a \$1bn (2.3trn/-) concessional loan agreement with South Korea to finance various development projects from 2022 to 2025.

Treasury permanent secretary Emmanuel Tutuba said at the signing ceremony that through the framework agreement, Tanzania will access concessional loans from the country's Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) to finance the national identification system expansion (phase two) at 163.1bn/- and a 151.5bn/-project for improvement of the national land data infrastructure.



In the first framework arrangement, the govt of Korea committed concessional loans worth \$140m for 2011 to 2013

Other projects include the water supply and wastewater treatment system development in Iringa billed at 163.1bn/-, construction of the modernized railway training center (186.4bn/-) and construction of Binguni Hospital in Zanzibar (233bn/-), and other projects in ICT, health, energy and infrastructure sectors, he said.

The loan pact is the fourth framework arrangement between the two governments since EDCF started its operations in Tanzania in 2004, while previous framework arrangements involved a total of \$640m.

"In the first framework arrangement, the government of Korea committed concessional

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EAC innovators shining in Africa agribusiness contest

By Songa wa Songa, Kigali

AGRIBUSINESS solution innovators from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Burundi bagged over \$100,000 after taking top honours in the GoGetta Agripreneur Prize competition at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) here on Wednesday.

After on-stage pitches to a panel of judges earlier this week, Esther Kimani, the founder of FarmerLifeLine Technologies in Kenya and Mark Musinguzi, founder of Hya Bioplastics in Uganda each received a \$50,000 prize at AGRF gala graced by President Paul Kagame.

Nancy Iraba, co-founder of Healthy Seaweed Co., based in Zanzibar and Eloge Niyomwungere, founder of Best Food Solution

based in Bujumbura, were recognized in the 'additional impact awards' and will receive \$2,500 prize money.

Iraba founded the seaweed firm to boost women seaweed farmers' livelihoods, and also harvest health benefits of seaweed by local value-addition. The promotion of seaweed as a quality, sustainable food source was also envisaged, organisers said.

Only two in the 12 finalists in this year's GoGetta Agripreneur Prize contest came from outside East Africa and recognized in the 'additional impact awards,' namely Noël N'guessan, co-founder of LONO in Côte d'Ivoire and Seynabou Dieng, co-founder of Maya Sarl in Senegal.

Fernanda Lopes, executive vice president for Asia and Africa at Yara International, a Norwegian chemical company producing nitrogen-based mineral fertilizers for the global market, awarded the winners on behalf of Generation Africa co-founders.

"These young entrepreneurs are in the midst of a food revolution. Their ventures are making a positive impact on their communities, their environment, and the

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Finance and Planning ministry permanent secretary Emmanuel Tutuba (R) and South Korea's Ambassador to Tanzania, Kim Sun-pyo, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday exchanging signed copies of documents on an agreement for a 2.3trn/- Korea Economic Development Cooperation Fund soft loan for the implementation of various development projects in Tanzania. Photo: MoFP



Korea inks fourth framework accord, set to disburse 2.3trn/-

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loans worth \$140m for 2011 to 2013," he said, while the second framework accord slated \$200m for 2015 to 2018. The third framework agreement covered the years 2018 to 2020 where \$300m in concessional loans was disbursed, tied to finance projects in the transport infrastructure, education, health, energy and water sectors, he said.

Projects such as the New Selander Bridge now named Tanzanite Bridge, changing the image of Dar es Salaam, has significantly reduced traffic congestion along Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, as well as the setting up of an irrigation infrastructure in Zanzibar.

The new pact takes total framework commitments from EDCF to Tanzania

to reach \$1.64bn, reflecting the growth of an outstanding relationship between the two countries, he observed.

Prior to the EDCF pacts, bilateral and multilateral arrangements between the two countries facilitated the construction of Mloganzila Hospital and Kikwete Bridge connecting Tabora and Kigoma regions across Malagarasi river, the Iringa - Shinyanga major power transmission project and others were financed.

In his remarks, Korean plenipotentiary and resident ambassador Kim Sun Pyo said the support illustrates the strong bilateral relations between the two countries. The Korean authorities intend to strengthen the valuable development cooperation which benefits people in both countries, he added.

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income and boost the country's economic growth, he stated, affirming that such prospects are contrary to the 2020 election manifesto that constitutes the governance framework.

"It is true that the government has done a number of things that have positively touched people's lives, including the construction of 234 health centres, 214 new schools as well as implementation of various projects to improve provision of services to people. But it should also listen to the people," he further stated.

Increasing access to affordable financial services by expanding the scope of the use of technology (ICT) in the provision of financial services was important as it helps stimulate local investment and financial inclusion

both in urban and rural areas, he said.

CCM has directed the government to set out cost cutting measures to build a conducive environment for economic growth, including formulating new revenue sources, he further stated, urging Tanzanians to move in tandem with President Samia for promoting freedom of expression and good governance.

The central committee also congratulated President Samia on the implementation of the 2022 Population and Housing Census as for the first time Tanzania successfully carried out the census digitally.

The party committee lauded Zanzibar President, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi for various economic and social development initiatives being undertaken with great success, he added.

Immigration, police in Iringa holding 82 illegal migrants

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE Immigration Department in Iringa Region in collaboration with the Police Force has arrested 82 Ethiopian nationals for allegedly entering the country illegally.

In the incident, a Tanzanian driver and his assistant were also arrested for allegedly transporting the immigrants illegally.

Addressing journalists yesterday here, Iringa Regional Immigration Officer, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Immigration (SACI), Agnes Luziga said that the suspects were arrested in Tosamaganga area in the Iringa-Mbeya highway by immigration officers who were on duty.

She said the Ethiopian nationals were coming from Kenya enroute to South Africa. They were in a Fuso truck with registration number T743 CYP.

She said the suspects will be brought to court to face further legal measures.

She called on the community to continue cooperating with the force by providing information whenever they suspect the presence of people

entering or living illegally in the country.

"The special patrol in the region and its districts continues with an aim to search and arrest all people involved in the illegal business of trafficking immigrants and also arresting those who enter the country without permits," she added.

Illegal immigration is the migration of people into a country in violation of the immigration laws of the country or the continued residence without having legal right to live in the specific country. Illegal residence in another country creates the risk of detention, deportation, and/or other sanctions.

In contrast to human trafficking which can take place both domestically and internationally, migrant smuggling is a crime that takes place only across borders.

It consists of assisting migrants to enter or stay in a country illegally, for financial or material gain. Smugglers make a profitable business out of migrants' need and/or desire to enter a country and the lack of legal documents to do so.

'China's exploration of outer space is for common good'

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

CHINA and Tanzania have extensive potential for cooperation in future space exploration and will certainly encourage more young generations to continue exploring for the future destiny of mankind.

Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian said that yesterday in Dar es Salaam the Chinese astronauts' talks with African youths from space via video link TV live and the awarding ceremony for the winners in the prior question and answers sessions.

She encouraged Tanzanians students to do their part to contribute to their space dream, love science and build up confidence in the country's self confidence in innovation.

She said the space exploration that created opportunities for all human beings to work together and inspired the world.

The envoy said when addressing the opening ceremony of the eighth ministerial conference of the forum

on China-Africa cooperation via video link on November 29 last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping declared that China will help to establish and build China -Africa satellite remote sensing application cooperation centre for African countries.

"China scientists are willing to conduct the research on space travel and the exploration of outer space along with Tanzanian scientists and other African scientists. After all, universe exploration invites the cooperation of all mankind and work together." "Therefore, I hope the students who are here and even all the Tanzanians youths will love science, pursue dreams and explore the unknown and work hard for our future, the future of all human beings," read part of Xi speech.

The envoy added that the friendship between the Chinese and Tanzanians has grown for many decades and is growing more profound adding that recently more Tanzanian students are prepared to return to China for their study.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi hands over an affidavit to newly appointed Zanzibar Anti-corruption and Economic Crimes Authority director general Ali Abdalla Ali (R) shortly after swearing him in at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

EAC innovators shining in Africa agribusiness contest

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local economy," she said

Emerging winners among women agripreneurs, Kimani and FarmerLifeLine Technologies invented a proprietary disease detection device that leverages solar-powered cameras, helping Kenyan farmers to get ahead of pests and pathogens.

The device is a product of artificial intelligence, data analytics and machine learning, the acclaimed innovator noted.

Among the men, grand prize winner Musinguzi of Hya Bioplastics wants to lead Africa in sustainable food packaging with an innovative biodegradable product solution that provides a cost competitive alternative to petroleum-based plastic packaging.

Generation Africa co-founder Svein Holsether, president of Yara

International, delivered keynote remarks at the final pitching contest to thank the finalists for their visionary work.

He said their innovations are truly inspiring, seeing them as leaders and role models "in a world that so desperately needs that kind of drive and dedication to solve the staggering global challenges we are faced with."

AGRF retired chairman Strive Masiyiwa, Generation Africa co-founder and executive chairman of Econet and Cassava Technologies, joined Holsether via video message to motivate the contestants to use their entrepreneurial spirit for positive impact.

Embodying the spirit of Masiyiwa's message, Generation Africa recognized four impact award winners for each venture's potential to empower

communities and protect the environment.

For Dieng, Maya is much more than a food processing company. By partnering with small-scale local farmers in Mali, this 80 per cent women-staffed company gets the best local ingredients to manufacture sauces, spices, mixes and dried fruits.

N'guessan of LONO co-founded his business to focus on healthy soil. One of its products, KubeKo, helps farmers in Côte d'Ivoire to unlock value from their waste. This easy-to-use biogas composting system generates two hours of cooking gas and 50 litres of liquid fertilizer from five kilogrammes of organic waste per day.

Niyomwungere and his business Best Food Solution process chillies into oil, powder, and dried chillies for local and export markets. He

founded his company to revitalise Burundi's chilli industry by supporting smallholder farmers with quality inputs and guaranteed offset. They even manufacture an organic chilli-based pesticide to protect yields, the panel noted.

Dickson Naftali, head of Generation Africa, said GoGettag has grown into the biggest, youth-focused, agripreneurship contest in Africa. "Our entries are becoming more diverse every year," he stated.

The GoGettag Agripreneur Prize was conceived to spread a message of hope and opportunity in the agrifood sector. "Seeing more youth with truly innovative solutions, building companies that create jobs in the food system makes me really proud. They hold the future of our continent in their hands," the top agripreneur added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses Tabora Region government officials in Tabora municipality yesterday. Photo: PMO

Germany grants 13.2bn/- for conservation, wildlife threats

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wildlife personnel, village game wardens, tour guides on how to control destructive wildlife.

Observers noted that on June 21, the National Assembly demanded an investigation to ascertain the truth in claims made by a section of lawmakers that there is an alarming increase of human-wildlife conflicts in various regions, causing loss of lives and destruction of properties.

Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson gave the government three months to conduct comprehensive research on the claims raised by some members of Parliament to the effect that there is an alarming increase of incidents of wild animals attacking humans and destroying properties.

The move came after two MPs—Mwita Waitara of Tarime Rural and Phillip Mulugo of Songwe - raised concerns in the House that attacks by wild animals in their constituencies were leading to instances of deaths, fomenting widespread fear and destruction of properties and crops.

Chairing debate on documentation provided by the two MPs on the issue yesterday, the Speaker said the MPs' documents incorporated unverified statistics, tasking them to prove their statements in writing for further measures to be discussed.

"On June 3, 2022, I directed the two MPs to come up with proof on what they claimed concerning wildlife attacks that caused deaths and injuries to people. Waitara claimed that a good number of people have died

and sustained serious injuries due to attacks by wild animals from the Serengeti National Park while Mulugo claimed that many people have lost lives in Mbeya due to wildlife attacks," she said.

The lawmakers brought their explanations in writing but they both failed to prove that their figures were correct as they submitted the same concerns they raised in the chamber without putting concrete explanations on the correctness of their statements.

"Their explanations haven't proved their statements on deaths and destruction caused by wild animal attacks in their areas. So, the House will not take this as the correct information as it is a serious matter but rather leave it to the government to investigate and bring the correct report here," the

Speaker instructed.

She asked premier Majaliwa to supervise that exercise and make sure that within three months, a detailed report is brought before the House for MPs to clearly understand the real situation.

Dr Tulia cautioned MPs to ensure that whenever they present their views or raise concerns in the House, they must be sure of the data and statistics which they provide, to avoid misleading the nation.

Premier Majaliwa told MPs that the government has no plans to harvest wild animals despite increased incidents of conflicts with people on the edges of national parks, and instead, the government will strengthen wildlife delimitation systems to minimize their reach on nearby settlements.



Emmanuel Akonaay, NMB Bank Plc's chief human resources officer, makes remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a Finance2Equal Programme meeting panel organised by the International Finance Corporation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ATCL to buy 5 more aircraft by 2024 to up air transport

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

AIR Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) has said that five more aircrafts are set to be procured by 2024, a move which will boost air transport in the country as well as increase international destinations.

Eng Ladislaus Matindi, ATCL chief executive officer (CEO) unveiled this here yesterday when speaking at the third session of the labor council.

Matindi said the addition of the new aircrafts will make the company have a total of 17 planes that will help contribute to nation development, noting that the company along with the purchase of other new planes they expect to increase its domestic and international flights if it is to expand and increase its activities.

"We have planned to bring competition in providing services, one of which is to buy five more planes as well as increase the work effort, improve the management together and meet the standards of quality expected by our various national

and international stakeholders," said Matindi.

Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Fatma Mwasa said the government will continue to invest in the company so that it can provide better services and bring greater competition.

She said ATCL has started doing well in providing services considering that in 2015 the company had only one plane but it continued to increase the number of planes up to 12 this year.

RC Mwasa said that the government is also planning to renovate and expand airport infrastructures in various regions so as to allow bigger planes to land in the areas. She praised the expansion of the scope of ATCL trips to reach the cities of Lagos (Nigeria) Heathrow (England) Dubai (United Arab countries) as it has brought great success to the company.

She further urged ATCL to make sure that they discuss challenges in a broader way and put strong strategies in achieving the resolutions of those challenges.

Jafo commends 55-year-old Norway-Tanzania relations

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Selemani Jafo has met for discussions with Norway's Foreign Minister dealing with international development issues with NORDIC countries, Anne Veathe Tvinnerheim.

During their discussions on Wednesday, Jafo thanked Norway for its cooperation with Tanzania, the cooperation that has contributed to the

development in the health, education and infrastructures sectors, saying the 55-year-old cooperation should continue.

He said environmental protection seen now is a result of efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan who has been at the forefront in making sure the country is safe in regard to challenges posed by environmental degradation.

Jafo said the government of Tanzania expects to work together with Norway

in the sustainable utilisation of ocean resources without endangering the environment.

He added that the task now is to ensure the ocean environment remain safe against challenges posed by plastic waste that endangers marine life.

Jafo said another area for cooperation is to empower the national blue economy committee to enable it perform its task as well as to make sure the planting of mangroves becomes sustainable to reduce the

effects of climate change.

Meanwhile, Norway's Foreign Minister, Anne Veathe Tvinnerheim praised Tanzania government efforts against environmental destruction.

She said that Tanzania has made great strides in the fight against the effects of climate change as it has been able to have in place policies that spur environmental protection.

She also pledged that the Norway government was ready to double its efforts to Tanzania's own endeavours in

regard to environmental protection.

Norway's ambassador to Tanzania, Elisabeth Jacobsen praised Tanzania for its efforts against the effects of climate change that has been threatening food security.

The meeting was also attended by the deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Dr Switbert Mkama, Tanzania's Ambassador to Norway, Grace Olotu and other experts from the ministry.

WANTED



A notorious Shante Abeid Mohamed with passport number A8585608 who has been in hiding since 2014 after surviving an emotional attack from his village Singida, his family in collaboration with the police force continues to search for him, for anyone with information please inform the police, station, closely. Whoever catches him will be rewarded. Police report UBUNG/RB/174/22




REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Ref: MST-TZ-20220901

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage Facilities and Terminal Construction of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform following works to express their interest.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and an onshore Marine Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

Ref: MST-TZ-20220901-01:
Provision of Crude Oil Tank Construction Work for Storage Facilities Project

- Provide erection & installation service for four sets of 100,000 cubic meter floating crude oil tank, including mechanical, piping, electrical, instrument, telecommunication, painting,
- Provide all consumables required by such work.
- Provide human resource, equipment resource and other resources required by such service.
- Testing, pre-commissioning, and all other related activities required for the handover of such service.

Ref: MST-TZ-20220901-02:
Provision of Calibration Service for Storage Facilities Project

- Provide calibration service for four sets of 100,000 cubic meter volume crude oil tank.

Ref: MST-TZ-20220901-03:
Provision of Construction Equipment Rental Service for Terminal Construction Project

- Provide equipment rental service, e.g. truck-mounted crane (capacity up to 250 ton), wheel loader, tractor welding machine, cherry picker, dumping truck, excavator, bulldozer, grader and roller.
- The equipment should be inspected and maintained in good condition, and have obtained all necessary certificates, insurances and permits.
- Provide qualified operator with all necessary licenses and experience.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR EOI SUBMISSION:

- Company profile, registration certificate, business license, sector registration (CRB, ERB, etc.), and any other company qualifications.
- ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO45001:2015), or equivalent certificates.
- Resources availability status of equipment, personnel to perform the service.
- HSE, Social and Quality policy
- Proven track record of experience in providing similar services in last 3 years.
- Maintenance record for the machines is available.

Participant must compliance with **Petroleum (Local Content) Regulations, 2017** and **Local Company** definition for Tanzania. Proof of registration/application to **Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP)** database at the time of submission of the response to this Expression of Interest is **strongly recommended**.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in **English language** by sending the above documents to **pg@docgi.cn** (not exceeding 20 MBs) on or before **17:00 hours** East African Time (EAT), on **26/Sep/2022**. Subject of the email should be **MST-TZ-202XXXXX-XX EOI - [COMPANY NAME]**.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company.

DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.

Note: Only prequalified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.



Tanzania Office
 Barabara ya Toure 400, Jengo la De Ocean Plaza – Msasani Peninsula
 S.L.P 369 • Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
 Simu: +255 22 2923210 • Tovuti: www.rti.org

9 September 2022

Activity Close Out Notification Notice to the Stakeholders, Partners and others who work with RTI International

RTI International has been supporting the Government of Tanzania (GOT) through the Ministry of Health in reducing malaria burden and moving Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar toward malaria elimination through implementation of the USAID funded activity **"USAID Okoa Maisha Dhibiti Malaria (OMDM; Save Lives, End Malaria) Activity"**. The Activity started August 2018 and will come to an end by 31st December 2022.

This is to inform the General Public that, the **Tanzania USAID Okoa Maisha Dhibiti Malaria (OMDM)** Office will officially close on 15th November 2022 and all staff will unfortunately be declared redundant.

Please be assured of management commitment to go through this exercise efficiently with a full appreciation of the difficulties it may cause to those who might be affected. In this regard, please let us know if you have any pending issue with anyone from our organization so that we sort the same on time. This notice will last until 9 October 2022.



Ssanyu Nyinondi
 ACTIVITY CHIEF OF PARTY (COP)

RTI INTERNATIONAL
OMDM PROJECT
 P. O. Box 369
 DAR-ES-SALAAM, TANZANIA

Relief as children with cancer at MNH get support of 100 million/-

By Guardian Reporter

MO Dewji Foundation has provided 100m/- assistance to support the treatment of children suffering from cancer at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH).

The money was handed over yesterday in Dar es Salaam to Tumaini La Maisha (TLM), an organisation that deals with the treatment of children suffering from cancer.

In the handover, Rachel Carp Head of Mo Dewji Foundation noted that since 2013, the Foundation has been collaborating with the Muhimbili National Hospital through TLM, which is the largest pediatric cancer center in East Africa.

Rachel stated that the foundation focuses on education, community development, health, and gender empowerment, believing that the best available health services are human rights, and is committed to improving health services throughout the country.

She noted that they will continue to work with TLM because their programmes are important for the lives of thousands of residents of East Africa.

The Mo Dewji Foundation official stated their programmes provide medical and non-medical services for children, including the purchase of chemotherapy drugs, assistance with school programmes, maintenance of transportation arrangements for patients and their caregivers, assistance with sports therapy programmes for patients, support in life skills training for parents, packages for newly admitted patients and salary support for non-health workers.

She also encouraged all Tanzanians to support TLM efforts and those of other non-governmental organisations that are engaged in empowering many disadvantaged people in the country.

In March this year, Health Minister, Umyy Mwalimu, congratulated the Mo Dewji Institute for giving and

contributing to great things in the health sector.

Marking eight years of Mo Dewji Foundation, Umyy asked the institute to support the government's efforts to deal with the shortage of specialist neurologists, noting that Tanzania has a great shortage in that area.

She said the government recognises the contribution and efforts made by the institution in various sectors including health, praising its commitment when it finds a deficiency.

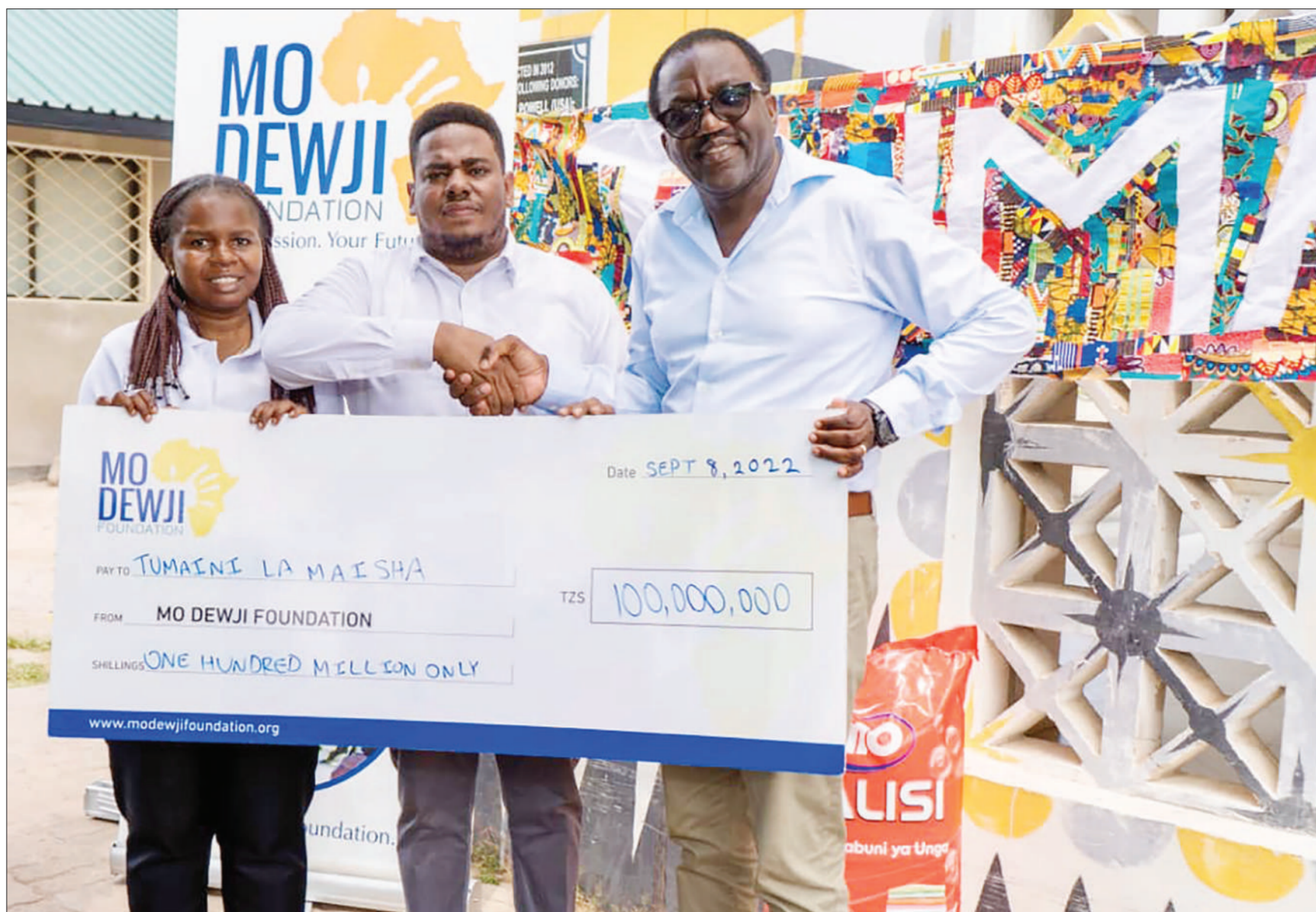
"The Mo Dewji Institute has paid for 100 children with blood cancer through the Mother's Hope Fund, but it has also helped us with medical equipment for sick children."

"Here I should just say to developed countries, premature birth is not a problem. Therefore, the equipment provided by the Mo Dewji Institute has helped us in saving newborns," she said.

Mo Dewji said he founded the foundation in 2015, with a dream to improve the lives of the Tanzanian community.



Here I should just say to developed countries, premature birth is not a problem. Therefore, the equipment provided by the Mo Dewji Institute has helped us in saving newborns



Mo Dewji Foundation representatives Janeth Mashauri (L) and Frank Kinabo present to Taasisi ya Tumaini la Maisha board chairman Dr Gerald Mongella a dummy cheque for 100m/- in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The gesture is meant to support the treatment of young cancer patients at Muhimbili National Hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Legal deficiencies culprit for gender disparity in leadership in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

LEGAL deficiencies are the main cause of gender disparity in decision making levels in Zanzibar, activists have revealed.

The legal shortcomings have been exposed following 41 meetings held in 44 villages, Pemba Island which was organised by community mobilizations in collaboration with civil organisations on the island on participation of women in holding positions of leadership and democracy. Briefing journalists here, the Pemba

Environment, Gender and Advocacy Organisation (PEGAO) Director, Hafidh Abdi said several civil society organizations participated in the analysis of the shortcomings.

Among the civil society organisations that collaborated to analyze the shortcomings were Tumaini Jipya Pemba (TUJIPE), Nihurumie Foundation, KOK Foundation, PRADO, PACSO, Zanzibar Muslim Women Aids Support Organisation, as well as the Zanzibar Legal Services Centre (ZLSC).

He said that so far the positions of women in leadership were little

while the mission is to reach 50/50 for women and men so that equality is achieved.

"In 50 constituencies, there are only eight women (16 percent), the MPs in the United Republic from Zanzibar in the 50 constituencies comprise only four women (8-percent), on the ministers there are only six (33percent) and the permanent secretaries are only seven (39 percent)," he said.

Abdi said that among the laws that were found to have shortcomings was the Election Law no. 4 of 2018 despite the fact that this law governs and

provides good guidance on how to find candidates and leaders of the country.

He said the law was silent in explaining the procedure for finding candidates in the initial stages through their political parties, especially considering that each party has its own procedure of the availability of candidates," he said.

He said: "Due to the shortcomings in this law, it is good that this law establishes an official procedure to force the availability of candidates of each party based on gender equality in every position."

LAAC calls upon municipal councils in Dar to have better parking fee collection system

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

PARLIAMENTARY Local Authorities Accounts Committee (LAAC) has instructed Temeke and Kinondoni municipalities to establish a better system for car parking fees to remove complaints from the public.

Two days ago, Nipashe, our sister paper in Kiswahili published report regarding the complaints from Dar es Salaam region in which residents complained about parking fees charges in periods they did not park their vehicles.

Speaking on Wednesday soon after the committee met with Temeke and Kinondoni Municipal Council officials in regards to 2020/21 CAG audit queries, its chairperson Grace Tendega said the panel advised them to review the issue.

"True, we need funds to run our local councils, but the collection thereof should be friendly to people, hence we need the system that is agreeable to the people," she said.

In regard to CAG audit queries, Tendega said they have discovered that Temeke Municipal Council has a problem in regard to estimates whereby in three years running they have been making underestimates.

"Their revenue collection estimates for 2020/21 was 33bn/- but collected 35bn/-, and even in previous years they estimated to collect 31bn/- but in the end collected 36bn/-; hence, we have instructed them to come up with realistic estimates," she said, adding that in the next financial year the council should make bigger estimates.

She further said the committee has directed that all CAG audit queries for the two municipal councils that have not been finalised to be finalised

including policy queries.

"We would like their six queries to be finalised by June 30, 2023," Tendega said.

In regard to the 10 per cent allocation of the councils' internal funds loaned to vulnerable groups; she said more than 590m/- has not been repaid to Temeke Municipal Council.

"We have called on them to have in place a special strategy to ensure the money is returned to benefit other people," she said.

In regard to Kinondoni Municipal Council, on the issue of 10 per cent loans, it was found out that more than 1.04bn/- is yet to be repaid and LAAC directed the council to make sure the money is repaid as soon as possible.

Tendega also said that Kinondoni Municipal Council collects revenue but some of it is not banked, and added that 334m/- collected was not banked calling for council officials to adhere to strict accounting regulations.

He further said the council's football club - KMC submitted a fake receipt and called for more investigation on the club's activities.



True, we need funds to run our local councils, but the collection thereof should be friendly to people, hence we need the system that is agreeable to the people



At second left (standing) is Karl Egloff, a long-serving Ecuadorian mountain guide who broke the world's Mount Kilimanjaro fastest ascent and descent record in a mind-blowing six hours, 42 minutes and 24 seconds in 2014. Here he poses for a photo earlier this week with other Mount Kilimanjaro trekkers at Horombo Hut on their way to the mountain's highest peak - Uhuru Peak (5,895 metres above sea level). The previous record was held by Spanish mountain runner Kilian Jornet, who in 2010 ran to the top of Uhuru Peak and back down in seven hours, 14 minutes. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

AfDB vows to extend support to Zanzibar's Maritime Institute

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has agreed to support the construction of Zanzibar's Maritime Institute so as to boost blue economy development in the Isles.

Zanzibar's deputy minister for Education and Vocational Training, Ali Gulam Hussein said this here yesterday when speaking at the ongoing session of the House of

Representatives.

He was responding to a question by Kojani MP, Hamad Hassan Chande who wanted to know the government's plans to establish the Maritime Institute so as to enable Zanzibar to achieve its goals in promoting the blue economy.

The deputy minister said Zanzibar has entered into the blue economy whereby the establishment of Maritime Institute was a matter of paramount

importance to facilitate achievement of the goals.

"The African Development Bank has agreed to help the construction of the project through the plan of strengthening production of competent young professionals to work in the blue economy area and thus help push to meet targeted goals," he explained.

He said the project is expected to be implemented from 2023 to 2024

boosting production of employment opportunities in the blue economy sectors.

"I would like to inform the members of the House of Representative that the African Development bank has agreed to construct the Maritime Institute through the improvement of youth's professional plans in employment so as to meet the needs of the blue economy market," he said.



EastAfrica Radio/TV marketing officer Carine Maro (L) and The Work Ltd project manager Ahmed Ally pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday signing a two-year agreement under which the firms will cooperate in the management of various entertainment boards. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Norway pledges further support to TASAF

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

NORWEGIAN government has expressed continued support for social protection in the country through the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), saying the programme is changing the lives of poor Tanzanians.

The statement was made by the country's Minister for International Development, Anne Beathe Tvinnreim during a visit to Chamwino District in Dodoma Region.

She argued that effects of Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine, among other factors, have negatively affected many developing countries, including Tanzania, thus the need to provide support through food security and climate change programmes.

In her trip to Chihembe village to see realities and challenges of the programme, the visiting minister was impressed by how the beneficiaries spend little money they get and participation on public work programmes.

"It is really interesting and pleasing to see such great work at Chaco dam, a reality of how villagers can change their lives," she said, referring to a 9,075

square meters dam that was recently rehabilitated by the beneficiaries through a public work programme.

The minister said everyone deserves a better life, contributing to national development, thus was pleased to see that the support from her country helped in creating opportunities for education and social support to the less privileged.

She added that one of the success stories is that TASAF beneficiaries are given time to assess themselves and continue with the programme or pitch to another form, adding that it is evident that they have reached a better level of economic income address.

"Another proof is the availability of food, where people can afford three meals per day and the extent of health, where people get healthy food are some key great points of the programme," pointed out the minister.

She also cited improvement in the education or school attendance by children of the beneficiaries as another milestone, noting that the capacity to increase pupils' enrolment in schools from 60 to 98 percent was a significant achievement.

Earlier, TASAF Executive Director, Ladislaus Mwamanga maintained that

throughout the years, the PSSN program has contributed to the economic growth of the country in many spheres.

Mwamanga pointed out that the achievement is hinged on the support the programme has been receiving from the government and development partner (DPs) such as the Norwegian government among many others. He said Norway, just like other supporting partners to the programme has so far contributed over 40bn/- to TASAF.

Some 1.35 million households with six million people are registered in the Production Social Safety Net (PSSN) and normally engaged in several projects.

He said the aim of PSSN is to empower poor households to increase income and have access to social services such as food, education and health among others.

Speaking about achievements of the programme in the district, Dodoma Regional Production Social Safety Net Coordinator, Bogit Samhenda said there has been timely cash transfer to beneficiary households all round.

"Through cash benefits parents and guardians are able to provide basic needs like uniforms, books, among others to their children," he said.

By Special Correspondent

A delegation from Tanzania's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism is in Qatar to promote key sectors in the country that would be strategic investment opportunities for Qatar investors.

The delegation is headed by Prof Eliamani Sedoyeka, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, also includes Fatma Khamis, principal secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Heritage Zanzibar; Hafsa Mbamba, executive secretary, Zanzibar Commission for Tourism; Richie Wandwi, director of Tourism, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism; and Felix John Michael, deputy director general, Tanzania Tourist Board.

Sedoyeka said the delegation's visit to Doha aims to ensure a robust relationship between tourism and hospitality-related businesses and companies in Tanzania and Qatar.

"We have seen how Qatar developed, especially in the past 10 years, and that only shows how aggressive the country is in terms of how it wants to strategically position itself, so in the same manner,

Tanzania lures Qatar investors in tourism, hospitality sectors

business people from Qatar can come to Tanzania and invest in our country," Sedoyeka said.

He said: "The main objective is to invite the global business sector and forge partnerships with our tourism operators. One angle we are looking at is to maximise Qatar Airways flights to and from Tanzania to give tourists a good time, while the other is in the physical infrastructure."

"One of our very strategic partners is Qatar Airways, which brings people from all over the world to Tanzania. When they land in Tanzania, it would be beneficial for Qatari companies to tap those numbers; visitors can stay in Qatar-owned hotels in Tanzania, for example, and that would be a win-win situation."

Other investment opportunities in Tanzania is the country's transport sector, as well as for MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions) in Zanzibar, Dar-es-Salaam, and Arusha, where an ecosystem and partnerships between Qatar and Tanzania could be

forged either business-to-business (B2B) or government-to-government (G2G), Sedoyeka said, adding that the frequency and role of Qatar Airways flights will contribute to the success of potential tour packages for visitors.

Khamis also said the delegation's main target is to take advantage of repositioning Tanzania and its destinations, such as Zanzibar during this period when Qatar is hosting the World Cup.

"We understand that the whole world would be here during the tournament, which is why this is the perfect opportunity for us to further promote our country as a destination, as well as for investment opportunities."

She added: "We are hoping that this visit would help increase investor and tourist interest in Tanzania, but at the same time, we are also looking to forge long-lasting relationships with authorities from Qatar Tourism, Airways, Qatar Chamber, and other key players and stakeholders to promote tourism and investments on both sides."



JOB ADVERTISEMENT | GENERAL MANAGER | (1 POSITION)

Mwiba Holdings Limited is a registered Tanzanian Company under Companies Ordinance (Cap. 212) and a leading Hospitality Company with Operations in Arusha, Meatu-Simiyu and Mara Regions. We are currently looking for a General Manager to be part of our team. The position will be based in Meatu Tanzania.

Role's Summary: The General Manager (GM) will oversee the group's lodging and camp operations as well as operational DMC business, striving to consistently improve overall guest experience in line with the company's vision and mission. The GM reports to the Managing Director.

KEY RESULT AREAS / ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Hospitality and Standard Management:**
 - Oversee and improve our company service standards.
 - Ensure team and guest relations throughout the company are maintained with the requisite attention to detail in line with the company's guidelines.
 - Ensure all team members understand, live and work through the company's brand values.
 - Finance and budget management, both from an OpEx and CapEx perspective and achieves required budgeted financial targets.
 - Close working relation with the sales and marketing team, playing a positive role in the marketing of the company's hospitality business, in line with company's marketing strategy.
 - Assists in reviewing the company's products and develops and oversees successful implementation thereof.
 - Ensure all company learning and development plans are reviewed and implemented.
 - Be fully educated on the company's philanthropic, wildlife and conservation work and how to connect these into all areas of operation.
- Operations:**
 - Effective ecological monitoring and management through regular meetings with the respective teams.
 - Motivate, lead, coach and grow operational HOD's and team members.
 - Support quality inspection of the land and ensure departmental work is completed to standard per conservation requirements.
 - Maintain and periodically review company standards with regards to conservation and sustainability.
 - Ensure compliance on corporate social responsibility.
 - Become familiar with all company investment contracts (Mwiba, Mwanqudo Reserve, Makao WMA).
 - Maintain positive relationships with all stakeholders and represent the company when required, in dealing with the NCAA, National Parks, WMA's, and any other stakeholders within our company's sector.
 - Collaborate with the head guide / management to ensure company firearms and ammunition registers are up to date.
- Management, Administration and Financial Reporting:**
 - Responsible for preparing MHL's annual budget together with the finance team.
 - Financial oversight and control with the respective teams from both a revenue generation as well as a cost control perspective.
 - Oversee and organise the procurement of services and goods in line with company procedures.
 - Ensure strategic allocation of the company's capital and effective management of all projects.
 - Become familiar with the local laws and administer all operations in accordance with Country's legal requirements i.e.: good corporate governance.
 - Work closely with the People & Culture Department ensuring all learning and development programs are relevant and in place.
 - Ensure team members are well trained, appraisals effectively conducted and the teams incentivized accordingly.

PROFESSIONAL AND INTERPERSONAL DETAILS

- Education:**
 - 3-year Diploma or Bachelor Degree in hospitality management.
 - Strong financial acumen would be an advantage.
 - A competent level of computer skills are required, the group uses a number of systems, PMS; POS, Xero, DMC, in addition to basic Google Suite.
- Experience and Skills:**
 - Ten (10) years senior management experience in bespoke high end luxury hospitality.
 - Experience in safari operations or remote locations.
 - Proven ability to build and maintain successful partnerships.
 - Excellent leadership abilities and communication skills.
 - A candidate with a strong F&B background would be preferred.
 - Record of assisting with safari logistic operations and camp movements.
- Personal Attributes:**
 - Be humble and kind and through their track record with proven integrity.
 - Have a high EQ to adapt to and understand and respect all different cultures, specifically Tanzanian culture.
 - Effective delegator.
 - Driven and self-motivated.
 - Hands on, lead from the front and mentor the team.
 - Highly adaptable, able to move through all the company's areas of operations which currently include 2 lodges and 3 camps geographically spread out through Tanzania.
 - Adapt, adopt and embed the company culture, vision and mission and then grow along with it and with the team (we are a bespoke brand and different to all high end luxury mainstream competitors).
 - Have analytical abilities to identify key metrics for action.
 - Must have a calm and approachable demeanor, with ability to work under pressure.
 - Creative thinker and effective problem solver.
 - Due to the nature of the business, be able to work flexible hours as well as weekends and public holidays.
 - Be able to work with multiple senior managers, managers from different countries, speaking different languages and different cultures.

Applicants are invited to submit their CV's /Resumes and copy of certificates to P & C Office (for hard copies) or via email to: recruitment@kdtl.co.tz

Mwiba offers equal employment opportunities to qualified men and women and if you are not contacted by the People & Culture Department within thirty (30) days after the closing date, you should consider your application as unsuccessful.

Short listed candidates may be subjected to any of the following; competency assessment; physical capability assessment and reference checking.

Please forward applications before 30th September 2022.

UNAUDITED QUARTERLY RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2022				
CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT				
Introduction				
Dear Shareholders,				
We hereby present the unaudited quarterly results of Tanga Cement Public Limited Company ("Tanga Cement" or the "Company") and its subsidiary together, the "group" for the quarter ended 30 June 2022.				
The new reporting framework is in accordance with the newly established DSE listing rules which were effective from 1st April 2022 requiring all listed companies to start preparing and publishing the quarterly financial results. In the newly established requirements, the company's quarterly financial results for the previous quarter, therefore, you will note from the results we are reporting is for the second quarter of 2022, i.e., April to June 2022 with its comparative period being 1st quarter of 2022, i.e., January to March 2022.				
Due to the seasonality trend of the cement business the second quarter of 2022 showed a promising improvement over the first quarter. Despite various marketing and operational challenges, the group has performed well on its key financial indicators during the second quarter as described in the Financial and Operational Overview section below.				
Most notably, the company continued to experience frequent power outages which negatively impacted production output and equipment reliability.				
We affirm our commitment to stakeholders through our high quality cement and clinker and our contribution towards the sustainable growth and development of Tanzania, a demonstration of our brand - "STRENGTH WITHIN".				
The company has deployed the highest standards of health and safety protocols across all its operations and continues to enforce safety at the workplace to protect our employees and contractors.				
Macro-economic Overview				
The group's financial performance continues to be anchored in the growth in cement demand of the Tanzanian construction industry. The group's gross profit margin increased to 4.8% in the second quarter of 2022, up from 3.9% in the first quarter.				
Economic performance in quarter two has slightly declined with expected GDP growth of 4.7% for the period to June 2022 compared to 5.4% achieved in quarter one (as per National Bureau of Statistics). Despite a decline in the GDP, the primary drivers of economic performance remained the robust industrial sector investment and a strengthening of consumer goods. Government's policies to support infrastructure investment remain a key driver of growth.				
The Group remains optimistic of the positive impact of the ongoing infrastructure development projects under the Government's Development Vision 2025 programme, and expects the projects to continue gaining momentum throughout the remainder of 2022. Tanga Cement has the capacity to meet a material share of the cement demand in the country and to boost local cement output and consumption while curbing the influx of cheap imported cement.				
Government initiatives to spur economic growth through infrastructure development and promotion of local industries is expected to boost local cement output and consumption while curbing the influx of cheap imported cement.				
Dividend				
The company did not declare interim dividends to shareholders in 2022 to remain prudent with available cash resources in order to remain sustainable through the global economic recovery post Covid-19 and the unstable fuel prices currently affecting the local economy. The Board has decided to continue conserving available current cash generated to the operational commitments. The Board will evaluate the financial performance throughout the remainder of 2022 financial year considering the final dividend declaration.				
Proposed acquisition by Scameem International DA				
Shareholders are referred to the announcement regarding the proposed acquisition of 68.33% of the shares in Tanga Cement PLC from AlJem Investment Holdings Limited on 27 October 2021 and the recent update issued on 5 July 2022 and 2 September 2022.				
Conclusion				
Tanga Cement remains grateful to its staff for their passion and dedication to the company, and to its customers for their belief in the Simba Cement brand, as the company works to achieve its short- and long-term growth strategy.				
With Tanzania remaining a significant player in the East African construction market, cement output is anticipated to increase and Tanga Cement is well positioned to take advantage of the growth opportunities in the regional market.				
For and on behalf of the Board				
Chairman of the Board				
Consolidated and separate statements of cash flow FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2022	Group T25'000	Group T25'000	Company T25'000	Company T25'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash generated from operating activities	1,667,665	(3,653,573)	949,747	(3,526,094)
Interest income received	96	47	96	47
Income taxes paid	(100,100)	(195,068)	(300,100)	(195,068)
Net cash flows from/ (used in) operating activities	1,567,665	(3,488,294)	649,747	(3,721,115)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(2,440,684)	(2,005,276)	(2,440,684)	(2,005,276)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(2,440,684)	(2,005,276)	(2,440,684)	(2,005,276)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Principal repayments - lease liabilities	(318,066)	(223,579)	(318,066)	(223,579)
Lease liability interest paid	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
Interest paid - overdrafts	(814,212)	(420,706)	(814,212)	(420,706)
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(1,132,282)	(644,289)	(1,132,282)	(644,289)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(2,005,311)	(1,468,155)	(923,229)	(6,370,676)
Net foreign exchange differences	28,781	199,792	28,781	39,141
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	(6,710,870)	(6,710,870)	(6,775,873)	(6,775,873)
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	(6,682,089)	(13,009,233)	(9,702,321)	(13,107,408)
Information to Members				
The company secretary would like to inform the members that dividends can be directly transferred to their bank.				
Members can contact the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange on +255 (0)22 2123983 or on +255 (0)22 212822 for information on how to have the dividends deposited directly into their bank.				
L Masha Chairman 9 September 2022				
R Swart Managing Director				
Q Ganjico Company Secretary				
Tanga Cement Public Limited Company P.O. Box 5053 Tanga Tanzania info@simbacement.co.tz				

EAC mission to DRC kicks off

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) has kicked off its maiden mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with an aim to enhance understanding of the community's newest member officials on the integration pillars and various governing instruments.

The inaugural meeting between the mission and the DRC team was officially opened to Kinshasa on Wednesday by DRC's Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Christophe Lutundula Apala Pen' Apala.

Pen' Apala revealed that DRC has started planning on redirecting its policies and resources with a view to creating conditions favourable for the development and achievement of the objectives of the community.

"As a member of the EAC, DRC will enact legislation to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the treaty establishing the East African Community," he said.

The Vice Prime Minister said that DRC is committed to creating a conducive business environment through enacting laws and developing policies and programmes to facilitate intra-regional trade. "We are also looking forward to having our representatives join EAC organs and institutions to strengthen our presence in the community," he noted.

Pen' Apala further assured the EAC that DRC is ready to remit its first contribution as a member of the community, to ensure smooth operations of the community.

Prof Serge Tshibangu Nzenza, Special Representative of the President of DRC on EAC, lauded EAC for fast-tracking the process of admission into the EAC and reiterated his country's commitment to easing free movement of persons, labour and services in the region.

The forum attended by about 100 DRC government officials, provided the EAC with an opportunity to enhance understanding of the officials on the integration pillars and various EAC governing instruments such as EAC protocols, laws, regulations, policies and strategies to ensure the smooth entry of the DRC in the community.

In his remarks, EAC Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki said that with the accession of the DRC into the community and subsequently the deposit of the instrument of ratification, DRC was now at liberty to participate in all EAC programmes and activities.

Dr Mathuki informed the DRC officials on the current open employment opportunities available in the EAC organs and institutions and briefed them on the representatives required in the East African Legislative Assembly and at the East African Court of Justice.

"Our mission to DRC is set to create a platform for the EAC management to dialogue with DRC top-ranking officials on the EAC integration pillars and various EAC governing instruments such as EAC protocols, laws, regulations, policies and strategies for purposes of

ensuring smooth transition for the DRC in the community," he noted.

The Secretary General said that DRC's entry into the bloc provides EAC Partner States with access to an additional market of approximately 81 million people providing a large market for trade.

The total EAC imports from DRC in 2020 amounted to \$49.2 million and the EAC exports to DRC were \$584 million in the same period, with the figure expected to increase. The major EAC imports from DRC include: wood, plants, seeds, fruits, re-melting scraps of iron or steel, and natural sands while the exports to DRC include: lime and cement, iron and steel, tobacco, beverages, spirits and vinegar, animal or vegetable fats and oils, fish, wheat gluten, sugar & confectionaries, plastics, and soap among other products.

On peace and security in the DRC, Amb Macharia Kamau, the Special Envoy of the Kenyan President to the Nairobi Peace Process, pointed out that the security situation in the Eastern DRC continues to be of great concern.

"As we welcome the Eastern Africa Regional Force to Eastern DRC, we must do so with the recognition that the threat posed by armed groups still remains and one that requires closer cooperation and collaboration with our regional and international partners to counter and eradicate," said Amb Kamau.

Amb Kamau said that concerted support to the EAC-led Nairobi process will accelerate actions aimed at reaching the set goals of both the political and military tracks of the process and at the earliest opportunity.

"There is a need for each and every one to redouble their efforts to pursue dialogue, de-escalation and the use of effective national, regional and international mechanisms to resolve disputes," said the envoy.

The envoy further stated that Kenya's incoming government was committed to strengthening the peace initiative and called on EAC partner states to remain committed to the agreed decisions, utilize approved frameworks and positively engage to address issues and concerns for the benefit of the region.

Further, with the Republic of Burundi currently serving as Chair of the EAC, the Ambassador of Burundi in the EAC, Agricole Mwamba Ntirampaba, commended DRC for its warm hospitality to the EAC delegation and organising the important forum.

The envoy highlighted the importance of better connectivity such as infrastructure, telephone networks and liberalization of air services as some of the issues that need to be resolved to create a conducive business environment that can attract more investors as well as tourists.

The regional private sector led by the East African Business Council (EABC) is also expected to hold meetings with DRC entrepreneurs to explore and develop trade and investment relations.



China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian (L), pictured in Dar es Salaam presenting cash and a souvenir to Raymond David Damas, a Feza International School Grade 8 student who won the first prize in the 'Call for Questions to China's Shenzhou-14 Taikonauts' activity held in the city late last week. Photo: Chinese Embassy

Be more environmentally conscious when disposing e-waste, says TCRA

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has expressed commitment to strengthen control of electronic waste so as to protect the environment, particularly when electronic equipment reaches the end of their service life.

The major objective, according to the country's communications regulator, is to ensure that risks associated with improper disposal of electronic devices are adequately mitigated.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, Eng Saddath Kalolo, TCRA Manager of Management of Communication and Internet of TCRA, insisted that the authority has obligations to coordinate management of electronic equipment when it has reached the end of its useful life, as specified in the Electronic Communications and Postal Act (EPOCA) of 2010 through

improvements made in 2019.

"To ensure that this obligation is met, we collaborate with a number of entities and stakeholders who are concerned with preserving the environment, including the Office of the Vice President- Environment Division, the Ministry of Information, Communication, and Information Technology, the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), the ICT Commission, and private sector entities responsible for collecting electronic waste, to name a few," he said.

The Electronic and Postal Communications (Electronic Communications Equipment Standards and E-Waste Management) 2020 regulations require the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) to play a coordination role in the management of electronic waste. This is because the amount of electronic trash produced by increased

use of communication devices like laptops, iPads, smartphones, and related communication equipment is growing along with new information and communication technology.

According to studies, most users in the industrialised world like to keep up with current technology, so they discard their outdated devices and ship them to less developed countries where they are utilised as second-hand electronics, contributing to the rapid accumulation of e-waste.

The 2017 United Nations report showed that electronic waste is increasing rapidly, especially in developing nations.

The Electronic and Postal Communications (Electronic Communications Equipment Standards and E-Waste Management) 2020 regulations have directed the responsibilities of various stakeholders including those importing electronic equipment into the country as well as

establishing a procedure for collecting electronic waste to enable careful management of waste of electronic information. TCRA has worked hard to manage the implementation of this regulatory responsibility," Kalolo emphasized.

He added: "It will be remembered that environmental pollution from the inconsiderate disposal of electronic waste has led the United Nations to emphasize the control of the disposal of such waste and thus TCRA carries out the responsibility of controlling electronic waste in accordance with the guidelines of the United Nations through the International Organization for Communications-ITU."

TCRA is calling on various stakeholders of the environment and citizens in general to achieve environmental protection resulting from the correct disposal of electronic waste."

Dar, Dodoma leading for selling 'unchecked raw milk' to clients

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

DAR ES SALAAM and Dodoma have been named the leading regions in selling of unchecked milk through the informal sector, a situation which places the consumers in possible risk to contact several diseases.

According to the set health regulations, all milk being produced by the dairy farmers within the country are supposed to be marketed at the authorized milk collection centres, or registered processing plants before reaching the public.

In an interview with this paper, Dr George Msalya, Registrar of the Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) said majority of dairy farmers within the two regions, and the country at large are currently selling milk straight to the public, which is unpermitted.

"Bad enough, some of unfaithful farmers are sometimes selling milk from cows that are in doses, the unprofessional tendency which compels consumers to drink products with high chemical residues," he said.

Dr Msalya observed that the 'unwanted' milk channeling was among the factors behind continued prevalence of antimicrobial resistance among the public.

He said in efforts to contain the challenge, TDB in cooperation was running a special move aimed to help create awareness towards the dairy

farmers from across the country, and unveiled that the campaign was now a major effort in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma regions.

"We are sensitizing and educating dairy farmers about the need to start marketing their milk at official centers in order to minimize, or completely do away from the multiple health challenges that continue to crop up due to irregularities in selling their raw milk," he observed.

The on-going campaign, according to him, meant also to educate milk consumers from across the country over the negative health sides of buying and drinking milk straight from the farmers.

"The government has set punitive measures against dairy farmers, or milk selling points that will be spotted as selling 'uncertified' raw milks, which among others, include fines and imprisonments," he disclosed.

But he said, since their prime target was to monitor and promote for the smooth and equity development of the vital sector, the state-owned board was first preferring to educate the key stakeholders, rather than meting out the set punitive measures.

He said that demand for milk in the country currently stands at 12 billion litres in a year but what is being produced is only 3.4 billion liters, which means there is a deficit of at least 9 billion liters.



Water minister Jumaa Aweso cuts the ribbon in Tanga city yesterday to launch newly acquired equipment meant for use by the Tanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Dar RC lauds Samia for improving health sector

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Commissioner Amos Makalla has praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the big improvements in the health sector, in particular for the construction of 10 health centres in the region costing 5bn/., the money accrued from fees charged on mobile

money transactions.

Makalla made the remarks during the event to commemorate World Physiotherapy Day held at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), saying the health centres helped in solving challenges facing the people from having to walk long distances for medical treatment.

In regard to physiotherapy treatment,

Makalla mobilised for its education in offices including weightlifting to avert back and neck pains that prevent some workers attending work in offices.

He also called on MNH, through its Physiotherapy Department, to conduct research for actual statistics for Dar es Salaam residents with these body challenges and how to deal with them.

He also called on members of the

community to abandon the habit of hiding children with stunting problems; instead they should take them to the hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, MNH managing director, Prof Lawrence Museru said the hospital has been receiving 150 to 200 patients per day including children with stunting problems and other people with back, neck and knees pains.

New report calls for urgent action to cushion Africa's food systems

By Songwa wa Songwa, Kigali

THE 2022 Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR22) was launched here on Tuesday with a call for governments to lead and coordinate domestic and external efforts to urgently and holistically tackle food insecurity in the continent.

The report launched on the first day of African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2022, is an annual publication by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and focuses on emerging issues in Africa. Last year, the 2021 AASR report focused on the resilience of Africa's food systems, and why ensuring this resilience is critical.

The 2022 report is themed 'Accelerating African Food Systems Transformation' and emphasises the urgent need for inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient growth in the agricultural sector, while acknowledging intensification of major drivers of recent food insecurity trends in Africa. It recognises the need to accelerate action.

Fundamentally, the 2022 report calls for good leadership and coordination, a need to build capacity and capabilities to address food systems, but most importantly the mobilisation of financing from both the public and private sector. The publication focuses on practical pathways to meet these ends.

The report highlights six megatrends shaping the development of agrifood systems in Africa that warrant greater attention by stakeholders. It examines the role of leadership in harnessing collective effort, shared responsibility, greater stakeholder engagement, as well as rallying political will, to achieve food systems transformation in Africa. Further, it presents the investment gap required to trigger and/or sustain Africa's agro-food transformation reflecting on the requisite human, institutional and systemic capacities and capabilities that are required to achieve agro-food system transformation at scale. And, it recommends priorities for African national governments, development partners and the private sector.

The report states: "Accelerating agro-food transformation in a sustainable and inclusive way is an extremely complex task. It requires an integrated approach, which draws heavily on the cooperation of system actors, with African governments driving the process that facilitates the required change," adding that addressing the vulnerability of Africa's food systems requires political will and leadership.

AGRA's President, Dr Agnes Kalibata noted that a combination of the after-effects of the pandemic and the Ukraine conflict have led to elevation of food prices thus exacerbating food insecurity in the continent.

"The AASR22 reflects on key action areas required to tackle the most urgent and important areas in response to these challenges. There is an urgent need to repurpose food policies to address the emerging challenges affecting conditions, outcomes and behaviour of our food systems, without compromising the economic, social and environmental fundamentals," Dr Kalibata added.

The AASR22 challenges African governments to assume a leadership role in food system transformation as a national security, poverty alleviation and rural development agenda that cuts across various institutions, while reducing reliance on donors who have been directing flows of international assistance. It calls for locally led integrated action that brings together key sectors of the economy that are central to food systems,

including health, environment, agriculture and education, and is aligned to national needs and priorities.

"The journey toward food and nutritional security for Africa has a clear destination: zero hunger. Thanks to many strategy documents, we have reasonable consensus on the roadmap - sustainable intensification and a food systems approach. This report focuses on how we get there faster while adapting to the ever-changing terrain. Time is of the essence," Dr Ed Mabaya, Research Professor at Cornell University and one of the authors of the AASR report.

According to the report, it estimates that Africa's investment needs to trigger and sustain agro-food transformation range from US\$40 billion and USD77 billion every year from the public sector, and up to USD180 billion in private sector funding.

"With the private sector expected to play a critical role in filling the financing gap, public sector funding is expected to play the role of de-risking and incentivising private sector capital into agriculture," the AASR22 states, calling for an enabling environment through investment in public infrastructure and policy and innovative financing mechanisms that are continuously recalibrated to meet evolving financial needs and circumstances.

This includes blended finance, supply chain financing through digital solutions, partial credit guarantees, risk sharing facilities, fintech and crop receipts, among others. It notes that African countries, which currently receive less than half the resources needed to implement the continent's climate action commitments and nationally determined commitments, need to avail climate financing to smallholder farmers and other food value chain actors.

This report follows the pledges that were made at the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021, setting a scene for a deeper introspection on the policy implications for sub-Saharan African countries.

The AASR22 was launched at the 12th edition of the AGRF Summit, an annual gathering that brings together heads of state and government, agriculture ministers, members of the civil society, private sector leaders, scientists and farmers in discussions that define the future of Africa's food systems.

Under the theme, 'Grow, Nourish, Reward - Bold Actions for Resilient Food Systems', this year's AGRF Summit is seeking to find catalytic solutions to grow the coordinated and large-scale action by stakeholders across multiple sectors, nourish innovations and cultivate country solutions that will translate the commitments made into actionable strategies and progress on the ground, and reward and recognize champions and celebrate country pathways



With the private sector expected to play a critical role in filling the financing gap, public sector funding is expected to play the role of de-risking and incentivising private sector capital into agriculture

Govt set to build factory for aflasafe production

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE government is set to construct a modern factory for the production of aflasafe in Dodoma region, being in concerted efforts to minimize effects of aflatoxins from across the country.

The useful strategy was unveiled here recently by the Dodoma Regional Commissioner (RC) Rosemary Senyamule when itemizing a chain of strategies inline to be implemented by the government to increase performance of the agriculture sectors (crop production sector) within the region, and the country at large.

Aflasafe is a biological control product (toxigenic fungus) that can be applied to maize or groundnut fields to reduce aflatoxin contamination.

In her public briefing, RC Senyamule said the sixth phase government was very determined to heighten the agricultural production chain in Dodoma region, the semi-arid climatic region which has for years seen lackluster production in the vital economic sector.

"Installation of the factory for the production of aflasafe will play a major role to help counter effects of aflatoxins to agricultural produce within our region, especially maize and groundnuts, apart from in other parts of the country," she observed.

Tanzania is a leading producer of maize and groundnuts in East African regions, accounting

for two per cent of the world production, but the county's export rate of the two crops remain poor due to effects of aflatoxins.

The crops are highly susceptible to fungal infestation and aflatoxin contamination which affects the health of consumers.

Moreover, in more efforts to act against effects of aflatoxins to crops, the Tanzania Initiatives for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) is constructing the Central Agricultural Reference Laboratory in Dodoma.

The 12bn/- worth lab, to be constructed in the Ihumwa area at the fringe of the Dodoma Capital City will comprise 12 different laboratories.

The major laboratories will be majoring for professional undertaking of soil testing, analysis of varied agricultural inputs, pesticides, crop's diseases, DNA profiling, seed quality, molecular, mycotoxin and many other agro- production processes and stages with an eye to curb any possibility of contamination of aflatoxins in the country's agricultural production.

To fight against fungal infestation and aflatoxin contamination, the Ministry of Agriculture has so far penned down three deals and two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with different companies for the execution of the Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) project, worth US Dollars 35.3 million (81bn/-).



Namnyaki Abraham (L), head of Mbeya Regional Referral Hospital's Physiotherapy Department, pictured yesterday explaining to patients and officials at the facility how people with spinal cord problems and children with ankle and other physical disabilities are attended to, inclusive of the equipment used. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Tanzania to launch report on wildlife corridor status

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Dodoma

TANZANIA has completed a research study on the country's Wildlife Corridors and the report to this effect gets launched on the 17th of September 2022.

Director of Wildlife in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Maurus Msuha said the Special Report on Wildlife Corridors, buffer zones and animals' dispersal areas, will be launched in Dodoma by the docket minister, Pindi Chana.

Speaking at his office in Dodoma, Dr Msuha pointed out that Tanzania is undertaking the tasks of identification of all wildlife corridors with the aim of protecting such animal passage routes through participatory approach.

"As the population increases, conservation of natural resources, including corridors becomes more challenging due to the expansion of human settlements and activities," revealed the director of wildlife.

According to the official, while in the past it was easy to demarcate land for conservation as much of the country was yet to be occupied; today the process needs to involve villagers because already people occupy large areas.

Speaking to environment journalists who visited his office in Dodoma, Dr Msuha pointed out that many wildlife corridors have

been blocked through increasing human activities and the state was working to see ways of unblocking the vital passages.

"Take the case of Tarangire for instance, there used to be 9 corridors linking the National Park to Lake Manyara, but so far there are only three passages left, six corridors have been invaded and blocked," he said.

Corridors are passageways through which wildlife move between one park or reserve to another, for grazing, calving and watering.

"Through the corridors wildlife travels from park to park, and even country to country, following migration routes, while in a park, wild animals are protected, enjoying sufficient resources, once they travel outside of the boundaries, they become vulnerable," said Dr Msuha.

Experts say once wildlife corridors are lost they can never be fully restored.

An excerpt from the forthcoming report reveals that almost all documented corridors in the country are either in a critical condition, or have already been destroyed.

Observers on the other hand blame the habitat loss to rapid agricultural expansion, unplanned land use, irresponsible natural resources extraction, increased bush meat trade and road construction activities.

Previously, the Director of Research,

Land Use Compliance and Information, in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Dr Joseph Paul, told journalists that at the moment the rate of human-wildlife conflicts is high.

"That is because people have encroached wildlife corridors and parts of the reserves," he said.

According to Dr Paul, wild animals that get displaced from their natural habitat also move to other places where again they cause conflicts.

He was responding to questions from scribes from the Environment Journalists of Tanzania (JET) who are making follow-ups on visits from various wildlife corridors across the country.

"And we have discovered that most villagers never report cases of such human-wildlife conflicts, fearing that their villages could be divided or their titles revoked," pointed out the official.

Tanzania has set aside over 270,000 square kilometers of land for wildlife conservation and this is equivalent to nearly 30 percent of the country's total area.

The country has 22 national parks, 28 game reserves and 46 game controlled areas and one conservation area in addition to a number of forest reserve entities.



Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Mary Masanja (L) inspects the reference library at the Likuyu Sekamaganga Community Based Conservation Training Centre after launching it during a tour of Namumbo District, Ruvuma Region, yesterday. Right is the centre's principal Jane John. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

International Literacy Day evokes key post-independence campaigns

UNIVERSAL literacy was among the key themes of government efforts in our country to ensure broad-based development, including eliminating deep divisions in the newly independent country.

Founder president Mwalimu Julius Nyerere guarded against the rise of a country with clear class distinctions that often take tribal or religious lines, where the dividing line was less associated with incomes than with literacy as well as access to health services.

This was the hallmark of the post-independence government while other measures were taken largely to enable the government to speed up action on these concerns.

A United Nations chronicle says that since 1967, International Literacy Day (ILD) events have taken place each year around the world, the purpose being to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity.

These days there is an additional human rights refrain as attached to literacy, but in the 1960s it was the aspect about dignity and equality that pushed the nation's thinking.

Avoiding open privileges and sentiments of clear inequalities across the country was a major factor in ensuring political harmony, not just the fact of having a unifying language spoken by most people, as is often suggested.

The chronicle says that ILD is meant to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society.

It is unfortunate that, despite the progress made, literacy challenges persist to this day with at least 771 million young people and adults around the world lacking basic literacy skills.

It must however be said that measurements of what literacy means vary, with the focus being less on basic literacy than skills tied to the ability to read and write.

It is that level that the UN chronicle takes various tonalities as to what has

actually been achieved in the global literacy campaign.

There is even a lingering effect where progress in literacy across the world was hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic, as some countries closed schools for anything between one or two years.

Where education involves direct school fees or tangible purchases often running into substantial amounts for a poor family, the loss of family members eliminated the chance of education, at basic or upper levels, for many.

The literacy campaign is definitely not just about reading, writing and arithmetic but learning in a sustainable way, passing skills from one generation to the next.

ILD last year explored how literacy can contribute to the building of a solid foundation for a human-centred recovery from the global effects of Covid-19.

It focused on the interplay of literacy between digital skills required by non-literate youths and adults, trying to map out technology-enabled literacy learning more inclusive at the community level, attached to daily needs.

This aspect is regularly noticed in developing what are now called 'apps', where a mobile phone networking tool solves an extended problem for a portion of society.

UNESCO stakeholders who organise literacy activities worldwide say there have been many policies made designed - and expected - to strengthen local community learning centres, with UNESCO itself determined to make sure that, in time, even localities with the least resources have helpful learning centres.

This is another area where policy veterans here ought to look back with satisfaction seeing how community learning centres evolved into folk development colleges and now there are vocational skills centres being built all over the country. It is work in progress, but we are proudly in tandem with global efforts - and justifiably so.

Harmony in EAC industrial standards would boost trade

PRIVATE sector analysts in the East African Community (EAC) zone are appealing to member states of the regional economic bloc to fast-track the harmonisation of manufacturing standards to boost intra-EAC trade and investments.

But there has been a problem relating to how far the matter has come up in the trading context as a whole, for what is at issue appears to be something for consideration by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).

That would be a preliminary step towards making the matter a substantive policy issue for scrutiny as to whether an adopted bill at EALA would then be formally ratified.

There was all the same plenty of ground for top officials of the East African Business Council (EABC) to issue an appeal to the EAC partner states to fast-track the adoption of a Standardisation, Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SACA) Bill.

How soon it becomes law in the EAC zone once adopted is evidently not automatic, and hence the EABC leaders' appeal. They have good points and some limitations, as reciprocity is necessary in trade deals, and therefore multilateral or regional trade instruments must always be subjected to local law amplification and negotiations.

Still, the emphasis on having a trade facilitation instrument (standards) within the EAC region is only part of the issue, as an Africa-wide instrument of trade has also been ratified. In the circumstances, the effort at harmonisation has to seek peer reviews from other regional entities.

Right here we have three such entities, namely, SADC for the southern Africa zone, COMESA for the eastern and southern Africa sphere, and the AfCFTA (the continental pact) for the

rest of Africa. In that case, the effort at harmonisation is a gradual process calling for fast-tracking for trade facilitation to be eased.

Standards are often less of the issue than rules of origin, while specific policy prerogatives can also interfere with standards - for instance, the rule on the use of plastic bags.

There is evidently no harmonisation in that area as there is no global ban on plastics per se, but largely on single-use carrier bags - usually black or blue and with a handle - as they used to be thrown about aimlessly. The wrappers now in use are more susceptible to depositing in waste piles rather than being thrown around. Thus, there is a change, in which case our current regulations would appear too stringent.

EABC says that trade data show that harmonisation of standards increases intra-trade by up to 10 per cent, reduces inspection and clearance costs at border posts by up to 25 per cent, and clearance days are drastically pruned.

The trouble is how to find the 'least common denominator' for regional standards since some countries will seek a 'highest common multiple'. This could be in the form of setting a standard for harmonised environment friendly bags while critics might seek standards applicable to the World Trade Organisation, arguing that global trade law isn't tough enough on the item.

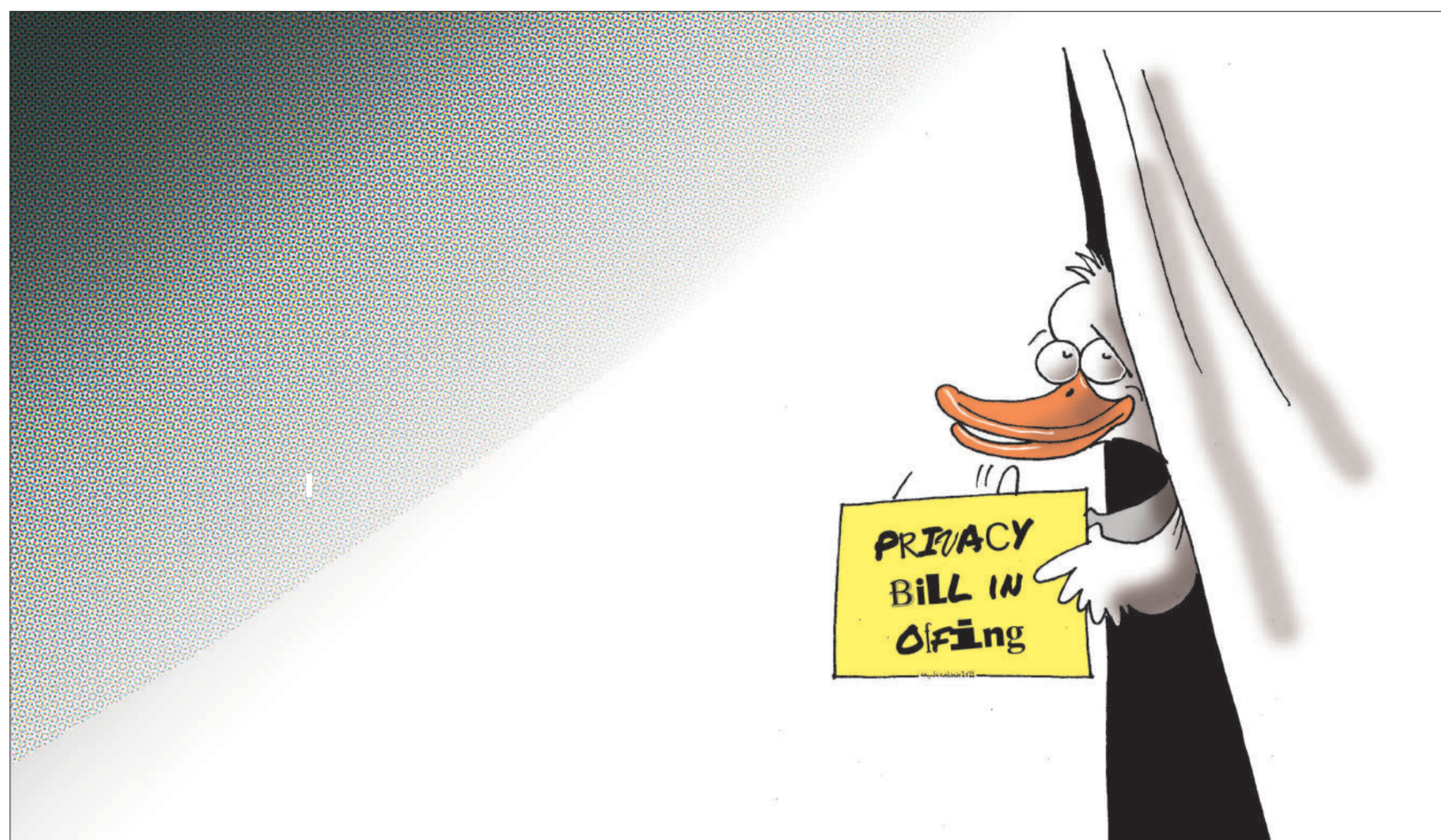
So, as it appears, harmonisation of standards can help soften trade law at the local level where a semblance of puritanical standards is adopted for items of minor environmental concern - that is, compared to the original issue.

Standardisation can be very rewarding by helping us to free ourselves from excessive stringency when we can't find the will to do that by ourselves - thus creating an additional stakeholder sphere.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

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

Advertising
Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



By Kamala Dickson

THE journey by women in the pursuit of power through leadership and political participation anywhere has never been easy.

It is sometimes through a very narrow path that one attains and maintains a leadership position. Even for Tanzania, which now boasts a woman as Head of State, there is still slow movement towards increasing the level of women's participation in democratic processes.

From a historical point of view, the trends have not improved significantly enough over the years. For example, from 1961 to 1965 only 7.5 per cent of Members of Parliament were women.

Sadly, this dropped to 3.5 per cent during the 1970 to 1975 parliamentary elections. This forced the ruling party, CCM, to introduce affirmative action to provide a quota of seats for women through their respective political parties.

In the 1985 and 1990 general elections, the percentage of women MPs having contested constituency seats was a paltry 2 per cent, rising to 2.9 per cent in 1995 and to 4 per cent five years later.

The 2005 Parliament had only 97 women legislators out of a total of 324, with only 17 having successfully contested constituency seats - an increase from 12 in 2000 and eight in 1995. In 2010, there were 125 women MPs out of a total of 339 - with only 20 representing constituencies.

During the 2019 local government elections and the 2020 General Election, meanwhile, women MPs accounted for 37 per cent of all members in the National Assembly.

This was despite the fact that - speaking of women candidates - only a tiny minority (less than 10 per cent) won constituency seats, only 5 per

Women in leadership: Reflections on headway made, nagging pains

cent of councillors sailed through, only 5 per cent of village leaders made it, and only 15 per cent of locality leaders triumphed. The rest of women in all those positions or categories came through special seats.

Globally, by August 2018, only 11 women were serving as heads of state and 13 as heads of government.

By January 2015, only 17 per cent of government ministers were women, most overseeing social portfolios or sectors.

In 37 states, women accounted for fewer than 10 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower houses, and in six chambers there were no women at all. According to UN Women, these statistics are both worrying and impossible to justify.

During Tanzania's 2015 General Election, only 238 women (equivalent to 19 per cent of the total) out of 1,250 candidates won parliamentary seats. This is according to the National Electoral Commission.

The number of women to have won the seats fell sharply in the subsequent (2020) General Election to a lowly 7 per cent. Similarly, the number of women councillors who won seats was a mere 6 per cent.

Additionally, for candidates in the 2019 local government elections, less than 20 per cent of the seats were won by women.

Women still face challenges in accessing leadership position and decision-making roles across Tanzania. Some of these challenges relate to existing legal and policy frameworks, level of seriousness of initiatives and political will to build the capacity of sitting and aspiring women leaders,

and institutional support that would create an enabling environment for women to take up those roles.

There are also social cultural and attitudinal barriers reinforcing perceptions to the effect that men almost by definition make better leaders than women.

The perception is confirmed by results of the survey conducted globally from 2017 to 2020 which found out that up to 36 per cent of people contacted were of the view that men to make better politicians than women.

There are also several determinants of the gender gap in leadership, including a low level of education among women, patriarchal political norms and values reinforced by high levels of poverty as well as the dual burden of triple roles women carry.

Moreover, women are perceived as naturally lacking public speaking skills and competitiveness. All these factors make women less likely than men to aspire for leadership.

The political practices, norms and values governing electoral processes have the potential to enable women to take part in politics or to restrain them. Most gender norms are learned at home, as they are transmitted from parents to their children.

The factors that constitute culture are learned through socialisation that begins at home and is thereafter gradually extended to communities and translated into political norms and practices.

Despite the challenges associated with women's participating in democratic processes and leadership in Tanzania, various efforts are made

in the spirit of expanding democratic space, promoting inclusive governance and equal participation of women in Tanzania.

The aim is chiefly to ensure that women, including young ones, actively participate in leadership and decision-making roles so that they too influence the march towards gender equality and women's advancement of the their own agenda within the political parties and beyond.

Despite the challenges women face in seeking to participate in leadership, there has admittedly been positive change.

This has in part in the form reorganising the contribution of women in leadership positions and there is demonstrable evidence that, despite the truly determined ones being not being that many, women can be reliable frontiers in political changes and leadership delivery in Tanzania in presenting the public agenda for development.

Women's commitment to leadership drives the call for legal and policy changes that commonly hinder women from fully participating in political and leadership processes.

Also stressed is the need for political and other infrastructure and conditions able to facilitate and expedite women's participation in national development, particularly in political and other leadership positions.

Kamala Dickson emailed this piece to The Guardian while serving as Head of the SADC Youth Parliament and attending the recent Africa Debt and Development Conference held in Malawi.

By Guardian Correspondent

THERE is a global movement known as Peacefulness, which is now in its third year running.

Notably, it continues to draw together individuals from over 113 countries to create a community effervescent with potential, celebrating unity in diversity, and championing collaboration across borders.

This is in consonance with the very spirit of the UN-sanctioned International Day of Peace (September 21), officially known as World Peace Day and this year running under the theme: "End racism. Build peace."

As is well known, the UN General Assembly has long declared this as a day whose commemoration would be devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

This connects well with efforts

World Peace Day chiefly meant to see peace activated, hearts come together

by the United Nations in working towards a world free of racism and racial discrimination, a world where compassion and empathy overcome suspicion and hatred.

This time around, the initiative towards a peaceful planet is being launched by Heartfulness, a global non-profit organisation that offers free tools and techniques for a happier and more fulfilling life.

Peacefulness began in 2020 as "Connecting for Peace", and over the past two years the initiative has collaborated with 53 key partners around the world. Last year, the event was translated into 28 languages and more than 30 teams promoted peace through local programmes and

events.

To live in peace is a daily challenge at all levels, whether it is at a personal level with our families, neighbours or colleagues, or whether it is collectively in society or between nations.

Peace is a real need in all aspects of our daily lives and includes a need for hope and solidarity, a need for transformation and authenticity, and a need for optimism.

Peacefulness enables everyone to activate change, with a vision to enabling everyone to enjoy, share, and experience peace through education, ecology, health, wellness at work, the arts, sports, etc.

This year's Heartfulness event centres on the theme: "The power

of thought to bring about individual and collective change." The ten-day ten-step social media countdown will build the momentum and awareness leading up to the climax of the big day - September 21.

These ten steps will inform, educate and entertain on the topic of peace, while creating a daily call to action to engage the community.

On September 21, UN International Day of Peace, activities will include a number of online experiences. These will involve peace ambassadors from around the globe, a live programme, a playbook guide for schools and colleges, as well as links to local events happening in various corners of the world.

Zambian parliamentarians tackle population issues to improve quality of life for citizens

Johannesburg

Parliamentarians play a decisive role in addressing population issues, as was demonstrated when the majority voted against a private member motion to end the teaching of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in Zambia in 2020.

However, a Zambia All Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (ZAPPD) workshop held in Lusaka also heard that many challenges need addressing. The Zambia All Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (ZAPPD) was founded in 1997 to provide capacity on population and development and to strengthen parliamentarians' commitments. It is one of the first National Committees on population and development, established in the East and Southern African region.

The seminar, supported by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was attended by several expert researchers who unpacked the outlook for the developing nation.

Lester Phiri from the Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia (PPAZ) noted that much work was needed for the country to achieve its Vision 2030 goal of becoming a prosperous middle-income country.

Delegates at a ZAPPD workshop heard that significantly high poverty levels, particularly in Zambian rural areas where 76.6 percent of people are considered poor, should be addressed. The workshop delegates contributed to a strategic plan to address population issues. Credit: APDA

Delegates at a ZAPPD workshop heard that significantly high poverty levels, particularly in Zambian rural areas where 76.6 percent of people are considered poor, should be addressed. The workshop delegates contributed to a strategic plan to address population issues. Credit: APDA

Phiri noted that while the economy had grown, with more mothers surviving childbirth and children being healthier and more educated - this did not "automatically lead to overall national development and improved quality of life."

To achieve Vision 2030, the significantly high poverty levels, particularly in the rural areas where 76.6 percent of people are considered poor, should be addressed.

Unemployment was high, Phiri said, and there was limited access to empowerment programs.

Another issue was the high fertility rates and maternal mortality rate of 252 for every 100 000 births.

Research indicated that at least one-fifth of married women had an unmet need for family planning.

Zambia's development would



Delegates from the Zambia All Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (ZAPPD) met in Lusaka to develop a strategic plan to tackle population and development issues. Credit: APDA



Delegates at a ZAPPD workshop heard that significantly high poverty levels, particularly in Zambian rural areas where 76.6 percent of people are considered poor, should be addressed. The delegates contributed to a strategic plan to address population issues. Credit: APDA

benefit from an explained the benefit of a healthy and educated population by addressing family planning.

"Couples with smaller families are better able to provide for their children, save money, and escape poverty," Phiri said. "In fact, studies show that shifting the age structure of the population can lead to a 47 percent increase in per capita income."

Of concern was that gender-based violence was high, with nearly half (47 percent) of ever-married women reporting having experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence.

Answering why, if the economy was growing, there was still widespread poverty, Phiri noted that Zambia had one of the fastest-growing populations in the world. By 2030 the population, estimated at 19 million, will have swelled to 24 million and 41 million by 2050.

This meant that at a "community and household level, there are a large number of dependents, which impacts the working population's ability to save money and escape poverty".

Phiri advised parliamentarians to work toward improved child survival and reducing fertility by promoting voluntary family planning.

Another issue needing fixing was the high school dropout rate. The benefits to society would be significant if the country increased secondary school completion rates among youth, especially girls. Other programmes should include investment in comprehensive sexuality education and create an enabling policy environment for pre- and post-secondary, and tertiary education economic activity to counter unemployment and promote entrepreneurship.

"If we invest in the health and education of the population, especially women and girls, we may see a different Zambia in the years to come," Phiri told the workshop.

Ifoma Mulewa, a sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) researcher at the National Assembly

of Zambia, said these objectives could be achieved through energetic and committed parliamentarians.

She said MPs should take the initiative to bring motions on population matters; they should participate in population debates in the House and parliamentary committees and through oversight visits.

They could also undertake public hearings to get wider community and stakeholders' views on population matters.

She called on them to keep the pressure on the Executive to adhere to international protocols on population and growth.

Phiri agreed and said there was inadequate commitment towards population and development in the allocation, disbursement, and utilization of national budgets. It was also crucial to balance legislation - for example, on child marriage, where the statutory versus customary laws were not harmonized.

He said Zambia had a legislative framework to ensure Zambia remains on the path to achieving its Vision 2030 goal, including the Population Policy Implementation Plan (2019-2030), the 8th National Development Plan (2022-2026), the Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan (2021-2026) and a National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage.

It also had polity for youth, including Education Act 2011, the Comprehensive Sexuality Education Framework, and National Youth Policy (2015).

The Gender Equity and Equality Act (2015) ends discrimination against women.

However, MPs should engage more with the community on population and development issues.

The workshop, attended by about 35 participants and 22 parliamentarians, made crucial inputs to a strategic plan on population by ZAPPD. The new members of ZAPPD, under the leadership of Hon Princess Kasune, MP, are aiming to address the Committee's contribution to implementing ICPD25 commitments.

UN report details Taliban abuses in Afghanistan



An Afghan girl in the Nawabad District of Kabul, Afghanistan. Credit: UNICEF/Mohammad Haya Burhan

NEW YORK

This week, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, released his first report. It is a catalog of abuses under Taliban rule since August 2021 and their devastating impact on Afghans.

The report also highlights the devastating humanitarian impact of the country's economic crisis, caused in part by actions by foreign governments, noting that "all parties bear degrees of responsibility for failures to deliver economic and social rights."

The report describes "staggering regression in women and girls' enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights." It notes that "in no other country have women and girls so rapidly disappeared from all spheres of public life," echoing a recent statement by UN experts describing "widespread, systematic and all-encompassing" attacks on

the rights of women and girls.

The report also details Taliban abuses against officials from the former government, journalists, and religious minorities, among other rights concerns.

As someone who worked in Afghanistan before the first Taliban government fell in 2001, I have witnessed Taliban oppression firsthand. The report's details are distressingly familiar.

Under the Taliban, the rule of law has no meaning. It isn't even clear what "the law" is. Since last year, when the Taliban revoked the country's constitution and stated that all laws needed to comply with Sharia, or Islamic law, it hasn't been clear which laws and regulations are in force or how crimes are to be handled.

Instead, there are only "evolving and arbitrarily interpreted rules and decrees," according to the UN report, and legal cases "are handled idiosyncratically across jurisdictions and venues," while basic crimes are "often dealt with by security forces with-

out involving prosecutors or judges."

In short, "the law" is whatever a Taliban official might say it is. A situation more threatening to human rights is hard to imagine.

The Taliban authorities should take the report's recommendations seriously. Most urgently, they should rescind abusive policies that violate the rights of women and girls, protect religious minorities, and engage with the special rapporteur and other UN offices to develop reforms.

The UN Human Rights Council is due to discuss the findings of the report later this month. States should take this opportunity to renew the mandate of the special rapporteur and to establish a new body that will investigate abuses and advance accountability.

Afghans are entitled to better than what the Taliban have given them: A life with few freedoms, no real justice, and where half the population is shut out of education and work.

HEALTH

Inequitable global health responses underscore need for greater self-sufficiency in developing countries

UNITED NATIONS

With the outbreak of Monkeypox in non-endemic countries leading to a scramble for vaccines, global health advocates are again calling for equity to be prioritized in the international response.

Equity was a top concern during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency health response. The World Health Organization (WHO) helped spearhead several initiatives in an attempt to reduce disparities between nations, notably COVAX, the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.

Yet, despite these efforts, figures from Our World in Data show that only one in seven people are fully vaccinated in low-income countries. In contrast, almost three in four people have been fully vaccinated for a year in high-income countries.

Fatima Hassan, human rights lawyer and founder of South African-based civil society group Health Justice Initiative, sees the current disparity in Monkeypox vaccine access as the latest example of the Global South, and Africa especially, being disadvantaged in the global health space.

"We still as Africa don't have any supplies of monkeypox vaccines, even though as a continent, we've been dealing with this disease for a number of years. So on one level, now that it's become a Global North problem, the vaccines have been found for them, but not for us."

Monkeypox can be combated with smallpox vaccines, which are 85 percent effective against the virus. Since the disease was eradicated in 1980, the WHO has had 31 million doses set aside for a rapid response in case smallpox should re-emerge. The organization is currently assessing the potency of this stockpile and whether it can be deployed against Monkeypox.

However, these doses have never been distributed in Africa, where Monkeypox has circulated since the 1970s. The continent is also facing a much higher death rate. When the WHO declared a global health emergency, the only deaths recorded were from West and Central Africa, where 4.7 percent of people who contracted the disease had died.

In the case of COVID-19, many saw the international rules that allow pharmaceutical companies to protect their intellectual property (IP) as simply reinforcing existing disparities between countries.

Several wealthy countries signed contracts with pharmaceutical com-



A medical officer preparing to give a COVID-19 vaccine in Somalia in May 2021. Credit: Mokhtar Mohamed/AMISOM

panies, helping finance private sector research and development, in exchange for prioritized access to vaccine supply. When companies eventually developed successful vaccines, the technology they used was restricted from being shared with the global community. Nations that lacked both the technology and the resources to purchase on the open market resources had to rely on vaccine donations from rich countries that came several months later.

Over 100 organizations and networks joined a coalition called The People's Vaccine to call for the suspension of intellectual property rules and mandatory pooling of COVID-19-related data and technologies. Those supporting the alliance's call include the current leaders

of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, and former Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

For Hassan, intellectual property regulations were especially problematic given the participation of Africans in trial phases for Moderna and Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccines.

"We did all those trials; we've contributed to the knowledge generation and to the scientific knowledge that allowed [pharmaceutical companies] to get emergency use authorization. But we were not guaranteed supplies or access or preferential access. So the deeper inequity in this entire setup was also that the Global South was asked to participate in the research

and the trials, but there was no regulated way of ensuring [...] genuine benefit sharing agreements."

For countries worldwide, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of increased self-sufficiency in coping with global health emergencies.

"I think that was the lesson of COVID. For the global South, it was like, oh, okay, we need to actually figure this out by ourselves," Hassan said.

Several initiatives have been created to fulfill this goal, including a new mRNA vaccine technology hub in South Africa.

The hub was launched by the WHO and COVAX in Afrigen, Cape Town, on June 21, 2022. It aims to bolster low and middle-income countries' capacity to

produce COVID mRNA vaccines by training scientists in developing mRNA vaccines and pooling all knowledge acquired by partners. The site in Afrigen will be run by a consortium that includes Biovac, Afrigen Biologics, and Vaccines, a network of universities, and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

When the hub launched, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa commended the initiative and its implications for Africa's role globally.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the full extent of the vaccine gap between developed and developing economies and how that gap can severely undermine global health security. This landmark initiative is a major advance in the international

effort to build vaccine development and manufacturing capacity that will put Africa on a path to self-determination."

African scientists are heading the technology transfer hub. It has already produced the first batches of an mRNA vaccine with technology that will be transferred to 15 countries.

Reflecting on Africa's response to COVID-19, Public Health Professor Flavia Senkubuge told IPS that she's proud of how well the continent dealt with the caseload, especially as many predicted COVID-19 would "literally obliterate" the region.

The WHO has cited Africa as "one of the least affected regions of the world" throughout the pandemic. The number of total deaths from the continent, 256 555, makes up 3 percent of the world's total, 6.49 million. In contrast, deaths from the Americas and Europe accounted for 46 and 29 percent, respectively.

Senkubuge told IPS that predictions that Africa would be completely overwhelmed overlooked the expertise Africa has garnered in combating public health crises, notably HIV and AIDS.

"If you look at South Africa, for people like me who trained and practiced as physicians during the HIV and AIDS period, we are used to those large numbers of very sick patients. Additionally, in South Africa, you must remember that we are a country that has a quadruple burden of disease, therefore which means we have a high volume of patients coming into our health establishments. We are therefore used to working differently, having an optimum triage system, and working in under-resourced and high-pressure environments."

Being underestimated also extends to the work of African scientists. Both Hassan and Senkubuge told IPS that the work of Africans is often neglected and overlooked in global settings.

Yet, the pandemic has also highlighted their contributions to global health, Senkubuge said. She pointed to South Africa's discovery and swift response to the emergence of the Omicron variant. She believes this has led to a shift in how African scientists are considering their work on the global stage.

"As African [scientists], [...] I think we have kind of shifted the paradigm to say we are here, we are not going anywhere. We're not going to try and convince anyone regarding the excellence of our work, we'll just do our work, continue to share it with our communities, publish in the top journals and be part of the global discourse on our own terms. You're welcome to retake, amend, re-check, but actually, we stand resolute in our unapologetic knowledge that the work we do here in Africa is excellent and contributes significantly to global health."

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS 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

By Special Correspondent

THE US government has provided nearly \$1 billion in emergency food security assistance to countries in Africa suffering from extreme hunger and malnutrition.

That is part of the \$2.76 billion in US funding that President Biden announced in June to address global food insecurity. The remaining funds are expected to be provided by year's end to countries worldwide.

Climate change, conflict and COVID-19 are the leading causes of the global food crisis, especially in Africa. Worldwide, 49 million (PDF, 3.3MB) are facing famine or near famine conditions, an all-time high, according to the United Nations' World Food Programme.

"Today, we are in a global food crisis," Samantha Power, administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the lead US government agency for distributing the funds, said July 18. To help avert a global food catastrophe, the U.S. government is providing aid "to those in the direst conditions," she said.

Here is an overview of some African countries

\$1 billion in US emergency food security aid rushed to Africa



receiving USAID emergency food security assistance as part of the president's plan. These countries also receive other US humanitarian assistance.

USAID funding of \$488 million

will help meet urgent needs for 4.8 million people across Ethiopia, including 1.6 million malnourished children in health facilities.

"No child should die from malnutrition when we have the

tools to stop it," Power said. "It's that simple."

People living in eastern and southern Ethiopia are struggling with the effects of four straight drought seasons. An estimated

650,000 children are unable to attend school because the drought forced the closure of 2,000 schools for lack of water.

Armed conflict in Ethiopia also limits access to food and has

forced many to leave their homes in search of food, shelter and security.

An unprecedented drought has pushed more than 4 million people to the edge of starvation and caused farmers in Kenya to lose 70% of their crops, USAID said.

In July, the US provided \$235 million that will allow USAID partners to meet urgent needs for more than 1.1 million people across Kenya.

Kenya will get access to sorghum, peas and vegetable oil in areas where markets are not operating. Nutritional supplements will be available for malnourished children and women at mobile clinics.

"The food security crisis in the Horn of Africa is on the brink of becoming a catastrophe," Power said on July 25 after visiting Kenya and Somalia.

More than \$461 million in USAID assistance will help people in Somalia who are suffering from the country's worst drought on record and looming famine.

The drought affects an estimated 7 million Somalis, including 1.4 million children who face acute malnutrition.

The assistance will provide urgent food supplies, lifesaving nutri-

tion for malnourished children, safe drinking water and health care. The aid will also help local farmers purchase equipment and seeds.

Conflict, severe drought, flooding and rising food costs contribute to food shortages in South Sudan.

Armed groups and warring parties in the country prevent the delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said during the UN Security Council meeting on Food Insecurity and Conflict in May.

Up to 7 million people are expected to face crisis levels of food insecurity there this year, he said.

USAID announced \$106 million in food assistance August 4 for South Sudan.

Other African countries that have received emergency food assistance include Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique – which the U.S. Feed the Future global initiative recently added as target countries – and Uganda, where the US government is working with partners to feed refugees displaced from neighboring countries.

"We see the suffering and we know we can do something about it," Blinken said during the Uniting for Global Food Security conference in Berlin in June.



An experienced Bajaj driver Evodia Nchimbi counsels young girls who have completed their driving course through the support of TGNP and the Australian embassy to enter into Bajaj driving sector because it pays. Photo: Courtesy of TGNP.

Young girls urged to 'grab' male-dominated activities

By Correspondent Danie Semberly

YOUNG girls in the country have been urged to get used to male's activities so that they can become better citizens.

Speaking during a one-day seminar over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, the Tanzania Gender Networking (TGNP)'s project coordinator for the young women economic empowerment programme Mariam Oushoudada said that TGNP in collaboration with the Australian High Commission in the country have been supporting some Tanzanian girls mainly from vulnerable families to undergo training in welding and driving courses.

She said that through their project which started this year, so far around 25 girls have completed their driving courses; and the 15 girls are still undergoing training in welding, but they are about to finish their course.

Oushoudada said that their main objective is to see these young girls empowered with the skills that will alleviate them from poverty.

She noted: "Since there is a huge untapped opportunity for the three-wheel motorcycle-Bajaj drivers, it is our hope that

some of these drivers will become Bajaj drivers. Everybody was born equally; sexes are not what determine a person's ability to do something."

"We want to alleviate young girls from poverty, so we are trying to grab every opportunity that is up there, particularly sectors and skills which are men dominated," she said, urging young girls to seize whatever opportunities come to them so that one day they attain their dreams.

Mayasa Said, one of the beneficiaries of that project, who has completed her driving course at Chang'ombe Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA), told this paper that her vision is to become a famous driver.

"I became a driver to break a taboo that driving was only meant for men. Like any other work that can be done by women, driving can also be done by women," Mayasa said, urging her fellow young girls to dare and have the courage to seize whatever opportunities that come to their exposure.

Irene Moshi, a student taking a welding course at Don Bosco Technical College in Dar es Salaam said that what attracted her to choose the welding course are the decorations that are designed on windows and

doors. So, decided that the only way to quench her thirst was to learn that skill.

She also lauded TGNP and the Australian Embassy for enabling them to undergo that training.

Fathiya Salum, a trainee in a welding course at Don Bosco College in Dar es Salaam said that after completion of her course her vision is to kick-start her own welding firm as self-employment and if possible employ others.

An experienced Bajaj driver Evodia Nchimbi has urged young girls who want to become Bajaj drivers to be courageous, firm, and live their dreams, saying: "When I first ventured into this work as a female Bajaj driver I faced many obstacles but I persisted and managed. It is now five years since I entered this job."

Evodia said that before venturing into becoming a Bajaj driver she was a dressmaker/tailor, but she found that it was not a paying job, stressing: "A woman can do any kind of job. Wake up and grab any opportunity coming before you, don't stay idle and lament."

The scooter driver advised other people with disabilities like her to work. She said that being a disabled person should not be

an excuse for them not to work for their livelihood, detailing that through her Bajaj driving has been able among others to pay school fees for her daughter who is now in form three; also she has been able to construct a decent house where she is living with her family.

Evodia, who is a disabled person, she encourages young girls and women to wake up and seize any kind of opportunity that they can perform and they should not claim that this kind of job is for men only.

Echoing Evodia's experience, Sara Juma, who is also a driver encouraged young girls who have completed their driving course to compete with men and seize driving opportunities, noting: "In the beginning, you will face up-hills but don't be discouraged, but you need to struggle to attain your dream. Patience pays."

Meiye Mohamed, a driver at one of the Embassies in Dar es Salaam commended TGNP for empowering young girls with skills that will help them improve their living standards.

She has also encouraged the young girls who have completed their driving course to struggle and become renowned drivers.

Deloitte invests in preparing Africa's unemployed graduates for global markets

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICA has announced the launch of Africa Talent, a ground-breaking joint venture as a pilot initiative with Deloitte Netherlands that seeks to connect Africa's talent to global work opportunities while being physically based on the African continent.

As founding firms of Deloitte Africa Talent, Deloitte Africa and Deloitte Netherlands have committed an initial investment of approximately R25 million to this pilot initiative, with the intention of expanding it to other geographies in Europe during 2023.

The programme aims to recruit graduates with limited experience and those without employment. Where possible, it will also aim to attract school leavers who show potential but may not have opportunities to pursue tertiary education.

Africa Talent seeks to tap into the continent's youthful and growing population, using hybrid and remote working technology to service the talent needs in areas characterised by an ageing working population - like Western Europe.

Graduates will be trained and developed in data analytics, consulting, cyber security and other specialist digital technology skills. They will also work in areas including financial and regulatory risk, sustainability as well as internal audit.

Deloitte Africa CEO Ruwayda Redfearn says: "Africa has the youngest population in the world and an immense opportunity to tap into this resource by investing and empowering the youth to reach their full potential. Africa Talent will expose the continent's graduates to skills and opportunities they may otherwise not have had".

Redfearn adds that Africa Talent will not only address the skills shortage on the continent but will also address high unemployment among graduates, especially in places like South Africa.

"In essence, Africa Talent aims to create hope for the next generation of our continent and the communities we operate within," concludes Redfearn.

The pilot phase of Africa Talent will aim to recruit graduates and experienced hires in South Africa and throughout Sub Saharan Africa. Beyond this, its growth will be in line with the growth in need for talent Deloitte in Europe.

"For Deloitte Netherlands, Africa Talent provides us with access to a high-quality skills pool that fits the needs of our clients. This initiative demonstrates the power of the global Deloitte network to drive innovative working models that better meet the demands of our dynamic world," says Hans Honing, the CEO of Deloitte Netherlands.

The launch of Africa Talent was addressed by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Science and Innovation Buti Manamela, who acknowledged Deloitte for proactively creating opportunities to help address the pressing challenge of youth unemployment.

Africa Talent will be run in conjunction with partner organisations who work with young people and unemployed graduates.

Developing countries need to grow more food, climate change, war on Ukraine a wake-up call

LETHBRIDGE, CANADA

As our planet continues to heat up, extreme weather has affected many of us. From the west coast of North America across Europe, the Middle East and Asia to Pakistan and New Zealand, wildfires and flash floods have destroyed homes and property and disrupted the daily lives of millions.

Supply chains, already badly affected by COVID, have been further complicated by drying rivers and waterways. In the more developed countries, insurance covers much of the short-term losses.

But it's in the developing world where the effects of climate change cause the most acute form of human suffering: starvation. Somalia, in the Horn of Africa is once again in the grip of a devastating drought. Livestock have perished and children are beginning to die.

Parts South Sudan's farmland have now been under water for the 4th consecutive year because of abnormal floods. Hapless farmers, marooned on islands of higher ground, are living off hand-outs from the international donor community. No insurance to cover their losses; they're lucky just to hang on to their lives.

And if we needed a shriller wake-up call about the unfolding global food crisis, Russia's war on Ukraine has certainly provided that: Much of grain and fertilizer that the world relies on was held hostage by the combatant's mines and warships in the Black Sea.

Paralyzed by the outdated make-up and role of the Security Council, the political side of the UN System was once again unable to prevent war from breaking out.

Wars and armed conflict rage on in Syria, Libya, Myanmar, Afghanistan, South Sudan, the DRC and, of course, in Ukraine itself. But thanks to UN and Turkish mediation, grain and fertilizer shipments from Ukrainian and Russian ports have resumed under the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

The Joint Coordination Centre (JCC), set up in Istanbul at the end of July, is ensuring that trade and aid in these most basic of commodities can flow out of Black Sea ports again. Amir Abdulla, the World Food Programme's former Deputy Executive Director is the UN's coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative and heads up the UN Delegation to the JCC.

Abdulla told me earlier this week that operations are scaling up and grain exports from Ukraine went over 1 million tons in less than a month and to 2 million tons in just the last week. An average of 9 ships a day heading to or from Ukraine are being inspected jointly by UN, Turkish, Russian and Ukrainian inspectors. "While the conflict in Ukraine continues, it has been possible with the help of Turkey and the agreement of Russia and Ukraine, for the UN to get this initiative underway so that the much-needed flow of food and fertilizer moves out of Black Sea ports to the rest of the world", he said.

"More grain needs to move through to make space in silos for the new harvest. This is critical for the world's grain supply for next year. Equally important is the urgent export of fertilizer, including ammonia, so that farmers across the world can continue food production at an affordable cost", he added.

But what about the wider food crisis that is developing and will be with us in the years to come?

The World Food Programme (WFP) warns that 345 million people are already affected by acute food insecurity in 82 countries. And with the global population set to hit at least 10 billion by 2050, the effect of climate change on agriculture



CHINA - Constructing an irrigation network in Qinghai Province. Workers were paid part of their wages in food supplied by the World Food Programme. Credit WFP/Sarah Errington

will compound the growing problem. There is a desperate need for the developing world to grow more food.

Up to now, WFP has helped ward off mass starvation among the world's most vulnerable. But to prevent this happening in the years ahead, there's never been a greater need for it to address the "development" part of its dual mandate by getting back in the business of helping governments and communities grow more food.

In the early-60s when WFP started out, and for it's first 20 years of operation, around 70% of its budget was spent on development projects, many of them designed to grow more food.

Work on India's Indira Gandhi Canal, which takes water from the Himalaya mountains to irrigate 2 million hectares of the Thar Desert in Rajasthan, started in 1964 with WFP assistance. Workers building the canal were able to buy WFP food at specially set up shops on the banks of the canal network at low, fixed rates.

After WFP assistance ended the World Bank and the EU helped complete the irrigation network. For the last 50 years, millions of tons of additional food grain has been produced every year as a result of this project. Wheat is now reaped annually in the far-flung desert district of Jaisalmer.

As WFP's Representative in India, Bishow Parajuli says with pride, "This project has

changed the lives of millions of ordinary people", giving real meaning to WFP's development slogan: changing lives.

In China's far-western province of Qinghai, it's much the same story. Here, back in the 80s, WFP helped the local government's Water Conservancy Bureau construct an irrigation network that today irrigates what was 8,000 hectares of low-yielding land in Haidong Prefecture.

As with India's Indira Gandhi Canal, the network was built manually, by hand. WFP food was supplied to pay part of the worker's wages. With assured irrigation, wheat yields doubled within 5 years. Today, this same area of Qinghai is the province's main wheat producing area with mechanical harvesting instead of reaping it by hand.

Why is WFP no longer helping developing countries build

major irrigation networks designed to grow more food? Because its focus changed in the early 90s to emergencies or saving lives as WFP calls it today.

That was when WFP took over the responsibility from the UN's refugee agency, UNHCR to feed the world's 25 million refugees on its books as well as the 50-odd million who sort refuge elsewhere in their own country as internally dis-

placed people, or IDPs.

But the pressure of climate change and population growth is causing the pendulum to swing again. At WFP's last Executive Board (EB) meeting in June, WFP's Changing Lives Transformation Fund (CLTF) was introduced.

While there was general agreement that WFP's dual mandate - emergencies and development - must be respected and that humanitarian aid alone is not enough, EB members insisted that saving lives must always take priority over changing lives.

Not surprisingly, most EB members from the developing world wanted WFP to help more with changing lives through stepped-up development assistance. After much debate, which went to closed night sessions, the compromise was a \$55 million fund over 5 years, or upto \$1.2 million for around 10-15 countries as seed money for projects aimed at supporting national food security.

While this is a start, the amounts earmarked seem like half-hearted steps for the organization that the world set up to help governments prevent mass hunger and starvation. Volli Carucci, Director of WFP's Resilience and Food Systems Service

disagrees, pointing to the many reliance measure that WFP is supporting in the drought-stricken Sahel. "But more long-term support from donors is needed", he said. Many countries in Africa need to be growing drought-resistant sorghum and millet rather than maize he told me. Maize is the staple for much of the continent.

Acknowledging "the present and future danger" of the global food crisis, Carucci emphasised that greater awareness of WFP's current resilience initiatives and its development successes of the past is needed.

South/South Cooperation provides a channel to transfer the organizational management and technical expertise of these countries to less developed countries with agricultural potential. Projects like these would also provide employment for the growing hordes of unskilled labour looking for work.

As WFP nears its 60th anniversary it has a full agenda of programming and internal management issues to address. Hopefully, helping the governments and community organizations in developing countries grow more food will figure more prominently than in past decades.

Irrigating and developing more farmland could also help with the integration IDPs into new communities to make them productive citizens instead of living off handouts year after year. It could also help stem the flow of migration to the more-developed countries.

Involving cooperating partners such as UNDP, FAO, World Bank, NGOs and other multilaterals like the EU will be crucial right from the planning stage.

Of course, saving lives will always be the priority of the day. But unless governments act now to ensure that future generations have enough food to eat, parts of the planet run the risk of becoming overwhelmed by the hungry poor.

WFP can and must do more to help countries along the path towards food security, as its mandate dictates. Only then will the world move significantly towards achieving its Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger.



CHINA - With irrigation, wheat yields doubled in 5 years at this WFP-assisted project in Qinghai Province. Credit: WFP/Paul Mitchell

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

By Guardian Reporter

MORTGAGE MARKET REGISTERS 7.5 PER CENT ANNUAL GROWTH

Tanzania mortgage market registered 7.5 per cent annual growth in value of loans, during the year ending June 2022, compared with June 2021; the market update report issued by Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has shown.

The outstanding mortgage debt during the year ending June this year increased to 509.99bn/- equivalent to \$220.23 million from 474.45bn/- equivalent to \$205.36 million recorded in June 2021.

A quarterly average mortgage debt size increased to 82.56mn/- equivalent to \$35.654, from 76.74mn/- equivalent to \$33.213 recorded in June last year and 81.49mn/- equivalent to \$35.276 in March 2022.

However, the ratio of outstanding mortgage debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) decreased to 0.29 percent in June compared to 0.35 percent recorded in June 2021.

The update notes that there was one new entrant into the mortgage market during the year, as the number of banks reporting to have mortgage portfolios increased to 33 from 32 in June last year.

On quarterly basis, the mortgage market growth slowed to 1.24 percent in the value of mortgage loans as of 30 June 2022 as compared to the 1.41 percent growth recorded in the previous quarter.

The update shows outstanding mortgage debt as of 31 March 2022 amounted 503.74bn/- equivalent to \$218.07 million.

Mortgage debt advanced by the top 5 Primary Mortgage Lenders (PMLs) accounted for 65 percent of the total outstanding mortgage debt while typical interest rates offered by mortgage lenders ranged between averages of 15 - 19 percent, the update says.

CRDB Bank Plc is the market leader commanding 38.02 percent of the mortgage market share, followed by Stanbic Bank (8.11 percent), Azania Bank (7.13 percent), NMB Bank Plc. (6.82 percent) and NCBA Bank (4.63 percent).

Most lenders offer loans for home purchase and equity release while a few offer loans for self-construction which continue to be expensive and beyond the reach of the average Tanzanians.

Additionally, cumbersome processes around the issuance of titles (especially unit titles) continue to pose a challenge by affecting borrowers' eligibility to access mortgage loans.

Further, competition in



Most lenders offer loans for home purchase and equity release while a few offer loans for self-construction which continue to be expensive and beyond the reach of many Tanzanians. FILE PHOTO

the market has led to emergence of other products that are impacting mortgage market growth as the products have favorable terms than mortgage product and are used for housing purposes. These products are competing with mortgage in terms of loan amount and to some extent tenor as they are offering consumer loans for the tenor of up to seven years amounting to around 120mn/-, an amount enough to buy a housing unit.

The Tanzanian housing sector's fast-growing demand is mainly driven by the strong and sustained economic growth with GDP growth averaging 6-7 percent over the past decade as well as the fast-growing population, which is estimated to more than double by 2050.

A key element in the growth of the mortgage market in Tanzania continues to be the provision of long term funding both in the forms of refinancing and pre-financing by the TMRC to facilitate PMLs matching their assets

(mortgage) and liabilities (funding). The Tanzanian housing demand (which is estimated at 200,000 houses annually and a total housing shortage of 3 million houses as per the NHC report, boosted by easy access to mortgages, with the number of mortgage lenders in the market increasing from 3 in 2009 to 33 by 31 December 2021.

Efforts to develop housing projects by developers continue with a special focus on Dodoma Capital City as the Government has relocated its admin-

istrative functions to Dodoma.

However, the update notes that high-interest rates and lack of affordable housing remain the prime constraints on mortgage market growth.

Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company Ltd (TMRC) continues to play its primary role in extending refinancing and pre-financing facilities to Primary Mortgage Lenders (PMLs).

TMRC to PMLs were equivalent to 28 percent of the total outstanding mortgage debt hence a significant opportunity exists for TMRC to continue refinancing the remaining 72 percent of the mortgage market portfolio.

In the eleven years that TMRC has been operational, a significant impact has been noted in the mortgage market, according to BoT.

The mortgage repayment period has increased from the maximum of 5-7 years that was previously offered to 25 years that banks offer now with mortgage interest rates declining from 22-24 percent offered in 2010 to 15-19 percent being offered now.

Another initiative set up under the Housing Finance Project (HFP) was the Housing Microfinance Fund (HMFF) which was geared toward providing long-term loans for lower-income earners who currently lack access to housing finance either for the construction of a home or for home improvements.

The Fund officially began its operations in 2015 and on 31 July 2015, the first disbursement of 1bn/- was made under the fund to DCB Commercial Bank Plc with the total credit line to the bank being 3bn/-.

This marked the first step towards significant progress in the microfinance sector including subsequent disbursements by HMFF. HMFF is currently operated by the Bank of Tanzania.

The loans advanced by

CBE to launch training programme for real estate agents

By Francis Kajubi

THE Association of Real Estate Agents in Tanzania (AREA) and the College of Business Education (CBE) have signed a five-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) to run a programme that will offer training to real estate agents.

Dubbed 'Real Estate Agents Certification Programme' targets at equipping agents and brokers well known as "Dalali", with required knowledge on the industry and getting them certified.

The CBE deputy rector academic, research and consultancy Professor Edda Lwoga said at the signing event of the MoU held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week that the program will be rolled out with effect of November this year at all CBE campuses in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Dodoma and Mbeya.

"Conflicts between landlords and tenants or buyers are largely attributed to the existence of unethical real estate agents and bro-



College of Business Education Dar es Salaam campus

kers on the market. The short course programme is intended at making such conflicts a history," said Prof Lwoga.

According to her, CBE and AREA considers the programme as a stepping stone to formalization of the real estate sector for players at the grass-

roots level to take full charge.

She said that the agents will be trained for a week to match with real estate professional agents qualifications. During the five days of theory and practical training, the agents shall be taken through the land's laws and regulations administering the real es-

tate industry.

"The five day short course will cost 150,000/- as participant shall receive a certificate upon completion and provided with a membership card to the Association of Real Estate Agents," said Prof Lwoga.

Erick Rweikiza, Chairman AREA said that until the day of signing the MoU almost 80 street agents well known as Dalalis have shown interest in joining the short course.

"The short course will be taking agents through the dos and don'ts for the industry's sake and reputation. Communication skills and ethical guidelines are part of the training," said Rweikiza.

On his part, Dr Emmanuel Munishi, deputy rector planning, finance and administration, said that the agents will be taught contract management, to make them aware of good and bad contracts and the essence of being loyal to their customers.

"Agents will be taught negotiation skills that give room for a win-win situation. Sustaining the

relationship between a tenant or buyer and the agents is crucial so the ethics requires them to be loyal," said Munishi.

Highlights on the first quarter gross domestic product (GDP) ending March 2022 by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), states that activities in the real estate industry increased at a growth rate of 4.5 percent in the first quarter in 2022 compared to 4.6 percent attained in the similar quarter in 2021.

NBS notes that the growth was attributed to demand for accommodation services specifically in urban areas.

Real estate activities include selling or buying of real estate, renting real estate, providing other real estate services such as appraising real estate.

According to NBS, activities in this industry may be carried out on own or leased property and may be done on a fee or contract basis. Also included is the building of structures, combined with maintaining ownership or leasing of such structures.

Real estate contributes to banks' bad loans in Kenya

NAIROBI

Three sectors especially real estate, trade and manufacturing - account for more than half (54 percent) of the Sh514 billion bad loans held by Kenyan banks.

Data released by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) on the outstanding bad loans per sector for II main sectors in the economy reveal that bad loans in trade increased 10 percent since January to a record Sh109.8 billion at the end of the first half of the year.

The stock of bad loans in the manufacturing sector grew fastest at 57 percent to Sh89.4

billion in the six months to overtake real estate, which had Sh79.4 billion in defaults.

Other sectors that recorded a notable increase in the review period were building and construction, which rose by 42 percent to Sh41.5 billion, and agriculture, which increased by Sh7 billion to Sh26.3 billion.

The rise in bad loans has been blamed on a tough economic period in the run-up to the August polls and external factors that have led to supply chain problems.

"The rise in defaults was systemic and was attributable to a few large borrowers with specific challenges in the re-



Central Bank of Kenya

spective businesses," said the CBK in a statement.

The CBK, however, appears

unperturbed by the rising bad loans, which now account for 14.7 percent of total banks'

loan book.

"Banks have continued to make adequate provisions for non-performing loans," said the CBK in the statement.

The rise in bad loans comes at a time when the country's private sector credit growth and interest rates are growing. Credit growth for June was recorded at 12.3 percent, the highest since April 2016.

The average interest rate charged on bank loans in July was recorded at 12.35 percent, the highest since November 2019 when the rates were 12.38 percent.

Lending rates have been rising gradually as banks get

approval from the CBK for risk-based pricing, which enables lenders to charge interest based on a borrower's risk rating.

Only two sectors recorded a drop in the stock of bad loans since the year began. Financial services saw their defaults drop by 4.0 percent to Sh5.3 billion, and the stock of bad loans in the mining sector also shrank by 12 percent to Sh2.2 billion.

According to the CBK, however, credit risk is expected to continue easing this year as more people and businesses regain their footing after Covid-19 hit.

Australia encourages women into construction industry

SYDNEY

The Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) has rolled out an initiative to encourage more women to join the male-dominated construction industry.

NSW Treasurer Matt Kean said in a statement that the scheme, called A Culture Standard for the Construction Industry, was designed to "boost productivity and secure brighter futures" for the state's 369,500 construction workers.

Kean said the 20.2 million Australian dollars (about \$13.63 million) program was part of a 112.7 billion Australian dollars (about \$76 billion) "infrastructure pipeline" to improve worksite morale and safeguard workers' mental and physical health.

NSW Minister for Infrastructure Rob Stokes noted that female construction workers in Australia received about 30 percent less pay than their male counterparts, which is a situation the government wants to rectify.

"We're going to trial the publication of that data so we can work toward women being fairly paid for their equal contribution," Stokes said.

NSW Minister for Metropolitan Roads Natalie Ward said the scheme would be the first of many government initiatives aimed at raising the number of women in the construction industry to 15 percent by 2030.

Women account for around 15 percent of all people employed by construction firms. That figure falls below 5 percent when we narrow the focus to only those employees 'on the tools' in trade and labouring roles.

ROBOTS COULD HELP THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS

MICHIGAN

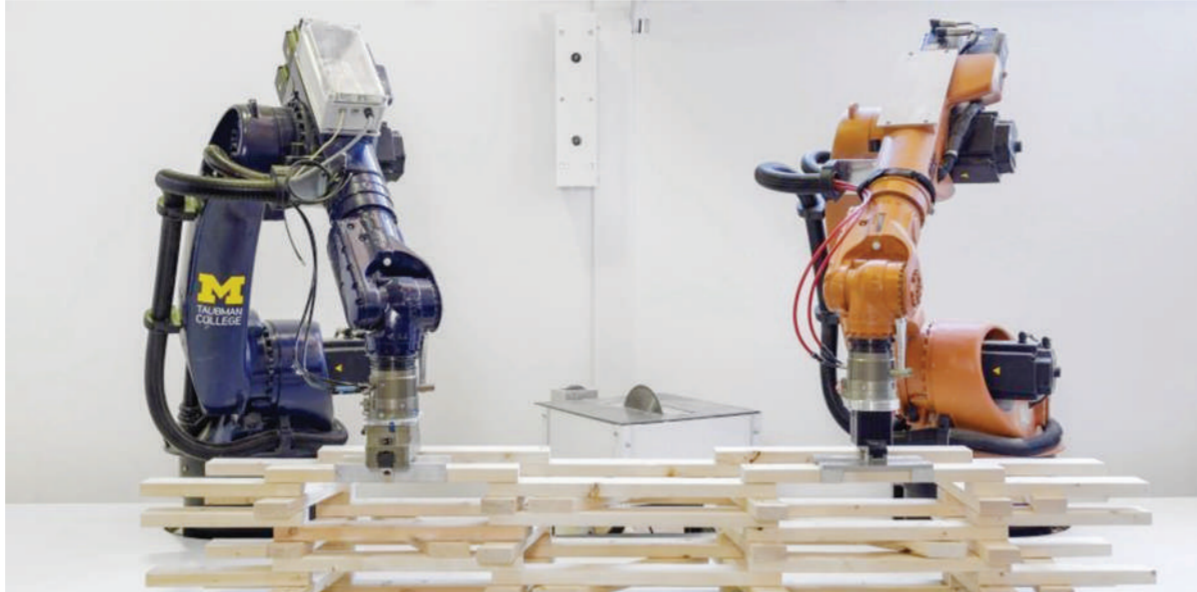
A team of students and researchers has shown how, with the help of robots, it's possible to build an intricate pavilion using only small pieces of timber.

The Robotically Fabricated Structure is the result of a project by the Adel Design Research (ADR) Laboratory at the University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

The ambition was to promote low-carbon construction, by showing it's possible to create complex architectural structures using wood that is sourced from the local region rather than imported.

Custom algorithms were used to calculate the optimal arrangement for the timber 2x4s, removing the need for any larger beams within the structure.

Robots assembled the components into a series of prefabricated frames, which were then delivered to site and slotted together by hand.



Robots assembled the components into a series of prefabricated frames. Image: ADR Laboratory

"The coupling of custom algorithms and robotic fabrication enables the feasible realisation of bespoke building components that are otherwise difficult or costly to achieve through conventional means and methods, with minimal construction waste," explained ADR, which is led by Professor Ar-

ash Adel.

"Short elements enable the use of indigenous trees that cannot easily produce full-length building elements, construction and manufacturing off-cuts, and lumber elements reclaimed from the deconstruction of buildings, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable

practice," said the team.

Robotically Fabricated Structure has been installed in the Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor, where it can be used as a place of rest and shelter, or host exhibitions and performances.

Raised on an oval-shaped timber platform, it takes the form of

a curved tunnel with an integrated bench seat wrapping on of its edges.

The tunnel is made up of 20 robotically fabricated frames, which themselves are made up of various components. Each one is slightly different, which gives the structure its undulating shape.

As each piece of wood has the same thickness, it was possible to design these frames so that they slot together. This helped to reduce the need for screw fixings.

The design is longlisted for Dezeen Awards 2022 in the small building category.

The designers hope it can serve as an example of how robotic construction can enable more sustainable forms of construction and minimise waste.

The wood is deliberately left untreated, to ensure it doesn't pollute its surroundings and can be easily disposed of at the end of its life.

"The integrated digital design and construction process for Robotically Fabricated Structure is a novel approach to reconsidering issues of material use, labour and the environment, to create intelligent and resourceful architecture with striking expressive qualities," said the designers.

Ecobank Group launches payment platform for businesses

Lomé

Ecobank Group has simplified collections across Africa through RapidCollect which enables business customers to receive payments from their clients in their home country and across network of 33 affiliates, instantly and at a lower cost than any other current cross-border solution.

The press release issued yesterday said RapidCollect caters for the needs of business customers across Africa, as the continent is at a unique point in its history.

"Immense trade, investment and economic growth opportunities are driven by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)'s creation of a single African market, boosting intra-African trade by about 40 percent," the bank said.

Josephine Anan-Ankomah, Group Executive, Commercial Banking, Ecobank said "With the African Continental Free Trade Area offering untold trading growth opportunities for Africa's businesses, it is imperative that the payment and collection infrastructure proactively caters for the needs of our continent's small and medium sized businesses by facilitating their cross-border trade."

She said Ecobank's Rapid-Collect further advances our determination to remove intra-African trade barriers by providing a fast, innovative, secure, hassle-free and reliable collection solution for our SME customers which leverages the collective scale and strength of our 33-country pan-African network.

Isaac Kamuta, head, payment services, cash management and client access, Ecobank Group said: "The launch of RapidCollect reaffirms our leadership as the Best Bank for Cash Management in Africa. It provides a fast, innovative, secure, and reliable solution for our customers, which leverages the collective scale and strength of our 33-country pan-African network."

He said customers only need an Ecobank account in their home country - rather than needing an account in every country in which they trade.

It removes the delays previously inherent in cross-border business payments and addresses the issues created by fluctuating forex rates.

Construction of Yangtze River tunnelling under way

NANJING

The construction of a large-scale tunneling project under the Yangtze River kicked off Wednesday in east China's Jiangsu Province, the China Railway Construction Corporation Ltd said on Thursday.

The project is intended to establish a major trans-river road link under the country's longest river, connecting Nantong City with Taicang City.

With a designed maximum speed of 100 km per hour and three lanes in each direction, the expressway will be around 39 km long, including 11.2 km under the river.

The expressway is scheduled to open to traffic in 2028, and will be a hallmark project adopting sophisticated techniques of shield tunneling, water repellent and fireproofing, said Zhang Di, the chief designer.

After completion, the tunnel will help promote the integrated regional develop-



Yangtze River

ment of the Yangtze River Delta and further improve road networks in the region.

Shanghai Yangtze River

Tunnel and Bridge project is located at the South Channel waterway and North

Channel waterway of Yangtze River mouth in

the northeast of Shanghai, which is a significant part of national expressway.

It is an extremely major transport infrastructure

project at seashore area in China at Yangtze River mouth and also the largest tunnel and bridge combination project worldwide.

The completion of the project will further promote the development space for Shanghai, improve

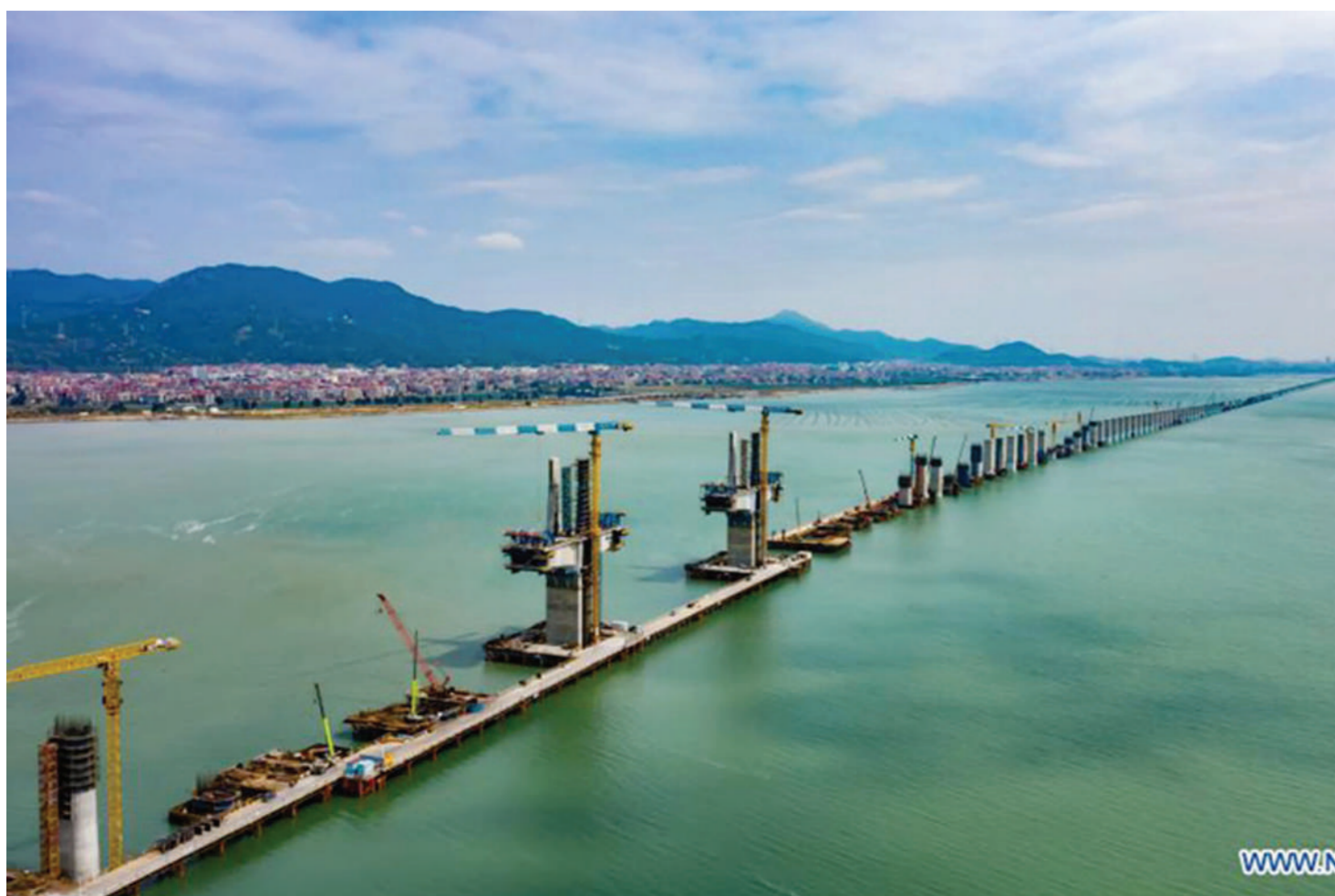
the structure and layout of Shanghai traffic system, develop resources on Chongming Island and accelerate economic development in the north of Jiangsu Province.

The project will also increase the economy capacity of Pudong, accelerate the economy integrity of Yangtze River Delta, boom the economic development of Yangtze River area and even the whole country and upgrade the comprehensive competence of Shanghai in China and even in the global economy.

Shanghai Yangtze River Tunnel and Bridge (Chong-Ming Crossing) alignment solution is the planned

western solution which is implemented firstly based on the Shanghai overall urban planning, and comparison between east and west alignment and in combination of various aspects.

Smart tech helps construction of China's first sea-crossing railway



FUZHOU

Luo Changwei, one of the construction engineers of China's first sea-crossing high-speed railway, finally took a sign of relief after the railway's track-laying work was completed on Aug. 30.

The 277-km railway runs along southeast China's coastline and crosses over three major bays on gigantic bridges. It links Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian Province, with Xiamen, a port city of Fujian.

As the railway project hit a significant milestone, Luo and his colleagues could finally relax a bit. They joined the project about five years ago and were responsible for building an important section of the railway, a sea-crossing bridge located in the Quanzhou Bay.

"The strong winds and complex marine hydrological environment make construction more difficult," said Luo, adding that he and his colleagues need to monitor tide timings and height every day to plan construction hours and ensure

the safety of the workers and the project.

In the limited work time due to environmental challenges, apart from managing the construction schedule, Luo's team has to increase the input in personnel, materials, machinery, and equipment to ensure the on-site construction progress.

During the peak hours of the project, more than 2,000 workers were working on the bridge, and more than 130 sets of special equipment such as tower cranes were used, Luo noted.

To manage such a large project with efficiency and safety, smart equipment emerges as a solution for the various challenges.

For instance, a control system was developed for crane operators so that they can get good visibility of ground operations through a screen in their cab, which is very helpful when moving heavy and large materials or on days with poor visibility.

The project team can also

access the system via mobile phones or computers to remotely monitor the conditions of the cranes and cabs.

Thanks to big data, cloud computing and other digital technologies, the use of smart equipment has become a highlight of the railway project construction.

At an intelligence control information center for the project, construction data of each bridge of the project is updated in real time on dozens of screens, and on-site construction progress and equipment conditions are also available.

"The application of intelligent equipment not only saves labor cost but also improves engineering efficiency. Meanwhile, the safety in the construction process is better guaranteed," said Jiang Folin, an information officer at the railway project.

"We integrate information and resources from different stages of the project into a 3D model to guide and instruct the construction in real time," Jiang added.

CONSTRUCTION

CABO VERDE UPGRADES MAIO PORT TO TRANSFORM ECONOMY

PRAIA

African Development Bank President Dr Akinwumi Adesina on Wednesday inaugurated the upgraded Port of Maio in Cabo Verde, which will help reduce sea travel time to the capital Praia, and boost trade.

The modernization of the Ports of Maio and Palmeira cost €36 million, with the African Development Bank providing €17.87 million.

The Bank's strategic partner, the European Union, provided €11 million in support, while the Cabo Verde government's share of the funding was €7.8 million.

"An investment like this brings rapid changes to livelihoods and transforms economies. It will connect Maio with the rest of the country and the world," said Prime Minister José Ulisses de Pina Correia e Silva.

"Maio has great potential for sustainable tourism and a good balance between the environment and the economy. We look forward to future collaboration with the Bank and other partners in this regard," he added.

Adesina said the port inauguration marked another milestone for the resilient West African nation. "This beautiful port will transform the face of the economy of Maio. It will become better connected to the rest of the country, rapidly expanding business and economic opportunities and boosting tourism," Adesina said.

It used to take three hours to travel to Maio from Praia by sea. With the



African Development Bank Group President Dr Akinwumi Adesina (L) and Cabo Verde Prime Minister José Ulisses de Pina Correia e Silva inaugurate the modernized port of Maio on September 7.

upgraded port of Maio, it will now take less than one hour. The project is also expected to make it a lot easier to sell salt, cheese, fish and other key commodities.

The port modernization project entailed the rehabilitation of the jetty, the construction of a roll-on, roll-off platform for ships, and access roads. It is also supporting women's associations in the production of salt, milk, and cheese in Maio, and a training center is being built to train young entrepreneurs in the tourism sector.

The European Union's director of international cooperation and policy, Felix Fernandez Shaw, said

the port would help Cabo Verde resume its trajectory of sustainable growth and unlock opportunities for sustainable tourism and access to regional markets.

When the Palmeira leg of the project is completed, both ports will significantly transform the economy of Cabo Verde. Annual passenger traffic is expected to increase by 34%, from 41,700 to over 55,000 in 2024. Merchandise traffic will also rise by 184%, from 150,900 to 429,000 tons.

Adesina commended the government for its proactiveness in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic, which impacted the economy

heavily, particularly tourism. In 2020, the African Development Bank provided €30 million to fund the country's Covid-19 response, helping Cabo Verde exceed expectations on its vaccination program. Over 84% of the population are vaccinated, which is way above the 18% average for Africa.

The country has also recovered significantly from the pandemic, recording GDP growth of 7.1% in 2021.

The African Development Bank is also financing transformations in other sectors of the

country's economy.

The Bank's €30 million financing for the modernization of the Praia airport has expanded passenger traffic by 150%.

A power project co-financed with the Japan International Cooperation Agency provided electricity to over 10,000 people. Another partnership with the European Investment Bank and other partners financed the €63 million Cabeolica wind power plant.

The project now supplies 20% of the nation's electricity. This has made Cabo Verde a model country for clean energy.

The Bank team on the three-day visit includes Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade, Acting Vice President for Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery; Joseph Ribeiro, deputy director general for West Africa; Joel Daniel Muzima, Principal Country Economist; and Patrick Rugumire, Chief Transport Engineer.

African Development Bank has, since 1977, invested \$643 million in projects in the country. Cabo Verde will benefit from a future Praia-Dakar-Abidjan multimodal transport corridor project which will expand the country's trade competitiveness within the African Continental Free Trade Area.

EU unclear if gas pipeline from Spain makes economic sense

BERLIN

European Union industry Chief Thierry Breton said on Thursday it was uncertain whether a pipeline connecting the Spanish and French gas grids would be profitable.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz last month pushed for the construction of a pipeline from Portugal through Spain and France to central Europe to help wean Europe from reliance on Russian energy, saying he had lobbied for such a project.

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday such a pipeline was not necessary since capacity on the two existing cross-Pyrenees gas pipelines was under-utilised and that gas flows were going mainly in the direction of Spain.

"It is unclear if such a project would make sense economically," Breton told reporters in Berlin, one day before EU energy ministers were due to hold an emergency meeting in Brussels to discuss soaring energy prices.

So far, France, which relies heavily on nuclear power, has been cautious about reviving the Midcat natural gas pipeline, which was shut down in 2017 as it was unprofitable.

The EU proposed a price cap on Russian gas on Wednesday after President Vladimir Putin threatened to cut off all energy supplies if Europe took such a step, raising the risk of rationing in Europe this winter.

The escalating standoff could drive sky-high European gas prices higher still, adding to already eyewatering bills EU governments are paying to stop energy providers collapsing and prevent cash-strapped customers freezing in the cold months ahead.

Europe has accused Russia of weaponising energy supplies in retaliation for Western sanctions imposed on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine. Russia blames those sanctions for causing the gas supply problems, which it puts down to pipeline faults.

In Spain, the pipeline is complete as far as Hostalric, 106 km south of the border; in France, around 120 km are missing.

Spain sees this as a project of European importance, which it says must also be financed by the EU.

The natural gas that is to flow north through the pipe could be obtained from different sources in Spain and Portugal, since both countries together have a total of seven LNG terminals.

There are also two pipelines to the gas supplier Algeria in North Africa.

Later, as part of the energy transition, so-called green hydrogen, which is generated with the help of wind or sun, could also be passed through.

Dangerous construction mafias target building projects in SA

JOHANNESBURG

Dangerous construction mafias targeting major projects are costing property developers hundreds of millions in lost income and expenditure on private security.

That is according to Sunday newspaper Rapport, which recently spoke to some of the country's biggest developers and construction companies about the criminal activity.

Construction mafias have been rife in KwaZulu-Natal over the past few years, rearing their heads in two townships near Durban back in 2015.

But the practice has spread to many other parts of the country, including Gauteng.

One major property developer told Rapport that a heavily-armed group occupied a multi-billion rand shopping centre in the province a day before it was scheduled to open.

They demanded a 30% cut of the centre's income to leave the development in peace.

The developer had to deploy a private security firm with its own heavy weapons and helicopters to chase the occupiers out.

It must retain these services, at



Construction mafias have been rife in KwaZulu-Natal over the past few years

significant cost, to prevent the group from returning to the centre.

Rapport's sources said the police were doing little to nothing to fight the criminals.

According to an employee at a project management support company, municipal councillors

were often involved in the mafias.

In Cape Town, some property developers had given in to paying firms owned by gangs to protect their developments.

In one project's case, a construction mafia group from KwaZulu-Natal attempted to move in

and disrupt a project, and the appointed firm promptly dealt with them.

The construction mafias are not limiting themselves to property developments with potential retail or corporate value.

Solidarity told Rapport that its Sol-Tech technical college

campus in Centurion, which was under budget and ahead of schedule in March 2021, also faced off against one such group.

Solidarity's property investment company Kanton said that syndicates threatened to delay the project by three or four months. However, the organisation deployed private security and forged ahead.

The organisation is already preparing to take on syndicates looking to hijack or disrupt the construction of student housing on the campus.

Several fibre network operators (FNOs) – including Frogfoot, MetroFibre, Octotel, and Openserve – previously told MyBroadband that construction mafias were also holding back home fibre rollouts.

The groups use tactics including sub-contracting demands, charging "protection fees", and holding construction sites hostage if companies don't meet their demands.

Despite operators committing to job creation by cooperating with local councils and business forums in the areas they are installing, construction mafia groups acted as gatekeepers.

MetroFibre's head of fibre-to-the-home Jacques de Villiers explained these groups also often posed as "business forums" and presented one of the biggest challenges for operators.

UK construction industry shrinks as recession looms

LONDON

Building firms suffered a squeeze on activity for a second month in a row during August as new orders slowed to their lowest level since the summer of 2020 in the latest sign that a UK recession is looming.

With inflation at a 40-year high, construction businesses reported that their customers were putting new work on hold, forcing them to stop buying materials and hiring staff.

S&P Global's construction sector index showed depressed activity last month, after an even steeper fall in July. The Cips UK construction purchasing managers' index was 49.2 in August, after a reading of 48.9 in the previous month. A figure below 50 indicates the sector has contracted.

Andrew Harker, the economics director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said the sector "looks set to be in for a challenging period".

Civil engineering was the hardest

hit over the two months combined, while commercial building also experienced a reduction in activity. Only housebuilding enjoyed a lift in August, but that was too modest to push the rest of the industry into growth.

Harker said despite the August increase in activity, housebuilding was in a period of stagnation and the only silver lining was that employment remained strong.

Gareth Belsham, a director of the national property consultancy Naimsmiths, said the construction sector was a "canary in the coalmine" for the rest of the economy.

"As the recessionary vice begins to close on the UK economy as a whole, the construction industry's brakes are being squeezed harder and faster than most," he said.

Andrew Wishart, the senior property economist at the consultancy Capital Economics, said a drop in demand by the leisure and hospitality industry for new work as the cost of living crisis

spilled over to the demand for gyms and hotels was especially significant.

He said the survey was consistent with construction output falling from 4.1% in the year to June to zero by the end of the year.

Max Jones, a director in Lloyds Bank's infrastructure and construction team, was more upbeat, saying that some firms were flourishing during the recent period of uncertainty.

"Despite output remaining in contraction, many larger contractors are feeling more confident than they were earlier in the year," he added.

"Recent financial results from tier one firms showed healthy balance sheets and strong pipelines of new work. Others priced in jobs at a high point and are buying materials now as prices cool. As was the case during the pandemic, sensible balance sheet management has and will continue to be crucial."

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Construction site in London

WORLD

British Prime Minister eyes 'negotiated solution' on Northern Ireland protocol

LONDON/WASHINGTON

BRITISH Prime Minister Liz Truss said on Wednesday that she hopes to find a "negotiated solution" to the row between Britain and the European Union (EU) over post-Brexit trade in Northern Ireland.

"My preference is for a negotiated solution, but it has to deliver all of the things we set out in the Northern Ireland protocol bill, what we cannot allow is this situation to drift," said Truss in her first Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) session in the House of Commons since taking over from Boris Johnson as the country's leader.

A dispute over the Northern Ireland Protocol - the rules governing post-Brexit trading arrangements for Northern Ireland - has strained Britain's relations with the EU, stoking worries of a trade war if Truss presses ahead with her controversial bill to rewrite the protocol.

The Northern Ireland Protocol is a trade solution agreed by London and Brussels to prevent a hard border between Northern Ireland and the neighboring Republic of Ireland following Brexit.

Under the protocol, Northern Ireland is part of British customs territory but is subject to the

EU's customs code, value-added tax (VAT) rules and single market rules for goods. However, a de facto Irish Sea border was thus created between the British mainland and Northern Ireland, meaning goods transported to and from Northern Ireland are subject to border controls.

Northern Ireland's pro-Brexit Democratic Unionist Party has demanded the removal or replacement of the protocol as a precondition for it to sit in the assembly and form a devolved government.

"I want to work with all of the parties in Northern Ireland to get the executive and assembly back up and running," Truss told the parliament. "But in order to do that, we do need to fix the issues of the Northern Ireland protocol which has damaged the balance between the communities in Northern Ireland. I am determined to get on in doing that."

Reacting to the move, the White House said on Wednesday that any efforts to undermine the Northern Ireland agreement would not create a conducive environment for trade talks between the United States and the United Kingdom.

"There is a no formal linkage on trade talks between the US and the UK and the Northern



This handout photograph released by the UK Parliament shows Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss speaking during her first weekly Prime Minister's Questions session at the House of Commons, in London, on Wednesday. AFP

Ireland protocol, as we have said, but efforts to undo the Northern Ireland Protocol would not create a conducive environment," said White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre.

On Tuesday, the White House said US President Joe Biden and Truss "discussed their shared commitment to protecting the gains of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and the importance of reaching a negotiated agreement with the European Union on the Northern Ireland Protocol."

Biden, who often speaks with pride of his Irish roots, has been insistent that Britain do nothing that could endanger a quarter century of peace in Northern Ireland.

During Wednesday's PMQs, the new British PM also confirmed that her government will make an announcement on how to deal with rising en-

ergy bills on Thursday.

Truss is reportedly planning to freeze energy bills for households and businesses at 2,500 pounds (\$2,857) a year to help the country tide over the worsening cost-of-living crisis. This is much lower than the energy price cap of 3,549 pounds set for October by the country's energy regulator Ofgem in late August. Her scheme is estimated to cost around £30 billion pounds.

Responding to the question of whether this would be funded by a windfall tax on energy companies' profits, Truss said that she is against a windfall tax.

"I believe it is the wrong thing to be putting companies off investing in the United Kingdom, just when we need to be growing the economy," she said. "This country will not be able to tax its way to growth."

UN warns achieving full gender equality still centuries away

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations reported Wednesday that it may take close to 300 years to achieve full gender equality at the current rate of progress, revealing some shocking facts worth paying attention to.

"The Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): The Gender Snapshot 2022" shows that global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, violent conflict, climate change, and the backlash against women's sexual and reproductive health and rights "are further exacerbating gender disparities."

The new report, launched by UN Women and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), highlights that, at the current pace of progress, SDG 5 - achieving gender equality - will not be met by 2030. Sima Bahous, UN Women Executive Director, said: "This is a tipping point for women's rights and gender equality as we approach the half-way mark to 2030. It is critical that we rally now to invest in women and girls to reclaim and accelerate progress."

"The data show undeniable regressions in their lives made

worse by the global crises - in incomes, safety, education and health. The longer we take to reverse this trend, the more it will cost us all."

"Cascading global crises are putting the achievement of the SDGs in jeopardy, with the world's most vulnerable population groups disproportionately impacted, in particular women and girls," said Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of UN DESA.

"Gender equality is a foundation for achieving all SDGs and it should be at the heart of building back better," she added.

Without swift action, according to the report, legal systems that do not ban violence against women, do not protect women's rights in marriage and family, for instance denying women their right to pass on their nationality to their children, or to inherit, do not provide them with equal pay and benefits at work, do not guarantee their equal rights to own and control land, "may continue to exist for generations to come."

At the current rate of progress, the report estimates that it will take up to 286 years to close gaps in legal protection and remove



People attend a rally calling for abortion rights in Washington, D.C., the United States, July 9, 2022. File photo

discriminatory laws, 140 years for women to be represented equally in positions of power and leadership in the workplace, and at least 40 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments.

To eradicate child marriage by 2030, progress must be 17 times faster than progress of the last decade, with girls from the poorest rural households and in conflict-affected areas expected to suffer the most.

The report also points to a worrisome reversal on the reduction of poverty, and rising prices are likely to exacerbate this trend.

By the end of 2022, around 383 million women and girls will live in extreme poverty compared to 368 million men and boys.

Many more will have insufficient income to meet basic needs such as food, clothing and adequate shelter in most parts of the world. If current trends continue, in sub-Saharan Africa, more women and girls will live in extreme poverty by 2030 than today. On the Ukraine crisis, the report says that it is further worsening food insecurity and hunger, especially among women and children, limiting supplies of wheat, fertilizer

and fuel, and propelling inflation.

In 2021, about 38 percent of female-headed households in crisis-affected areas experienced moderate or severe food insecurity, compared to 20 percent of male-headed households.

Further facts and figures highlighted in the report include: In 2020, school and preschool closures required 672 billion hours of additional unpaid childcare globally.

Assuming the gender divide in care work remained the same as before the pandemic, women would have shouldered 512 billion of those hours.

Globally, women lost an estimated 800 billion U.S. dollars in income in 2020 due to the pandemic, and despite a rebound, their participation in labor markets is projected to be lower in 2022 than it was pre-pandemic (50.8 percent, compared to 51.8 percent in 2019).

There are now more women and girls who are forcibly displaced than ever before: some 44 million women and girls by the end of 2021.

Today, over 1.2 billion women and girls of reproductive age (15-49) live in countries and areas with some restriction on access to safe abortion. *Xinhua*

South Africa to host national park week to promote natural heritage

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa will host a national park week on Sept. 12-18 when citizens can visit the country's national parks for free, South African National Parks (SANParks) said Wednesday.

SANParks said the free access to the parks aims to encourage citizens to know their parks and enjoy their natural heri-

tage, particularly communities living near them. "We want people to be able to connect to nature and appreciate their natural heritage, hence the decision to restrict it to weekdays and to have quotas at every gate," said Kruger National Park spokesperson Isaac Phaahla.

"The free access week takes place during September, which is both Tourism and Heritage month, therefore it makes sense

for us to have national park week during this period, especially for our neighboring communities."

Phaahla said citizens need to produce their South African identity cards to gain free access to the parks, and that private safari vehicle operators, tourists who come to the park on tour buses, and overnight visitors do not have free access to the national parks.

"In celebration of the national parks week, Kruger National Park also has planned activities lined up to highlight interpretation for some of the cultural heritage products available for tourists. These activities will also allow us an opportunity to strengthen relations with the key stakeholders from around the park who are linked to those cultural heritage sites," he said. *Xinhua*

China's governance experience sheds light on development of Laos

By Sommad Pholsena

I read the fourth volume of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" immediately after the book was published.

The book by the Chinese President fully demonstrates the rich connotation of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the efforts made by the Communist Party of China (CPC) to serve the people wholeheartedly, as well as the Party's latest contribution to building a community with a shared future for mankind and to building a better world.

Reading it gave me a better understanding of China's development path.

Since the CPC was founded over 100 years ago, it has bravely shouldered

responsibilities, stayed committed to communist ideals and socialist convictions, and united and led the Chinese people of all ethnic groups to achieve remarkable accomplishments.

Especially since the 18th National Congress of the CPC held in 2012, the CPC has led the Chinese people in working tirelessly to eliminate absolute poverty and build a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and started a new journey to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects. It fully demonstrated the advantages of socialism.

Me and my brothers and sisters used to live in Beijing when we were little. After I grew up, I also had mul-

iple visits to China where I saw the country's rapid economic and social development. When I visited the country once in a while, I could see the changes taking place there. The country's well-built infrastructure, densely distributed high-rise buildings, and cutting-edge technologies are all very impressive.

Laos is currently in a period of reform and development. It shares the same conviction with China and is also committed to building a community with a shared future for mankind. It has always been eager to learn from China's governance experience.

I've read other books by President Xi such as "Xi Jinping Telling Stories" and "Classics Quoted by Xi", which inspired me very much. I hope I can apply the governance experience I have learned from the books to the national construction of Laos.

The National Assembly of Laos has always been promoting economic development by enhancing legislation and supervision. China's experience in this regard sheds light on the development of Laos.

Laos and China, connected by mountains and rivers, share a long history of friendship. Since the two countries established diplomatic ties more than 60 years ago, they have always stayed committed to their common ideals, trusted and offered mutual support for each other and

worked for a shared future.

In 2019, the leaders of the two countries signed an action plan on building a China-Laos community with a shared future to guide the two countries to achieve more fruitful results in their cooperation.

The on-time completion and operation of the China-Laos Railway has turned Laos from a landlocked country into a land-linked one, which fully indicates the value of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). At present, the prospering passenger and freight businesses of the railway are bringing tangible benefits to the Lao people and injecting important impetus into regional cooperation.

China's efforts to build a commu-

nity with a shared future for mankind and to promote high-quality construction of the BRI showcase the CPC's broad mind to seek prosperity for the entire world. China's achievements in promoting interconnectivity and deepening mutually beneficial cooperation play a positive role in driving common development of all countries.

Peace and development are the underlying trends of our times, as well as a common aspiration of the people in all countries. China is always an important force maintaining world peace and stability. Pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace, it is supported by more and more peace-loving countries around the world.

(Sommard Pholsena is the Vice President of the National Assembly of Laos)

Putin to meet with Xi Jinping, other leaders at SCO summit in Uzbekistan

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin plans to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other foreign leaders at the upcoming summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters.

"Intense preparations are now underway for the talks between our president and PRC President Xi Jinping that are planned to take place during the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Samarkand on September 15-16," he said.

According to the Kremlin official, the meeting "will be very important for obvious reasons."

The talks will be part of "a number of bilateral meetings" that Putin will have on the sidelines of the summit, Ushakov said. The plan is also to hold the traditional trilateral summit of Russia, China and Mongolia, the official said.

Invitations to the summit in Samarkand were sent to many leaders, including from observer countries, which are the countries that maintain ties with this organization, according to the Kremlin aide. Leaders have also been invited from the countries that show an interest in engaging with the SCO while having no formal status at the organization, he said.

"The two days in Samarkand will be very busy," Ushakov said. *Agencies*

UNDP report warns 9 out of 10 countries fall behind in human development

UNITED NATIONS

NINE out of 10 countries fall backward in human development due to multiple crises, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) warned yesterday.

The world is "lurching from crisis to crisis, trapped in a cycle of firefighting and unable to tackle the roots of the troubles that confront us," according to the latest Human Development Report - "Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World."

Without a sharp change of course, the world may be "heading towards even more deprivations and injustices," says the report, underscoring that layers of uncertainty are stacking up and interacting to unsettle life in unprecedented ways.

The last two years have had a devastating impact for billions of people around the world, when crises like COVID-19 and the Ukraine conflict "hit back-to-back, and interacted with sweeping social and economic shifts, dangerous planetary changes, and massive increases in polarization," the report says.

For the first time in the 32 years that the UNDP has been calculating it, the Human Development Index (HDI), which measures a nation's health, education, and standard of living, has declined globally for two years in a row.

Human development has fallen back to its 2016 levels, reversing much of the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The reversal is "nearly universal" as over 90 percent of countries registered a decline in their HDI score in either 2020 or 2021, and more than 40 percent declined in both years, "signaling that the crisis is still deepening for many."

While some countries are beginning to get back on their feet, recovery is "uneven and partial," further widening inequalities in human development. Latin America, the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia have been hit particularly hard, according to the report.

"The world is scrambling to respond to back-to-back crises. We have seen with the cost of living and energy crises that, while it is tempting to focus on quick fixes like subsidizing fossil fuels, immediate relief tactics are delaying the long-term systemic changes we must make," said UNDP head Achim Steiner.

"We are collectively paralyzed in making these changes. In a world defined by uncertainty, we need a renewed sense of global solidarity to tackle our interconnected, common challenges," he said.

The report explores why the change needed isn't happening and points out there are many reasons, including how insecurity and polarization are feeding off each other today to prevent the solidarity and collective action the world needs to tackle crises at all levels. New calculations show that those feeling most insecure are also more likely to "hold extreme political views."

"Even before COVID-19 hit, we were seeing the twin paradoxes of progress with insecurity and polarization. Today, with one-third of people worldwide feeling stressed and fewer than a third of people worldwide trusting others, we face major roadblocks to adopting policies that work for people and planet," said Steiner. "We have a narrow window to re-boot our systems and secure a future built on decisive climate action and new opportunities for all," he added.

To chart a new course, the report recommends implementing policies that focus on investment in an array of areas from renewable energy to preparedness for pandemics, and insurance - including social protection, so as to prepare our societies for the ups and downs of an uncertain world. Innovation in many forms can also build capacities to respond to whatever challenges come next, the report says. *Xinhua*

Suspect in Canada stabbing spree dies soon after arrest

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan

THE suspect sought by Canadian authorities in a weekend stabbing spree that killed 10 people in and around an indigenous reserve was arrested on Wednesday but suffered unspecified "medical distress" and died a short time later at a hospital, police said.

Official word that the four-day manhunt for Myles Sanderson, 30, ended with his death came during a late-night news conference hours after the Royal Canadian Mounted Police reported he had been taken into custody.

The RCMP said the arrest took place near the town of Rosthern, Saskatchewan, about 100 km southwest of the area where one of the bloodiest acts of mass violence in the country's history unfolded on Sunday.

Canada's Global News agency, citing multiple law enforcement sources, later reported that Sanderson had surrendered to police and was taken away alive in an ambulance after a highway pursuit in which police rammed his vehicle off the road. Global News said he died shortly afterward of unspecified injuries that authorities believe were self-inflicted.

RCMP Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore told reporters Sanderson "went into medical distress" shortly after he was detained, that emergency medical personnel on the scene attended to him and he was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

nounced dead.

She declined to address questions about whether he might have consumed a drug or other substance that killed him, saying the manner and cause of his death would be determined by an autopsy.

His older brother and accused accomplice, Damien Sanderson, 31, was found slain on Monday in a grassy area of the James Smith Cree Nation. Police were investigating whether the younger sibling might have killed his brother, and that he may have sustained an injury requiring medical attention.

Blackmore said an emergency-911 caller who reported spotting Myles Sanderson before his arrest indicated he appeared to have had a visible injury.

In addition to the 10 victims killed on Sunday, 18 others were wounded in the rampage, which unnerved a country where instances of mass murder are rare. Police said some of the victims appeared to have been targeted, while others were apparently random.

Authorities have offered no motive for the attacks, which occurred on the James Smith Cree Nation reserve, home to some 3,400 people, and the nearby village of Weldon, about 320 km north of the provincial capital of Regina.

With Myles Sanderson's death, "We may never have an understanding of that motivation," Blackmore said.

Harris to attend former Japanese leader Abe's funeral in Tokyo

WASHINGTON

US Vice-President Kamala Harris will travel to Tokyo later this month to attend the funeral of slain former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe, followed by a trip to South Korea, a spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

"Her visit will honor the legacy of prime minister Abe and underscore the importance of his leadership in championing the alliance between the United States and Japan and advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific," Harris' press secretary, Kirsten Allen, said. Abe, the longest-serving leader in modern Japan, was fatally shot from close range during a campaign rally on July 8.

The visit from Sept 25-29 marks Harris' second trip to Asia.

In August 2021, she visited Singapore and Vietnam to bolster economic and security ties with the two countries. It came at a time when the Biden White House was aiming to refocus US foreign policy strategy on competing with China's rising economic influence rather than on continuing to fight the two-decade long conflict in Afghanistan.



stan.

During the trip, Harris (pictured) rebuked China and sought to fortify the image of the United States as a credible ally for countries in the region.

She also said the United States welcomes competition and does not seek conflict with Beijing, but it will speak up on issues like maritime disputes in the South China Sea.

Her meetings with senior government officials in Tokyo and South Korea this month will focus on America's shared economic and security interests in the region and show its commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, Allen said.

Agencies

UNICEF warns of malnutrition crisis in Somalia as famine looms

MOGADISHU

THE United Nations Children's Fund, or UNICEF, has expressed concern about the malnutrition crisis in Somalia amid a looming famine.

UNICEF Representative in Somalia Wafaa Saeed Abdelatef said disease outbreaks have spiked between January-July period, with at least 8,400 suspected cases of acute watery diarrhoea/cholera and around 13,000 suspected measles cases.

This is a malnutrition crisis; Malnutrition has reached crisis levels - 1.5 million children, nearly half of the under-five population, are likely to have acute malnutrition.

Of these 385,000 will need treatment for severe acute malnutrition. These are unprecedented numbers," Saeed said in a statement released on Tuesday evening in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. She said some 730 children are reported to have died in food and nutrition centers across the country between January and July but the numbers could be more as many deaths go unreported.

The UNICEF official said the Monday warnings about a looming famine in areas of the Bay region of Somalia between October and December underline the scale of Somalia's crisis and the urgent need to quickly scale up support.

"Bay is not the only region facing this deep humanitarian crisis. 74 districts across Somalia are affected, out of which we have prioritized 12 as needing

urgent, urgent support," Saeed said.

A new food security and nutrition analysis published by the UN Monday revealed that famine is unfolding in parts of Somalia while staggering levels of suffering can be seen across the country.

"This is Somalia's third drought in a decade. The first drought, in 2011, killed an estimated 260,000 people, many of them children," Saeed said. She called for a radical change to stop famine from happening again - ensuring donors commit long-term funding to help families build resilience to the effects of climate change.

The UNICEF official said 223,000 children with severe acute malnutrition had been treated (58 percent of the 2022 target) and 1 million people reached sustainable water (30 percent of the 2022 target) as of July.

Saeed said the ongoing efforts to prevent disease outbreaks include providing water and sanitation in locations for internally displaced persons (IDP) and stepping up vaccinations against measles and cholera.

"We urgently need donors to step up and fully fund the UN's Humanitarian Response Plan. We also need access to be facilitated to deliver impartial relief for children in need, in accordance with international humanitarian law," Saeed said.

Forecasts indicate a fifth consecutive failed rainy season in the coming months, and recovery from drought will take time.

Putin speaks about operation in Ukraine, grain deal, Europe's 'wolf's tail' at EEF

VLADIVOSTOK

RUSSIA has lost nothing and will lose nothing as a result of its military operation in Ukraine, but on the contrary, has enhanced its sovereignty, as the polarization around the world and within the country will bring about some benefits, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) on Wednesday.

The president, who in contrast to his last year's speech focused on international issues, stated that Russia is coping with the aggression of the West, whose stability was thrown into "the furnace of sanctions," and slammed the Istanbul grain deal as "outrageous deceit." When touching upon political restrictions on Russian energy exports, he told Europe "let the wolf's tail freeze," citing a Russian folk tale. Commenting on EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell's statements, Putin said, "Let God be his judge." Additionally, he suggested that Western journalists might visit the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant "as soon as tomorrow."

Putin drew attention to the development of the Far East. He suggested extending the down payment assistance program for homebuyers in the region until at least 2030 and promised new support measures for the region's growth. The president also commented on the verdict to Ivan Safronov saying that the counterintelligence agency had been investigating him for several years, and the court considered his guilt proven.

TASS summarized Putin's key statements.

About developments in Ukraine
The Russian operation in Ukraine is a tit-for-tat response to what had been going on there since 2014. "I would like to emphasize once again that we have not started anything in terms of military operations. We are only trying to end the hostilities."

"I believe that we have lost nothing and will lose nothing. And from the standpoint of gains, I can say that our main gain is stronger sovereignty. This is an inevitable result of what is going on," he stressed.

"A certain polarization is taking place both in the world and within the country. I believe that this will



Russian President Vladimir Putin

bring about certain benefits, because everything that is unnecessary, harmful and everything that prevents us from moving forward will be renounced. We will gain momentum and the pace of development," Putin said.

About grain deal

The Istanbul grain deal turned out to be "another outrageous deceit," as almost all the agricultural products shipped from Ukraine have gone to EU countries, whereas Russia and the poorest economies were "merely ditched."

Russia can put forward a proposal of limiting the Ukrainian grain exports to the European Union.

"I will definitely have a word with the Turkish President, Mr. Erdogan on this issue. After all, we were the ones who worked out the Ukrainian grain export mechanism," the president said.

Nevertheless, Moscow will continue to work on the deal, "in the hope that the goals, for the sake of which this case was organized, will eventually be achieved."

Global food prices are still growing because of the restrictions on Russian exports, which are still in effect, regardless of the fact, they were officially waived from sanctions.

"It is a cunningly drawn-up, sophisticated design when no sanctions appear to be in place, but there are restrictions related to logistics, vessel chartering, funding, and insurance," he said.

"It is obvious that with this approach the scale of problems with food products in the world will only grow, unfortunately, to our great regret, which is capable of leading to an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe," Putin stressed.

About gas and "wolf's tail"

A price cap on Russian gas imports, which is being weighed by the European Union, is "yet another stupidity, another non-market decision that has no future," which might result in a price hike.

Beijing sees remarkable progress in ecological construction

ENTERING the Beijing-Chongli Expressway from the northern road of the capital, you'll see a vast number of green trees standing on the two sides of the road and extending all the way to the mountains at the end of your horizon.

These years, birds, hedgehogs, squirrels and rabbits have been frequently spotted in the woods along the expressway. "Many animals that had disappeared for years have returned. Even pheasants and roe deer are attracted here from the mountains," said a nearby villager.

These trees make the Beijing-Chongli Expressway a green corridor, which is part of Beijing's new round of afforestation work of one million mu (about 66,667 hectares) that started in 2018.

The new round of afforestation work aims to improve urban ecology and build a high-quality, healthy and stable forest ecological system. It has helped Beijing build an ecological network, which improves biodiversity, expands green space and optimizes the living environment of the city over the past five years.

The work takes the existence of wild animals into full consideration. By connecting areas that were once ecologically separated, it has gradually built a "green network" that offers larger habitats and more migration channels for animals.

"We must make sure that rabbits from Tongzhou district can jump all the way to Yanqing district," said Wang Xiaoping, an official with the Beijing Gardening and Greening Bureau.

"The varieties of the trees we planted were well-chosen and carefully laid out," said Sun Hua-



Photo taken on May 14, 2022 shows a picturesque view in a park in Beijing. (Photo by Hu Qingming/People's Daily)

bin, an official with the gardening and greening bureau of Beijing's Changping district.

According to Sun, many trees along the Beijing-Chongli Expressway were planted to feed the birds, insects and other wild animals, such as Chinese crabapple, Chinese wild peach and purple-leaf plum. They not only make the expressway more beautiful, but also attract more animals to settle.

Near the eastern section of the Beijing Wenyue Park in Chaoyang district, there is a vast mixed forest. It's a buffer zone specifically designed for wild animals. It is like a natural barrier that separates human activities from animals, providing a quiet habitat for wildlife.

In the western section of the park, artificial shrubs are planted to provide shelter for animals, such as hedgehogs and rabbits.

Such shrubs have been planted at 2,200 sites as Beijing advances the new round of afforestation work. Besides, the project has designat-

ed 295 biodiversity conservation residential complexes, put 491 small and micro wetlands under protection, and built artificial 5,027 bird nests and 1,338 "insect hotels."

According to the 2021 version of the list of terrestrial wild animals in Beijing, the city is home to 596 species of terrestrial wildlife and over 500 wild bird species, or over one-third of the number of bird species in China. Beijing has now become one of the world's most biodiverse megacities.

The afforestation work not only expands the living space for wild animals, but also tangibly improves the natural environment in Beijing, enlarges the green space and benefits the people. Beijing was once bothered by environmental issues caused by both natural and human factors. Since the afforestation project was launched in 2018, the city had made over 1 million mu of afforestation as of the end of this June, and the project is expected to be

completed by the end of this year.

In the past five years, Beijing saw a newly added afforestation area of 3,966 hectares, equivalent to the area of six Olympic Forest Parks. The city has also built 56 urban forests, 181 leisure parks, as well as 460 pocket parks and small green spaces.

At present, Beijing is home to 290 green areas each covering over 1,000 mu, and has restored ecology for 464,000 mu of hills. The forest coverage of the city has been lifted to 44.6 percent.

People's Daily

Russia has no problems with exports of its energy resources, as the gas delivered from Russia via pipelines "is many times more competitive than the liquefied natural gas shipped across the ocean."

Moscow will not be implementing "the political decisions that contradict contracts."

"We won't be supplying anything if it runs counter to our interests," he said. "Those who are imposing whatsoever on us are not in a position to tell us what they want. Let them think about it."

"There is only one thing left for us to do, as in a famous Russian folk tale, we will chant: 'let the wolf's tail freeze,'" Putin said citing a children's tale, which says how a fox, another character, gets the wolf to fish in an ice hole with his tail.

Allegations that Moscow is using the Nord Stream gas pipeline as "an energy weapon" are "another load of nonsense."

Russia is poised to restart Nord Stream I as soon as tomorrow, but "they wouldn't let [us do it]," and "pushing the button" is enough to switch Nord Stream 2 on.

In general, Russia is placing a stake on "the thoughtful and smart development of Russia's natural riches," so the raw materials extracted in the country will be used primarily for stepping up national sovereignty, whereas the sector of extraction is already protected "against unfriendly actions."

About "furnace of sanctions"

The United States' slipping global dominance and Western elites' inability to accept objective facts have become a catalyst for the West's "frenzy of sanctions." As a result, the high level of Europe's industrial development and Europeans' living standards "are being thrown into the furnace of sanctions" and sacrificed for the United States to maintain its global dictatorship.

European companies' competitiveness is diminishing due to the disrupted ties with Russia among other factors.

"It would not be surprising if ultimately the niche of European business both on the continent and in the global market will be occupied by their American patrons. They never limit themselves in following their interests and do not hesitate to reach their goal," Putin said.

Moreover, "in the attempt to resist the course of history, Western countries have undermined the key pillars of the world economic system," so confidence in the dollar, euro, and other Western currencies has been lost and inflation rates have hit many-year record highs.

About Zaporozhye NPP

The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) report about the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant is credible.

"Yes, I undoubtedly trust this report," the president said. "They [the IAEA - TASS] are, of course, under pressure <...> and they cannot sat it straightforwardly that shelling comes from the Ukrainian territory, but it is an obvious thing," the head of state said.

The claims that Russia is shelling the NPP it controls is "nonsense," he added.

Russia is poised to take "anyone, including a large group of journalists, including European and US journalists" to the nuclear power plant "as soon as tomorrow."

Agencies

Three comebacks show Yanga are team to beat again

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

A FEW fans might have been surprised at full-time after Yanga's thrilling 2-2 draw with Azam FC when they met in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League tie which took place in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday evening, but the rest of us should stop acting so surprised by Yanga's dramatic comebacks.

Three times in their first four matches of the new campaign, Yanga has recovered from going behind to earning either a draw or victory.

In the 2022/23 season's curtain raiser pitting Yanga against Simba SC in the city on August 13, the former fought back from 1-0 down in the first half to win 2-1 and reclaim the Community Shield.

In the second half of the Community Shield encounter, Simba SC simply had no answers to the brilliance of Stephane Aziz Ki, Khalid Aucho, Bernard Morrison, and Fiston Mayele who combined to produce a mesmerizing performance that will have title rivals fearing that Yanga could prove unstoppable this season.

Three days later, in their first league match of the season against Polisi Tanzania, Yanga fell behind in the first half after Mayele had missed his penalty spot, and the attacker then registered the equalizer before Bakari Mwamnyeto's right foot effort gave them all three points at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium, Arusha.

Polisi Tanzania counter-attacked intelligently but the reality was that Yanga were simply too strong, forcing the hosts to spend the majority of the second half on the edge of their box.

Yanga's 2-0 victory over Coastal



Yanga's midfielder, Khalid Aucho (C), dribbles past Azam FC players, midfielder Tape Edinho (L), and goal-getter Prince Dube, as the squads locked horns in a 2022/2023 NBC Premier League match played in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. The duel ended in a 2-2 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Union is the only game so far this season where the former has not conceded first.

Against Azam FC, Yanga twice came back from behind to tie the game 2-2.

The Green and Yellow outfit's precise and efficient recruitment in the previous two seasons has given it a squad packed with a variety of attacking options that are enabling it to pull off these late comebacks.

With the addition of five players in the last transfer window, their strength in depth has massively improved from last season, when compared to their direct title rivals, Simba SC and Azam FC.

Yanga's squad has been reinforced rather than changed while Simba SC and Azam FC have largely overhauled their squads.

This depth may ensure Yanga avoids getting dragged into serious trouble so far in this campaign.

Yanga's head coach Nasreddine

Nabi has so many quality players to pick and choose from that he can change the dynamic of a game quickly and easily if plan A does not work.

Midfielder Feisal Salum 'Feitoto' was dropped from the starting line-up in the Tuesday duel, yet he still had a crucial impact from the bench.

Winger Jesus Moloko was unavailable against Azam FC after picking up an unspecified issue in training and will be assessed in the next few days, but Dennis Nkane covered up for the Congolese albeit with limited impact.

Last season Yanga scored eight more goals than anybody else and conceded four fewer.

This season they have scored two goals in each of their four games.

If Mayele does not get opponents, Yanga's followers hardly need to worry given there are plenty of the squad's players

that will.

Morrison already has a goal and an assist in three league matches, and Salum now has two goals.

They also have the advantage of having versatile players like the indispensable Yannick Bangala and Kibwana Shomari.

Congolese Bangala is undroppable from the first eleven, being deployed as a defensive midfielder or center-back.

Shomari struggled in his first year at Yanga but has developed into one of the best full-backs in the league, whether stationed on the left or the right.

He may be right-footed, but the former Mtibwa Sugar defender is one of those players that seems to have the same impact on whichever flanks he starts on.

On the other side, for a team determined to fight for all domestic trophies available and also make progress in the CAF Champions League, there are issues Yanga needs to address, but feeling disappointed about dropping points against Azam FC after trailing behind on two occasions is a sign of their power of recovery which is not up for discussion.

Yanga's strong start in the 2021-22 season was underpinned by their defensive resilience – they only conceded once in their first five fixtures and kept four clean sheets.

Nabi's side has let in four goals in four matches so far this campaign and has only stopped Coastal Union from scoring against them.

Against Azam FC, Yanga conceded two set-piece goals netted by the former's center-backs.

Defending set pieces is perhaps the most significant moment of Tuesday evening's match in terms of the bigger problems that Nabi urgently needs to address.



Geita Gold FC's assistant coach Mathias Wandiba. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GEITA GOLD FC

Geita Gold FC eyes good start in 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S envoy in 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup, Geita Gold FC, is expected to depart for Omdurman, Sudan today for the showdown's first preliminary round's first leg against Hilal Al Sahil FC penned for Monday.

Geita Gold FC Information Officer Hemed Kivuyo said all preparations for the club's trip to Omdurman for the first preliminary round have reached an advanced stage.

He said the match was initially slated for Sunday but was pushed to Monday due to reasons he could not disclose.

He said his side consisting of 30 footballers and officials arrived in Dar es Salaam from Mwanza where the club took on Kagera Sugar in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash at CCM Kirumba Stadium.

He said the technical panel will announce 23 players set to travel to Sudan, indicating that players who will not travel will remain in Dar es Salaam, waiting for the return leg which has been scheduled to take place four days later.

The NBC Premier League encounter pitting Geita Gold FC against Kagera Sugar, which took place last Tuesday, had ended in a 1-1 draw.

Kivuyo pointed out: "The team is expected to arrive in Dar es Salaam today and will tomorrow undergo COVID-19 tests and other travel procedures but, in short, everything is ready and, being our first appearance in the CAF club tournament, all players are in good shape and ready for the game."

"The coach will announce 23 players for the trip, Said Ntibanzokinza is with the team but he will not travel to Sudan as he has some issues to sort out," he said.

The return game will take place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam, and the official asked all soccer lovers in the country to cheer his side when it hosts the visitors.

The leader revealed: "Our return game will take place four days after the Monday encounter, it will take place at Azam Complex Stadium, we ask all Tanzanians who love football to come in large numbers to cheer the home team."

"The support will motivate our players to work hard and hopefully win the game," he said.

The overall winners of the first preliminary round match between Geita Gold FC and Hilal Al Sahil will face Egyptian giants, Pyramids FC, in the second preliminary round.

Boomplay, Tigo set to enrich Tanzania's musicians

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

TANZANIA'S artists have gained more scope to advertise their works after telecommunication service company, Tigo, joined forces with an online music company, Boomplay, to allow music lovers and fans to listen to music online.

One of the country's new generation music artists, Omary Mwangi, alias 'Marioo', said that the new service which will allow music fans to listen to music through Boomplay's application will further promote the artists and earn them income from their works.

'Marioo' revealed that through Tigo's new campaign, known as 'Wakishua', local music fans will have the opportunity to download and listen to music composed by various artists.

The singer noted: "I am very grateful to Tigo and Boomplay for coming up with this service which is a new opportunity for artists to generate income and promote themselves around the world."

Boomplay Tanzania's General Manager, Natasha Stambuli, said that until now there are 70 million people around the world who use Boomplay, so the existence of the service will provide an opportunity for not only artists to gain income

but also fans to listen to the songs played online.

"This alliance with Tigo will provide an opportunity for Tigo network users to listen to their favourite musicians," Natasha pointed out.

Tigo Communications Division's

Head, William Mpinga, said that the Tigo network has been helping the music industry by providing opportunities for artists to connect with their fans.

"Through our 'Wakishua' campaign, our customers will get this service at the same cost, the

goal is to ensure that Tigo brings artists closer to their fans," Mpinga pointed out.

The campaign was officially launched in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday in an event attended by various new generation music artists.



Tanzania's national women's golf team's player, Angel Eaton, is in action in the ongoing All-Africa Challenge Trophy tournament held at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's course. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Uncertainty surrounds national boxing team's trip to Mozambique

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

UNCERTAINTY has surrounded Tanzania's boxing team's participation in the African Boxing Confederation (AFBC) Championship which gets underway today in Mozambique.

Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) officials said they need 70m/- to send seven boxers, two coaches, a leader of the delegation, and the team's doctor to the 10-day championship but, as of Wednesday, the

federation had yet to get the money for the trip.

Lukelo Wililo, BFT secretary-general, said they are still hunting for the money.

"Up to today, we do not have the money to send our boxers to the championship, we are still hunting for the money, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that we will find the money, if we fail today then the team will not travel to Mozambique," he said.

He said male boxers that are earmarked

for the trip are Yusuf Chagalawe, Kassim Mbundwike, Alex Isendi, Kelvin Kipinga, and Elias Mkoma while female boxers are Rahma Andrew and Agnes Mapesa.

Mbundwike and Chagalawe won bronze medals in the 2022 Commonwealth Games which took place in Birmingham, England.

The two lost their respective semi-final bouts, Mbundwike crashed out after losing to Tiago Mixanga of Mozambique, whereas Chagalawe was beaten by Sean Lazerini of

Scotland.

Meanwhile, Wililo said five local boxing coaches are among 30 African coaches now attending an online International Boxing Association (AIBA) 1 star course.

Wililo, one of the coaches attending the course, said it is expected to end next month. Mohammed Abubakar, Rogate Damian, Makore Mashaga, and Samuel Kapungu are equally attending the course.

"We are delighted that five local coaches

are attending an online AIBA 1 star coaching course, this is the course for elite boxing coaches, graduates of the course can coach boxing clubs, national teams, gyms, or even boxers participating in Olympics," he said.

He said that currently there are seven local boxing coaches with AIBA 1 stars, namely David Yombayomba, Edward Lyakwipa, Juma Uwesu, Said Mwingishe, Zakaria Mwaseba, Gaudence Uyanga, and Joseph Mayanga.

'Spectacular' Robert Lewandowski makes UCL history

BARCELONA

BARCELONA coach Xavi Hernandez says he is already running out of praise for the "spectacular" Robert Lewandowski after the striker's hat trick in Wednesday's 5-1 Champions League win against Viktoria Plzen.

Lewandowski, 34, took his tally for Barca to eight in five games since his €45 million move from Bayern Munich, while he also moved past Karim Benzema to become the third highest scorer in the history of the Champions League.

The Polish international has now registered 89 goals in the competition. Only Cristiano Ronaldo (140) and Lionel Messi (125) have managed more.

"I am running out of praise for him," Xavi said after the game. "He's scored a hat trick, but it's not just that. It's how he plays and how he makes the team play, finding the third man, reading the space perfectly, pressing..."

"I am delighted [with him]. He has been a fantastic signing. He gives us so many solutions in attack, he's a leader, a winner... [just] a fantastic, fantastic signing."

Franck Kessie had opened the scoring for Barca before Lewandowski struck his treble, becoming the first player to score Champions League hat tricks for three different teams, having done so previously for Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich.

"I don't know if he is the best No.9 in the world, but he is the best No. 9 for us," Xavi added when asked if there is a better striker in the game than the in-form Lewandowski.

"If he is not the best, he is up there with Benzema and the others, [Erling] Haaland is also there. But, without making comparisons, Robert is spectacular and it is an honour to have him on the team."

Substitute Ferran Torres added Barca's fifth goal at Camp Nou, latching on to a pass from Ousmane Dembele. The French winger had earlier set up Lewandowski's second goal, too, and Xavi sees elements of Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar in him.

"There are not many in football like him, in terms of a pure winger who is very difficult to defend against," the Barca boss said.

"We have to take advantage of his qualities. He is happy, he's enjoying himself. He's an important player who makes the difference, scoring goals, creating... he's a dagger on the wing.

"The quality he has one-on-one is at the level of Neymar when he's at his best. He must be more daring and shoot more, but he is a good kid and he's making the difference in games."

Barca remain unbeaten across five games in all competitions this season, but Xavi says it's too early to say they are back after winning just one Copa del Rey in the last three seasons.

Bigger tests remain, especially in Europe. The Blaugrana visit Bayern Munich on Tuesday in the Champions League after the German champions began their campaign with a 2-0 win away at Inter Milan on Wednesday in the group's other game.

"It's soon to say [Barca are back]," Xavi added. "We are very happy with the performance, but it is just three points and one game at home. We still have to go to Munich, to Milan. It's a difficult group. We must remain humble; this is just getting started."

Meanwhile, Barcelona have denied rejecting a bid from defender Gerard Pique to buy a stake in Barca Studios.

Barca sold just under 50% of the subsidiary company this summer for around €200 million to help fund the signings of Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha and Jules Kounde.

A report in Diari Ara this week claimed that Pique, through his company Kosmos, had wanted to invest in Barca Studios and had been left frustrated that the club rebuffed his offer in favour of other proposals.

"In light of the information published in the newspaper Ara, Barcelona strongly deny that the club president [Joan Laporta] has ever received an offer to purchase part of Barca Studios from Pique or his company," the Catalan club said in a statement on Wednesday.

"We find the spreading of uncorroborated information that can affect the standing and honour of Barcelona's [players] lamentable."

After selling 25% of their LaLiga television rights for the next 25 years to Sixth Street, Barca sold 24.5% of Barca Studios to Socios for around €100m.

However, despite those deals, they were still unable to register all their summer signings, so they sold a further 24.5% of Barca Studios, this time to Orpheus Media for another €100m.

Barca Studios is the club's in-house production business, but the club say the partnership with Socios and Orpheus Media will help to "accelerate the growth of the club's digital, NFT and Web.3 strategy."

The sale of club assets was approved by members, who have also given the board permission to sell up to 50% of the club's merchandising rights if they need a further cash injection.

Pique, through Kosmos, has invested heavily in sport in recent years. He is the owner of Spanish second division club Andorra and recently revamped the tennis competition the Davis Cup.

Last season, Kosmos also purchased the rights to Ligue 1 in France, broadcasting Lionel Messi's debut for Paris Saint-Germain on Twitch in collaboration with Spanish streamer Ibai Llanos.

Pique, now 35, has not featured for Barca on the pitch this season. He has been an unused substitute in each of their four league games following the arrivals of centre-backs Andreas Christensen and Kounde in the transfer window.

(Agencies)

Liverpool, Eintracht slump in CL on day 2 coaches fired

GENEVA

LONG-TIME criticism of the Champions League group stage? Too many lopsided mismatches as the wealth gap between clubs fuels competitive imbalance on the field.

Tell that to favored Liverpool and Eintracht Frankfurt after their heavy losses Wednesday.

Or to coaches Thomas Tuchel and Domenico Tedesco who lost their jobs on the morning after shocking losses for their teams, Chelsea and Leipzig, respectively.

Liverpool slumped to a stunning 4-1 defeat at Napoli where the hosts were four goals up in just 47 minutes at the stadium named for club icon Diego Maradona.

Though Jurgen Klopp's team has been beaten in just four games in 2022, three were in the Champions League including Real Madrid's 1-0 win in the final in May.

Eintracht won the Europa League title in May but the German club and the team it beat in the final, Rangers, both found it tough Wednesday on returning to the top-tier competition after long absences.

Eintracht was surprisingly beaten 3-0 at home by Sporting Lisbon just four days after



Napoli's Piotr Zielinski, left, scores his side's fourth goal past Liverpool's goalkeeper Allison during the group A Champions League soccer match between Napoli and Liverpool at the Diego Armando Maradona stadium in Naples, Italy, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022. (AP Photo)

its four-goal rout of Leipzig in the Bundesliga sped up Tedesco's exit.

Rangers was swept aside in the first half at Ajax before falling to a 4-0 loss.

Robert Lewandowski already tops the scoring chart after his Champions League debut for Barcelona, which beat Viktoria Plze 5-1.

One night after Kylian Mbappé and Erling Haaland each scored twice in wins for their clubs Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City, Lewandowski went one better with a hat trick.

Tottenham beat Marseille 2-0 with Brazil forward Richarlison twice scoring with headers late

in the game on his Champions League debut.

A remarkable 11-minute period of stoppage time at Atlético Madrid saw the home team open the scoring and be pegged back by

a penalty for 10-man Porto before Antoine Griezmann sealed a 2-1 win with a header from a tight angle.

Bayern Munich eased to a 2-0 win at Inter Milan, where Leroy Sané opened the scoring in the first half, and Club Brugge beat struggling Bayer Leverkusen 1-0.

Two coach firings began the Champions League drama early Wednesday.

Tuchel was ousted at Chelsea just 15 months after he guided the club to its

second Champions League title. The German manager's dissatisfaction with the club was clear in interviews late Tuesday after a 1-0 loss at Dinamo Zagreb.

Tedesco lasted just nine months at Leipzig, a Champions League semifinalist two years ago, and did not survive a humbling 4-1 home loss to Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk on Tuesday.

KLOPP'S CHALLENGE

The careers of Klopp and Tuchel have been linked since Tuchel succeeded Klopp after seven-year spells at both Mainz and Borussia Dortmund.

Both have been on the winning and losing sides of

Champions League finals in just the last four years, and both endured one of their worst days in the competition Wednesday.

Liverpool's rough start at Napoli saw the 2019 champion trail after a penalty within five minutes and go in at halftime 3-0 down despite goalkeeper Allison Becker saving a second spot kick.

Luis Diaz cut the lead to 4-1 after 49 minutes but Liverpool was far off its typical hard-pressing intensity.

"It looks a little bit like we have to reinvent ourselves," acknowledged Klopp, who is coming up to seven full years at Liverpool and hosts Ajax next Tuesday.

SIMEONE FAMILY

It was a stellar night for the Simeones in two different countries.

Son Giovanni scored the third goal for Napoli on his competition debut and dad Diego in Madrid saw his Atlético team show the resilience that is his coaching trademark to outlast Porto in stoppage time.

Victory ended an eight-game winless streak for Simeone's team at home in the Champions League. Atlético is at Leverkusen next week.

MARSEILLE STREAK

Marseille, winner of the first Champions League title in 1993, has now lost

its last eight away games in the competition dating back a decade and 14 of 15 games overall in that time.

The game turned on a red card shown in the 47th minute to Marseille defender Chancel Mbemba for bringing down Son Heung-min.

Tottenham is still unbeaten this season and goes to Lisbon to face Sporting next Tuesday, when Marseille hosts Eintracht.

STEP UP, FALL BACK

Eintracht and Rangers were evenly matched in the Europa League final less than four months ago. Eintracht won the title on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

They had similar fortunes Wednesday though not in a way either enjoyed on returning from long absences in Europe's biggest competition.

Eintracht ended a 62-year wait – since losing the iconic 1960 European Cup final 7-3 to Real Madrid – by collapsing in the second half at home to surging Sporting. Three goals in 17 minutes began with a goal from English forward Marcus Edwards.

It was 12 years and one financial collapse ago that Rangers last played in the Champions League. After its beating at Ajax, Rangers hosts Napoli in Glasgow next Tuesday.

AP

Chelsea sack Tuchel but will they come to regret it?

By Gab Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

TUESDAY night, following Chelsea's 1-0 defeat in their Champions League opener at Dinamo Zagreb, Thomas Tuchel faced the cameras looking a little bit like Dennis Hopper's character in "True Romance" after he gets the kiss of death from Christopher Walken and takes a drag of his cigarette. He knows what's coming, and he knows it's not good.

At least that's how it looks in hindsight, which is always 20/20. Asked if he was worried about Chelsea's start to the season – three defeats in seven games in all competitions – he said: "It's not about worry. It's about reality."

In these situations, clubs are always keen to get their version of events across, so it was no coincidence that they let it be known that there had been concerns for some time and that this was not a "knee-jerk" reaction to the defeat Tuesday night.

I'm not sure to what degree that explanation passes the smell test.

It's not because they didn't have reason to be concerned. Apart from the home game against Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea really haven't played well all season. But if you're concerned to the point that you're thinking of firing your manager, you don't normally go on a massive spending spree over the summer, when Chelsea were the biggest-spending side in Europe, both in gross terms (more than a quarter of a billion pounds, close to \$300 million) and net terms (a record £200m or \$230m). That is especially the case when you're acquiring players and signing contracts essentially without a front office, since the previous regime of managing director Marina

Granovskaia, sporting director Petr Cech and scouting and recruitment guru Scott McLachlan had all either left or were leaving. The joke was that Todd Boehly, who leads the ownership group, was the de facto "interim sporting director" of the club, except it wasn't a joke. He really was the guy flying around Europe, talking to agents and intermediaries and negotiating contracts with input from Tuchel.

Boehly, who wrestled in college and still has that stocky, amateur grappler look, is no doubt a very bright man and has plenty of experience owning a sports team. (He is co-owner of Major League Baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers.) But this is a different sport, a different role, and one that wasn't even on his radar until just over six months ago when Vladimir Putin decided to invade Ukraine, setting off the chain of events that led to Roman Abramovich's departure.

And so Chelsea operated this past summer the way most English clubs used to operate two decades ago: with a manager deciding which players he wanted to bring in and which ones he wanted to let go while the club, in the form of Boehly, fulfilled his wishes.

There's a reason nobody has successfully worked this way since the days of Sir Alex Ferguson: It doesn't work at the highest level. Scouting and recruitment are specialist areas that require tons of attention and expertise. So, too, is negotiation and knowing how to price players. Each of those is a hard enough job on its own; it becomes even harder when one of the guys doing it has a day job (you know, actually coaching the team) and the other has zero expertise in the field.

Now, you may argue



Tuchel's exit feels like a knee-jerk decision by Chelsea, especially after a summer of heavy investment in players that the coach was wanting to work with. (Agencies)

that Chelsea had little choice. I'm told it wasn't ego that turned Boehly into a wheeler-dealer this summer; it was necessity. They couldn't hang on to Granovskaia, Cech and McLachlan, and they wanted to bring in the right experts to replace them. (They were linked all summer with former Liverpool executive Michael Edwards, but to no avail.)

So rather than rushing into the wrong appointment, they asked Tuchel to do double duty, with Boehly's help.

I get the logic, even though it's far from a good idea. Not just in terms of overpaying for players, but also in the toll it took on Tuchel. You don't need to be a body language expert to note how his gaunt, praying mantis-like frame looked even more stressed over the past few weeks.

But where a not good idea turns into a really bad one is when you spend more than any other club in Europe at Tuchel's behest and then get rid of him in the first week of September.

Why? Because you've just invested £253m in players Tuchel wanted – and who,

in some cases, like Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, wanted Tuchel – and you have no idea if his successor on the bench (and/or whoever you hire eventually as a long-term director of football) will want them, too. And because contrary to popular belief, there is no endless supply of cash; whoever comes in will be working with more limited resources than he would have otherwise, which will only make the rebuild trickier.

It's difficult to understand why you wouldn't just stick with Tuchel and assess the situation in mid-November, when the six-week break otherwise known as the 2022 Qatar World Cup rolls around. For all their putrid performances, Chelsea are sixth in the table after six games of 38, just three points out of fourth place. And in the Champions League, however bad the showing in Zagreb was, they're hardly out of the qualification race with five of six games to go.

Of their seven outfield summer signings, three (Aubameyang, Denis Zakaria and Carney Chukwuemeka) haven't played a single minute. Wesley Fofana has played one game.

You obviously thought Tuchel was going to make it work when you signed them. How do you change your mind so quickly? So now, Chelsea have to reload on the fly. Whoever takes over will have to work with the motley crew Tuchel assembled at great expense, without any chance of freshening up the side until January. They'll have to work with what he has to make it better and with virtually no time on the training pitch to do that work. That's because the compressed winter World Cup calendar means that other than a 12-day break later this month (when most of Chelsea's players, who are internationals, will be away anyway), the team will literally be playing every single weekend and midweek.

Unless there's something we don't know – say, something happened in the 14 or so hours between Tuchel standing in front of the cameras in Zagreb and Chelsea's statement Wednesday morning – that better explains this decision, it feels exactly like what Chelsea claim it is not: a rash, ill-thought-out, knee-jerk decision. And the sort that can come back to haunt you.

GWiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Liverpool, Eintracht slump in CL on day 2 coaches fired

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Selemani Matola scathing of Simba SC display in draw with KMC FC



Selemani Matola

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

COACH Selemani Matola was scathing of Simba SC's display as the outfit was held to a frustrating 2-2 draw by Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in Wednesday evening's NBC Premier League game which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Simba SC men needed a win to keep their perfect start to the season and move two points clear of rivals Young Africans, alias Yanga, in the league standings.

However, they were second best throughout the contest despite an early goal by goal-getter Moses Phiri giving them a first-half lead.

Substitute Matheo Antony equalized for KMC FC two minutes after the restart before winger George Makang'a pulled them ahead.

However, substitute Habib Kyombo scored a minute before normal stoppage time to tie the game 2-2 and rescue a point for Simba SC.

Speaking after the game, Matola was brutally honest about Simba SC's display.

A hugely disappointed Matola said they played well below the expectation of Simba SC.

The tactician revealed: "It was not an easy game, we did not play well, especially in the second half. We had an early goal but did not play well in the first half."

"We got more chances but were unable to score more goals. In the second half, within

two minutes we committed silly mistakes to concede a goal. We also allowed another goal, the goals dazed us."

"I have to congratulate my players for coming back to the game and getting the equalizer but I must say it was not a good game and we did not play as expected of Simba SC."

"We let in two goals, that's why I said we did not play well as a team and did not get the

desired results."

"We had only one right full-back, Shomari Kapombe is sick, we could not substitute Israel Patrick, a player might indeed make mistakes but almost the entire team did the same, Israel did not have a good game. Three-quarters of the team did not play well but we can only make five substitutions."

Matola's counterpart on the KMC FC bench, Thierry Hitimana, was satisfied with a point from the game in which his side managed to avoid defeat against Simba SC for the first after nine attempts.

The Rwandan tactician revealed: "It was a good game though we didn't have a good start. We conceded within two minutes, even if it was individual brilliance we could have done better to stop him since we had the numbers."

"It was a mistake, it is never easy to concede against a team like Simba SC and come back to the game."

"All in all, a point is a positive outcome, we kept possession, I think we had more possession than Simba SC."

"We managed to come from behind in the second half but, against a big team, you have to play up to the final whistle."

"We couldn't contain ourselves in the last minutes due to tension, maybe because of immaturity, and allowed them back in the game."



Ibrahim Mgendera

Dar boxer to take part in non-title fight

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN sensational boxer Ibrahim Mgendera is set to engage in a highly anticipated international, non-title bout against Mexican contender Gustavo Pina Melgar at the Next Door Arena in Dar es Salaam on September 30.

Organizers of the event MO Boxing Promotions, alias 'MO Boxing', said the event portrays a big opportunity for Tanzanian and African boxers to reach the highest level and be at the forefront of the boxing world.

Mohammed Dewji of 'MO Boxing' said: "We're elated to launch MO Boxing and support African boxing in general."

He said the main goal is to bring African boxing to a global level, help to promote the sport and make Tanzania the boxing capital in Africa.

Dewji revealed: "The highly talented Mgendera will headline the show against Gustavo Pina, also a pugilist with immense potential."

The leader added: "In the co-main event, we have Alfred Lamptey, number one prospect from Ghana for WBO Youth World title and WBC Silver World title, fighting Abraham Ndauendapo along with promising boxing talents like Juma Choki, Jose Hernandez, Nicholas Mwangi, and Emmanuel Mwakembe."

In the undercards, the bouts will witness Sultan Al Nuaimi (8-0-0, 5 KOs) fighting Haji Juma Mwalugo (18-18-5, 9 KOs), Sameer Anwar (4-1-0, 3 KOs) fighting Mustapha Dotto (22-27-6, 10 KOs), and Sadra Mohamed (2-2-0, 0 KO) trading blows with Lulu Kayage (7-8-3, 2 KOs).

Ahmed Seddiqi of MO Boxing said: "We have built boxing from the ground up in the United Arab Emirates and Kazakhstan, and now our target is Africa, seeking to bring it to the international level."

Mo Boxing Promotion's series will feature local and international talents across Africa and the rest of the world.

The September edition has been supported by different partners and sponsors including Bajaj Group through Boxer Motorcycle brand as the main sponsor, Whitesands Hotel, Aone P&B through MO Xtra drink, and the leading ticketing solution brand, Otapp.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's senior national women's football team 'Twiga Stars' head coach Bakari Shime says his charges are well prepared for this afternoon's Hollywoodbets COSAFA Women's Championship semi-final against Zambia, slated to take place at Isaac Wolfson Stadium in South Africa.

Today's encounter will be an interesting game as it pits two of the pre-tournament favourites and the game is a repeat of the last year's edition which ended in a 1-1 draw, with Twiga Stars booking a place in the final via penalties.

Twiga Stars, the guest team in the 12-nation championship, is moreover the competition's defending champion.

Shime noted in a monitored interview with one of the local radio stations that his players are looking forward to today's encounter.

He said his charges are ready for the game, seeking to progress to the final and bring the trophy home for the second time in a



Tanzania's national women's football team 'Twiga Stars' head coach, Bakari Shime (L), talks to his players at a recent training in preparation for the 2022 COSAFA Women's Championship in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

row.

The coach said that the fact that both Twiga Stars and Zambia, alias 'Shepolopolo', have not conceded any defeat in the tournament makes the game very difficult.

The gaffer revealed: "First I thank my players for playing well against Malawi, it was a tough game

but my charges played according to our game plan and it worked to our advantage."

"The Friday game will be very difficult but we are

prepared and I hope we will do well," he said.

The coach also hailed Twiga Stars' shot stopper Najat Abass for saving a spot kick taken by a Malawi

footballer in the 82nd minute of the game, saying the save motivated the players to work hard.

To reach the semi-finals, Twiga Stars had on Wednesday beat Malawi 3-1 while 'Shepolopolo' beat Eswatini 2-0.

Twiga Stars' goals in the clash against Malawi were scored by Donisia Minja, Diana Lucas, and Opa Clement, whereas Asimanye Simwaka scored Malawi's only goal. Zambia's goals were scored by Eneless Phiri and Barbara Banda.

Tanzania's women's side netted six goals and conceded one in three games, whereas Zambia scored 11 goals and conceded none.

The Twiga Stars team which beat Malawi had Najat, Diana William, Aisha Juma, Anastasia Katunzi, Violet Nicholas, Fatuma Issa, Donisia, Eneka Kasonga, Amina Bilali, Opa, and Diana Lucas.

The competition's other semi-final will pit hosts South Africa against Namibia, and the final will take place at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium on Sunday.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

