



National Pg 3 Institute empowers K'njaro's rice farmers



National Pg 4 Mining firm wins International Safety Award



National Pg 6 Tobacco farmers decry late arrival of fertiliser



Indian banks unprepared for cenbank's ESG push

BOA Bank now to continue enhancing SMEs financing



HOW TO MANAGE DEBT OF ANY SIZE

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TPA floats plan for five new berths

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) is setting out plans for five new berths on the Kigamboni side to entirely decongest the port of Dar es Salaam. Placidus Mbossa, the director general, said in a weekend interview that as for now the port management is conducting surveys to identify areas building the new berths on the Kigamboni side. At the moment building works at the port relate to deepening the harbour entrance, refurbishing existing berths and increasing modern cargo handling equipment, he said. The port faces container congestion due limited capacity in handling ships, with the number of available berths, he said, pointing out that congestion has contributed increased costs for ships in demurrage (waiting to leave) charges, while waiting to offload and load their cargoes. The situation makes it difficult to compete with other ports in neighbouring countries, he stated, affirming that at present vehicles are being han-

dled at a specified berth and those ordering vehicles can get them within 24 hours after offloading, if customs procedures were already cleared. Kwala dry port construction in Coast Region is nearing completion and when it is completed, customs procedures will be conducted in that facility, he said, noting that the work has reached 90 percent, and could be over late March. Cargo from Dar port will be transported by train to Kwala port where traders will be fetching their goods, also enabling vast storage for transit cargo to neighbouring countries of Burundi, Rwanda, DR Congo, Uganda, Zambia and Malawi. Tanzania International Container Terminal Services (TICTS), earlier handling container clearance, was no longer at the port as its contract expired at the end of December, with TPA taking over its activities. There are ongoing arrangements between TPA and a Belgian firm figuring the construction of a modern college on port matters and advising TPA on investment and port operations, he added.



Godbless Lema, Chadema's Central Committee member and Northern Regions chairman, addresses the opposition party's supporters at Railway grounds in Arusha city yesterday shortly after jetting into Kilimanjaro International Airport on his return home from exile in Canada. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Tinubu victor in Nigeria's election

ABUJA

ELECTION officials declared ruling party candidate Bola Tinubu the winner of Nigeria's presidential election early yesterday, with the two leading opposition candidates already demanding a revote in Africa's most populous nation. The overnight announcement was likely to lead to a court challenge by his main opponents Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi. Abubakar also finished second in the last vote in 2019, then appealed against those results before his lawsuit ultimately was dismissed. On Tuesday, the two leading opposition parties had demanded a revote, saying that delays in uploading election results had made room for irregularities. The

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Minister: Digitise mining sector to improve returns

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA should borrow a leaf on how Botswana is using digital tools in its mining activities, to reap more from the key extractive industry, a SADC zone minister says. Thulagano Segokgo, the Botswana minister for Communications, Knowledge and Technology, made this suggestion on Tuesday at a media roundtable on digital transformation of Africa's mining industry. Segokgo asked African countries including Tanzania to venture into technology in the mining sector to get more revenue from the sector, the pillar of Botswana's economy. Discussing the issue with journalists from across Africa, the minister stated that African nations need to digitalise the mining sector since digital transition ensures that there is a bright future. His comment comes at a time when Botswana's Debswana and Chinese telecom giant Huawei announced the world's first 5G-oriented smart diamond mine project.

“The Botswana government is pleased to see Debswana and Huawei's joint efforts to drive digital transformation in the mining industry. Debswana is a leading mining company in Africa that, by working with Huawei, can take efficiency, productivity and safety in mining to the next level”

The Huawei-enabled smart mine management solution has been deployed at Debswana's Jwaneng open-pit diamond mine, with the project starting operation in December 2021. “The Botswana government is pleased to see Debswana and Huawei's

joint efforts to drive digital transformation in the mining industry. Debswana is a leading mining company in Africa that, by working with Huawei, can take efficiency, productivity and safety in mining to the next level,” he declared. Botswana was putting in place facilitation measures to further support the digital transformation agenda, not just in the mining industry, hence welcoming international companies, such as Huawei, to participate in this agenda. Measures already underway include formulating the digital transition agenda in various sectors, along with a roadmap for application of the fifth generation mobile network, plus other supporting policies, he said. Molemisi Sechaba, Debswana's head of information management said that Huawei's 4G eLTE private network solution provides stable connectivity for the Jwaneng mine, connecting the management with operators of more than 260

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JKT creates 'graduates' database in skills push

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Service (JKT) is putting in place a database of all its graduates to enable it to trace and recall those who are not employed should the need arise. Major-General Rajab Mabele, the chief of National Service, made this announcement at National Service headquarters here yesterday, noting that while the department has records of its graduates within the civil service, it does not have records of those outside government agencies.

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PM: Link agenda of House teams, CSOs

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called on the leaders of parliamentary standing committees to take up inputs from civil society organisations (CSOs) in the pursuit of their responsibilities. Opening a training seminar for parliamentary leadership and vice chairmen of the

committees at Parliament sub-offices at Tunguu, Unga South Region, he said duties of the committees relate to CSOs as they contribute to national development “We all know CSOs' contributions,” he said, noting that there are CSOs with whom the government has contracted with. As the

“Corruption is an obstacle to our development and destroys our relations with the community,” he said, elaborating that “as leaders, we must be a mirror to make sure all that is obtained goes to the areas intended”

government's own ability is not sufficient, MPs should meet civil society groups during committee work, to take up their contributions in the nation's interest, he

stated. It is important for the committees to make sure that civil societies are implementing their basic responsibilities agreed with the government in the interests of the community, he said.

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Minister: Digitise mining sector to improve returns

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pieces of equipment, including drilling rigs, excavators, heavy trucks, and pickup trucks. This enables interconnection between the mine's production, safety and security systems, he stated.

Before this solution was adopted, the previous monitoring system had limited coverage, using public wireless frequencies, with less robust anti-interference capabilities. "As a result, the different types of data in mining activity could not be transferred stably in real time," he explained.

The Jwaneng mine is the world's first 5G-oriented smart diamond mine. This means the hardware equipment such as base stations used in the mine's digital transformation solution support network upgrades to 5G.

Five generation mobile network features like high bandwidth and low latency can support the application of cutting-edge technologies like autonomous driving, enabling more intelligent digital transformation of the mining industry in the future, he stated.

Xu Jun, Huawei Mine chief technology officer

attached with Botswana University, said that Huawei is committed to using its strengths in ICT technologies like 5G, cloud, AI, and IoT to develop smart mine solutions that are based on an industrial Internet architecture for customers in the mining industry worldwide.

These solutions make mine production safer, more efficient, and more intelligent. In China, Huawei has jointly developed a number of intelligent applications with leading mining enterprises, he stated.

Liao Yong, vice president of Huawei Sub-Saharan Africa Region, said that mining is the economic backbone for many states in the zone and plays an important role in the economy of Africa as a whole.

Over the past five years, Huawei has provided services to mining enterprises in a number of countries in the region, including South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Namibia and Ghana. Looking to the future, Huawei will work with more local partners to accelerate mining digital transformation and create more value in Africa, he added.



Tanzania Peace and Reconciliation Committee chairman Sheikh Alhad Mussa Salum briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the Reconciliation Day conference scheduled to take place in Dodoma city tomorrow, with President Samia Suluhu Hassan expected to grace it as chief guest. Left is a member of the committee, Rev Christosiler Kalata of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathanie

JKT creates 'graduates' database in skills push

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Thousands of youths are recruited each year for basic military training, life skills and entrepreneurship, the take up in the civil service and the private sector was limited, he said.

"With the growing technology, we look forward to having records of all those trained here, more so those who may be self-

employed or doing their own activities," he said. All those who pass through JKT training are vital components in national security and can be called upon anytime should there be need, he said.

The military department is preparing to mark its 60th anniversary in July, on which the JKT chief said the anniversary will be marked as part of the JKT

Week from July 1 to its climax at the Jamhuri Stadium, before top national leadership.

During the week, the service will showcase its various activities by its wings, SUMA JKT economic entity, as well as other units, vocational training centres, secondary schools and stakeholders working with the service, he said of exhibitions to be held at the SUMAJKT House in

Medeli East.

"The climax of the week-long event will be held at the Jamhuri grounds in the city and President Samia Suluhu Hassan will be the chief guest," he stated, airing other activities as including the half marathon or JKT Marathon 2023 set for June 25, which he said would help to strengthen people's health. Observers noted that

June 25 is the date of the liberation of Mozambique whose armed struggle was conducted in liaison with a number of National Service camps.

Aside from sports, service members will carry out charity and social responsibility engagements like blood donation, environmental cleanliness in hospitals as well as tree planting, to help make Dodoma green, he added.

PM: Link agenda of House teams, CSOs

FROM PAGE 1

It is important for leaders to take up matters that forge links via ethics, customs and traditions, he said, urging that if they see one CSOs go against what is agreed with the government, the matter has to be brought up just bring that to the table.

House committees have the function of advising the government in seeking to enhance wider development interests, he said, airing the view that the training will provide an opportunity to members to remind themselves on various issues.

They will discuss achievements and challenges, plus putting in place operational strategies for the committees and the legislature in turn, he stated, emphasizing on the importance of recognising the responsibilities of MPs in combating corruption. "Corruption is an obstacle to our development and destroys our relations with the community," he said, elaborating that "as leaders, we must be a mirror to make sure all that is obtained goes to the areas intended."

For her side, the Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson said they have had an opportunity to learn about strategic leadership, an opportunity to remind one another on responsibilities. "This is vital in making sure that every one of us has goals that are important to attain and have in place strategies to reach them," she added.



Engelbert Kidutu (R), secretary of the council of elders in Shinyanga District's Didia ward, is vaccinated against Covid-19 by health officer Edwardina Maganga on Tuesday in the course of a campaign organised by an elderly women advocacy and development organisation covering Tinde and Didia wards. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Nigerian electoral commission declares Bola Tinubu winner of presidential vote

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ruling All Progressives Congress party urged the opposition to accept defeat and not cause trouble.

Tinubu received 8,794,726 votes, while Abubakar came in second with 6,984,520. Mr Obi, the third place finisher, got 6,101,533 votes, according to the results announced live on television by the Independent National Electoral Commission.

The announcement came after 4am, but celebrations had already started late on Tuesday at the ruling party's national secretariat where Tinubu's supporters had gathered

in anticipation of his victory.

"None of the others matches his record," said Babafemi Akin as he chatted excitedly about the prospects of a Tinubu administration. "I am sure he will do well".

The parties now have three weeks to appeal against results, but an election can be invalidated only if it is proven the national electoral body largely did not follow the law and acted in ways that could have changed the result.

The Supreme Court of Nigeria has never overturned a presidential election, though court challenges are common, including by outgoing President Muhammadu Buhari,

who doggedly fought his past election losses for months in vain.

The president-elect thanked his supporters in the capital, Abuja, after his victory was announced and struck a reconciliatory tone in a message directed at his political adversaries.

"I take this opportunity to appeal to my fellow contestants to let us team up together," Mr Tinubu said. "It is the only nation we have. It is one country and we must build together."

Tinubu, 70, is the former governor of Lagos state, home to Nigeria's megacity of the same name. However, he lost the state

in Saturday's election to Obi, who drew a strong following among younger voters eager for change.

The tightly contested election has redrawn Nigeria's electoral geography and produced results that are significantly different from those of past polls, with this being the first time that a president takes office with less than 50% of the vote and where four candidates won over a million votes, say analysts.

Tinubu "will have to strive to win the support of the larger majority who preferred one of the other candidates, particularly the youth, the Christian groups that were opposed to his Muslim-Muslim

ticket and Igbos in the south east who again feel denied the presidency," said Nnamdi Obasi, senior adviser on Nigeria for the International Crisis Group.

From the onset, Tinubu will have to contend with challenges to his legitimacy, so he will need to ensure an inclusive government and focus firmly on rebuilding national cohesion, he added.

Tinubu clinched victory in part because the opposition vote was split and because his party had the strongest push to get people out to vote, said Amaka Anku, Africa director at the Eurasia Group consultancy.

Govt is in final stages of studying teachers' deployment - minister

By Guardian Reporter, Iramba

Dr Mwingulu Nchemba, Minister for Finance and Planning has said that the government is in the final stages studying teachers' deployment so as to transfer them in areas with acute shortage.

According to him, it is not that the government hasn't hired enough teachers, but the problem is that there are some areas where there are many compared to other schools.

Dr Mwingulu said this yesterday when speaking with CCM members in Ulemo area in Iramba, Singida region during the party's secretariat tour which is led by the secretary general, Daniel Chongolo.

During the meeting, residents and members asked the government to hire more teachers as sometimes citizens are forced to collect contributions so as

to pay volunteering teachers.

He said the government through the President's office, Regional Administration and Local Government is working on the issue and will soon come up with an answer.

He admitted that there are some school, a teacher may have one session per week but other schools have a number of sessions per week from standard one to seven which is unfair.

"What is happening now is not that the teachers are not enough, no, President Samia Suluhu Hassa has already directed that the distribution of the workers be reviewed. There are some areas where you find that the school has six teachers and then the other 35 teachers," he clarified.

He was echoed by Chongolo who said that the party was also supervising the

process to ensure that all schools have the right number of teachers to facilitate smooth teaching and learning.

"This is a big challenge and we are very strict on it to ensure that things are put well, for example in Morogoro region, majority of teachers were stationed in Morogoro municipality leaving rural schools with few teachers, we issued directives on this and the government has responded well," he said.

He said that it was not good for one school to have more than 30 teachers while another has five teachers while the government's goal is ensure that all children access quality education.

Chongolo assured residents in Ulemo that the government was working on the issues and it will soon transfer teachers in the area.



Kivukoni Ward Councillor Sharik Choughule (2nd L) and his delegation listen to Bunge primary school head teacher Leonida Mulekuzi (R) during their visit to inspect the ongoing renovation of the school in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The funding of the renovation was provided by the City Council. Third (L) is the councillor and chairman of social services Robert Manangwa and CCM's Ward political committee members. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

IRRI starts empowering farmers in Kilimanjaro to boost rice production

By Marc Nkwame - Moshi

RICE growers in the northern zone are undergoing special training aimed at equipping them with technical skills to boost rice production in the precinct.

This follows the introduction of more than 50 new and improved varieties of rice seeds which will double the country's cereal production from the current 2 metric tons to more than 4 metric tons by the year 2030.

It is also the main agenda in the refresher rice production training program taking place in Moshi, Kilimanjaro which among other things, addresses farming challenges arising from effects of climate change and global warming.

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in collaboration with the Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Center (KATC) and Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) is conducting a comprehensive refresher course on seed production for local growers

and paddy farmers in Tanzania.

"The training impacts knowledge and innovative ideas for farmers to be able to develop resilient seeds that can withstand hostile conditions such as diseases and drought but especially floods common in the area," states agricultural officer, nice Wilfred Ntupwa who represented the Head of Policy and Planning Department in the Ministry Obadih Nyagi.

Ntupwa pointed out that researchers have finally realized that

participating rice farmers in research activities was a promised way for them to adopt the best agronomic practices and technologies.

Drought resulting from climate change is affecting rice production in Tanzania because more than 70 percent of paddy farms in the country operate under rain-fed type of agriculture.

Rice farming is undertaken by 240,000 growers, mostly small-scale farmers. The training sessions that include both in-class lessons

and field trips for actual and practical learning teaches local growers how to adopt new styles of farming with kernels that withstand hostile weather elements.

When it comes to rice production Tanzania tops the bill among the seven East African Countries.

But the country, which currently produces an average of 2.2 million tons per year, ranks at number four on the African continent after Nigeria, Madagascar and Ivory Coast.

Now Tanzania is working to dou-

ble its rice output to an annual 4.4 million tons by the year 2030.

Agricultural experts are working with rice growers to develop flood resisting seeds to reinforce the sector in the

The International Rice Research Institute and the Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Centre are jointly engaging rice growers in the northern zone to participate in research activities and adoption of submergence rice seed technologies in the region.

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Chairman - Goldstar Paints

MR. ALI MAWJI

January 30, 1939 - February 24, 2023

The board, management, staff and family members of **Goldstar Paints** are saddened to announce the untimely death of our **Chairman Mr. Ali Mawji** on 24th February 2023.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Gloria Mawji, Nasim Doherty & Javed Mawji

Trailer manufacturer launches book on how to lower carbon emissions while making profits

By Correspondent James Kandoya

LEADING trailer manufacturer-SUPERDOLL has launched a book which lists down approaches of how road freight companies can lower carbon emissions while making profits.

The book titled "Road Freight Sustainability 4.0" aims at providing an intimate understanding of the transport operations and implementation of a radical transformation.

Speaking at the official launching of the book, SUPERDOLL Managing director Seif Ally Seif said that the aim of the book was to compliment government efforts of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

He said Superdol has been the first company to come up with a new initiative of increasing awareness to the transport stakeholders on how they can reduce carbon dioxide gases.

"We have been on the forefront to compliment government efforts in reducing greenhouse gases in the country through the transport sector," he said.

"This book explores simple ways in which a road freight business can be analyzed and transformed with a view to improving profitability whilst at the same time reducing carbon emissions," he added.

According to him, to make it meaningful, they have invited a guru in the transport sector to give a broad and deep

understanding of how best they can contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

The author of the Book Abdoool Kamdaar said that through an intimate understanding of the transport operations and the implementation of a radical transformation, it is possible to reduce road transport carbon emission by more than 20 percent and at the same increase profit.

He said Road Freight Sustainability 4.0 is a simplified approach to transport management, written in conversational and engaging style to inspire a transformation that increases profit while serving society through lower carbon emissions.

"This book aims to make the world a better place, now and more especially to change our carbon emissions trajectory to ensure that the world we leave to the next generation is all the better off for our efforts," he said.

Director General of the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) Dr Samuel Gwamaka commended Superdol for coming up with a new approach that can help to compliment government efforts of reducing green gas emissions.

He said Tanzania has ratified a number of international conventions of reducing carbon emission citing the COP 27 meeting in Egypt and outlined eight agendas.



Morogoro Urban legislator Dr Abdulaziz Abood (4th L) hands over seven tones of cement bags to the leadership of Kitungwa secondary school, Kingolwira Ward in Morogoro municipality for the construction of the Form V and VI classrooms. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

Mining firm wins International Safety Award for the fourth year

By Guardian Reporter

THE Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has won the International Safety Award for the fourth year in a row and is contributed by strong safety control in operations inside and outside the mining site

In the award presented by the AngloGold Ashanti Group of Companies (AGA), GGML won in 2019, 2020 and 2021 and this week won the award for 2022.

Dr Kiva Mvungi, GGML's senior director of health, safety, environment and training said yesterday that the award means that the AGA has recognized GGML as a leading company doing well in security terms in the world.

AGA, which is listed on the stock exchanges of Johannesburg, New York, Australia and Ghana, owns mines in Australia, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Ghana and Tanzania. In all of those countries, GGML or Tanzanians in general are the pioneers in focusing on workplace safety issues.

Dr Kiva Mvungi said that success did not come easily as GGML had succeeded in promoting the cooperation of workers who showed concern for their health as well as concern for safety at work.

Something they did differently from their colleagues, he said, was that they changed the security communication system, so instead of going from leaders to workers, they set up a system so that the communication system goes from workers to leaders.

"So when we're working, people tell us whether or not it's safe or how they'd like it to be done, so we just add other driving issues to ensure the problem works," he said.

Since they started using the system to listen more to employees, he said, the success has been remarkable in doing business. He gives the example that in over 10 years they have not lost an employee's life at work, yet in over five years no employee has been injured enough to not be able to go to work.

They've also gone more than four years without injuring anyone on the job.

He also congratulated everyone involved in ensuring that when an employee or contractor comes to work, they work safely and leave home safely.

Speaking of winning four consecutive awards, GGML CEO Terry Strong congratulated the entire HSE management team as well as all GGML employees for maintaining their safety

inside and outside the company.

In addition to the International Safety Award, he said GGML was also awarded for Best Overall Performance.

"Surely this award shows how well we are doing and is appreciated. Your efforts are well recognized by the whole company. As we all know, we still have many challenges to work as a team, but I am sure we can work together and accomplish everything we set out," said the director.

Ulega to continue with strategies to develop livestock and fishing sectors

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister Abdallah Ulega has assured president Samia Suluhu Hassan that the livestock and fishing sectors will enhance production, provide employment and benefit the country.

Ulega made the remarks here on Tuesday this week soon after he was handed the ministry's offices by his predecessor, Mashimba Ndaki.

He said there are very many opportunities in the livestock and fishing sectors that if well utilised by the youth, they can bring a huge transformation in providing job opportunities and increase their contribution to the national income.

He thanked the ministry's outgoing officials for giving him cooperation during the time he was a deputy minister and also called upon them to continue to collaborate with their leaders to continue with the strategies they have in place.

The ministry's deputy minister, David Silinde thanked the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) for the cooperation accorded to him when implementing his responsibilities but also called upon Livestock and fisheries ministry officials to work together with all new officials.

Silinde said he has been brought to the livestock and fisheries ministry in order to work together with the existing officials in making sure the ministry is advertised from the work it does in order for the stakeholders to utilise the opportunities therein.

Meanwhile, the permanent Secretary in the Livestock and

Fisheries ministry, Prof Riziki Shemdoe called upon ministry officials and staff to offer their cooperation to enable them perform their daily responsibilities.

The ministry's Permanent Secretary (livestock) Dr Daniel Mushi said the work now is to make sure they continue with the implementation of transformation plan in the sector so that the production of livestock and livestock products brings benefit to the livestock keepers and the nation in general.

In the same vein, Deputy PS (fisheries), Agnes Meena said her

expectations is first to make sure she supervises the implementation of strategies already put in place by outgoing officials in making sure the fishing sector grows.

Mashimba Ndaki, the outgoing Livestock and Fisheries Minister thanked President samia Suluhu Hassan for giving him a chance to oversee the ministry.

He also thanked all officials and workers of the ministry for the cooperation accorded to him during his period at the ministry and hoped that similar cooperation will also be accorded to the new officials.

ONLINE AUCTION (RE ADVERTISED)

We invite the general public to participate the online auction of various unsold items of Bulyanhulu and North Mara Gold mine limited where the closing date will be **3rd march 2023 11hrs EAT.**

Please be informed that Aucor and Best Group is currently hosting an Online Auction on behalf of Barrick Bulyanhulu for all unsold lots.

Please follow the following link for the auction.
Bully: <https://live.aucor.com/auctions/4-8WSMIL/barrick-bulyanhulu-redundant-surplus-parts-auction-lots-sold-stc-tanzania>

If you are interested in these lots, please register on the auctions and bid. There is a deposit payable of \$2000 or R40 000. An email will be sent to you as soon as you register with all payment details.

Good luck bidding! CLOSING DATE WILL BE 3RD March 2023 for any inquiry call

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for a living planet

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE WWF TANZANIA STRATEGIC PLAN, 2021-2025

A. Background of the project & assignment

The WWF Tanzania Country Office (TCO) has been implementing its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) II 2021-2025 for the past three years. The CSP II implementations have made substantial investments in natural resources conservation in Tanzania through strategic partnerships with the communities, the Government of Tanzania, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), NGOs and the private sector. The Mid-Term Review (MTR) will enable WWF to track the progress towards its strategic plan targets. During the past 3 years a number of changes have been observed within WWF priority landscapes, seascapes and National level policy engagement and the WWF Network which the MTR will document and recommend way forward.

B. Objective of the consultancy

The main objective of the mid-term evaluation is to review the progress made on implementation of the TCO strategy in line with organizational development, WWF social policies, Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) and clearly mainstream the goals and approaches of the WWF Global Practices in the strategic plan and update the strategic plan using findings, recommendations, experience and lessons learned from the past three years of implementation of the strategy.

C. Scope of the assignment

The consultancy will include desk reviews and analyzes existing documentation and collection of new information through field visits to the project sites to collect existing and new data, both qualitative and quantitative data as well as evidence. Moreover, using existing data, the consultant should design a state-of-the-art tool to collect enough data to apply data analytics (data science) which will provide insight to detect emerging trends and suggest best ways to enhance accountability, effectiveness, efficiency & quality/standards and identify opportunities with regard to CSP II implementation.

D. Required profile of the consultancy

Advance degrees in relevant discipline, extensive knowledge and experience in research, programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, with emphasis on both accountability and learning; At least 10 years' experience in strategic plan evaluations, including strong familiarity with deliberative approaches and methodologies;

E. Contract Duration and Procedure

* This assignment will last for approximately seven weeks.
 * This is an individual, firm, or team of experts) consultancy work, and therefore interested candidates can visit WWF website https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/ to download the TOR for more information, and should send your full proposal (both technical & financial) through procurement email at procurement@wwftz.org (only electronic application will be accepted) and please, also remember that, for uniformity reasons, the title of the assignment "MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE WWF TANZANIA STRATEGIC PLAN, 2021- 2025" and addressed to;

**The Secretary
 Procurement Committee,
 WWF Tanzania Country Office, Plot 252 Kiko Street Mikocheni,
 P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam ;**

* The application should be submitted to the above email by or before 1700hrs local time, Wednesday, 16th March, 2023.

* WWF has a principle of zero tolerance for fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, then report by sending an email to fccl@wwftz.org



INVITATION FOR TENDERS FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024

African Banking Corporation (T) Limited (BancABC) has set aside funds in its budget for the procurement of services listed below for the year, 2023. Consequently, offers from trustworthy and enrolled companies are exceedingly welcomed for the arrangement of the taking an after administration as summarized hereunder: Our expectations are to engage with the service provider or supplier(s) who are paying great attention to price, quality delivery, and professionalism. The bank is inviting various suppliers to participate in the tendering process as per the below services.

Lot 1.1 Provision of fumigation Services

Lot 1.2 Provision of services and maintenance of generators

Lot 1.3 Provision a supply of Groceries

Lot 1.4 Request for prequalification of marketing services:

- Experiential Agency
- Digital Agency
- Creative Agency
- Media Buying Agency
- Promotional Materials
- Market Research Agency
- Public Relation Agency
- Branding Agency

Lot 1.5 Supply of Drinking water

Lot 1.6 Request for prequalification of IT services

- Provision of data/internet services
- Supply of Computer Hardware and Software
- Supply of ICT-related equipment
- Provision of ICT Services & Consultation

Lot 1.7 Provision for AC & Electricity service and maintenance

Lot 1.8 Request for prequalification Printing of Stationery Services

Lot 1.9 Provision for courier services

Lot 1.10 Bureau Solution (i.e.) Credit bureau (CRB) etc.

Lot 1.11 Supply of Office furniture

Lot 1.12 Printing Bank official Rubber Stamps

Lot 1.13 Supplies of stationeries

Lot 1.14 Service and Maintenance of Teller Note counting machines

Lot 1.15 Printing and Copying service

Lot 2.0 Human Capital recruitment and Consultation services

- Recruitment Agencies
- Learning & Development Consultant

Lot 2.1 Legal Service

Lot 2.2 Travel Services

Lot 2.3 Office cars services and maintenance

Lot 2.4 Fire extinguisher Service & Maintenance

Lot 2.5 Cleaning and Hygiene Service

Lot 2.6 Provision of fuel for staff, and office vehicles

Lot 2.7 Security services

- Physical Security
- Service and Maintenance of Fire Extinguisher
- Servicing of Fire Equipment
- Provision of CCTV service

Lot 2.8 Debt collectors

Lot 2.9 Tax consultancy services

Lot 2.10 Property and land valuation services

1. Interested bidders should seek further information and official bidding documents at our head office located at, **Uhuru Heights Bibi Titi Mohamed Road (opposite Pizza Hut), on the 5th Floor from 9:00 am up to 4:30 pm Mondays to Fridays** exclusive of public holidays.
2. Interested bidders are also required to pay TZS 100,000/- per lot, a non-refundable fee to a specific account opened. Payment slip should be presented to the Procurement department on the 5th floor of Uhuru heights to obtain the tender Document you have paid for.
3. All Tender documents in one original plus one copy duly filled in and enclosed in envelopes must be delivered to the Tender Box at Uhuru Height 5th Floor, Bibi Titi Mohamed Road, and P.O. Box 31 Dar es salaam before or on **03rd April 2023 at 04:00 pm**. All Tenders must be marked clearly with the appropriate Tender Name and Number and should be addressed to the Tender Board, BancABC Part of Atlas Mara Tanzania, P.O. Box 31 Dar es Salaam.
4. Bidders must be registered in Tanzania.
5. Late tenders, a portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders will not be accepted.

217304701



RE - ADVERTISED.

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SMALL TYRES TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring small tyres and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply of this equipment as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01625	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF SMALL TYRES TO GGML

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01625)	60%
Proof of OEM Dealership letter -Premium brands only (Michelin, Bridgestone & Goodyear.	15%
Technical service support. (Proof of tyre specialist CVs and certificates)	20%
Proof of worldwide tyre storage facility	15%
Proof of any available tyre software & database	10%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01625)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to **GGML**, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why GGML is of interest to work with, what you have to offer and how your skills and experience are valuable to the company. All LOIs and support documentation (in PDF format) must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at **geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com** not later than **8.30AM 15th March 2023 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline)**. EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES CRDB INSURANCE BROKER LTD

CRDB Insurance Broker Limited (CIB) in transformation to CRDB Insurance Company Limited, a subsidiary of CRDB Bank Plc, seeks applications from suitably qualified candidates to apply for three positions of Non - Executive Directors.

Skills Requirements

The Board of Directors requires persons with skills in insurance, actuarial, risk, investment, and accounting taking into account the operating environment, technological development and growth in the Insurance industry. **Women are strongly encouraged to apply.**

Roles of Board of Directors (Insurance Regulations No. 2009)

Business Planning and Risk Assessment

Determine the Company's vision, mission and values aimed at providing continuity and legal existence of the Company.

- Ensuring that the Company has the appropriate resourcing levels to deliver the Company's strategy and business plans.
- Contributing to the development of policies and strategic plans.
- Oversee the effectiveness of risk identification and management, regulatory compliance and internal control systems.

2. Financial Reporting and Investment Planning

Oversee the quality and integrity of financial reporting.

- Understanding the organization's financial affairs and ensuring fiduciary responsibilities are met.
- Maintaining confidentiality on all internal organizational affairs.

Mode of Application

Interested and qualified applicants must submit the applications to the email address below: Your applications should be accompanied by:

- Application letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- One passport size photograph
- Certified copies of relevant academic and professional certificates and awards
- Certified copies of the last page of your passport/national identification card
- Letters of recommendation from 3 relevant referees.

Applications must be received by **4.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 7th March, 2023**. Applications with incomplete documents will not be considered.

The names of the shortlisted candidates will be submitted to the Annual General Meeting for election and the appointees shall serve for a term of 3 years.

The contact for communication is:

The Secretary
CRDB Bank Plc Headquarters
Plot No 25 and 26 Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road & Plot No. 21 Barack Obama Road
P. O. Box 268, 11101 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Tel. no. 022 - 2219566
E-mail: john.rugambo@crdbbank.co.tz

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

J. B. Rugambo
COMPANY SECRETARY
28th February, 2023

217305301

CHADEMA to introduce dual citizenship if it comes to power

By Guardian Correspondent

CHADEMA says when it comes to power it will introduce dual citizenship for every Tanzanian needing it.

CHADEMA Chairman, Freeman Mbowe made the pledge when addressing various rallies in Njombe Region yesterday as part of the party's political rallies in Nyasa Zone.

He said many countries in the world have such dual citizenship procedures and from this they have boosted their country's incomes.

"And that is a big capital for enhancing national income because many youth get employment in foreign countries, if they miss jobs in one country they go to another.

"The day you elect CHADEMA to power, all Tanzanians needing dual citizenship will get it. If you want to go to Dubai for a job, just go, and if you get citizenship there, it is just alright.

"We will make sure all the youth who are unemployed in this country have the ability to go to other countries to seek jobs," he said and added that the number of Tanzanians living and working abroad is still very small.

"For every Tanzanian living abroad, there are 20 from another East African country, their government has accorded them such freedom.

"Our party aims to attain that, hence we must make big changes to the constitution," the Chadema

chairman said.

"We want to make sure that we, as a big party, our first task is to get a new constitution, so that all leaders come from free and fair elections.

Mbowe said they were finalising their rallies in the Nyasa Zone with a rally in Iringa Municipality and thereafter they will proceed to the northern regions.

"We have come from Mbarali as part of the tour in the Southern Highlands Zone or Nyasa Zone, and tomorrow we will complete our tour with a huge rally in the morning in Iringa," he said.

Former Nyamagana MP Ezekiel Wenje said in all the areas they visited, the main complaint from the people was lack of water.



Manyara Regional Police Women's Network chairperson Georgina Matagi (C) addressing gender based violence through education shortly after donating 15 boxes of sanitary pads to Komoto girls' secondary school in Babati district ahead of the International Women's Day. The event took place yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Wajackoyah to table President Samia's country reviving efforts at UN Congress

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

FORMER Kenyan Presidential Candidate, George Wajackoyah has said he will soon be addressing a United Nations Congress and use the podium to highlight efforts being taken by Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan in restoring democracy in the country.

Professor Wajackoyah who is a politician, lawyer, priest, activist and educationist, was addressing a press conference in Arusha where he pointed out that Tanzania used to be a regional exemplary state in matters of democracy but some few years back

the country started falling badly.

"The whole world was really concerned with the deteriorating situation in Tanzania in the past few years before Samia Suluhu came to power," the Kenyan Politician pointed out.

He is best known as the leader of the Roots Party.

"Samia saved the ship which was on the verge of sinking into the abyss but under her leadership, Tanzania is now slowly but surely returning back to glory," Wajackoyah maintained.

He is in Arusha to support the opposition movement led by the Chama Cha Demokrasiana

Maendeleo (CHADEMA) "but especially to welcome Godbless Lema who returns from exile in Canada," said the Kenyan politician who explained that he had played a crucial role in smuggling the former Arusha Member of Parliament out of Tanzania in December 2020.

"I used several motorcyclists to move Godbless Lema across the Namanga border, unnoticed," he recalls.

Wajackoyah also told the press here that he had to conceal Lema, his family and three children in a Nairobi hideout awaiting intervention from international communities.

Tobacco farmers in Chunya decry late arrival of fertiliser

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

CHUNYA Tobacco Co-operative Union (CHUT-CU) farmers have advised the government to make early preparations for the availability of fertiliser for the crop so as to do away with delays causing them to incur losses from small harvests.

The farmers made the remarks on Tuesday this week at the 23rd Annual Tobacco Meeting held in the district saying that fertiliser delays can contribute to poor quality tobacco harvests.

They also appealed to the government to intervene in the issue of their payments of crop sale from tobacco buyers.

Anna Jeremia, a tobacco farmer in the district said during the current farming season, farmers have planted tobacco since last year but have so far not received any fertiliser, the situation that threatens their harvests.

Another farmer, Richard Kilongozi said for the crop to grow well, it needs fertiliser in time and that in this farming season, they planted the crop in time but delay in the arrival of the fertiliser will contribute to small harvests.

"In fact, the fertiliser has started arriving but not at the right time and currently there are great challenges in regard to CAN and UREA fertiliser, we have planted the crop at the right time, but so far the crop has not received nutrients from the fertiliser that will ensure its poor quality," he said.

Earlier, Mbeya Region's Assistant Registrar of Cooperatives, Richard Zengo called upon farmers to collaborate with their Co-operative Union to claim their money from tobacco buyers.

DANISH
REFUGEE
COUNCIL

TENDER NOTICE

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) intends to enter into Purchase Agreements (PAs) for period of 12 months for Medical Insurance Cover for DRC Staff. Therefore, Danish refugee Council is tendering for the above purchase agreement, and all interested bidders must abide to the following instructions before applying.

- Do not make any alteration to the unit prices
- Do not use correction fluid when you do an error. Use a new sheet.
- Do not convert the ITB documents to Word or Excel
- Pay attention to where you must sign, stamp, and put the date.
- Do not forget to attach the required documents such as Annex A.1, Annex A.2, Tender and contract award acknowledgement certificate, Supplier profile and registration form, DRC general condition of contract, Company profile, DRC supplier code of conduct after completing all sections in full, sign, stamp, put the date.

The Purchase agreements may result into one DRC purchase Order during the period of twelve months (01st May, 2023 to 30th April, 2024) of the Purchase agreement.

Therefore, Danish Refugee Council in Kibondo requests the suppliers to submit their prices for the above services.

The bidding documents can be collected at the Danish Refugee Council Office in Kibondo from 02nd March 2023 during the working days and hours. 8:00 Am to 16:30 PM in the following address: Old IRC Road Area, Kibondo. You can call on: +255621897518 or through email alan.mvano@drc.ngo to receive the soft copy by email.

The closing date for the submission of the bids is **15th March 2023 at 16:30Hrs**

The ITB will be opened in a public session on **17th March 2023 at 10:00 AM** at DRC Kibondo Office, PO Box 177 Kibondo by the DRC Tender Opening Committee

You can return your bid form through RFQ.TZA@DRC.NGO
OR DIRECT TO THE DRC OFFICE otherwise is void

217304901



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MEDICINE TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring Medicine and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply of this equipment as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01626	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF MEDICINE TO GGML

I. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01626)	60%
Proof of all licenses and documents required to run the business of Pharmacy	15%
Proof of Premise in which the business is conducted (should meet the standards as prescribed by Pharmacy Council)	5%
Proof of the storage of medicines and medical supplies must meet a minimum requirement	15%
Proof of at least one pharmaceutical technician employed among the staffs	15%
Proof of Source of medicines and medical supplies (must well be established to avoid supply of counterfeits)	10%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01626)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 8.30AM 15th March 2023 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ALLOY STEEL TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring Alloy steel and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply of this equipment as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01628	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ALLOY STEEL TO GGML

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01628)	60%
Proof of authorised dealership letters from OEM (Ability to supply product that meet required OEM specifications)	20%
Proof of supply similar products - with reference	10%
Evidence of physical expertise and after sale support	10%
Ability to provide proof of ALLOY STEEL Performance experience	20%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01628)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why GGML is of interest to work with, what you have to offer and how your skills and experience are valuable to the company. All LOIs and support documentation (in PDF Format) must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 8.30AM 15th March 2023 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

THURSDAY 2 MARCH 2023

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

EACOP will definitely prevail over latest NGOs' court action

CRITICS of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) in the European Union have taken their campaign against the project a stage higher by filing a case in a Paris court, as key investor Total Energies is a French firm. Given that in international human rights law it is possible for a person committing crimes against humanity to be tried in any country that has laws providing for the arrest and arraignment of such a person, the scores of NGOs lining up for that litigation see the pipeline as some sort of breach on what can be called international environmental law. They exaggerate to the extreme.

A few of their arguments had already been responded upon earlier by the Ugandan government, and a portion has similarly been presented on this side of the project, for instance in relation to compensation for land vacated to pave the way for the project. The sort of arguments lined up are contradictory and for once, the EU zone NGOs opted not to raise the matter with any court in the East African zone or African human rights bodies, or even consult them to endorse their views. It is a solo European effort.

Quite a number of NGO watchers shall recall that similar arguments were being raised by NGOs teaming up with some traditional leaders and political activists on the Loliondo residents' shift to Msomera village in Tanga Region. A well constituted team from the African Union Commission with impeccable jurists on board visited the country, talked to people in the area as well as those in Tanga Region, and concluded that no human rights breaches occurred.

None occurred either, or will, on the EACOP route as environmental 'extremists' seem to be making out, by hostility to fossil fuels.

In the final analysis, some environmental activists are trying to run ahead of time, as in this effort of stopping a major fossil fuels project, as long as there are some inhabitants along the route whose rights to land the NGOs more or less hold as sacred. They do not contemplate compensation, and if it is done, it ought to be of such magnitude that it will severely jolt the company's capital thus put the project to a hold. It is a cul de sac, putting up conditionality on land as if changing the living area to another nears a crime.

In the Loliondo case the NGOs error was to stop time on its tracks rather than to run ahead of it as in the EACOP issue. In the oil pipeline matter NGOs wish that the world stops using fossil fuels right now, even if the world isn't as yet prepared for it; the worry about residential rights, marginal compensation etc is hypochondria, crying over non-existent pains for a case that is entirely built on ideology. They vehemently detest the EACOP combination: fossil fuels and a major French capitalist exploiting the oil...!

That is why it is entirely beside the point that the case has a chance in a decent court that isn't filled up with activists dressed up as judges. It is unlikely that any local party representing people who are unsatisfied with the compensation are part of the case, or they used field officials of NGOs to buttress their case. And they would still have to prove the claim of insufficiency by local comparisons. As they say, 'watch this space.'

Social justice assigns rights and duties in institutions of society

Social justice is justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society. In Western and Asian cultures, the concept of social justice has often referred to the process of ensuring that individuals fulfill their societal roles and receive their due from society. In the current movements for social justice, the emphasis has been on the breaking of barriers for social mobility, the creation of safety nets, and economic justice. Social justice assigns rights and duties in the institutions of society, which enables people to receive the basic benefits and burdens of cooperation. The relevant institutions often include taxation, social insurance, public health, public school, public services, labour law and regulation of markets, to ensure distribution of wealth, and equal opportunity.

Interpretations that relate justice to a reciprocal relationship to society are mediated by differences in cultural traditions, some of which emphasise the individual responsibility toward society and others the equilibrium between access to power and its responsible use. Hence, social justice is invoked today while reinterpreting historical figures such as Bartolomé de las Casas, in philosophical debates about differences among human beings, in efforts for gender, ethnic, and social equality, for advocating justice for migrants, prisoners, the environment, and the physically and developmentally disabled.

While concepts of social justice can be found in classical and

Christian philosophical sources, from Plato and Aristotle to Augustine of Hippo and Thomas Aquinas, the term social justice finds its earliest uses in the late 18th century, albeit with unclear theoretical or practical meanings.

World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on February 20. Internationally, the world is plagued with unfortunate issues that prohibit millions of individuals from living a fair life. Many of the world's population, through no fault of their own, are deprived of basic facilities, such as homes, jobs, healthcare, education, nutrition, and more.

It must be the responsibility of the privileged to ensure that we can create a just world where social justice is a norm. If you want to contribute in an extremely meaningful way, you could enter the law profession - law school is expensive but here are some law scholarships that may help.

The world is facing significant issues including serious financial crises, high unemployment rates, poverty, exclusion among societies, discrimination, and lack of access to facilities that prohibit full participation in the global economy for developing countries. Back in 1995, Copenhagen, Denmark, hosted the World Summit for Social Development. This resulted in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. Over 100 political leaders took a pledge to alleviate poverty, work towards full employment and create stable, safe, and just societies. They also decided that they needed to put people at the center of the development plans.

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The case for criminalising ecocide in Africa

Ecocide is destruction of the natural environment that is widespread, long-term and severe. The concept of ecocide originated in the 1970s after the United States devastated the environment in Vietnam through use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

Ecocide may describe a wide range of acts and may occur with or without intent. There is no international law against ecocide that applies in peacetime, but the Rome Statute outlaws ecocide during wartime if it is "clearly excessive" in relation to expected military advantage. There has been debate about including ecocide as fifth crime against peace under the Rome Statute, and a proposal to do so failed in 2010. Ten nations have criminalised ecocide under domestic law.

Ecocide can threaten human populations, especially Indigenous people, and may result in cultural genocide. Ecocide may also be an effect of climate change.

The roots of the word are the Greek oikos (home) and the Latin cadere (to kill).

Ecocide can threaten a people's cultural and physical existence, and several studies have shown that ecocide has genocidal dimensions. Destruction of the natural environment can result in cultural genocide by preventing people from following their traditional way of life. This is especially true for Indigenous people.[7] Ecocide resulting from climate change and resource extraction may become a primary driver of genocide worldwide. Some Indigenous scholars have argued that ecocide and genocide are inextricable.[3]

Mainstream understanding of genocide (as defined by the United Nations) restricts genocide to acts committed against the bodies of individual people. Some genocide researchers have found that this human rights framework does a disservice to colonised Indigenous people who experienced social death with the loss of relationship to their land but who were not always killed in the process of colonisation.

The ongoing mass extinction of species has been called ecocide. US environmental theorist Patrick Hossay argues that modern industrial civilization is ecocidal.

Climate change may result in ecocide. For example, ocean acidification and warming causes damage to coral reefs, although ecocide of coral reefs has also been attributed to causes not related to climate

change.

Criminalization of ecocide under the Rome Statute has been proposed as a deterrent to corporations responsible for climate change, although others argue that criminalizing ecocide will not address the root causes of the climate crisis.

Genocide, war crimes, aggression, ecocide, crimes against humanity - which is the odd one out? The right answer is ecocide - destroying, polluting or damaging the natural living world on a large scale is not among the crimes that can be prosecuted at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

So ecocide, which literally means to "kill one's home", can take place constantly in much of the world at the moment and no one is held responsible.

Deforestation, oil spills, air contamination - the corporations behind episodes of severe environmental harm like this may sometimes be sued, and occasionally fined, but they can simply budget for this. No one gets arrested, so there is no real disincentive.

A growing global network of lawyers, diplomats and activists are campaigning to rectify this and have ecocide join this exclusive club of 'crimes against peace' that the International Criminal Court can punish in order to make the perpetrators liable to prosecution.

"We call ecocide the missing crime," Sue Miller, the Head of Global Networks for the Stop Ecocide campaign, told IPS.

At the moment, it is predominantly corporations based in the Global North that are causing environmental damage in the Global South, where the rule of law is often not as strong. An International law of ecocide will not only strengthen national laws, but will also provide a court of last resort for those affected by ecocide who cannot obtain justice in their own countries.

"Right now, corporations are causing serious environmental damage in pursuit of profits. Mostly they get away with it.

"If they are called to account, they may end up paying a fine, some civil damages or even possibly a bribe to make the problem go away.

"Whatever the penalty, it is monetary and can sit on the company's balance sheet as a business expense".

One of the key virtues of criminalizing ecocide is that it would give a means of redress for the peoples of the Global South who are the biggest victims of it.



**These include:
unlocking innovation;
stimulating investment in new, regenerative business models;
levelling the playing field for sustainable enterprise;
stabilising operational and reputational risk;
and providing a steer towards more sustainable business practices**

"At the moment, it is predominantly corporations based in the Global North that are causing environmental damage in the Global South, where the rule of law is often not as strong," said Miller.

"An International law of ecocide will not only strengthen national laws, but will also provide a court of last resort for those affected by ecocide who cannot obtain justice in their own countries".

But, above all, it would also create a deterrent to trashing the environment that currently does not exist.

Miller believes that this would be a game-changer when it comes to business practices.

"A new crime of ecocide would place personal criminal liability on the key decision makers - the controlling minds - in most cases the company directors," she said.

"As such, an ecocide law will reach into the boardrooms where the decisions are made and act as a brake on the projects which cause the worst environmental harms.

"Faced with prosecution and possible imprisonment, company directors are likely to be far more circumspect about the projects they approve.

"Funding and insurance for potentially ecocidal projects will dry up and funds, effort and talent will be diverted into healthier, more sustainable practices.

"Whilst it will enable justice to be pursued if damage is done, more importantly, an ecocide law has the power to stop the damage happening in the first place".

Rather than being hostile to the law, Miller argues that many CEOs actually want legislation that would

forbid them from making profit at the expense of the natural world.

"There is no business on a dead planet and many businesses are coming to that realisation now," she said.

"They are also realising that there are advantages to working with, rather than against, nature.

"These include: unlocking innovation; stimulating investment in new, regenerative business models; levelling the playing field for sustainable enterprise; stabilising operational and reputational risk; and providing a steer towards more sustainable business practices".

These are among the reasons that make Miller confident the drive to have ecocide criminalized will ultimately be successful, despite the power of lobbies who oppose it.

The campaign has won the backing of figures including United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Pope Francis, Greta Thunberg and Paul McCartney.

In June 2021 an independent expert panel presented its formal definition of the proposed crime of ecocide as "unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts".

When discussions were taking place for the creation of the International Criminal Court at the end of the 1990s and in the early 2000s, ecocide was one of the crimes which was going to be included alongside genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes - aggression, the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, integrity or independence of another State, did not come under its jurisdiction until 2018.

In the end, ecocide was dropped during a closed doors meeting for reasons that remain unclear.

The world today would likely be a better place if it had been in there from the start.

"If it had been in place, so many events since might not only have been punished but might not have happened at all," Miller said.

"Had ecocide law been in place it is unlikely, for example, that (former Brazilian president) Jair Bolsonaro would have been so keen to encourage destruction of the Amazon in Brazil.

"It is unlikely that corporations would now be prospecting for deep sea mining sites.

"So much of the damage we are now seeing could have been avoided".

President Samia's four Rs approach appears to work like exactly what the doctor ordered

By Mark Mapambano

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan marks two years in office later this month. Considering what she has accomplished since taking over on 19 March 2021, one can be forgiven for thinking that she has been at the helm for longer than that period.

Having inherited an economy battered by COVID-19 pandemic and an array of diplomatic as well as business environment issues to fix, the President apparently sat on her desk for the first time with a full in-tray that could cause headache to even the healthiest person on earth.

For, political rallies were banned, the private sector was on its knees, tourism—one of top dollar earners for the state—was shattered, businesses were being closed left, right and centre plus trade wrangles with neighbouring countries.

Internal affairs were perhaps the worst in the history of our country because a number of prominent businesspersons as well as opposition politicians were in remand prison for cases that were later found to be drummed up and hence dropped and suspects released after she took over. Additionally, opposition politicians who fled the country were welcomed back.

President Samia's magic in restoring what our country lost in the six years of her predecessor John Magufuli appear to be hidden in an approach she calls four Rs namely reconciliation, reform, resilience and rebuilding.

After initiating and holding rounds of talks with leaders of opposition parties, the Head of State surprised skeptics with what some termed as the best New Year gift early January this year when she lifted the ban on political activities that was put in place by Magufuli.



This was hailed locally and internationally as an important step in restoring some of the civil and political rights that had been curtailed under her predecessor. Even some of the harshest critics of the government, including opposition politicians, acknowledged that this was in deed reconciliation in action.

One of laws introduced after Magufuli came to power in 2015 was the 2016 Media Services Act which critics said was designed to censor opposition politicians, journalists and activists who criticize the government and

the president.

President Samia heeded calls for amendment of this peace of legislation and amendment proposal was tabled in the National Assembly last month as contained in the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2023.

And the government has since urged media houses, journalists and other practitioners to report events without fear of reprisals like was the case before President Samia took over. Nape Nnauye, the Information, Communication and Information

Technology minister, made this assurance on Tuesday this week during his familiarization tour of the IPP media houses.

He said that the sixth phase government needs contributions of a free media, including fair criticism, to improve service delivery for the public.

"Get out of the cold, the era of fear and self-censorship is gone," he declared, underlining that President Samia has demonstrated the will to expand democratic space for the country's development.

The media has a role to play in

exercising uncensored reporting, he said, elucidating that the government cannot be everywhere all the time but journalists can get information from all corners.

Fair criticism is healthy provided it is delivered in a civil manner, he stated, reiterating that President Samia is committed to implement the four Rs to the letter.

So far, many boxes in the reconciliation and reform have been ticked. But because changes, even the inevitable ones, are somehow resisted in some

quarters, as a nation we just have to be resilient as long as there is political will at the very top and the rebuilding will take place seamlessly.

Some key development stakeholders have begun expressing hopes that the country is on the right track under the stewardship of President Samia. On Tuesday this week, European Union (EU) expressed satisfaction with steps taken by the government to improve human rights, democracy, freedom of expression and good governance.

Manfredo Fanti, the EU ambassador to Tanzania, made this observation at a meeting on the political situation in the country, attended by a range of top diplomatic officials from EU member states.

He said EU-Tanzania discussions have been important as they have provided a clearer picture on issues of politics in Tanzania. The meeting had generated EU confidence in the political environment in the country, he stated.

Dr Stergomena Tax, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, said during the discussion that the EU shown appreciation on the various steps taken by the government as to improvement of human rights, democracy, freedom of expression and good governance.

"As we were explaining to them about various steps we are taking regarding the issues, they promptly said they have seen that already and were satisfied. They acknowledged that we have made great strides in this area as well as in other issues," she said.

Comparing the political, social, economic and diplomatic situation in our country before 9 March 2021 and where we are today, one can safely say that President Samia's four Rs approach seem to work like just what the doctor ordered for our country.

The author is a political analyst based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0655522922

By Thomas Lyimo

JULIUS Kambarage Nyerere famously said that there is no freedom without development. This conviction is perhaps what motivated western countries to invest in education which later enhance production and enabled them acquire wealth and improved their standards of living.

This reality offers lessons to Tanzania and other developing countries to see education as a means of increasing productivity and wealth creation as opposed to theories that cannot earn anyone income.

In today's fast developing and digitally globalized village, education should not be offered before pre-internet in 1995. Instead, our education should be offered locally but the content should be useful anywhere in the world. For, working abroad is the new normal and remittances are the new source of foreign currency earning for nations.

As our pupils are free to move and settle in any part of the world and engage in economic endeavours, we cannot just prepare them to live in Tanzania as we will have limited their chances of expansion and growth both socially and economically.

This reality calls for teachers, curriculum developers and all other stakeholders in education to take a different look on policies and practices in education to make the desire to create global citizenship out of our education system a success. It is from education system that Europeans got the idea that they could become global citizens. Shouldn't we follow the suit? It is not wrong to learn from others.

The Europeans were smart enough to anticipate the concept of global citizenship earlier and they utilized well the opportunities found overseas and they can now help us in several ways. The good strategic question is to ask



Let us improve our curricula to create productive global citizens

ourselves where we were when they were becoming rich. But the consolation is the slogan that it is never late. We can start investing in our education and reap the fruits, one of which is having productive global citizens.

Pupils should be told that those countries of the world which they aspire due to so-

cioeconomic advancement benefited from the concept of global citizenship. Our curricula should be designed in such a way that they prepare our pupils to be aggressive and hard working. It is aggressiveness, relevant skills and work ethic that qualify one as a global citizen.

Our pupils should be taught

and encouraged to practise international languages like English, French, Spanish, Mandarin and many others so as to be efficient in communicating with the world since effective communication is key to interactionism. With mastery of international languages, Tanzanians can easily learn about the rest of the world and hence being in a good

position to compete for opportunities hence faster pace of development.

Nowadays there are scholarships and operations of multinational companies which promote chances for enjoying global citizenship but the understanding of international languages is essential in trapping the opportunities. International

languages, especially English, should be taught strategically and not for the purpose of passing examinations as is currently the case.

Such international languages should be offered with the objective of producing fluent and competent individuals who can communicate at an international forum. It is not pleasing to hear that a competent person could not secure a job only because they are unable to express themselves fluently in an international language.

There is self-defeating to scramble for few opportunities in Tanzania or Africa while the world is full of opportunities. Teachers and curriculum developers need to wage a war in changing curricula and shaping pupils to conform with global standards of education so that they can enjoy global citizenship. Pupils should be taught to appreciate time management and critical thinking. If a person values time and is capable of demonstrating critical thinking skills, then they are in a good position to embrace opportunities and become a global citizen.

Having many Tanzanians working abroad and investing back home is another way of enjoying global citizenship as globalization has created a lot of opportunities and possibilities. We just need to create enabling environment and education of our children is the starting point.

Let us swim along the current and not against it by embracing the idea of global citizenship. Our education systems can help us create global citizens. Changes are inevitable. Let us prepare to enjoy the fruits of global citizenship.

The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

International Women's Day 2023: Harnessing digital age to empower our women and girls

By Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

NEW technologies and innovations are reshaping our world and its future, often at a dizzying pace. Yet women and girls continue to be left behind in this burgeoning digital universe. How, then, can we harness these developments to create a better future for all of us?

This year's International Women's Day theme, "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality," seeks to answer exactly that question.

We know that women and girls are less likely than men and boys to use the internet or own a smartphone. In fact, only 54 per cent of women in Asia and the Pacific have digital access, cut off from opportunities to move any digital needles forward.

The root causes are many and varied: deep-rooted discriminatory social norms, increased gender-based violence (including online violence), and the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work. Addressing these impediments to women realizing their full potential requires our joint and immediate attention and response.

One child, one teacher, one pen

When and where women and girls are discouraged from studying and working in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) fields, we let them down. And we have left a whole generation of women and girls behind. We need the talents and voices of women and girls brought to the boardrooms and coding rooms.

Today many innovations in AI, medicine, entertainment, transportation, work and other fields treat men as the standard and ignore women's physical and social differences - to the detriment of half of the world's population.

Getting more women into careers



The theme for International Women's Day, 8 March 2023 is 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality'. This theme is aligned with the priority theme for the upcoming 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (6-17 March 2023).

in technology starts with breaking down the gender stereotypes that prevent girls from studying STEM subjects. Comprehensive changes to the way STEM subjects are taught and targeted programs to support girls' learning are needed.

In Viet Nam, the Ministry of Education and Training has updated the country's National Early Childhood Education curriculum on "de-stereotyping" women and girls and has included gender-sensitive budgeting into the Education Sector Plan. Through changes such as these, governments can foster girls' enthusiasm for technology, expanding the future digital work-

force.

Harnessing technology to support women entrepreneurs

Women entrepreneurs play a key role in developing economies. Supporting them to start and grow businesses through technology will lead to more sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Women have historically struggled to access capital because they are less aware of funding options.

They are less likely to own land or have large savings to offer as collateral and have not been included in traditional financial networks. Technological innovations provide an opportunity to connect women

entrepreneurs across the region with new financing models that cater to their particular needs.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship project has unlocked almost USD 65 million in capital to support women entrepreneurs in several countries.

Through identifying and backing a number of experimental technology-driven business models, the project has supported women-led micro, small and medium enterprises through a range of technology solutions such as payment platforms, online marketplaces,

bookkeeping and inventory management.

Enabling women to become drivers of inclusive innovation

If we pair the untapped potential of women and girls to contribute to our common future together with the potential of the innovations of digitalization, science and technologies, we may well have cracked the code to rectifying many of the inequalities and injustices created by generations past.

Women have the know-how to harness technology and innovation. Given equal opportunities, they will flourish and contribute to creative solutions to tackle the world's multifaceted challenges.

Women leaders in Asia and the Pacific are already using technology to address inequalities and gender-based violence. Founded by Virginia Tan, Rhea See, and Leanne Robers, She Loves Tech, headquartered in Singapore, runs the world's largest start-up competition for women and technology and aims to unlock over USD 1 billion in capital by 2030 for women-led businesses.

Safetyfy is a crowd-mapping platform for people to share experiences of sexual harassment in public spaces and allows communities to identify problems and work towards solutions. The platform was launched by three women, including current leader Elsa Marie D'Silva, in response to incidents of gender-based violence in the region.

"We can all do our part to unleash our world's enormous untapped talent - starting with filling classrooms, laboratories, and boardrooms with women scientists," said United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres recently. Indeed, we need women in leadership roles in all science and technology spaces to accelerate inclusive innovation.

ANC's reaction to Eskom revelations exposes the party in denial of reality, in a deep ethical crisis

By Stephen Grootes

WHILE it has not yet been revealed which politically connected individuals are benefiting from corruption at Eskom, it is obvious that much more information will burst into the public domain soon. This is likely to eventually include the names of the senior individuals reportedly involved.

The ANC's response, so far, may have echoes of the beginning of the State Capture era, when the circling of the wagons was the name of its game. Instead of cracking down on corruption, the party is attacking those who are fighting to save Eskom and the SA economy.

This comes at a critical time for the party, as it is due to face voters just next year when load shedding is still likely to be an overwhelming central issue. The reaction of the ANC to former Eskom CEO André de Ruyter's claims in his eTV interview has been to put pressure on De Ruyter. It said that if he doesn't name the names and go to the police, it will go to court to force him to do so.

The ANC has also said that it will not tolerate corruption and that it won't protect people who are corrupt.

It has been joined in this by Cosatu and the SACP, who have said that De Ruyter has a duty to go to the police.

Then, Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan told Newzroom Afrika on Monday that he had discussed corruption at Eskom with De Ruyter, and that De Ruyter had "alluded" to certain people being involved.

As Gordhan put it, "If he has the evidence, he must go to the law enforcement agencies... don't expect me on the basis of some understanding or possible suspicion to now say who it is... I don't want to be charged with defamation, I don't have the evidence."

For those with long memories, there may be some echoes of the ANC during the early stages of State Capture here. Then, almost no matter what evidence could be brought regarding then president Jacob Zuma, it was deemed as an attack on the



As soon as fishers and divers unload their products at the Tongoy pier, in the northern Chilean region of Coquimbo, they are approached by customers seeking to buy products directly without the need for intermediaries. CREDIT: Orlando Milesi/IPS

ANC and not about corruption.

Even when the Guptas landed a plane at the Waterkloof Air Force Base, the party used its employees in the government to ensure that no action was taken. Instead, and scandalously, the main official involved, Bruce Koloane, was "punished" with an ambassadorship to the Netherlands.

Also, at the time, the ANC's leadership had ensured that the National Prosecuting Authority was hollowed out. It was Zuma who appointed Menzi Simelane as National Director of Public Prosecutions after it was found that there was "prima facie" evidence that he had lied under oath.

It should be remembered that this was during a time, in 2012, when people such as then SACP leader Blade Nzimande were calling for a law specifically to protect Zuma from being insulted.

Several years later, at the height of State Capture, then Police Minister Nkosinathi Nhleko appointed Berning Ntlembeza as head of the Hawks after a judge had found Ntlembeza was a "man without integrity".

Protecting the comrades from prosecution
All this illustrates the control the ANC has had in the past over our law enforcement officials and its eagerness to use this to protect the comrades who might have been in danger of criminal prosecution.

In the process, that very same law enforcement was so systematically weakened that today it is unable to stem the rising tide of lawlessness in South Africa.

It has been well demonstrated that the Hawks and the police are simply unable to investigate crimes of corruption. Fewer than 20% of murders in SA are solved and most crimes are left unpunished. Just two years

ago, the head of the Hawks, Godfrey Lebeza, said the crime-fighting unit was operating at below 50% of its capacity.

ago, the head of the Hawks, Godfrey Lebeza, said the crime-fighting unit was operating at below 50% of its capacity.

It is beyond any doubt that the major reason our law enforcement agencies are in this state of disrepair is because of the people running the ANC government over the last 15 or so years. It was they who not only allowed but also enabled and encouraged this to happen.

For those with even longer memories, there are echoes of the ANC's behaviour during the Arms Deal in the 1990s.

Then, as more information started to emerge, one member of the ANC who opposed the deal, Andrew Feinstein, was isolated, attacked and eventually hounded out of the country. Anyone else who opposed the deal was harshly dealt with.

It appears the ANC may have learnt very little from that time.

'Join the dots'

Now, Gordhan is demanding that De Ruyter go to the police with evidence, saying that he cannot do so on the basis of "suspicion".

But this is the very same Gordhan who told the nation, time and time again, to "join the dots" in 2017, when he was under pressure during the State Capture era.

During that time, Gordhan played a huge role in exposing Zuma and the Guptas and their central involvement in State Capture. He was right in those days and has been proven so ever since. So how is this man, who in 2017 urged the people of South Africa to "join the dots", now asking someone else to take evidence to the police, that he himself knows are corrupt and incompetent?

Even more, he surely has a duty to better understand what is happening, before repeating the ANC's well-rehearsed lines.

There are other things he could say. He could say that he is trying to find out more, that he believes these are serious claims and there must be action, and that he is calling on

the police to properly investigate.

But he has not said these things. He just walked away from what is South Africa's grimmest problem in decades.

At the same time, the ANC's own stance, basically attacking De Ruyter, may end badly.

It is interesting to contrast the comments of ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula with the view of the union federation Saftu, which also wants De Ruyter to name names. Saftu is clear that it does not want to "pit ourselves against" him, they just want the information.

This is not the stance of the ANC. As a result, the party may now lack political room to manoeuvre. If it turns out that it is two senior leaders involved, then it will find it difficult to walk back these comments.

While this is the ANC's response for the moment, it is important to note just how different this moment is from previous tough spots.

2024 election

Then, even with all the corruption scandals, there was no doubt that the ANC would win the next election.

Now, the party is under intense strain and could easily fall next year to an unprecedented minority level.

This is what makes its response to the corruption claims so startling - there appears to be no understanding of how vulnerable the party is and just how much the lives of ordinary South Africans have worsened of late.

Additionally, the ANC can no longer even claim to be led by someone of unquestionable integrity. The Phala Phala scandal has opened up President Cyril Ramaphosa to intense scrutiny. Once again, the party will be led into an election by someone with serious claims against them.

It is likely that corruption will be a defining issue in the 2024 elections. To do well in these polls, the party may have to reconsider its stance and convince voters that it is serious about fighting corruption.

But, given the long history of the party on this issue, this will be difficult to do. And certainly, judging by its reaction to the latest Eskom mess, it is not prepared to change.

DM



While this is the ANC's response for the moment, it is important to note just how different this moment is from previous tough spots.



RE-ADVERTISEMENT

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TEREX MOBILE CRANE SPARE PARTS TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring Terex Mobile crane spare parts and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply of this equipment's as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01635	Supply And Delivery of Terex Mobile Crane Spare Parts to GGML

I. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01635)	
	60%
Proof of Terex dealership/distributorship authorization letter from OEM	15%
Proof of Certificate of conformity to supply genuine Terex spare parts	15%
Proof of Warranty letters covers for supplied spare parts	10%
Proof of document of supplying Terex spare parts to various companies.	10%
Submission of technical data sheet as indicated on service description.	10%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01635) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why GGML is of interest to work with, what you have to offer and how your skills and experience are valuable to the company. All LOIs and support documentation (in a PDF Format) must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 8.30AM 16th March 2023. (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



Terms of Reference

Name of the Supplier	Title:	Supply of Cleaning Materials
Period of Performance:		14 days

1.0 Introduction

WaterAid is an International Non-Governmental Organization, with a vision of ensuring Safe Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for Everyone, Everywhere by 2030. WaterAid has had its operations in Tanzania since 1983 under the name "WaterAid Tanzania" which is registered as Non-Governmental Organization in The Republic of Tanzania (NO.S0.7557). WaterAid in Tanzania (WAT) operates as a Country Programme and functional office of WaterAid UK; within East African Region. The head office is located in Dar es Salaam, Rufiji Street, Plot No.1469, Masaki Area within Kinondoni District. Through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), WAT in collaboration with the Government is implementing a programme of Effectiveness of Hygiene Behaviour in targeted 30 schools and 15 health care facilities in Kisarawe District, Pwani region

2.0 Scope of Work .

This is a full task of supplying cleaning materials that include cleaning materials and Bins & Liners for 15 health care facilities, Cleaning materials and waste Bins for Menstrual Health and Hygiene rooms in 30 schools in Kisarawe, Pwani region as detailed below;

3.0: Specification SCHOOL MATERIALS:

S/N	ITEM	SERVICE	QTY	SPECIFICATIONS
1.	Indoor Brooms (hard broom)	Supply	150pcs	Indoor brooms with strong handle and soft brush that suits indoor cleaning
2.	Outdoor Brooms	Supply	300pcs	Local outside brooms locally known as "Chelewa" with a long and strong wood handle
3.	Toilet Brushes	Supply	225pcs	Toilet brush for cleaning the toilet bowl with strong handle and strong brushes
4.	Rubber squeezers	Supply	150Pcs	Long Handle Rubber Squeezer
5.	Disinfectant Liquid	Supply	270pc	5litre gallon, Formulated specially to wash away dirt, grime, and germs approved by TBS and expirer date to be from 12 months ahead
6.	Rake	Supply	60Pcs	Metal leaf rake with a strong Wood handle
7.	Plastic Buckets	Supply	150Pcs	10 Litre buckets, White with Lids
8.	Dust Bins	Supply	105Pcs	Big Dustbin with Lid Plastic Swing Type Large Size 60 Ltr Use for Garbage Waste (Green 105 and Blue 105 1Pcs
9.	Hard gloves	Supply	75Pcs	Durable, waterproof and elastic material Hardgloves ideal size for primary school children made from natural or synthetic latex
10.	Dust Pans	Supply	300Pcs	Long handled, heavy duty Dust pan
11.	Waste bins	Supply	30 Pcs	20 litres pedal dust bin red color
12.	Liners	Supply	60 Rolls	SMALL Biobag Compostable Bin Liners 20 Litre

HEALTHCARE FACILITY MATERIALS:

S/N	ITEM	SERVICE	QTY	SPECIFICATIONS
1.	Indoor Brooms	Supply	37 Pcs	Indoor brooms with strong handle and soft brush that suits indoor cleaning
2.	Outdoor brooms	Supply	38 Pcs	Local outside brooms locally known as "Chelewa" with a long and strong wood handle
3.	Toilet Brushes	Supply	75 Pcs	Toilet brush for cleaning the toilet bowl with strong handle and strong brushes
4.	Rubber Squeezer	Supply	75 Pcs	Long Handle Rubber Squeezer
5.	Disinfectant Liquid	Supply	90 pcs	5litre gallon, Formulated specially to wash away dirt, grime, and germs approved by TBS and expirer date to be from 12 months ahead
6.	Racks	Supply	15 Pcs	Metal leaf rake with a strong Wood handle
7.	Wheelbarrow	Supply	15 Pcs	Strong and durable
8.	Boots	Supply	30 Pairs	White Collor, Large and Medium sizes, Molded polyvinyl or other plastic to ensure that it is waterproof, Resistant to blood, fluids and easy to disinfect for maximum protection and hygiene. Anti-skid tread prevents slipping.
9.	Plastic Buckets	Supply	37 Pcs	20 Ltrs white plastic buckets
10.	Dustbins	Supply	30 Pcs	20 litres pedal dust bins
11.	Hard gloves	Supply	37 Pcs	Durable, waterproof and elastic material Hardgloves ideal size for adults made from natural or synthetic latex
12.	Dust Pans	Supply	75 Pcs	Long handled, heavy duty Dust pan
13.	Plungers	Supply	15 Pcs	Quality rubber plunger with strong and durable wood handle ideal for toilets
14.	Waste bins	Supply	60 Pcs	Capacity: 70 -120 L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed for mechanical handling. Rubber-tire wheels. All bins manufactured to EN 840 European Standard. Manufactured from high-density polyethylene with UV stabilizer. Easy to push or pull Appropriately color coded (Red 20, Black 20 and 20 Green) and properly marked/labeled the type of waste contained therein. With smooth surfaces, leak proof, made of plastic. Easy to load and unload
15.	Bins and Liners	Supply	90	X-Large Compostable Bin Liners 50 Litres

3.0 Conditions: -

1. You are hereby invited to give your tender for supply of as described in the specifications) as shown above.

All Bidding documents should be in one original, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes marked **(supply of cleaning materials for 30 Schools and 15 HCF's in Kisarawe District)** must be delivered to the address WaterAid in Tanzania (WAT), P.O.Box 33759, The head office is in Dar es Salaam, Rufiji Street, Plot No.1469, Masaki Area within Kinondoni District.

2. The deadline for submission of bidding is **15th March 2023 at 10:00am**. Quotations will be opened same day at 10:30 am in public and in the presence of Candidate's representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the WaterAid in Tanzania (WAT), P.O.Box 33759, The head office is in Dar es Salaam, Rufiji Street, Plot No.1469, Masaki Area within Kinondoni District]. Late bidings, portion of bidding documents will not be received, bidings not opened at the opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Bids shall be addressed to:

**Country Director - WaterAid Tanzania,
P.O. Box 33759 Plot No.1469 Rufiji Street: Off Haile Selassie Rd - Msasani Peninsular
Dar es Salaam: Tanzania."**

4.0 Instruction to the Bidder /Contractor

- The place of delivery will be at Kisarawe
- The Candidate shall attach the following documents to the bid.
 - A valid Business License.
 - A valid VAT (Value Added Tax) and TIN certificate.
 - Company profile stipulating work of the same nature
- Information on the specifications as mentioned in section 3.0
- Tender price.
 - The contract shall be for all quantities.
 - Corrections, if any shall be made by crossing out, initialing, dating and rewriting.
 - All duties, taxes and other levies payable by the supplier under the contract shall be included in the total price.
 - The rates quoted by the candidate shall be fixed for the duration of the contract and shall not be subject to adjustment on any account.
 - The prices should be quoted in Tanzania Shillings.
- The payment will be made in Tanzania Shillings (Tshs.).
- The Bid shall remain valid for a period of not less than 30 days after the deadline for submission.
- Substitute bids are **"not applicable"**
- The bid shall be completed and signed by an authorized representative of the Candidate. For this case a duly certified Power of Attorney must be sent together with the bid

Rising food prices and ongoing energy crisis place South Africa at high risk

By Lyse Comins

SOUTH Africa's almost record level food price inflation, load shedding, rising energy costs, and further fuel and interest rate hike forecast have eroded workers' disposable incomes and further disadvantaging the poor - leaving analysts predicting that the country was at heightened risk, including civil unrest.

Head of Policy Analysis at the Centre for Risk Analysis, Chris Hattingh, cautioned that the lower fuel price, which the latest Statistics SA data showed last week, had largely contributed to driving annual consumer inflation down from 7.2 percent in December 2022 to 6.9 percent in January, could prove to be only a temporary reprieve. The fuel price index declined by 10.5 percent between December 2022 and January, the data showed.

United Trade Union of SA (UASA) spokesperson Abigail Moyo said the state's failure to supply food producers and retailers with sufficient water and electricity to run businesses efficiently had fuelled inflation that eroded workers' disposable income.

"Economically driven financial stress through no fault of their own has been a factor in workers' lives for years. With items such as maize meal going up 36.5 percent since January last year, onions up 48.7 percent, samp up 29.6 percent, and instant coffee up 26.4 percent, it is clear that difficult times are not nearly over for households," she said.

Business Leadership South Africa chief executive Busisiwe Mavuso also warned that unless there were "meaningful and targeted interventions," the country could face an Arab Spring-type revolt.

Hattingh added: "This inflation relief afforded by the lower fuel price could prove to be temporary. The reopening of the Chinese economy will likely drive international oil prices higher, impacting down the line in the form of higher fuel prices. South Africa is also more exposed to imported inflation. Should the costs and prices of manufactured and consumer goods and inputs increase, this will then drive inflation higher locally."

"Of great concern regarding pressure on consumers is that the food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate was recorded at 13.4 percent (annually) in January. The previous time



In July 2021, widespread civil unrest spread across KwaZulu Natal and other South African provinces. While it followed the incarceration of former President Jacob Zuma, analysts also attributed it to widespread unemployment and inequality. Credit: Lyse Comins/IPS

this reading was so high was April 2009, at 13.6 percent," he said.

Additionally, the category of bread and cereals recorded the biggest increase of any product group at 21.8 percent, while meat inflation rose from 9.7 percent in December 2022 to 11.2 percent in January.

"A fundamental weakness in the economy - unreliable electricity supply - could likely push prices and inflation higher throughout the year. This will result in more pressure on consumers and businesses and add to the potential for civil unrest," he said.

He said load shedding was now a priced-in "feature of South African life," as shown by the Rand weakening to R19 against the US Dollar.

Annual inflation, at 6.9 percent, was also outside the South African Reserve Bank's (SARB) target range of 3 - 6 percent.

"With the latest data for January now in, the SARB could continue its rate hiking cycle with another 25 ba-

sis points increase at the next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee," Hattingh said.

Independent crime and policing expert and a former senior researcher at the Institute for Security Studies, Dr Johan Burger, warned that signs of potential unrest due to the rising cost of living and disillusionment were visible across the country.

He said most households in the middle and higher income brackets had been forced to cut back on spending due to higher interest rates and the rising prices of basic foods.

"Those of us with a relatively stable income are already finding it increasingly difficult and have to think twice before we buy something, so one can only imagine the pressure people in lower income groups must be feeling," he said.

"For many, this has been the situation for many years, and it has become worse. Unemployment is at 32.9 percent, and the unofficial

unemployment rate is even higher. High levels of unemployment lead to high levels of poverty, creating all sorts of social problems," he said.

Burger said during the looting in July 2021, much of what was stolen was foodstuffs and goods that could be sold for cash.

"In some cases, people who went out to shop for food were attacked and robbed of their food. Other instances that we see now are when a truck breaks down on the road near a community, and all of a sudden, a flood of people come in and strip it of whatever it's carrying - whether food or something they can exchange for food," he said.

Burger said these incidents showed a "general instability" against the backdrop of a weakened criminal justice system that cannot deal effectively with criminals.

"The potential for large-scale disruptions and looting and for large groups of people to come together and engage in popular uprisings

could happen. When large groups of people are exposed to extreme levels of property over a long period of time, they build resentment and feel neglected by the state. They feel their needs are not acknowledged, and with this resentment comes a disregard for the state, its laws, and the police, and they feel they have the right to rise up and take what they need," Burger said.

"And if they rise up in large enough numbers, it will be very difficult for the state to suppress this kind of uprising. The potential for this to happen is very real - it's almost visible; it's just beneath the surface," he said.

Burger said all that was needed to spark unrest was a potential trigger, as had occurred in KwaZulu-Natal with a pro (former president Jacob Zuma) campaign ahead of the July 2021 riots.

"The danger is it could spread very quickly because those levels of poverty and deprivation exist in almost all our communities across the nation. In 2008 the Xenophobic riots spread in a question of days, and we saw 69 people killed and many more injured and displaced," he said.

He warned that localized protests about service delivery had been occurring for years, and if left unattended, these could also get to a point where "resistance will explode."

"It is growing dissatisfaction with their situation, and many of poor communities see themselves as the neglected part of South Africa. They have not shared in anything promised when democracy came in terms of employment and service, and they go hungry once this happens; there is a division between a part of our population and the institutions that govern us, which is why there is real potential for large scale insurrection," Burger said.

Head of the Justice and Violence Prevention Programme at the Institute for Security Studies, Gareth Newham, said rising food security and hunger, with around 60 percent of the population now living in poverty and a large proportion of households facing hunger weekly, created a high level of despair and frustration.

"This challenge has been around some time, and increasing food prices could make that worse," he said.

However, he said the current causes of most public violence were labor-related disputes and service delivery failures.

"We historically don't have an issue where food insecurity has been a major driver of public violence, but it doesn't mean it won't be. There could arguably be a level of hunger that does lead to it," he said.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Forests disappearing in energy poor Zimbabwean cities

By Jeffrey Moyo

IN New Ashdon Park, a medium-density area in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, at new homes that have replaced a once thriving forest, makeshift fireplaces have become common sights as residents solely depend on firewood for energy.

City dwellers like 34-year-old Neliet Mbariro, a married mother of four, live in a house that has not yet been connected to electricity.

Like many of her neighbors, Mbariro has had to depend on cutting down some trees just across an unpaved road near her home.

"We cut the few remaining trees you see here so we can make fire for cooking every day. We can't do anything about it because we have no electricity in this area," Mbariro told IPS.

Hundreds of trees that used to define Mbariro's area, where homes have fast emerged, have disappeared over the past two years since construction began.

As building structures rise, vast acres of natural forests are falling as construction of dwellings and indigenous industrial facilities gather pace in Zimbabwe.

Arnold Shumba (32), a builder operating in New Ashdon Park, said with his team working in the area, they have had to do away with hundreds of trees to build homes for their clients.

"I remember there were plenty of trees; in fact, there was a huge forest area here, but those trees are no more now because as we worked, we cut them down. You only see houses now," Shumba told IPS.



Zimbabwe is losing 262 000 hectares of forests destroyed every year. Credit: Jeffrey Moyo/IPS

According to this country's Forestry commission, these are among the 262 000 hectares of forests destroyed every year in Zimbabwe.

According to environmentalists, the impact of deforestation is problematic.

"Very soon, towns and cities will have no more trees left as buildings take their place," Marylin Mahamba, an independent environmental activist in Harare, told IPS.

For instance, as Mahamba notes, Harare is no longer the same, with scores of open urban spaces taken over for construction and trees uprooted.

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second-largest city, is even worse, with Mahamba claiming the city has been pummeled by deforestation left, right, and center as more residential areas rise.

Yet it is not only the rise of more buildings across towns and cities here that has led to deforestation but electricity deficits, according to climate change experts.

"The Zimbabwe Power Company is also to blame for failing to

provide enough electricity. Gas is expensive, and many people can't afford it. They opt for firewood because it is cheaper, and that's why more urban trees are now vanishing," Kudakwashe Makanda, a climate change expert based in Zimbabwe, told IPS.

But Makanda also pinned the blame for urban deforestation on rural-to-urban migration.

"There is now excessive expansion of towns in Zimbabwe. Obviously, this does not spare the forests. By nature, people would want to settle in urban areas, and by virtue of people wanting to settle in towns, people cut down trees establishing homes," said Makanda.

Makanda also blamed local authorities for fueling urban deforestation, saying, "the town councils are to blame. They allow people to occupy land not suitable for occupation resulting in trees being felled."

With joblessness affecting as many as 90 percent of Zimbabwe's population, according to the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, Makanda said in towns and cities, many have switched to firewood for livelihood.

"People are making a livelihood out of firewood, meaning more trees are disappearing in towns as dealers sell firewood which has become a source of income for many who are not formally employed," said Makanda.

But for areas like New Ashdon Park with no electricity and with many residents like Mbariro having to depend on firewood while

other areas contend with regular power outages, Makanda also said, "power cuts are causing deforestation in towns, especially in areas with no power connection, people rely on firewood."

Yet stung by joblessness, Makanda said urban dwellers are clearing unoccupied pieces of land to farm in towns and cities, but at the cost of the trees that must be removed.

To fix the growing menace of urban deforestation in Zimbabwe, climate change experts like Makanda have said, "there is a need for incentivizing alternative power sources like solar so that they become affordable in order to save the remaining urban forests."

Denis Munangaitire, an environmentalist with a degree in environmental studies from the Midlands State University, claimed 4000 trees are getting destroyed annually across Zimbabwe's towns and cities.

According to this country's Forestry commission, these are among the 262 000 hectares of forests destroyed every year in Zimbabwe.

Like Makanda, Munangaitire heaped the blame on local authorities in towns and cities for fueling deforestation.

"Urban councils are responsible for the disappearance of trees in towns and cities because they are leaving land developers wiping out forests, leaving few or no trees standing in areas they develop," Munangaitire told IPS.

IPS UN Bureau Report



Thursday 2 March 2023

Indian banks unprepared for cenbank's ESG push

MUMBAI

Indian banks are not prepared to adopt environmental, social and governance (ESG) norms as part of their lending models due to reasons including a lack of clarity on how they apply to lenders, a survey conducted by an industry body on behalf of the central bank showed, said two people aware of the matter.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which has acknowledged climate change as a source of financial risk, will likely use the findings to frame the first set of guidelines to boost green finance, the people said. The guidelines will likely be issued later this year, they added.

Globally, a rising number of loans are being re-structured to link them to a borrower's ESG performance. Such ESG-based lending surged to \$322 billion globally in 2021, from \$6 billion in 2016, to account for over 12% of total lending, per research by London-based Acuity Knowledge Partners published in January.

The survey in India showed a majority of domestic banks, particularly mid-sized and small ones, are grappling with issues on the ESG definitions applicable to lenders, how the norms will be built into lending decisions and the lack of technology and systems to track their implementation, said one of the people.

"There is also a low incentive to switch to these norms," the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity as the results of the survey are not public.

The RBI and the Indian Banks' Association, which conducted the survey, did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Governor Shaktikanta Das said earlier this month that the central bank will "soon" issue guidelines for regulated entities to increase green lending, accept green deposits and mitigate risks related to climate change. While green loans can be ESG-linked, they are issued solely to finance environmentally sustainable projects.

These guidelines, the RBI's first step in implementing ESG norms, will help India meet its target of reducing its carbon emissions to net zero by 2070.

As a precursor, the RBI released a discussion paper last July that, besides acknowledging the risk of climate change, emphasised the need for a strategy to address the risk.

"PROGRESSIVELY LONGISH" TRANSITION

Some large private and public sector banks are already lending to projects related to renewable energy, electric vehicles and battery storage, among others.

For example, State Bank of India and Agence Française de Développement recently signed a climate finance loan worth 100 million euros (about \$106 million). Meanwhile, private banks like Axis Bank Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd are establishing an ESG culture, with the latter also constituting a board-governed environmental policy in 2019.

But, at least four private and public sector bankers that Reuters spoke to said that for most lenders, monitoring ESG parameters would be a key challenge.

"Banks currently do not know how to monitor parameters regarding the ESG framework and how to quantify them. There is no technology in place," an official at a state-run bank said, declining to be named as they are not allowed to speak to the media.

The bankers also said it would cost lenders both time and money to conduct internal research and train staff to align with ESG goals, while most banks had not yet assessed if they need to hire further to implement these norms.

The transition towards ESG will be "progressively longish" and the RBI will probably first ask a subset of the larger banks to implement the norms, said R Gandhi, the central bank's former deputy governor.

Those banks, said Gandhi, will probably first turn to large corporates and it will take a long time before they pass it to micro borrowers and retail customers.



Reserve Bank of India logo is seen at the gate of its office in New Delhi

BOA Bank now to continue enhancing SMEs financing

By Mnaku Mbani

BOA Bank Tanzania has said it will continue to enhance its financing to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Tanzania, through offering tailor made financial products that are ensuring their growth, to promote economic growth and job creation.

Speaking with The Guardian in an exclusive interview yesterday, Bank of Africa (BOA) Tanzania managing director Adam Mihayo said the plan will also ensure the growth of the bank's SMEs space, as they account for the large share of business activities.

"We want to become SMEs-led bank as given to the macroeconomic data, they play a very important role in stimulating economic growth, job creation and expanding tax base," he said.

According to Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), it is estimated that Tanzania's SME sector consists of more than 3 million small and medium businesses which are employing more than 5 million people.

About 90 or more of businesses in Tanzania are SMEs and contribute to between 27 and 35 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

He said the bank has so far in 2022

extended 60bn/- to support SMEs in Tanzania, and 30 percent of businesses supported by the bank's financing are led by women, with very low default rate.

This is being done through the establishment of BOA Bank's SMEs clinic, which involves improving information asymmetry, which is lacking among most of small and medium businesses.

According to Mihayo, the main challenge facing most SMEs in Tanzania is lack of working capital, lack of collaterals, poor business management capabilities and records keeping.

He said the bank has partnered

with various international organisations to de-risk financing into SMEs sector.

Through SMEs clinic, which is expected to be intensified during this year, the bank will be deploying facilitators to equip them with necessary business skills to manage their businesses.

The bank will also create special products for youths by supporting startups.

"We have startups that are part of our anchor customers' value chain, which are enabling them to grow," he said.

For more, read an exclusive interview on page 14



BOA Bank headquarter

HOW TO MANAGE DEBT OF ANY SIZE

DEBT can help us to get an education, a home, a car, or enable us to have a business. There are good debts and bad debts. Good debt is the one that is used to purchase something that is a necessary part of your life and has long-term value while bad debt is the one that is used to purchase unnecessary things in your life. Most people have some sort of debt in their life. Hence everyone with even little debt has to manage their debt to make sure that it doesn't get out of control.

When debt is managed well, it enables us to improve our lives by getting things accomplished but when debt is not managed well, it can become a stumbling block in achieving our targets so it is imperative to know how to manage debt regardless of its size. If you find yourself falling further into debt than you'd like, don't panic but also don't sit back and be passively waiting for the worse to happen. Take action and manage what you owe before it becomes unmanageable. There are many strategies that one can use to help pay off debts and this week I will share a few tips on how to manage your debt;

Know Who and How Much You



Kelvin Mkwawa

Owe - The first step which is very crucial in managing your debt is to make a list of all your debts including the name of the debtor, due date, amount of the debt, and repayment schedule of the debt. Having all debts listed will allow you to see the bigger picture which makes you aware of your debt situation and gives you the opportunity to develop a game plan on how to tackle them effectively. To be effective, you need to be relentless in checking your debt periodically especially as you pay it down. So don't just create your debt list and forget about

it, update your list every few months, quarterly or even monthly if you can as the amount of your debt changes.

Decide Which Debt to Pay First - Use the debt list that you have created to prioritize and rank them in line with the plan of paying them off. One of the smartest strategies for getting out of debt is to make minimum payments on all your debts except the one that is charging you a higher interest rate; the debt that is charging you a higher interest rate should be the one that you pay off first because it is costing you the most money hence you should make more than minimum payments every month. Once your first, most expensive debt is paid off, take all of the money that you were paying on that first debt and focus it on the next most expensive debt. You should continue this method of paying off your expensive debt until you are left with your least expensive debt to pay last. This strategy, sometimes referred to as the snowball, will get you out of debt quickly, and you will feel encouraged as you see your progress.

Pay your Debt Payments On Time Every Month - You can't pay your debt if you are not making your monthly repayments on time. Late payments

on your debt make it harder to pay it off since you will have to pay a late fee and interest charges for every payment that you are missing. This will cause your debt balance to continue to increase and makes your monthly payments increase as well hence making it harder for you to keep up the payments. To avoid this, you need to use a calendaring system on your smartphone or computer to set up alerts to remind you a few days before your payment date is due. In addition, if for whatever reason you miss a payment, don't wait until the next payment due date to send your payment, do it as soon as you can. This way you avoid paying higher interest charges as the debtor is charging you finance charges every single day that you are late.

In summary, debt has become part of our life but too much debt can be detrimental to your financial goals and your life in general. Regardless of your debt size, the tips that I shared in this article will help you manage them effectively and take control of your debt.

Kelvin Mkwawa, Seasoned Banker. Email address: Kelvin.mkwawa@gmail.com

Mihayo: Why BOA Bank is now building specific focus on SMEs

BOA Bank has been operating in Tanzania since June 2007 after acquiring Eurafrican Bank which was established in Tanzania in September 1994. The bank has been growing year-on-year, servicing retail, SME and Corporate segments of the market. **MNAKU MBANI** conducted an exclusive interview with the bank's managing director **ADAM MIHAYO** (pictured) on the bank's role in promoting financial inclusion, its performances as well as current and future plans.

Question: Could you tell us your historical background and how did you reach to the top position at BOA Bank?

Answer: I started my banking career in 2008 in one of the international banks, through a special programme; a leadership programme; and since then, I have grown through the ranks to assume the position I am currently holding.

I have been very fortunate to be under the guidance of leadership of various key stakeholders in this country; and I must appreciate the opportunity that they gave me throughout my career, to groom me, and I have built necessary leadership abilities that enabled to assume this role as managing director of Bank of Africa Tanzania.

But, If I has to attribute the keys that have enabled me to assume this role are hardworking, commitment, but also integrity.

In my previous role, before assuming current position as the managing director, I was a trade director of one the international banks and as we all know, such role is quit tempting and therefore if I did not hold integrity, then I would have been very difficult to assume this role. So, I encourage also upcoming leaders to ensure that they have integrity as key asset and component that enable them to assure bigger responsibilities.

What was in your mind when you were appointed to save this role?

Number of thoughts that came to my mind; one was being trade director and credit person throughout my career and I am going to assume the role of the managing director, somehow gave me a sleepless night.

But, when I came to think about it, it real gave me comfort in the sense that, as person who has assumed different role in credit department in the institutions that I worked for; gave me opportunities to interact with business colleague, but also gave me a platform to sit in ex-co (executive committee) and get to understand business strategy but also execution piece. In that manner, I directly and indirectly got opportunity to accumulate commercial acumen and ability to be able to formulate strategies and participate in the execution of those strategies.

So, it gave me comfort that I have developed necessary skills, accumulated the necessary experience to enable me to execute these responsibilities.

But, again, when I got to understand the mission of this bank, made me quite excited. One, as a bank, we desire to participate in the economic development journey of the market in which we operate.

And, as we all know that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) being the growth engine of this economy, and that be one of the key sectors that the bank is focusing on; it real made me excited that I am going to lead a bank that will be supporting the engine of the country's growth.

So, I was very much excited, and when I actually assumed this role; and when I try to reflect what has really achieved over the last one and half years, I am very proud that we have really been able to support one of the key sectors of the economy.

Please, give us a snapshot of the bank performance during last year

We are very proud of what we achieved during last year, in terms of balance sheet growth.

We were able to grow our balance sheet by 32 percent, compared to



It is also imperative that relevant regulatory environment to enable that these innovations and technological advancement in financial sectors adopted are safe and are done in a manner that will safeguard financial soundness of the country.

the industry's level, where credit to private sector grew by about 23 percent. So, we managed to achieve faster growth face than the industrial average.

In terms of profitability, we were also able to post a profit after tax of 5.3bn/-, compared with the target of 5bn/-, so, we basically surpassed what we had budgeted for the year.

I am also particularly very proud of the achievement on the quality of our loan portfolio; as we closed the year with on-Performing Loan (NPLs) ratio of 1.9 percent, which is the lowest in five years.

This was mainly driven by prudent credit risk management practices, monitoring, as well as recovery processes that enables us to cross such remarkable performance last year.

But, I am also very particularly very proud of our growth on the SME space, where we were able to disburse loans amounted to 60bn/-, to support SMEs as these are growth engines of the country and I every ten businesses basically, nine of them are small and medium and they contribute not less than 30 percent of the GDP.

I am pledging our continued support to the government and central bank to ensure that we continue to support these very key sector of the economy.

What is your lending policy towards SMEs?

We know that, SMEs are key sector of the economy. However, it has some challenges, one of them being information asymmetry but also most of the SMEs lack collateral and therefore when you onboard a customer from that sector, definitely need to ensure that these aspects are taken care off.

As Bank of Africa, we are also partnering with international organisations, and reputable organisations that are helping us to de-risk the sector.

We have some guarantee schemes, some of them have to recovering up to 50 percent of the exposure and that then give us flexibility to support customers that have the required profiles and only face the challenge of collaterals.

We have definitely been, such kind of support that enable us to continue supporting this very important sector of the economy, but also what we have done to take decision to get closer to our

customers. So, we have really empowered our branch network in terms of sourcing these customers, doing the risk management, and proposing to management on what will be suitable solutions for these customers. We have developed SMEs centers and the intention is to ensure that such decisions are made closure to our customers.

Another thing that we have done is the SME clinic. The intention is also to address the information asymmetry, but also to build the necessary business management capabilities for our small and medium customers, as you know one of the challenges is inability to maintain records but also poor governance processes. So, through these SME clinics, we have been able to really improve their capabilities by bringing onboard facilitators from the business community, but also thought leaders who have to guide in terms of observing corporate governance in running their businesses and we get positive feedback from our customers.

We pledge our continued support to SMEs in that regard. This year, we will also be organising more SME clinics and we get more facilitators to come onboard and help these businesses in addressing pertinent issues they have been facing.

We believe by so doing, the bank will definitely be able to support them better and giving them necessary support.

What are your observations on the future of banking sector in Tanzania, especially this year and beyond?

I think if you look at financials of most banks published I this quarter, you will realize that the banking industry posted very strong performance last year, in terms of balance sheet growth, but also profitability which is the good indication that our economy is recovering, but also when you look at macro-economic indicators compared to other countries in sub-Saharan region, there is a clear indication that our economy is very resilient.

Although we are facing some challenges, driven by geopolitical tensions such as Russia-Ukraine, but the government has been implementing very good fiscal policy interventions to ensure that inflation risk is contained.

We have also seen the currency depreciation against major cur-

rencies been contained and has depreciated by less than one percent over the last one year, which is a very good sense that we have a very resilient economy.

I think what we see from the banking sector is increased competitions; we have fintechs coming in, and eating our lunch. So my expectations to see more partnerships with fintechs and Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), which will definitely enables the banks to play necessary role and develop solutions that appeal to customer expectations.

We have seen some of the banks rolling out mobile lending, and that is geared towards diversifying the income streams. We are seeing net worthy incomes customers in a very strong pressure, because of provision and NPLs, and it is only prudent that banks need to diversify their income streams and grow non-funded income.

Another thing, we expect to see talent management to become quite critical; we have more than 50 banks and therefore, with challenges in terms of banks strength and skills, will result into fight for top talents. This is expected to escalate in future, with more complexity around products and solutions. I view talent as be one of the key focus areas, because many CEOs will be focusing on.

Another aspect is regulations because of increased linkage of the economy and accelerated adoption of technology.

It is also imperative that relevant regulatory environment to enable that these innovations and technological advancement in financial sectors adopted are safe and are done in a manner that will safeguard financial soundness of the country.

Another thing is that, we should continue to expect changes as is the only constant factor. If you look what has happened globally over the last four years such as Covid-19, geopolitical issues in Russia and Ukraine, it clearly gives you an indication that the only constant factor is change.

So, we must be ready to invest change and build necessary capabilities that will enable us as a banking industry to tap into the opportunities that are existing but also be able to manage the emerging risks that we are seeing.

One last point is climate change issue, perhaps ESG- the sustainability agenda, which has also be-

come quite topic and influencing the ability of bank to raise funding and I believe, most of our CEOs will pay attention to the ESG agenda to enable us to run these organisations sustainably.

The Economy is currently recovering from both internal and external shocks. What is the position of BOA through this recovery processes?

In terms of the recovery journey, I will just go a bit back, during the Covid-19 pandemic, our customers were also impacted. As a bank, we made bold decisions to say said we need to be close to our customers. We provided the debt relief programme for our customers amounting to 28bn/- and that was done in two ways.

One, we gave them relief in terms of restructuring their facilities and only ask them to save the interest component, while they were addressing pertinent issues their businesses were facing, but also some involved restructuring their facilities by extending their maturities and reducing the repayment amounts and that enabled us to give them some breathing space during that time and I am very proud of the progress that we have made out of those customers they have all come out strong.

Given what is happening due to geopolitical situation, we are monitoring our portfolio very closely. We have beefed up our monitoring capabilities, risk intervention to our customers to ensure they are not adversely impacted by what is happening in Russia and Ukraine.

We believe that with the fiscal policy interventions that the government is currently implementing, we definitely minimize the adverse impact that would emanate from geopolitical issues.

We are also been very active in supporting exporters and importers because of the trade finance capability that we have as a group, given our presence in very key markets, for example our representative office in China as we all know the trade levels between Tanzania and China.

Our appetite for SMEs has also played a critical role on the GDP growth is significant. Therefore for us to support the sector is definitely supporting job creation, tax base and economic growth.

I would also want to express my sincere gratitude to the government under the leadership of Her Excellence Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan for her very strong leadership by building bilateral relationships that are encouraging international trade, but also putting in place governance trust which has improved business environment and encouraging Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs).

I also want to thank Bank of Tanzania (BoT), they have been very supportive through fiscal and monetary policies intervention.

Where do you want to see BOA bank in the next five to ten years?

We want to be SME-led bank. As Bank of Africa Group, we have been very strong on corporate banking, but given the challenges that we have also seen and given the macro-economic environment of this country, SME sector is very critical in economic growth of the country. Therefore, we want to play an active role.

We are not saying that we stop supporting our corporate business; no, they will continue to our anchor business, even SMEs are part of our corporate businesses value chain.

We want to build also specific focus to SMEs because of the critically role on the economy of this country.

Number two, we want to build the digital capabilities as when you look into the demographic, based on the latest census result, youth component is critical and it digitally savvy; so they really want to access services from their fingertips. Therefore, we must develop solutions that will enable us to provide the convenient that what our customers want.

Number three; improve our services accessibility by introducing products and solutions that complement one another. So things like bancassurance, but also increased partnership with either fintechs or MNOs to ensure that when a customer thinks about financial service, then Bank of Africa should be number one.

Growing domestic debt raises interest repayment on loans

KAMPALA

A surge in the stock of domestic debt caused an increase in interest repayment committed on Uganda's public debt during the period ended June 2022.

The report, which details performance and composition of Uganda's debt, indicates that the stock of domestic debt increased by 18.2 percent, leading to an increase in interest payments on total public debt from 2.8 percent in June 2021 to 3 percent.

"Total interest payments increased from 2.8 percent in 2020/21 [financial year] to 3 percent in 2021/22 [financial year] as a percentage of GDP [gross domestic product] largely due to the 18.2 percent increase in the stock of domestic debt between June 2021 and June 2022," the report indicates, adding that the increased issuance of longer dated instruments has also led to higher cost of debt service due to the higher costs associated with such instruments.

However, the report does not indicate the actual value of what was paid during the period.

In January, Bank of Uganda indicated that debt servicing had increasingly become costly with government spending at least 30 percent of taxes on debt repayment, which was putting pressure on domestic revenues.

The report noted that "domestic interest payments continue to form the bulk of interest payments given the high cost of domestic debt compared to external debt, which is predominantly contracted on concessional terms."

Apart from borrowing directly from commercial banks, government also borrows through issuing Treasury Bills and Bonds.

Treasury Bills, according to Bank of Uganda, are short term debt of one year or less bonds have a maturity of two years and above.

During the period, the report notes, Treasury Bills constituted 15 percent of total domestic debt down from 22.5 percent, while the share of Treasury Bonds increased to 85 percent from 77.5 percent. The report also notes that the stock of public debt had increased from \$19.54b in 2020/21 financial year to \$20.99b, of which, external debt stood at \$12.82b, while domestic debt had increased from \$7.16b to \$8.16b over the period.

The report also noted that the share of external debt had decreased to 61.1 percent from 63.4 percent while that of domestic debt rose from 36.6 percent to 38.9 percent over the same period.

In notes published along with the report, Mr Ramathan Ggoobi, the Ministry of Finance permanent secretary and secretary to Treasury, said Uganda's public debt "remains sustainable in the medium to long term, at a moderate risk of debt distress".

Budget deficit

The stock of public debt, government indicates, has been increasing due to a budget deficit even as "there was a significant reduction in the rate of increase of public debt as a share of gross domestic product in 2021/22 financial year compared to previous two years.

The report also notes that while debt continued on an upward trend in the 2021/22 financial year, the rate of debt accumulation slowed compared to the previous two financial years that were characterised by Covid-19 and its adverse effects on the economy.

Kenya banks on certification forum in boosting fresh produce exports

NAIROBI

KENYA will play host to a regional meeting aimed at boosting exports of fresh produce and creating awareness on safety, which will draw participants from across Africa.

GLOBAL GAP, the internationally recognised certification standard for farm production, has partnered with Rootooba, a Kenyan, agriculturally-based technical support provider to hold its second TOUR stop conference in Nairobi later this month.

The event will seek to promote good agricultural practices, safe and sustainable farming, market compliance and access to national and international trade networks.

According to the horticulture regulator, only four percent of Kenya's fresh produce – fruits and vegetables, is exported, while 96 percent is locally consumed.

The conference is aimed at addressing measures that can increase export from the current lows.

"The three-day event is also expected to steer conversations around expanding opportunities for Kenyan produce into untapped regional and global markets. Discussions at the conference will focus on major issues that are currently affecting the trade in fresh produce in both regional and global markets," said Charity Mutegi, the project's technical lead.

The event will also discuss changing pesticide regimes, implications of the lifting of the genetically modified organisms ban on Kenya's fresh produce export markets, testing solutions, harmonising market standards for the benefit of producers and exporters and financing solutions.

Participants will have an opportunity to make site visits to enterprises that have complied with globally-recognised best practices in production and handling operations.

The conference brings together an array of industry leaders that includes development partners led by USAid implementing partners, sec-



tor associations, the Agrochemicals Association of Kenya, Avocado Exporters Association of Kenya, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation, Agriculture and Food Authority, producers, and a wide range of private sector players.

Fresh produce exporters have lost a petition to stop the implementation of a 0.25 percent levy on the customs value of consignments introduced two years ago.

Nairobi High Court judge Anthony Mrima quashed their prayers to have the levy that was effected in January last year removed, saying the producers had only made blanket claims.

The judge said the exporters did not even disclose the types of levies and names of the licences.

The exporters, under the Fresh Produce Consortium of Kenya, Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK) and the Avocado Exporters Association of Kenya, had sued the Ministry of Agriculture, the Attorney-General and the Horticultural Crops Directorate in the matter.

"The alleged oppressive manner occasioned by the impugned levies had to be empirically demonstrated

at least by an expert as against the other sectors," the judge said.

The court heard that before gazetting of the new regulations, there was a direct simple levy at 30 cents per kilogramme of consignment calculated at the point of shipping.

According to the exporters, the formula was easily administered by FAO and the Directorate and invoices were issued and payment done after exporting the goods.

The petitioners had also argued that there was no public participation before the new levy was imposed, and as such, it was unconstitutional. They claimed that they were formally informed of the regulations and were given three weeks to submit their views, which they considered inadequate.

The court, however, found that there was reasonable and meaningful involvement of stakeholders before the change was made.

It also rejected the horticulture producers' argument that it was impossible for the directorate and the Ministry of Agriculture to pre-determine consignment value.

"On whether there was adequate

public participation, in consideration of the affidavit evidence on record and the parties' submissions, it comes to the fore that there were stakeholder meetings, discussions and communications," said the judge.

"There is clarity on the levies, any administrative issues arising from the computation of the levies cannot amount to constitutional issues. Such issues can be sorted out by the concerned parties."

The exporters had estimated the new levy will increase their taxes from the current annual average of Sh90 million to Sh377 million, projecting that more than 40 percent of horticulture export firms will be pushed out of business.

The directorate defended the levy, saying that part of it will be used to set up fumigation and hot water plants to clean mangoes as the country prepares to resume shipments to the US, Europe and other key markets.

Kenya has not been exporting mangoes to these key destinations in the last seven years due to presence of fruit flies.

ALAF donates 10mn/- to traffic police activity

By Francis Kajubi

ALAF Tanzania Limited has donated 10m/- to the traffic police to smoothly facilitate its daily operations ahead of the road safety week to be held in Mwanza city at a national level.

The handing over of the money took place yesterday at the traffic

head offices in Dar es Salaam.

ALAF Tanzania Relations Manager, Hawa Bayumi said the donation is in support of the efforts of the road safety unit in its duties. The donation was accepted by the National Road Safety Council executive secretary SACP Ramadhani Ng'anzi.

"ALAF has made this contribution as part of the celebration of the road

safety week for the year 2023;

The donation aims to encourage the provision of road safety education to all groups of road users to make the roads safer," said Bayumi.

According to her, ALAF Limited, despite distinguishing itself in the production and distribution of quality roofing products, is also focused on giving back to the community through various fields such as education, health, housing and the environment.

On his part, Ng'anzi commended ALAF for the contribution and that it will help in the fight against road ac-

cidents.

"The goal is to provide education and ultimately reduce road accidents. This money will be used to provide education to various groups who use the road, including pedestrians," he said.

This year's road safety week will be held between March 13 and 17 in Mwanza city. ALAF is a Tanzanian company that produces construction materials such as steel, colored steel, non-colored steel, and tiles.

With more than 60 years of experience, ALAF ensures to provide its customers with quality products.

NAIROBI

THE cost of bank loans hit a 52-month high in December in the wake of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) rate hikes and rising yields on government paper.

Data from the CBK show the average lending rate rose to 12.67 percent in December from 12.22 percent in May last year when the banking regulator first raised rates in nearly seven years.

This is the highest average lending rate since August 2018 when it stood at 12.78 percent in what could hobble corporate investment and put home loans and other loans out of reach of many individuals.

The lenders are reacting to the CBK's decision of September 29 that raised the benchmark interest rate by 75 basis points to 8.25 percent to anchor inflation expectations. The benchmark rate now stands at 8.75 percent.

Rates on government paper, especially Treasury bills that influence the costs of savings, have also increased the State's appetite for domestic borrowing.

The 91-day T-bill is close to breaching the 10 percent mark and has risen to the current high of 9.65 percent, from an average of 7.8 percent in June last year.

Bankers say that rising rates on government debt securities are forcing banks to return on large-scale deposits from cash-rich firms and high-net-worth investors like pension schemes.

This ultimately increases the pressure on lending rates because deposits from large savers influence the pricing

Bank loan rates increase to highest level in 52 months



The Central Bank of Kenya in Nairobi

of loans.

"This is due to the opportunity cost of lending. Banks have heard to balance between lending to the government and to households and individuals and have attached a higher risk to private sector lending," noted a banking sector analyst.

Banks use a base rate, which is normally the cost of funds plus a margin and a risk premium, to determine how much they charge a particular customer.

They are now reviewing base rates and many have applied to the CBK to revise upwards the risk premium in what could end the era of cheap

credit.

The costly credit emerges in a period when the economy is witnessing increased demand for loans amid the recovery from Covid-19 economic hardships, further putting pressure on lending rates.

Fixed deposit rates increased to 7.17 percent in December from 6.62 percent in June 2022 while returns on current and savings accounts rose marginally.

"Current and savings accounts are largely transactional and as such, the incentive has not been strong enough to force banks to raise the return in tandem with rising lending and de-

posit rates," said Solomon Kariuki, a research analyst at AIB-AXYS Africa brokerage.

The CBK data show banks posted a 25.3 percent rise in profit before tax last year to Sh244.1 billion from Sh194.8 billion, with gross loans expanding by 13.2 percent in the period to Sh3.677 trillion.

This has set the market for a dividend boom. Kenyan banks have reported rising profits in the last decade, attracting foreign investors.

The higher cost of loans risks locking out businesses from accessing the credit they need for expansion and in turn, limit their ability to create more

jobs.

Savings and cooperative organisations (Saccos) are buying off bank loans from members spooked by the upward revision of rates by lenders switching to risk-based pricing models.

Multiple sacco leaders told the Business Daily that they are witnessing a surge in inquiries to transfer their loans from banks to saccos in an arrangement that seeks to shield borrowers from rates of as high as 18 percent.

Commercial bank loans were priced at a maximum of 13 percent by end of November 2019 when the interest rate caps were removed but have started rising after the regulator last year started approving models that allow banks to pick rates based on risk level.

The move has spooked customers and increased the number of those approaching saccos to buy off their loans and lengthen the repayment period.

Unaitas Sacco chief executive Martin Muhoho said the move offers the sacco movement a chance to accelerate the growth of their loan book and win new members.

"Many banks are adjusting rates for individual loans towards 18 percent. We are seeing borrowers start coming to us for buy-offs. It is a good opportunity for us because we do not adjust our rates alongside the Central Bank Rate," said Mr Muhoho.

WORLD

Ruling party's Bola Tinubu Nigeria's president-elect

ABUJA

BOLA Tinubu from Nigeria's ruling All Progressives Congress party has won Nigeria's presidential election with over 8.79 million ballots, the country's electoral body said yesterday.

The 70-year-old president-elect defeated his closest rival, former vice-president Atiku Abubakar, candidate of the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party, said Mahmood Yakubu, chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission.

Abubakar got over 6.98 million votes and was closely trailed by Peter Obi, can-

didate of the Labor Party, who secured about 6.1 million votes.

The election was one of the most hotly contested races in the country's history, with Tinubu losing Lagos, his stronghold in the country's southwest region, to Obi.

Tinubu, a former Lagos State governor and senator, had been eyeing the presidency for years to build a strong political structure with a vast network of supporters nationwide.

In his acceptance speech, the president-elect said with his victory at the polls, renewed hope has dawned in Nigeria. With an eye on sustained growth,



Bola Tinubu (center) of the All Progressives Congress, celebrates with supporters at the party's campaign headquarters after winning the presidential elections in Abuja, Nigeria yesterday. AP

Tinubu pledged to be in tune with the aspirations of all citizens and commit to work on national development.

"Now, to you, the young people of this country, I hear you loud and clear. I understand your pains, your yearnings for good governance, a functional economy, and a safe nation that protects you and our future," Tinubu said.

Outgoing President Muhammadu Buhari early Wednesday hailed Tinubu's victory, say-

ing that the results revealed democracy in Africa's largest economy.

"Elected by the people, he (Tinubu) is the best person for the job," Buhari said in a statement. "I shall now work with him and his team to ensure an orderly handover of power."

Buhari described the election as "Africa's largest democratic exercise," noting it demonstrated democracy's continued relevance and capability to deliver for the people it serves.

Agencies

Istanbul launches programme to check buildings' safety following deadly quakes

ISTANBUL

TÜRKIYE'S largest city Istanbul has launched a program to provide rapid scans of buildings as many residents worry about the safety of their residences in the wake of recent devastating earthquakes that have killed over 44,000 people in the country.

As the country's financial and cultural hub with over 16 million residents, Istanbul is located at the west end of the North Anatolian Fault Line, which has produced many major earthquakes throughout history.

The city government launched the scanning program in a bid to soothe the nerves of local residents. The service, which includes measuring the consistency of concrete and counting the number of rebars with X-ray scan, will evaluate the strength of the ground and rate the safety level of the checked building accordingly.

Ozlem Tut, head of the Municipality's Earthquake Risk Management and Urban Improvement Department, told reporters last Thursday that they received 85,000 applications for the test since the deadly dual tremors took place on Feb. 6. "There has been a lot of concern after the earthquakes," Tut said, "we will respond to all of it."

The municipal teams prioritize structures built before 2000, checking 150 buildings per day. If the concrete's strength is reported as "weak," then it will be reinforced.

If reinforcement is not possible,



Workers conduct a test to measure the safety of a building in Istanbul, Türkiye, on Feb. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Shadati)

then the building will be demolished before a new one is built. In case of demolition, the city provides up to 4,500 Turkish liras (238 U.S. dollars) in rental assistance to its residents.

In 1999, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake rattled the industrialized Marmara region, home to Istanbul,

killing more than 17,000 people and leaving some 300,000 homeless.

The devastation forced the authorities to adopt regulations with nominal construction quality after 2000.

Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu urged residents to cooperate

on the issue, as there is considerable work in the megalopolis of over 1.16 million buildings. According to the 2021 building inventory, about half of the buildings do not meet earthquake resistance standards.

"This is a call for mobilization," Imamoglu announced on his so-

cial media accounts. "Thousands of buildings in Istanbul must be demolished and constructed to be earthquake-proof."

Meanwhile, Istanbul University Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty Hospital suspended all the health and education services in its 17 buildings in the compound in the Fatih district on the city's European side after an earthquake risk examination. On Monday, Faculty President Nuri Aydin told reporters that the test results revealed that the buildings were at risk and the evacuation had started. This state-owned hospital is one of the most comprehensive health facilities in the city.

In the wake of the deadly tremors in early February, many Istanbul residents plan to move to earthquake-proof buildings, while the authorities are scrambling to evaluate the buildings' strength.

Kerem Koramaz, a resident living in the Bakirkoy district on Istanbul's European side, told Xinhua that he had applied for testing the safety of his apartment, built in 2005, in case of an earthquake strike.

"What we as citizens need most is technical support from local administrations and public institutions, which will be there for us during this process," Koramaz said. As a result, the rents of new apartments have skyrocketed in the city recently. The rents of new apartment buildings have increased 10 to 20 percent in the past 15 days, said Mutallip Iscan, a real estate agent in Istanbul.

Morocco removed from financial action task force grey list

RABAT

THE Financial Action Task Force (FATF) decided unanimously to remove the Kingdom of Morocco from the enhanced monitoring process, known as "grey list", after assessing the compliance of the national system with international standards relating to the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

This decision was taken at the FATF General Assembly held in Paris on February 20-24.

FATF's decision comes after the positive conclusions of a report by the group's experts, issued at the end of the visit to Morocco on January 16-18.

"This report, by virtue of which Morocco has been removed from the grey list, welcomed the Kingdom's formal political commitment to the compliance of the national system of combating money laundering and terrorist financing, with international standards, as well as the full compliance by our country with all its commitments within the set deadlines," it said in a statement.

The Moroccan premiership said that the removal of Morocco from the financial watchlist is the result of the preemptive procedures Morocco has taken upon the King's directives.

The task force's decision "will positively impact the sovereign and local bank ratings in addition to improving Morocco's image and its position in negotiations with international financial institutions as well as fostering trust of foreign investors," the prime minister's office said in a statement.

AU condemns Tunisia's president 'shocking' statement on migrants

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union has condemned remarks by Tunisia's president directed at migrants in his country from elsewhere on the continent and warned against "racialized hate speech" that could bring harm.

President Kais Saied sparked an outcry this week after saying "hordes" of sub-Saharan African migrants were causing crime and posed a demographic threat in Tunisia.

Saied later sought to reassure "legal" migrants they were welcome but doubled down on claims that those illegally in Tunisia were changing the composition of the country.

In a statement, the AU Commission said it had called Tunisia's representative for an urgent meeting to register "deep shock and concern at the form and substance" of the remarks on behalf of the continent-wide bloc.

"The Chairperson of the African Union Commission H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat strongly condemns the shocking statement issued by Tunisian authorities targeting fellow Africans which go against the letter and the spirit of our Organization and founding principles," read the statement issued Friday.

Faki said AU member states were obligated "to treat all migrants with dignity, wherever they come from, refrain from racialized hate speech that could bring people to harm, and priorities their safety and human rights."

Tunisian rights groups accused Saied of hate speech but the president said those accusing him of racism "want division and discord and seek to damage our relations with our brothers."

Saied, who has seized almost total power since a dramatic July 2021 move against parliament, urged his national security council on Tuesday to take "urgent measures" to tackle irregular migration.

Agencies

Lavrov to discuss global challenges, Ukraine with G20 partners in New Delhi

NEW DELHI

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who landed in New Delhi the day before flying from Baku, will begin a three-day visit to the Indian capital yesterday.

The minister is scheduled to meet with his Indian counterpart, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, attend a meeting of the G20 foreign ministers, and conduct a number of bilateral negotiations with partners from China, Brazil, and other countries as part of the trip.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova previously stated, the minister's journey comes against the backdrop of rising global economic risks. In this respect, the Russian side is anticipated to draw the partners' attention at the G20 ministerial meeting hosted by India to the problems of energy and food security, as well as the destructiveness of illegitimate sanctions.

Highly sensitive issues will be on the agenda of bilateral Russian-Indian talks. As anticipated, Lavrov and Jaishankar will pay attention to the issues surrounding the formation of an Asia-Pacific security architecture, the state of affairs in Afghanistan, and the situation in Ukraine.

Agencies



South African president pledges to strengthen ties with Uganda

PRETORIA

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Tuesday that South Africa considers Uganda an important partner and is willing to enhance relations with the country.

Ramaphosa said in his opening remarks during talks with Ugandan President

Yoweri Museveni in Pretoria. Museveni is on a one-day state visit to South Africa.

"It is our wish that our excellent and enduring political relations must translate into development and prosperity for our peoples and countries.

By increasing trade and investment, our economies will grow, become more productive and diverse, and create more

job opportunities," said Ramaphosa.

Ramaphosa said he hopes that the Ugandan delegates are showcasing opportunities for investment and procurement in Uganda's burgeoning oil and gas sector.

Current global developments clearly illustrate the urgent need to fully operationalize the African Continental Free

Trade Area, which presents huge economic opportunities to grow intra-Africa trade and deepen bilateral cooperation and continental integration, Ramaphosa said.

The South Africa-Uganda Business Forum was also held from Monday to Tuesday at the Gallagher Convention Center, Midrand, South Africa.

Experts call on Africa to bridge technological gap to facilitate energy transition

ADDIS ABABA

EXPERTS have called on African countries to bridge the existing technological gap across the continent so as to facilitate the energy transition.

The suggestion was made during the Fifth African Science, Technology, and Innovation Forum high-level policy dialogue on emerging energy technologies that gathered a panel of African and UN experts on Feb. 26-27, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) said in a statement late Monday.

The experts called for a deep overhaul of Africa's approach to energy issues to break the vicious cycle of

outdated technologies, respond more efficiently to electricity needs and speed up economic development.

"Our current challenge is to get heads of state to adopt a joint, green hydrogen policy by the end of this year," a UNECA statement quoted Francis Sempore, executive director of the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, as saying. He said green hydrogen in West Africa may sound utopian now, but so did the ECOWAS leaders' decision to adopt a regional policy on renewable energy in 2013.

Yet it has become unthinkable for a country not to have solar energy in its

energy mix.

According to the UNECA, the case of Niger, where the forum was held in a hybrid format, is a stark illustration of the contradictions that the region and the rest of the African continent are experiencing presently.

In addition to its immense energy potential with a mix of solar, hydroelectric, and wind, the country has some 90 million tonnes of coal, 953 million barrels of oil, more than 24 billion cubic meters of natural gas, and one of the largest reserves of uranium in Africa, according to Saidou Madougou, professor at the Abdou Moumouni University in Niamey, the capital of

Niger. In 2022, however, access to electricity only benefited 16 percent of the country, and 6 percent in rural areas.

Biomass (fuelwood) presently covers more than 87 percent of household energy needs in a country where 200,000 hectares of land are lost to desertification every year, the UNECA said.

According to the UNECA, in order to increase Africa's energy production capacity, policymakers will have to act at multiple levels. They would need to ensure their countries have enough know-how for the use of renewables; set up special mechanisms to attract investments in renewable energies

and create capacity for research.

Linus Mofor, a UNECA senior environmental affairs officer, urged Africa to bridge its technological gaps by initiating a conversation between countries in the priority areas of intervention and strengthening scientific and technological research.

"We also need to consider how we finance innovation: while we need to challenge African governments to invest themselves, we also need to keep in mind that few governments have financial scaling capacity. Then again, energy access can increase incomes by up to 39 percent," said UNECA Director for Technology, Climate Change

and Natural Resources Management Jean Paul Adam. The Fifth African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum, which was held in Niamey, ahead of the 9th African Forum on Sustainable Development, was jointly organized by the UNECA, UNESCO, the African Union (AU) Commission and the Department of Science and Innovation of South Africa. Discussions aimed to consider how science, technology and innovation can support African efforts to achieve an inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the AU's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063.

Attaining goals of Russia's operation is top priority in settling situation – Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that the situation in Ukraine can be settled at the negotiating table, but stressed that new territorial realities and the priority of reaching the goals of Russia's special military operation must be taken into account.

"There are certain realities, which have become Russia's domestic matters, I mean Russia's new territories. There is the Russian constitution, which cannot but be reckoned with by anyone and the Russia side cannot infringe upon.

These are very important realities. Moreover, there are certain goals Russia is attaining in the course of the special military operation," he said.

"Naturally, in favorable conditions and is the Ukrainian side demonstrate a corresponding attitude, it can be resolved at the negotiating table," he said. "But in this case, the most important thing is to achieve our goals. It is our unconditional priority."

"No one can, probably, now say that there are any signals [about the readiness for talks] from the Ukrainian side," Peskov noted. "So far, we proceed from the de jure impossibility for the Ukrainian side to hold any talks on this matter. This is what we proceed from."

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said earlier that Moscow "is now ready to take steps toward peaceful settlement."

He stressed that Russia has been holding this position from the very first days of its operation, including during the two rounds of peace talks in Belarus, but later Kiev refused from further talks under the West's influence.

He noted however that if a new conflict flares up in the world, Ukraine will soon be forgotten. So, in his words, "there is no way out" other than to sign a peace treaty now without preliminary conditions.

UK's Sunak in Belfast to start selling his new Brexit deal

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was in Belfast on Tuesday to start selling the new post-Brexit trading arrangements he agreed with Brussels, seeking to get unionists onside to finally break the political deadlock in the province.

Sunak struck a deal with the European Union on Monday to ease restrictions on trade between Northern Ireland and Britain, and to give lawmakers on the ground a greater say over the rules and regulations they follow from Brussels.

The deal seeks to resolve the tensions caused by the Northern Ireland protocol, a complex agreement which set the trading rules for the British-governed region that London agreed before it left the EU but now says are unworkable.

Its success is likely to hinge on whether it convinces the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) to end its boycott of Northern Ireland's power-sharing arrangements. These were central to the 1998 peace



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (left) and European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen hold a joint press conference following their meeting at the Fairmont Hotel in Windsor, west of London, on Monday. (PHOTO / AFP)

deal which mostly ended three decades of sectarian and political violence in Northern Ireland.

British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly told Sky News Sunak would talk through the practicalities of

what's been agreed, adding that the government had taken on board the concerns of the unionists who fear any loosening of ties with London.

"We listened very, very carefully to the people, the

businesses and the elected representatives in Northern Ireland," he said.

The issue of Northern Ireland has been one of the most contentious parts of Britain's 2020 departure from the EU, souring relations between London and Brussels and hurting cooperation in other areas, including science and financial services.

British newspapers, including those that backed a harder line against Brussels, welcomed the concessions achieved by Sunak although they said it was too soon to know whether it would be enough to get the DUP to return to power sharing.

The Daily Telegraph newspaper said Sunak had played a difficult hand well after he chose to prioritize friendlier relations with the EU, as opposed to his predecessors Liz Truss and Boris Johnson who took a more combative approach.

"Now he awaits the crucial response of the DUP and the Brexiters," it said. "Time will tell if he has pulled off a political triumph."

India bans oil tankers, bulk carriers older than 25 years

SINGAPORE

INDIA has withdrawn trading licenses for oil tankers and bulk carriers that are more than 25 years old, its shipping regulator said, as the world's third-largest greenhouse gas emitter looks to cut emissions and reduce the average age of its fleet.

The order also bans acquisition of such vessels that are more than two decades old. Under current guidelines, vessels that are less than 25 years old can be acquired without any technical clearance.

"There is a need to modernize the Indian fleet, which requires extensive review of the requirements of the registration and operation of the ships," the Directorate General of Shipping said in the order uploaded on its website late on Monday.

The average age of Indian fleet has been increasing in recent years, bucking a global declining trend.

"Age norms will assist in ensuring gradual phasing out of fossil fuel ships and ushering in of alternate/low carbon energy efficient ships," the order said.

The regulation requires oil tankers older than 15 years to improve their working condition and subjects bulk carriers to additional checks to ensure adherence to high international standards.

Non-compliance would lead to cancellation of the vessels' trading license, according to the order.

The new norms would also apply to foreign vessels discharging in India, the regulator said, adding that existing vessels affected by the new cap on lifetime of operating vessels shall be allowed to sail for three more years, regardless of their current age.

India plans to offer cash subsidies, lower taxes and other incentives to bolster its shipbuilding industry. The moves include subsidies encouraging construction of new vessels, and incentives to build small vessels and promote battery-driven small vessels to cut carbon emissions.

India has around 35 shipbuilding companies, including some state-owned firms. Despite lower costs of manufacturing, local tax rules deter investment in India's shipping industry.

Two trains collide in Greece, at least 36 killed, dozens injured

LARISSA

A PASSENGER train and a cargo train collided head-on in Greece on Tuesday night, killing at least 36 people and injuring 85 as the country's deadliest rail crash in decades threw entire carriages off the tracks.

A fire brigade official said the death toll was expected to rise. Sixty-six of those injured were hospitalized, six of whom in intensive care, the official said.

The crash occurred as the passenger train emerged from a tunnel. Derailed carriages, badly damaged with broken windows and thick plumes of smoke, could be seen on the site. One passenger carriage stood on its side at almost 90 degrees from the rest of the wrecked train, with other derailed carriages tilting precariously.

"There was panic ... the fire was immediate, as we were turning over we were being burned, fire was right and left," said Stergios Minenis, a 28-year-old passenger who jumped to safety from the wreckage.

A passenger who escaped from the fifth carriage told Skai TV: "Windows were being smashed and people were screaming ... One of the windows caved in from the impact of iron from the other train."

The train carried around 350 passengers.

Many were evacuated to Thessaloniki, where one woman ran to embrace her daughter as she disembarked from a bus with other survivors.

"Mum don't, I'm hurt," the daughter said. Another woman, who was waiting there, said her child was not picking up the phone.

The head of emergency unit in Larissa hospital Apostolos Komnos said most of the dead were young people, in their 20s.

Iran blames US 'wrong policy' for nuke talks impasse

TEHRAN

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Tuesday blamed the US "miscalculation and wrong policy" for causing the current stalemate on the revival of a 2015 nuclear deal.

Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks in an address to the High-Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament in the Swiss city of Geneva, Iran's Foreign Ministry

said in a statement on its website.

If all parties have the "determination and goodwill," the few outstanding issues can be settled without any precondition and within the framework of the previous talks, thus enabling the parties to take the "final step," the top Iranian diplomat was quoted as saying.

The United States needs to have "the will and strength to conclude the lengthy talks," he said, stressing that Iran is ready to continue the talks until the conclusion of an agreement.

Amir-Abdollahian said Iran's nuclear program will remain "peaceful" and Tehran is determined to remain committed to its obligations under the safeguards agreement.

He also warned against any action to be taken during the upcoming meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) in March, saying that Iran reserves the right to respond accordingly.

A technical solution is within reach if the IAEA stops its politically-motivated approach, said the Iranian minister.

Iran signed the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with world powers in July 2015, agreeing to put some curbs on its nuclear program in return for the

removal of the sanctions on the country.

The United States, however, pulled out of the deal in May 2018 and reimposed its unilateral sanctions on Iran, prompting the latter to reduce some of its nuclear commitments under the deal.

The talks on the JCPOA's revival began in April 2021 in the Austrian capital of Vienna. No breakthrough has been achieved after the latest round of talks held in August 2022.

Zambian woman inspiring others to go back to school



This photo taken on Feb. 22, 2023 shows Getrude Muletalimo (1st R, front) attending a class at Lilanda Combined School in Lusaka, Zambia. (Photo by Lillian Banda/Xinhua)

LUSAKA

GETRUDE Muletalimo is now a household name in Lilanda Township, one of the densely populated residential areas in Lusaka, Zambia's capital, as Muletalimo, 57 and a mother of three, is the oldest learner at Lilanda Combined School, a public school where primary and secondary education are offered.

Muletalimo is quick to share why she decided to be in school again after almost four decades. "I realized that not having a good education was preventing me from being in gainful economic ventures.

It also hindered me from participating in my community's development activities because I was not a well-informed citizen," Muletalimo explained. She went on to say that the lack of educational support from her family caused her to drop out of school in 1983.

"My parents could not manage to buy school books or meet my other school requirements because of economic challenges," she lamented.

After a few years of being out of school, Muletalimo got married and had children just like many of her peers during that period. Nevertheless, her desire to be in school lingered.

In 2019, she went back to school at the age of 53 as a grade six pupil and successfully passed grade seven and grade nine

examinations, which are a requirement for one to proceed to grade eight and 10, respectively.

And in less than two years, Muletalimo will be in grade 12, the final level of secondary education. When asked about her experience with the much younger pupils and members of staff at the school she attends, Muletalimo stated that she has had no challenges fitting in.

"I am treated just like any pupil in the school. My classmates and members of staff have been very supportive and made it very easy for me to fit in," she said. Unlike others that go back to school in order to get well-paying jobs later on, Muletalimo wants to acquire knowledge so that she can be a more resourceful individual that is able to serve her family and community better.

"I wish to work with organizations that advance girls' education. I believe that having more women and girls that are educated reduces incidences of gender-based violence in homes and other spaces," she said.

And Muletalimo's husband Evans Katele, 60, said he finds it much easier to share and discuss ideas with her now that she is more enlightened.

Katele also lauded his wife for excelling in school despite the many demands and expectations from her family.

"She is a mother of three and a grandmother to five children. But that has not hindered her from performing well at school. I am very proud of her," he said.

Muletalimo is encouraging many women to go back to school. Lilanda Combined School readmitted five women aged between 30 and 38 who were, in one way or another, inspired by Muletalimo, according to school authorities.

Patrick Salubusa, councillor for Lilanda Township's Kapwepwe ward, said within a span of four years, about 500 women and girls in his area have gone back to school.

The civic leader commended school authorities in Lilanda and surrounding areas for accommodating women and girls who want to go back to school.

Russia concerned that Kiev may stir things up near Transnistria, says diplomat

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is concerned about information that a Kiev provocation using radioactive materials could take place near Transnistria, where tensions are mounting, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a commentary issued yesteryday.

"The Russian Defense Ministry previously drew attention to the provocation being prepared by the Kiev regime in order to accuse the Russian armed forces of allegedly carrying out indiscriminate strikes on radiation-hazardous facilities, which could lead to the leakage of radioactive substances and contamination of the area," the diplomat said in connection with information about the Kiev regime's prepared provocation with radioactive materials.

"This information resonated deeply with residents of Ukraine and bordering Eastern European countries. The fact that such events are taking place in close proximity to Transnistria, around which the Kiev regime is deliberately escalating tensions, is quite worrying," the diplomat pointed out.

Zakharova also noted that ports in the Odessa Region that are involved in the grain export deal could have been used for the delivery of radioactive materials to Ukraine. "We have taken note of reports circulating in the Ukrainian media, online and on social media about the delivery of radioactive materials to the Odessa Region's ports," she added. "We should also remember that the aforementioned ports are part of the grain deal. The question that invariably arises is whether these ports and the humanitarian corridor in general could be used for some other purpose?"

According to Zakharova's information, on February 16 containers with radioactive substances and English-language markings were delivered to the port of Chernomorsk from the territory of a European state bypassing customs inspection. "On February 19, similar containers containing the ra-



dioactive substance California-252, which is reportedly actively used in checking the integrity of nuclear power plant reactors, were delivered to the port of Odessa on one of the dry cargo ships," the diplomat continued. "The radioactive monitoring system was disabled during its reception at the port. As a result of a journalistic investigation, it was established that the supplier of this radioactive substance is the American company Frontier Technology Corp., which is engaged in the production of containers for radioactive isotopes, particularly, sources of neutron radiation. Ukrainian bloggers have expressed concern that there may be some components for ammunition and even perhaps for the manufacture of a dirty bomb."

Irrational actions

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman also drew attention to the silence of the Ukrainian authorities, who have not commented on this information in the media and social networks. "Apparently, [Ukrainian President Vladimir] Zelensky's regime is ready to use any excuse to escalate the conflict in order to obtain military and financial aid from the West. He does not care that such adventures can lead to catastrophic consequences and numerous deaths," she added.

Zakharova pointed out that Russia warned the Kiev regime against rash actions. "We call on relevant international organizations to pay the closest attention to this information. We warn the Kiev regime and its Western sponsors against any rash actions that endanger the lives and health of thousands of civilians," the diplomat concluded.

A fairly relaxed weekend, with Simba SC incapable of fanfare after edging Vipers SC

By Correspondent John Kimbute

WHILE the previous week was a charged quandary of sorrow and celebration in streets facing one another in Dar es Salaam and elsewhere, this round of continental 'derbies' was a different matter.

The club that was sobbing the other week, Simba SC, now had plenty of reason to smile, very broadly for that matter, while those who shone the other week, Yanga, were not in a position to repeat the feat.

Yet it was not a disaster as their lead was only cleared in stoppage time, by which time the fans had already believed they were winning, they could just regret it.

Simba SC disposed of their fellow group underdogs in out-classing Vipers SC in the former's away match but could not sound a note of triumph as the range was a bit close, edging the less renowned Ugandan side at 1-0 result.

Still, the fighting ability of the home side must have suggested to legions of Simba SC fans that anything could have happened, such that even by the time the game drew to a close, they had a feeling of good luck in the match in like manner as Yanga fans had a feeling of bad luck.

Yanga did everything to win the game against AS Real Bamako but luck was not on their side, just as Vipers SC did everything to level up but it just did not work out.

The result was more convivial and surprisingly more generous on both sides, as opinions among the fans tended to cancel the difference between the side which won and the side which lost, summing up the weekend in a two-week upbeat or rather a satisfactory mood.

The first element was checking a loss tendency on the part of the Msimbazi Street side, not for the 1-0 loss to Horoya Athletic Club as that did not excite or animate their fans.

What disturbed them was the 3-0 loss to Raja Club Athletic at home, which they had now corrected with an away win.



Tanzania's Simba SC attacker Denis Kibu (R) negotiates his way past Uganda's Vipers SC player as the sides took on each other in a 2022/23 CAF Champions League's Group C tie which took place at St. Mary's Stadium-Kitende, Uganda last Saturday. Simba SC won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

The second was the good show that Yanga put on at Bamako, not repeating a feat like the 3-1 win over TP Mazembe but enough to draw the line under the 2-0 loss away to US Monastir earlier.

The late equalizer by AS Real Bamako, or more popular as Real Bamako, was something that the fans could raise disputes about or supposedly technical inputs, even as there were some efforts here and there to figure out how the Real Bamako goal could have been prevented.

Yet the majority could see it was just an excellent header, in a goalmouth melee.

Praising one another was understandable for this particular

weekend as no one messed up, and no one could cry about chest-thumping in victory, as Simba SC has a more competitive tournament and pulled a win, which ought to draw respect from the archrivals.

Vipers SC were the guests of Yanga, on the latter's annual festivity, and they nailed the home side at a convincing 2-0 win, in like manner as Yanga lost at US Monastir.

For Simba SC to defeat Vipers SC on the latter's turf is, thus, something Yanga fans would respect.

Wishing each other well is, in the first place, a sign of mutual respect, and at a technical level, there was a commonly shared

feeling that the two local sides were still engaged in the competition, as they have three matches to go. Simba SC must host Horoya Athletic Club and Vipers SC.

They will then travel to see Raja Club Athletic on their turf and hope for the best in all of those matches, a tough climb.

There is a shared feeling among their fans that they can tame Horoya Athletic Club even with a win, and take it as assured that they will defeat Vipers SC again, especially as they will be at home.

Despite that, the rallying cry that no visiting side wins at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, popularly known as 'Estadio Lupaso', which in any case Vipers SC had disproved in a friendly international against Yanga last August, and Raja Club Athletic put it to complete ridicule, but the feeling remains that the home ground ought to assure our teams' victory.

It can be said that this is the walking stick that gives the two city rivals hope that they are still in contention, in their respective competition, as arithmetically they will proceed if they win the local matches and get a point on foreign ground.

That was visible this week, as one side won on the foreign ground and another had their slim advantage cancelled but on stoppage time.

That goes a long way to show that there are surprises on the sleeves for both sides, as the neat mathematics of winning at home and getting a point outside, or even winning at times, sort of gained currency at the weekend but it is a steep hill to climb.

Outside Raja Club Athletic, who has gained tremendous respect in the city for its ability to solidly whip Simba SC on its local turf, the others are still perhaps underrated, and this could prove a weakness.

Yet that is all that could be expected from the fans and pundits, as they cannot say 'the deal is closed this year,' and as they often say in football, 'it is not done until it is done,' so keep your fingers crossed.

Alphonse Simbu targets Olympic Games medal before retiring

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

PROMINENT Tanzanian athlete, Alphonse Simbu, has revealed he wants to win an Olympic Games medal before retiring from the sport.

Simbu has won all silverware in athletics, except for the Olympics' medal, and said his main target now is the Olympic Games medal.

The 31-year-old runner said he has intensified his preparations for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

"Yes I do have plans to retire from athletics but I will not retire a happy man without an Olympic Games medal."

"It gives me a headache that I have won many medals but I don't have an Olympic Games medal, I will work hard so that I can win a medal at next year's Paris Olympics," he said.

Simbu was speaking this on arrival from Japan where he battled it out in this year's edition of the Osaka Marathon, ending third in the men's category after clocking 2:06:19.

Commenting on the Osaka

Marathon, Simbu said the third-place finish was a result of hard-working and vision.

"The competition was very tough but I'm happy that I made it, I did it because I prepared well, I also thank my coach for his advice, my family, and all athletics stakeholders for being with me," he said.

Simbu has represented Tanzania in many high-profile races including the 2015 World Athletics Championships which witnessed the runner finishing 12th.

The athlete also took part in the 2016 Rio Olympics and 2017 London Marathon which ended with the performer laying his hands on the bronze medal.

The runner moreover featured in the 2017 Mumbai Marathon, winning a gold medal, and the 2019 Doha World Athletics Championships, taking the 16th spot.

He also competed in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, which took place in 2021, ending seventh, and thereafter won a silver medal in the last year's Birmingham Commonwealth Games which took place in England.



Alphonse Simbu

Vipers SC needs to rethink transfer policy



Vipers SC players express appreciation to the side's supporters for backing them in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League's Group C clash pitting the side against Tanzania's Simba SC which took place at St. Mary's Stadium-Kitende in Entebbe on February 25. Vipers SC lost 1-0.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

A 5-0 away defeat to Morocco's Raja Club Athletic in this season's CAF Champions League Group C, a frustrating stalemate at home to Wakiso Giants in Uganda Premier League, a barren draw with Guin-

ea's Horoya Athletic Club, and a loss to Simba SC of Tanzania (CAF Champions League) has turned out to be an embarrassing outing for Uganda's Vipers SC.

To say it has been an eventful start to 2023 for Vipers SC would be an understatement.

The Uganda Premier League

champion, despite signing several players in the main and mini transfer windows, finds itself in a worst position than it did a few months ago when the club reached the Group Stage of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League.

In the August/September window, electric man, Abdu Lumala

(returning from stints abroad), Issa Mubiru, Ashraf Mandela, Marvin Youngman, Jjuuko Murushid, and Cromwell Rwothomio arrived at Vipers SC.

There were moreover Congolese footballers, given that Alfred Mukereza, Darcy Mbaka, Gracia Mpongo, Olivier Osomba, Ro-

drigue Shamamba, and Robert Serge Mwenge joined the club.

Other signings were Nigerian Abubaker Lawal before an Angolan Miguel Lutumba plus an Ivorian Desire Tetty joined the fray in January along with Martin Kizza and Karim Ndugwa.

In total, there have been over 17 new arrivals at Kitende, Vipers SC's base, an outrageous number for a team as stable as the Uganda Premier League champion.

In that period, players like Caesar Manzoki, Abdul Aziz Kayondo, Halid Lwaliwa, and Bobosi Byaruhanga were sold, which is good business for the club, but the release of Paul Willa left question marks.

It has been the case in recent times at Kitende where players seen as crucial for the club's future leave harshly.

Geoffrey Wasswa, Derrick Ochan, Allan Kyambadde, Mike Mutyaba, and Ibrahim Sadam Juma are a few examples to mention.

What is annoying about the foreigners is that their performances have been below average with all coaches turning to the locals yet, under normal circumstances, the foreigners would be an improvement on the Ugandans.

Save for Manzoki and goalkeepers Mukereza and Burundi import Fabien Mutombora, the rest of the foreign legion have proved to be bad business.

First, the question that needs to be asked is who is scouting these

players because when most have been unveiled, finding information about their careers and profiles has been tough.

The foreigners, as is the norm on the continent's biggest clubs, are supposed to beef up the team and help improve the performance but, on Saturday, Vipers SC's head coach Bianchi Beto could only pick two - Mukereza in goal and Mwenge off the bench in the defeat to Simba SC.

While unveiling Beto, club supremo Lawrence Mulindwa was asked about the new signings and whether they had been recommended by the Spanish-Brazilian tactician to which he answered no.

"He didn't sign or recommend any just like he didn't with the team we used in the first round," he said before stating: "It's his job to get the best of them."

For now, the club looks likely to bow out of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League after six games in the Group Stage but what should worry Mulindwa and the team is trailing KCCA FC by seven points in the Premier League.

It would be important for Vipers SC to retain the Premier League's top honour and go back to continental football next season.

In conclusion, the difficulty should be a lesson to the club hierarchy to rethink their transfer policy given their financial muscle, stability, and structures

FIFA faces questions for supermodel role before Women's World Cup

GENEVA

FIFA's choice of Brazilian supermodel Adriana Lima as its first global fan ambassador five months before the Women's World Cup was described Tuesday as "tone deaf" by the former leader of the soccer body's task force for women's soccer.

Lima's appointment to "develop, promote and participate in several global initiatives" was announced by FIFA on Monday hours before the former Victoria's Secret runway model helped present the fan prize in Paris at its annual award ceremony.

"Seriously, FIFA, is this the fan engagement ambassador we need as the (Women's World Cup) approaches?" wrote Moya Dodd, who was part of the co-hosting bid campaign for her native Australia and New Zealand, on her Twitter account.

Dodd, a former FIFA executive committee member and longtime advocate for women's soccer, used the hashtag "tonedeaf" and posted the glamor photo from the profile of Lima's Twitter account that has 2.4 million followers.

A former Australia national-team player, Dodd also recalled recent speculation FIFA could sign the Saudi Arabia tourism board as an official sponsor of the month-long tournament that starts July 20.

"Honestly baffled by the marketing strategy. First FIFA wants to send an LGBTQ-friendly audience to 'Visit Saudi,'" Dodd wrote. "Now it's targeting who exactly?"

Lima was photographed Monday in Paris at the FIFA gala event with its president Gianni Infantino and posted on Twitter her new role "means the world to me."

She also posted to her 15.4 million followers on Instagram: "It is a great honor to be part of the FIFA Family."

"As a fan myself, I hope to connect at a greater level this family to the life of this beautiful sport: the fans!" she wrote.

FIFA did not specify details Monday of the projects involving Lima, nor if it would involve the biggest-ever marquee women's tournament which now has 32 teams.

"When you get to meet Adriana, you feel right away her warmth, kindness, and how approachable and passionate she is about our game," Infantino said Monday in the FIFA statement.

"She lives and breathes 'futebol' and that is also why she can be an excellent link between FIFA and fans worldwide," he said.

FIFA noted Lima is a "supermodel, actress and businesswoman" but offered no details about her links to the sport besides being a fan. Lima posted her condolences after Pelé's death in December. Infantino and Dodd served together on FIFA's ruling committee for more than a year after he was elected in 2016.

She was the first woman, in 2013, to represent the Asian soccer confederation at FIFA and gained a reputation as an independent voice during the presidency of Sepp Blatter. Dodd lost her re-election bid four years later to an opponent from Bangladesh.

Her latest criticism of FIFA follows an op-ed article she wrote for an Australian newspaper four weeks ago. She suggested that FIFA asking LGBTQ players and fans to visit Saudi Arabia was "to send them to a jurisdiction where they are regarded as criminals."

Dodd also wrote then she was "thrilled by the progress women's football has made there (in Saudi Arabia) in recent times."

The pending "Visit Saudi" sponsor deal also provoked the soccer federations of Australia and New Zealand to urge FIFA not to sign the agreement. **AP**

Fan who insulted Vinicius Júnior now set to be fined, banned from games

MADRID

SPAIN's anti-violence commission proposed a fine of 4,000 euros (\$4,200) and a 12-month ban from stadiums on Tuesday for the fan who racially insulted Vinicius Júnior in a Spanish league match.

The punishment is expected to be imposed by authorities against the fan who is accused of calling the Real Madrid forward a monkey during a game at Mallorca on Feb. 5.

The fan, reportedly a 20-year-old Mallorca season ticket holder, may also face criminal charges. He was identified by club security officials and is also believed to have insulted Villarreal player Samu Chukwueze in another match. Both Vinicius and Chukwueze are Black.

Vinicius was also insulted after the Mallorca match when he stopped to pose for photos and sign autographs for fans.

The Brazilian has been subjected to insults since he came to play in Spain five years ago, though very little has been done to punish fans. **AP**

Everything you need to know about the 2023 Academy Awards

NEW YORK

HOLLYWOOD is gearing up for the 95th Academy Awards, where "Everything Everywhere All at Once" comes in the lead nominee and the film industry will hope to move past "the slap" of last year's ceremony. Here's everything you need to know about the 2023 Oscars, including when they are, where to watch the live show and this year's controversies.

WHEN ARE THE OSCARS?

The Oscars will be held Sunday, March 12, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. The ceremony is set to begin at 8 p.m. EST and be broadcast live on ABC.

CAN YOU STREAM THE OSCARS?

The broadcast can be streamed with a subscription to Hulu Live TV, YouTubeTV, AT&T TV and Fubo TV. Some of these services offer brief free trials. You can also stream the show on ABC.com and on the ABC app by authenticating your provider.

WHO'S HOSTING?

Jimmy Kimmel will host for the third time and his first time since 2018. That was also the last Oscars to feature a solo host. The show went hostless for several years after Kimmel's last



outing. Last year, Regina Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes hosted as a trio. In an ad for this year's show styled after "Top Gun: Maverick," Kimmel made his humble case for being the right person for the job while noting that he can't get slapped because "I cry a lot."

WHAT'S NOMINATED FOR BEST PICTURE AT THE 2023 OSCARS?

The 10 movies competing for best picture are: "All Quiet on the Western Front," "Avatar: The Way of Water," "The Banshees of Inisherin," "Elvis," "Everything Everywhere All at Once," "The Fabelmans," "Tár," "Top Gun: Maverick," "Triangle of Sadness," "Women Talking." Here's a guide to how you can watch

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE SHOW?

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences is yet to announce presenters. But it has said that winners to all categories will be announced live on the show. (Last year, some categories were taped in a pre-show, something that caused an uproar among academy members.) All signs point to a full slate of musical performances, with Rihanna performing "Lift Me Up" from "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" on the show. Whether a dance party breaks out in the Dolby Theatre during the performance of Kala Bhairava's "Naatu Naatu" from "RRR" remains to be seen. So does

word on whether Lady Gaga will sing "Hold My Hand," from "Top Gun: Maverick" during the show.

ADVERTISEMENT WHO ARE THE FAVORITES?

Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert's indie sci-fi hit "Everything Everywhere All at Once" comes in with a leading 11 nominations. Close on its heels, though, is the Irish friends-falling-out dark comedy "The Banshees of Inisherin," with nine nods, a total matched by Netflix's WWI film "All Quiet on the Western Front." Michelle Yeoh ("Everything Everywhere All at Once") may have a slight edge on Cate Blanchett ("Tár") for best actress.

Best actor is harder to call, with Brendan Fraser ("The Whale"), Colin Farrell ("Banshees") and Austin Butler ("Elvis") in the mix. In the supporting categories, Angela Bassett ("Black Panther: Wakanda Forever") and Ke Huy Quan ("Everything Everywhere All at Once") are the frontrunners. Steven Spielberg ("The Fabelmans") may win his third best director Oscar, though the Daniels could also pull off the upset.

WHAT'S BEEN CONTROVERSIAL THIS YEAR?

Aside from the usual snubs and surprises, this year's biggest to-do has been the debate surrounding Andrea Riseborough's unex-

pected nomination for best actress. Riseborough was nominated for the little-seen Texas-set drama "To Leslie" after many A-list stars rallied around her performance. When two other best-actress contenders — Danielle Deadwyler ("Till") and Viola Davis ("Woman King") — were snubbed, some saw that as a reflection of racial bias in the film industry. The academy launched an inquiry into the star-studded, grassroots campaign for Riseborough but found no reason to rescind her nomination.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR?

Just the reading of the title to one of this year's short film nominees should prompt a wave of giggles. John Williams ("The Fabelmans"), up for best score, is the oldest nominee ever, at 90 years old. After historic back-to-back best-director wins by Chloé Zhao ("Nomadland") and Jane Campion ("The Power of the Dog"), no women were nominated this year for best director. Also don't expect to see Will Smith at the Oscars anytime soon. After striking Chris Rock at last year's ceremony, Smith was banned by the film academy from attending for 10 years. **AP**

Scandal-hit French football chief Noel Le Graet quits

PARIS

FRENCH Football Federation president Noel Le Graet resigned on Tuesday following accusations of sexual and psychological harassment, bringing to an end more than a decade in charge.

The 81-year-old's resignation comes 13 days after the publication of a damning report into management practices at the FFF, but despite that it emerged that he is set to continue working for world governing body FIFA at their recently-opened office in Paris.

Le Graet's time at the helm of the federation coincided with the revival of the French men's national team, with their victory at the 2018 World Cup followed by a run to last year's final in Qatar, which they lost on penalties to Argentina. Yet his downfall became inevitable after the report commissioned by the sports ministry delivered a stinging criticism of the veteran boss.

"Considering his conduct towards women, his public comments and the governance failings of the FFF, Mr Le Graet no longer has the necessary legitimacy to run and represent French football," the report said.

Le Graet had already agreed in January to step down pending the outcome of the audit, which concluded that he should not return to the role because his "behavioural excesses are incompatible with the carrying out of his functions".

It was revealed last month that Le Graet, whose mandate was due to run until 2024, was being investigated for sexual and psychological harassment following allegations made by football agent Sonia Souid.

He was already under pressure after making dismissive remarks in a radio interview about France legend Zinedine Zidane's potential interest in coaching the national team.

That was after long-serving coach Didier Deschamps had his contract extended until 2026.

"I wouldn't even have taken his call," Le Graet told RMC radio when asked about Zidane.

Le Graet announced his departure at an executive committee meeting of the federation, with members of the committee telling AFP that Philippe Diallo would remain in the role of interim president.

Diallo, a federation vice-president who had initially moved up to fill in for Le Graet when he first stepped aside in January, is expected to remain in charge until a permanent successor is voted for in June.

France's Sports Minister, Amelie Oudea-Castera, said Le Graet's departure was "the right decision for the FFF and for him", but the federation defended its outgoing boss.

"The FFF recognises the remarkable sporting and economic performance of Noel Le Graet," the federation said in a statement, before hitting out at the authors of the



audit.

"The report does not mention any systematic failing. The FFF nevertheless notes that the report is based less on objective facts than on comments that have sometimes led to exaggerated bad-mouthing of the body."

On Tuesday night it emerged that Le Graet was planning to take legal action to get the report "cancelled", and sue Oudea-Castera for libel, his lawyer Thierry

Marembert told French television.

"- FIFA role - Le Graet was handed a role by FIFA in January last year as the Paris delegate to Gianni Infantino, the president of world football's governing body, and he is now expected to retain the position.

"He is going to run the office in Paris. He was given the job because of his competence, his expertise and his experience," said FFF com-

mittee member Eric Borghini.

Le Graet became president of the FFF in 2011, at a time when the French game was reeling in the wake of the national team's disastrous showing at the 2010 World Cup, when the players went on strike.

Le Graet oversaw the appointment of Deschamps as coach in 2012, and France reached the Euro 2016 final as hosts before their back-to-back World Cup final ap-

pearances. He also oversaw France's successful hosting of the 2019 Women's World Cup.

"He is a great leader. This federation is one of the best-run federations," insisted the veteran Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas, an influential member of the FFF executive committee, on Tuesday.

However, Le Graet's departure also comes amid a deepening crisis within the France women's team.

Several star players, led by captain Wendie Renard, last week announced that they would no longer play for France under the current set-up, with just five months to go until the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

That has placed the future of coach Corinne Diacre, who had the backing of Le Graet, in serious doubt.

Speaking on Tuesday, interim chief Diallo said a decision on Diacre's future would be taken "very soon". **AFP**



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Taifa Queens improves on WN ranking

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's senior national netball squad 'Taifa Queens' has improved on the recently released ranking by the World Netball (WN).

The rankings were released yesterday showing Taifa Queens occupying the 40th position. In the previous release, Taifa Queens had maintained its place in the 45th position.

The WN published the rankings on its website on Wednesday, revealing the rankings come from points earned from matches played from March 1, 2022, weighing at 100 percent.

According to the body, the ranking points earned from matches played in the two prior rating periods of July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, and July 1, 2020, to February 28, 2022, are now only weighted at 50 percent.

The WN pointed out that in response to the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and the period when international play was suspended, the world netball ranking year from July 1 2020 was extended to February 28, 2022, totaling 20 months.

"In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a low number of matches played in the period from February 2019 to December 2020, WN decided to reduce the minimum number of matches required for a country to have world ranking from eight to six," part of WN report noted.

In the latest ranking table, the top six teams remain the same, with Australia, New Zealand, England, Jamaica, South Africa, and Malawi occupying the places.

The WN noted the first change in the rankings is Tonga, which has taken over from Uganda to sit seventh.

In the period, Taifa Queens played 15 games, weighted 55, accumulated 55 points, and was rated 50th. Yesterday, Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) officials that included Secretary-General Rose Mkisi and president Devotha Marwa could not be reached for comments.

However, after the last release, Rose blamed Taifa Queens' fall on the squad's failure to play more test matches in the year.

She said her association with the support from stakeholders will come up with plans to see Taifa Queens participate in many games.

"The WN compiles rankings based on points that teams accumulate, what is needed now is to play many international games, I'm sure with the support of stakeholders we can improve on the rankings," she said.

Despite not doing well on the WN rankings Rose said they are heading in the right direction.

"Remember during leadership led by Mama Anna Bayi (who recently passed away), our netball was heading in the right direction, we were playing many international games, we even hosted the Africa Championships and we nearly qualified for Commonwealth Games," the Chaneta official noted.

Rose stated: "But after the change of leadership our netball went to shambles, we were inactive and we were suspended from International Netball Federation, now known as WN."

"Now though the national netball team has started playing international matches, we recently competed in Africa Netball Championship in South Africa, with support from well-wishers and surely next year things will improve," she said.

Taifa Queens took part in last year's African Netball Championship, which was held in Zambia, and the recent Africa Netball World Cup Qualifiers which took place in South Africa. In both outings Taifa Queens failed to record any win.

The WN explained the ranking formula on the body's website, noting: "The number of points earned by a team for any match depends on two factors."

The body's statement revealed: "The result (won, tied or lost) and the opponent against whom the result was achieved. The higher an opponent's rating the more points are earned for beating them."

Simba SC all out to progress to ASFC quarterfinals



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the 2022/23 Premier League and 2022/23 CAF Champions League matches. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

FRESH from winning their 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group C outing against Vipers SC, Simba SC will aim to book a place in the quarterfinals of this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) when the club takes on African Sports in Dar es Salaam this afternoon.

The game will be played at Uhuru Stadium, with the hosts lately positioned second in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League while the visitors are sitting ninth in the Championship League.

The Msimbazi Reds defeated Vipers SC 1-0 at St. Mary's Stadium-Kitende on Saturday to clinch their first three points in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group C, courtesy of a first-half goal netted by center-back, Henock Inonga.

Having dispatched Eagles FC and Coastal Union during the previous rounds of the ASFC, Simba SC head coach Robert Oliveira's men will be confident of progressing against African Sports who are in the second tier of the Tanzania football pyramid.

Simba SC could choose to rest several first-team starters for

this game. Kennedy Juma, Jonas Mkude, Erasto Nyoni, Peter Banda, and Habib Kyo-mbo could all start here.

Speaking ahead of the game, Oliveira, alias 'Rober-tinho', emphasized the club's desire to lift this season's ASFC title.

The Brazilian coach also confirmed he will use the African Sports game to give playing time to fringe players.

The tactician revealed: "We have planned to ensure

that we win against African Sports. Simba SC is a big team, we need to win every competition title we participate in, that's the objective for us."

Oliveira added: "We are looking at using players who have not played a major role in the team as we have a return game against Vipers SC... we are focusing on both games."

Meanwhile, African Sports reached the last 16 thanks to two penalty shootout victo-

ries against Second League and Regional Champions League sides.

Moreover, it is worth noting that the Tanga side has endured a below-par season up to now - meaning it remains in danger of facing relegation.

The visitors make the trip to Uhuru Stadium on the back of a 1-1 draw away to Arusha's Mbuni FC in the Championship League last weekend.

Away form has been poor

and African Sports have recorded just three draws from their 10 most recent fixtures on the road.

African Sports will bank on the young shoulders of Azam FC academy product, Ashraf Malolo.

The teenage attacking midfielder will be tasked with the crucial role of opening up the Simba SC defense as African Sports chase to pull a major upset to progress to the quarterfinals.

Vipers SC garners boost in Premier League fixtures

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's opponent in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League, Uganda's Vipers SC, has received a boost from Uganda Football Federation (FUFA) on the premier continental tournament's Group C coming fixtures.

The FUFA has pushed back the country's Premier League game between Arua Hill SC and Vipers SC.

The game was scheduled to be played during midweek at the Green Light Stadium in Arua, but FUFA has decided to reschedule the match to give Vipers SC a chance to prepare for the continental tournament's Group C decider versus Simba SC to be played in Dar es Salaam on March 7.

Vipers SC nicknamed 'Venoms' will arrive in Dar es Salaam knowing a win is the only required result.

The Uganda Premier League champion had conceded a 5-0 away defeat to Morocco's Raja



Vipers SC players are pictured in training that took place at St. Mary's Stadium-Kitende in Entebbe yesterday, as the outfit prepares for the 2022/23 Uganda Premier League and 2022/23 CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF VIPERS SC

Club Athletic, posted a frustrating stalemate at home with Horoya Athletic Club of Guinea, and succumbed to a defeat

to Simba SC, whilst enduring a lack of goals.

While Simba SC will heavily rely on Raja Club Athletic to

do the damage away against Horoya Athletic Club, the latter's owner has other ideas.

The president and owner of the Guinea Ligue 1 champions, Mamadou Antonio Souaré, pledged a reward of 100 million Guinean Francs and more to the side's players if they beat Raja Club Athletic in the round four fixture.

The African soccer powerhouses will take on each other at the General Lansana Conte Stadium in Conakry on Tuesday in the Group C game of the premier continental club showdown.

Souaré has motivated his players, recognizing that his club needs a vital win in that game to stay within reach of qualification for the quarterfinals.

However, Horoya Athletic Club will have motivation, having beaten Raja Club Athletic in the Group Stage of the premier continental tournament last season, winning 2-1 at the home venue, General Lansana Conte Stadium.

Raja Club Athletic beat Horoya Athletic Club 2-0 in the first clash of this season's showdown played in Morocco on February 25.

While Simba SC's opponents have no match this week, the outfit will have an Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC)'s Round of 16's tie against Africans Sports slated for today.

Simba SC will be seeking a victory to secure a timely boost for the upcoming continental showdown match against Vipers SC.

The Msimbazi Street squad is now placed third in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group C table with three points.

Horoya Athletic Club is positioned second in the log with four points, Vipers SC is languishing at the bottom of the table with a point.

Raja Club Athletic has amassed nine points and 10 goals in three matches with a clean sheet to lead the rest in the group.

Flexibles

by David Chikoko

