



National Pg 2 Minister calls on rural energy expansion



National Pg 3 Govt installs beacons at Maasai Mara



National Pg 6 Coca-Cola donates reflective jackets



National Pg 11 Traditional fortified mud tower houses



US hands 1.6m doses of Pfizer-BioNTech type

By Guardian Reporter

THE government yesterday received over 1.6 million doses of Pfizer BioNTech vaccines donated by United States through the global COVAX initiative.

Dr Ngegwe Bulula, acting manager for immunization and vaccine development at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children received the donation from Kate Somvongsiri, the mission director for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Tanzania, during a ceremony at the Julius Nyerere International Airport.

As part of its efforts to end the pandemic globally, the US government has thus far donated over three million COVID-19 vaccine doses to Tanzania, first giving more than one million doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine late July, enabling Tanzania to launch its nationwide vaccination campaign against the debilitating virus.

Late last month the US government shipped 500,000 doses of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine to Tanzania to further support the country's efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Dr Donald Wright, the US Ambassador

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Govt raises 2.17trn/- new bond for PSSSF



Finance and Planning permanent secretary Emmanuel Tutuba (R) exchanges agreement documents with Public Service Social Security Fund director general Hosea Kashimba (L) in Dodoma yesterday. Under the accord the government will release 500bn/- to PSSSF that will be used to pay retirees' benefits. Looking on is Treasury legal officer Loveness Msechu. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

● Pays 500bn/- out of 724bn/- approved debt

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) for repaying 4.66trn/- that the government owes the fund.

Treasury permanent secretary Emmanuel Tutuba and PSSSF director general Hosea Kashimba signed the new accord where the government initiated the payment through a non-cash bond for 2.17trn/- stretched out between eight and 25 years.

In remarks after the signing, Tutuba said the move follows the president's directive for the matter to be solved. The process to repay the long term debt observed due process and was finally approved, he stated.

The PS noted that the social security sector is important for the development welfare of retirees and the society at large since through the fund, retirees get monthly pension to help them survive.

Through investments conducted by PSSSF, many Tanzanians have obtained access to

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DRC to join EAC bloc early 2023

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AS anticipated, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will be joining the East African Community (EAC) - but not right away.

The annual meeting of the EAC Heads of State nodded to the DRC application yesterday, allowing for a period of one year to get the process finalized. Kinshasa will be processing its trading and travel regulatory environment to get into line with early 2023 when it begins to be properly involved in EAC activities.

The 18th ordinary summit received and considered the report of the council of ministers on the verification mission on the admission of the Democratic Republic of Congo to join the EAC, directing the council to expeditiously commence and conclude negotiations with the DRC for admission to the EAC and report back at the next summit, late 2022.

The summit was held virtually with the

session being chaired by President Uhuru Kenyatta, his last

EAC summit as he steps down next August, and the first for President Samia Suluhu Hassan after taking office nine months ago.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni participated in the meeting as well as Rwandan President Paul Kagame, while Burundi Vice President Prosper Bazombanza and Deng Alor Kuol, the South Sudan minister for East African Community Affairs, sat in for their respective leaders.

Experts affirm that the inclusion of DRC into the community is going to be positive in its trade, investments and natural resources impact, as DRC is the largest country in Africa, South of the Sahara and the second-largest on the continent after Algeria, and 11th largest country in the world.

The mineral-rich country has a population of 105 million and once it becomes part of the EAC the total zonal population for the East African Common Market will be more than double to nearly 390 million people.

Apart from the DRC application, the summit also considered a proposal to amend rule 11 in the procedural terms for holding the summit, directing the EAC Secretariat to convene an extraordinary meeting of the sectoral council for legal and judicial Affairs to work on this proposal.

The results will then be tabled for consideration by the next summit, the resolution affirmed.

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has once again proved its market leadership, unrivalled financial stability and readiness to serve the country after scooping the safest bank award in Tanzania for the second time in two years.

The lender bagged this year's accolade; it's eighth in 2021, after beating local peers in the Global Finance magazine's annual rankings of the world's safest banks for 2021 in the country awards category.

Announcing the monumental achievement yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the bank's chief finance officer Juma Kimori said the New York based

NMB bags Tanzania's 2021 safest bank prize

“We are honoured to be recognized as Tanzania's safest bank for this year”

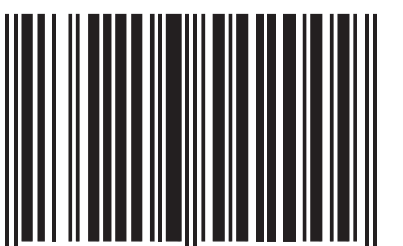
publication bestowed it with the honour mostly due to its sound financials, customer service excellence, digital innovations and formidable technological investments.

“Credit ratings, solid fundamentals, financial performance, asset base, approach to cyber security, digital banking solutions, financial inclusion, innovation

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NMB Bank's chief finance officer Juma Kimori displaying the 'Safest Bank in Tanzania' trophy from the US based Global Finance Magazine for 2021. Looking on is NMB head of private banking, Getrude Mallya (R), acting chief risk and compliance officer Oscar Nyirenda and the bank's head of Treasury sales, Jeremiah Lyimo (L).





Dr. Ngegwe Bulula, acting immunisation and vaccine development programme manager from the Ministry of Health and Kate Somvongsiri, Mission director for the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in Tanzania, pose for a photo in front of 1.6 million newly arrived COVID-19 vaccine doses donated by the American people. Photo: Courtesy of USA embassy

US hands 1.6m doses Pfizer-BioNTech type

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said that these efforts are indicative of the U.S. government's strong partnership and commitment to the Tanzanian people and shared interest in defeating COVID-19 together.

"We are committed to helping Tanzania and the world win the fight against COVID-19. We commend the government of Tanzania for its efforts to vaccinate its population so far, and we hope this additional contribution of vaccine doses will accelerate the vaccination campaign and bring us closer to ending the pandemic," said.

America's support for the global fight against COVID-19 includes donating 300m vaccine doses to other countries, purchasing one billion vaccine doses to donate to nearly 100 developing countries and contributing \$4bn to GAVI, the global vaccine alliance.

The cash donation is intended to support COVAX, the global initiative to equitably distribute safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines worldwide and delivering essential medicines, supplies and therapeutics, he stated. This and other forms of assistance will help countries rebuild economies, overcome food shortages and strengthen health security,

the envoy underlined.

To date, the US has provided more than 80m COVID-19 vaccine doses and more than \$1.9bn in COVID-19 related assistance to African countries with no strings attached, he further stated.

He referred to remarks by President Joe Biden pledging that the United States will be the world's arsenal of vaccines in the shared fight against COVID-19. "We will continue to do all we can to build a world that is safer and more secure against the threat of infectious disease," he said, citing the president's strenuous affirmation upon taking office early this year.

Govt raises 2.17trn/- new bond for PSSSF

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employment, thus able to earn a living. The government decided to start repaying the vast amounts to help improve the lives of beneficiaries, many of whom have served the country diligently, he asserted.

Records show that PSSS is paying around 60bn/- per month in pensions to beneficiaries, which means that the fund is injecting that amount into the economy in a regular manner, he stated.

Discussions with PSSSF on repayment of the debt focused especially on pre 1999 liabilities, where the pensions system was restructured and debts of older funds shifted to new entities instead of the Treasury.

"After thorough analysis and due to the importance of the fund, the government decided to pay the debts, starting with initial payment of 2.17trn/- on non-cash bond taking eight to 25 years," he explained.

That debt comprises amount accrued since PSPF (Public Sector Pensions Fund) was set up in 1999 and started disbursing benefits in 2004. Payments were made in accordance

to being employment, before July 1999 and subsequently.

"This simply means that a retiree in 2004, employed in 1970 was paid full benefits for the entire period including the pre-fund period. The government remains committed to working closely with PSSSF by helping solve challenges facing it," he elaborated, noting that the government has paid 500bn/- out of the 724bn/- debt that has been approved, and is continuing to pay the remaining amount.

Director Kashimba thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the decision to repay the debt, saying it will strengthen the fund as it pays retirees their benefits on 25th of every month and is dedicated to serving them rightly.

"At PSSSF we believe that implementation of the agreement will relieve from pre-1999 liabilities and enable it to perform the duty of paying benefits to beneficiaries," he stated.

That agreement means that the fund will be getting at least 120bn/- per year, where the management will ensure the amount is properly utilized and increase liquidity, he added.

NMB bags Tanzania's 2021 safest bank prize

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and technology, all contributed to the accolade," said Kimori.

Kimori said the annual rankings of the World's Safest Banks by Country are selected through evaluation of these financial variables in which the bank emerged tops in Tanzania over its peers.

According to him, the award equates to NMB's stability, resilience and digital transformation and innovation capabilities in supporting employees, customers and the wider community to achieve financial success.

"We are honoured to be recognized as Tanzania's safest bank for this year," he stated, vowing that the bank will continue working on evolving the bank's capabilities to deliver sustained returns.

NMB is proud to remain a trusted partner for its customers, providing for all their banking solutions in safe and innovative ways, he declared.

The new recognition, which CFO Juma said was yet another testament of NMB's status as the most profitable and safest financial institution in Tanzania, comes a few months after its scooping of seven other international awards.

These include the best bank in Tanzania for

the ninth consecutive year by Euromoney, best retail bank, best SME bank, best investment bank, best innovation in retail banking and last month's award from MasterCard International as 'fastest bank in card usage growth in Tanzania.'

The NMB executive said the safest bank award in the prevailing challenging economic times is also proof of the market's trust in its operations and overall performance. In the third quarter, the lender whose assets base soared to 8.2trn/- posted a net profit of 211bn/-.

"That financial clout puts us in a better position to continue serving the country in 2022 and beyond as we consolidate our position of being the most innovative and customer-centric bank in the country," he remarked.

Joseph Giarraputo, the publisher and editorial director of Global Finance, said the resilience of banks has been critical in supporting businesses and national economies as the world readies for a post Covid-19 environment.

"For Tanzania, NMB is a paragon of stability, and continues to provide necessary support for government and communities as they seek to recover from the pandemic's economic shocks," the publisher intoned.



CRDB Bank treasurer director Alex Ngusaru (R) hands over a motor vehicle card to SimBanking "Mzigo Promosheni" campaign for November 2021 to Dar es Salaam resident Victor Danford Mbulungwe at CRDB Kijitonyama branch yesterday. Left is head of consumer banking Stephen Adili, Kijitonyama branch manager Rosemary Nchimbi CRDB Bank eastern zone Badru Idd. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Minister calls on rural energy development and expansion

MINISTER for Energy, January Makamba has called on the Rural Energy Agency (REA) to focus on renewable and other forms of energy, shun the notion that the agency is just for electrification.

He said Tanzania like other countries across the globe face serious challenges on having cheaper energy, affordable to all including rural-based populations.

Speaking during a meeting with REA management and workers, the minister also underscored the need for the agency to find proper solutions to cooking energy, saying the current situation is not good at all.

According to Makamba, at least 80 percent of energy in the country is biogas, used in industrial, farming and domestic activities. Out of this, he said 70 percent of energy is for domestic purposes.

"In developed countries 70 percent of energy is spent on industrial production while in Tanzania, the produced electricity is merely for lighting, refrigeration and cooking" said the minister.

He said cooking energy offer one of the

biggest opportunities for investment by REA after conducting thorough research, noting that transformation in the area touches lives of many Tanzanians. The minister stressed the need for new approaches aimed at enabling rural population use clean and safe energy, adding that only 0.1 percent of those connected with electricity use it for cooking.

He expressed concern on use of charcoal as the major source of cooking energy, arguing that it will be a time when charcoal will not be available any more, thus the need research on cheaper energy.

While acknowledging that Dar es Salaam city is the most electrified city in the country, having 96 percent of its resident accessing electricity, 97 percent of them still use charcoal for cooking.

To achieve this, the minister observed that REA should establish strong research department with at least seven officers,

solely working on affordable clean energy. He said for instance, the researchers could look into why charcoal, deceptively remain cheaper cooking energy.

He expressed concerns that the agency's policy, planning and research department had no officer at all, calling on the management to revamp it as soon as possible.

REA director general Hassan Saidy told the minister that the management would work on his recommendations aimed at improving provision of energy to the people. He said since its establishment, REA has achieved a lot, giving access of electricity to 69.6 percent of rural mainland Tanzania by 2020.

He noted that this exceeds the 50 percent target that the government agency had planned. A total of 716,847 people have been supplied with power at a cost of over Sh2.66 trillion since REA's establishment in 2007.

TCRA slaps hefty fines on Dar TV station

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) yesterday fined a local online entertainment television Wasafi TV Station for alleged violation of broadcasting regulations.

Through its content regulation committee TCRA ordered the television to pay 2m/- for airing content that was offensive, hate and undermined religion.

The committee's chairman Habbi Gunze said during an interview with one Prophet Shila, Wasafi television allowed on air words which were offensive.

TCRA also in its ruling has directed the entertainment media house to employ qualified media personnel to oversee editorial operations after discovering that there is laxity in editorial operations at the company.

"The committee has noticed that there are some weaknesses in the way the television handles editorial content, therefore there is a need to hire qualified people for the job."

At the same time TCRA warned Wasafi TV Station not to repeat the same, but also directed it to apologize three times every four hours during day time.

The committee used the opportunity to advise broadcasters to adhere to regulations governing the sector when airing programmes as well as avoiding abusive languages.

This is the second time for the entertainment media house to face a wrath from the regulator. In September last year TCRA suspended operations of Wasafi FM radio for seven days after it aired contents using abusive languages through 'The Switch' and 'Mashamsham' programmes.

Villagers denied medical treatment until vaccinated against COVID-19

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

ULOWA residents in Ushetu district, Shinyanga region have complained over being denied medical treatment at Ulowa dispensary until they are vaccinated against Covid-19.

They aired their complaints on Tuesday this week at a public meeting convened at Kangeme Village by Ushetu Member of Parliament, Emmanuel Cherehani to listen to their various complaints.

Zawadi Kimisha, one of the villagers claimed that at Ulowa dispensary, patients were being denied treatment and forced to get Covid-19 vaccination first.

"We are appeal, to the government to intervene in this issue, as of now we no longer go to the dispensary for treatment instead we go to Mbika health centre, over 10 kms away for fear of being vaccinated without our consent," she said.

For his part, Kangeme village chairman Sidini Mangali called on the government to solve the problem to enable the people get medical treatment near the areas they reside

and asked experts to set a camp for educating the people on Covid-19 vaccination.

Ushetu district medical officer Alphonse Malunde criticised the practice of forcing patients to be vaccinated against Covid-19 without their consent, and warned doctors and health workers that stern disciplinary measures will be taken against whoever will continue doing so.

"Government directives are that vaccination against Covid-19 is an option, and people must not be forced. Hence I am directing all doctors and health workers to follow these directives, provide medical treatment to the people without any conditions," Malunde added.

For his part, Ushetu Member of parliament Emmanuel Cherehani called on health workers to provide education on Covid-19 to patients to make them aware of its importance, and should only be vaccinated upon their consent.

Meanwhile, the MP pledged to solve complaints from his constituents including the issue of electricity, road infrastructures, water trough deep boreholes and the availability of farm inputs at affordable prices.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi inspect the Tanzania and Kenya boundary at Serengeti National Park in Mara region during his visit on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kenya, govt boundary officials install 205 beacons at Serengeti-Maasai Mara

By Guardian Reporter, Tarime

INTERNATIONAL boundary demarcation officials working along Kenya-Tanzania border area in Serengeti-Maasai Mara reserve areas have installed 205 beacons as part of the agreement reached between the two countries.

The remarks were made by William Lukuvi, Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister during his visit to inspect the border area demarcation between Serengeti national Park on the Tanzania side and Maasai Mara reserve on the Kenya side.

"Within a short time the two countries have erected 205 beacons along the common border. The exercise that began in 2018 was briefly suspended when we reached the reserve area, but it continued following President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to Kenya during which she and her Kenya counterpart discussed the issue that saw the boundary officials finishing the

exercise," Lukuvi said. Whist in Serengeti national Park on Tuesday this week, the Minister said he believes that the two nations will embark on finishing marking the entire 758 km boundary while the work so far covered 232 kms.

In regard to Buffer Zone, Lukuvi said as for now it would be better for road construction activities to abide by the five-meters which both countries agreed and added that further talks were continuing to see whether the buffer zone area should be increased.

"The government will continue to assist in this task to strengthen the security of international boundaries as the exercise does not reflect hostility between the two countries. Any ill-intentioned man cannot blame that he did not know the border line," he added.

Director of Survey and Mapping in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Hamdouny

Mansur said various tasks have been accomplished to strengthen the boundary including educating local residents areas to build their settlements, and collection of other geographical data.

Hamdouny's Kenyan counterpart, Ibrayan sabwa said during the entire period of erecting beacons in the Serengeti and Maasai Mara reserves areas they had excellent cooperation among the two countries' teams and there were no hitches.

The task Force Plan for FY 2021/22 on the strengthening of Kenya-Tanzania boundary includes Phase I involving 238 kms by completing the 60 kms stretch including 23 kms in Lake Natron area - a total of 110 kms of the boundary line from Lake Natron to Namanga in Longido district.

Tanzania-Kenya common border is 758 kms long that was erected by the German and British colonial governments in 1893 under the Anglo-German Agreement and the 1906 Protocol.

12 million children to benefit from improved pre, primary education

By Guardian Reporter

MORE than 12 million children in mainland Tanzania will benefit from a new World Bank-supported program that aims to make preprimary and primary education better and more accessible across the country.

Primary enrollment in Tanzania increased by more than 2.5 million since 2013. Mainland now has 12.3 million students attending preprimary and primary classes. Nevertheless, Tanzania's education sector remains constrained by several key factors including inequitable access to early learning and primary education for rural marginalized and vulnerable groups, inadequate school learning environments exacerbated by declining financing and increasing school populations, and a shortage of teachers and low teacher competencies.

The \$500 million BOOST Primary Student Learning Program for Results that was approved today by the World Bank Board of Directors will help make Tanzania primary schools safer, more inclusive and child friendly, enhance teachers' subject content knowledge and pedagogical competencies, and strengthen education finance and decentralized service delivery capacity. The overall goal is to ensure an education system that supports all children, including the most marginalized, to enroll early, develop strong foundational skills, and complete a quality education.

"Tanzania has made important progress in education by expanding access and reducing gender disparity in basic education. Investing in the education of young and vulnerable children, especially girls, is a critical building block to accelerating the country's progress towards inclusive growth, poverty reduction and stronger upward mobility of all Tanzanians," said Mara Warwick, World Bank Country Director for Tanzania.

BOOST which was jointly formulated with the government and other development partners will support the Government's Education Sector Development Plan in the next five years by providing results-based financing to catalyze reforms and implement interventions in three main areas—improving public school learning environment, that supports the provision of safer and learning-conducive environments for pre-primary and primary pupils, helping schools meet

minimum infrastructure requirements and implement a Primary Safe School Program (PSSP).

"This component will also support building at least 12,000 classrooms and associated facilities mainly in vulnerable rural communities."

Another area include improving Teacher Competencies and Quality of Classroom Teaching that supports the nationwide implementation of Tanzania's Teacher Continuous Professional Development policy, using a sustainable school-based approach complemented by a network of at least 800 primary hub schools empowered with ICT-smart classrooms and a Learning Management System that provides digitized teaching learning resources.

Strengthening Education Financing and Decentralized Service Delivery Capacity: Support focuses on enhancing education financing, increasing community empowerment, and strengthening the oversight of local government authorities in improving the quality of education services delivery.

BOOST will also strengthen the capacities of the implementing agencies—the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology and President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government—as well as core education technical agencies, such as the Tanzania Institute of Education, the National Examination Council of Tanzania, and the Teacher Service Commission.

"The new program carefully balances system strengthening with direct provision to fill important service delivery gaps especially in rural and vulnerable communities. It builds on the strong foundation laid by the previous program for results but goes beyond to expand access to preprimary education, leverage ICT for teaching and learning, and strengthen decentralized education governance," Xiaoyan Liang, World Bank Lead Education Specialist and Task Team Leader (TTL) for BOOST.

Tanzanian government's decision to remove barriers to access education, including those that prevented pregnant girls or young mothers from attending formal school, underscores the country's commitment to making education better, safer, and more accessible for its next generation, and to advance Tanzania's social and economic development.

TAEC orders return of consignment carrying nuclear materials

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) in collaboration with Kenya Nuclear Regulatory Authority (KNRA) has ordered shipment number TCKU3337296 destined to Tanzania through the Mombasa port that was carrying nuclear materials to be repatriated.

The consignment was carried in MV SEAGO PIRAEUS VOY 174S, according to a statement by TAEC signed by acting director general, Dr Justin Ngaile.

According to Dr Ngaile, TAEC officials received information about the consignment through Kenya media outlets and decided to contact KNRA for details.

"We contacted TAEC on December 21st 2021,

they confirmed to us the presence of the consignment in MV SEAGO PIRAEUS VOY 174S, and we immediately took measures and ordered them to take the consignment back," Dr Ngaile said.

He said before arriving at the Mombasa port in Kenya, the ship that carried the consignment docked at the Port of Salalah in Oman. He called upon Tanzanians to be calm as the shipment could not enter the country.

Dr Ngaile said the government is

determined to control importation of atomic substances into the country through ports.

TAEC is the regulatory body responsible for all atomic energy matters, established under the Atomic Energy Act No. 7 of 2003. It was formed with additional responsibilities which include the control of the uses of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation sources and the promotion of safe and peaceful applications of atomic energy and nuclear technology.

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DEV RECOVERIES LIMITED

NOTICE OF SALE OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

ALL THAT LANDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT PLOT NO. 01, VIJIBWENI DESCRIBED UNDER C.T. NO. 168760, L.O. NO. 701811 & KGMC/LD/VIJ/1/636, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, we have been instructed by our client to advertise the sale by Tender process of the property captioned above.

- The property is a Commercial/Industrial property located at Vijibweni area in Kigamboni Industrial area measuring about 6.9 acres fully fenced. The property is located along an area that is near to the Dar Es Salaam port where the Oil and Gas depots are located. The property has 4 warehouses, one factory building, offices, staff houses, generator house and security building.
- INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED to submit bids for the purchase of the property in a sealed envelope clearly marked "BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT PLOT NO. 01, VIJIBWENI, KIGAMBONI INDUSTRIAL AREA DESCRIBED UNDER C.T. NO. 168760 & L.O. NO. 701811" indicating the offer for the property with full address of the bidder shown and the same should be submitted so as to reach the undersigned on the address below before 1600 hours on 29th December 2021 by 1630 hours at the office mentioned below. Bidders are invited to attend during the event if they so wish.
- Bidders should note that the information supplied herein is without liability to the Seller as to its correctness independent valuation and inspection of the property is highly recommended.
- The Seller shall not be bound to accept the highest bid or any bid at all.
- The Property is sold in a condition as it is.
- The successful bidder shall be bound to make a 25% down payment on the price within 4 days of the date of the award and the balance shall be paid within 14.
- Members of the Public and/or bidders who are desirous of viewing and/or inspecting the property may do so subject to the appointment and prior consent of the Seller agent on the address below;

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0788 438640 or 0712 390460

- Bids mentioned in paragraph 3 hereinabove should be addressed to the address below;

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...the government is determined to control importation of atomic substances into the country through ports

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR



THE 17TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

The State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) is pleased to announce to the graduands and the general public that its 17th graduation ceremony will be held on Wednesday 29th December, 2021 at the Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein Conference Hall, Tunguu Campus from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm.

His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council who is also the University Chancellor will confer Certificates, Diplomas, Bachelors, Masters and Doctor of Philosophy degrees to all candidates who have successfully completed their studies and qualified for those awards for the academic year 2020/2021. The Chancellor will also award prizes to students who excelled in different academic courses and the best student's overall winner prize.

This is an important event, thus, all graduands are advised to attend and witness the climax of their academic pursuit. Those who have confirmed their participation and cleared all the required fees are notified that their academic credentials (certificates, diplomas and degrees) will instantly be issued during the graduation day to ONLY those who will participate in the ceremony. It is brought to notice that another day(s) to issue academic credentials will be arranged for those who fail to spot in the ceremony irrespective of their presence at the scene.

All prospective graduands who wish to attend the graduation ceremony are required to pay a non-refundable fee of Tshs. 25,000/-; this should be paid through the People's Bank of Zanzibar Ltd or its Agents via Control Number.

Rehearsal and gown collection

- Attendance to the rehearsal which will be held on Tuesday 28th December, 2021 from 8.30 a.m. is mandatory for all graduands who intend to participate in the Graduation Ceremony. Only those who will participate in the rehearsal will be allowed to attend the graduation ceremony. Awards for the missing graduands in the ceremony will be conferred in absentia.
- Graduation gowns will be available on hire basis starting from Saturday 25th December, 2021 to the rehearsal day at Tunguu Campus from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
- Graduands are required to return the gowns not later than a four days after the Graduation day. A penalty of Tsh. 5,000/- will be charged for each additional day.

Note:

- Graduands will have to meet their travel, meals and accommodation expenses during the rehearsal and graduation ceremony.
- No one will be allowed to enter the Graduation Hall after the entrance of His Excellency, the Chancellor; therefore, all participants should be seated by 8.30 a.m.

Issued by:

**The Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academics, Research and Consultancy
The State University of Zanzibar**

Bank of Africa launches visa green card to boost financial transactions

By Guardian Reporter

BANK of Africa (BOA Tanzania) has launched its new banking wallet card dubbed: 'Visa Green' geared towards creating a culture of using the cards in making financial transactions.

The Visa Green Card will not only allow customers to do transactions online, but also enable them to make payment for various services easily, safely, and customers will have the freedom to conduct transactions at any time of their convenience.

Speaking at the launch in Dar es Salaam, Bank of Africa Deputy Managing Director, Wasia Mushi, said the launch of the new VISA Green card is a continuation of the Bank's digital innovative that enables customers to access a wide range of services easily and a strategy to build a cashless society.

Mushi said apart from this new card used to pay for services it enables access to services in 18 African countries where the bank also has branches and in other parts of the world can also be used to make transactions in Umoja switch ATMs.

He called on Tanzanians to use these new digital

services to help them make life easier as these services are simple and secure and eliminate the burden of having to walk around with a lot of pocket money for purchases and pay for various services.

Bank of Africa-Tanzania currently has a network of 19 Retail branches and one Business Center to cater exclusively for its Corporate / Enterprise clients. Retail branch network include: 9 in Dar es Salaam and 10 upcountry Arusha, Mwanza, Zanzibar and all other major cities.

The bank's legacy in Tanzania has been to provide tailor made solutions while capitalizing on a strong group synergy behind all operations. The bank tends to maximize the strength it has from the group by optimizing its trade corridors from BMCE Bank of Africa networks.

Bank of Africa-Tanzania has grown in status to be regarded as one of the key players contributing to the Corporate and SME sectors in the country. Emphasis has been directed towards the SME and Retail sectors to which a series of products have been designed to provide quick and easy to access bank solutions to meet its customer needs.



Deputy managing director of Bank of Africa Tanzania Wasia Mushi (2nd R) sales manager Fortunatus Joachim (R) Aman Anord, acting head of the bank's digital services unit, (L) and marketing manager, Beatrice Mirigo display new launched VISA GREEN card during the launch at a press conference held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI) (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL SELECTION)

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ZANZIBAR ENERGY SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AND ACCESS PROJECT

CREDIT NUMBER: 68970-TZ
CTF LOAN NUMBER: TF0B5747-TZ
CTF GRANT NUMBER: TF0B5660-TZ

Assignment Title: Consultancy Services for Capacity Assessment and Strengthening of Zanzibar's Energy Sector
Reference No: P169561

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), through the United Republic of Tanzania, has received funding from the World Bank to implement the Zanzibar Energy Sector Transformation and Access Project (ZESTA). The Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals (MoWEM) of Zanzibar intends to use part of the funding from the ZESTA Project to hire a qualified consultancy firm to undertake capacity assessment of key energy sector institutions and develop a capacity development strategy and plan.

Objective

The objective of the assignment is to undertake a capacity assessment of the key institutions in Zanzibar's energy sector, namely, MoWEM, ZECO and ZURA, identify areas for capacity strengthening and performance improvement, and prepare a capacity development strategy and plan which can be implemented in the short, medium and long term to support sustainable development of Zanzibar's power sector.

Scope of assignment

The Consultant will be required to perform the following tasks:

- Review and evaluate the existing policy, legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks that govern the energy sector and key sectoral institutions and agencies (MoWEM, ZECO and ZURA) to determine their adequacy in supporting the institutions to fulfil their respective mandates.
- Review the Strategic and Business Plans of MoWEM, ZECO and ZURA and evaluate the institutions' performance against these plans.
- Review the institutional structure, human resource, business processes and systems of MoWEM, ZECO and ZURA and determine their effectiveness in supporting the institutions to fulfil their mandates.
- Review previous energy sector studies with a focus on capacity strengthening in Zanzibar, determine the extent to which the recommendations therein have been implemented by the institutions and highlight any challenges, if any, that could have hampered successful implementation of the recommendations.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of capacity strengthening interventions that have been undertaken in Zanzibar's energy sector to date. This should include assessment of interventions that have been supported by various Development Partners in Zanzibar's energy sector and identification of potential gaps and opportunities for synergies.
- Conduct an appraisal of the existing and planned investments in the electricity sector, the operations environment, and the emerging technologies in the sector, and based on best practice and prudent utility practices, determine the skills and competences required within the institutions to support sustainable development of the electricity sector. This assessment should cover strategic/policy, planning, technical, procurement, financial, monitoring, environmental and social safeguards aspects, as well as gender.
- Develop a detailed capacity gap analysis that compares the best practice arrangements (skills, competencies, tools and systems, organizational structure, etc) vis-à-vis the existing arrangements and propose the necessary capacity strengthening interventions to bridge the gaps in the short, medium, and long term.
- Develop a costed capacity development strategy and action plan that includes recommendations and specific actions to bridge the identified gaps within each of the three institutions.

The MoWEM now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

A. Core Business and year is Business

The consultant shall be a firm (or consortium of firms) with proven experience in carrying out capacity assessments within the power sector in sub-Saharan Africa or similar contexts.

B. Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the below:

- The firm should have at least ten (10) years of experience in consulting work in power sectors of which five (5) years must be in similar assignments.
- Must have successfully carried out at least five (5) assignments of similar nature and scope in electricity sectors in the Sub-Saharan Africa region or similar set-ups.

C. Technical and Managerial capability of the firm in the areas of power sector policy and regulation, utility management, and training and capacity building. (Provide only the structure of the organization, general qualifications, and number of key staff. Do not provide CV of the staff. Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.)

The attention of interested consulting firm is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Firms intending to submit expression of interest should not have conflict of interest and unfair competitive advantage as per Bank's Procurement Regulations

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications. For firms participating in JV, each member of JV should independently meet the requirement of Eol criteria. For firm participating as association of lead and subconsultant, only the experience and qualification of lead firm will be assessed as per Eol criteria

Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: www.majismz.go.tz and/or www.zanzibar-energy.com.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, 07:00 to 03:30pm East African Time. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person (hard copy along with a USB drive), or e-mail by 02:30pm EAT on January 25, 2021.

Ministry of Water Energy and Minerals,
ZURA building 5th floor,
Procurement Unit, Room No. 502.
Attn: Saleh Said Suleiman (Project Coordinator)
P.O. Box 1569 Zanzibar
Maisara, Zanzibar
Tel: +255 776 858555
E-mail: procurement@majismz.go.tz and copy to saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING – NGO

TANZANIA, ZANZIBAR ZANZIBAR ENERGY SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AND ACCESS PROJECT (ZESTA)

CREDIT NUMBER: 68970-TZ
CTF LOAN NUMBER: TF0B5747-TZ
CTF GRANT NUMBER: TF0B5660-TZ

Assignment Title: Consultancy Services for Resettlement Action Plan Implementation Monitoring - NGO
Reference No. TZ-ZECO-254935-CS-QCBS

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), through The United Republic of Tanzania, intends to implement the Zanzibar Energy Sector Transformation and Access Project (ZESTA) with financing obtained from the World Bank. RGoZ intends to apply part of the funding to hire an independent Non-Governmental Organization to monitor preparation and implementation of resettlement action plan and stakeholder engagement plan.

Objective

The main objective of the assignment is to monitor and report on preparation and implementation of the Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) and the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) under the ZESTA project by the Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO).

Scope of assignment

The NGO will be required to perform the following tasks

- Prepare and implement monitoring and evaluation plans and develop indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the SEP and RAP activities (i.e., during RAP preparation and RAP and SEP implementation).
- Physically verify the implementation progress of both RAP and SEP activities during that are required under the ZESTA project, and their compliance with relevant national and World Bank regulations.
- Participate in the public consultation/awareness creation processes, provide relevant input and ensure that gender concerns are taken into consideration.
- Review the grievance processing procedures for stakeholders and PAPs, assist them to register their grievances where necessary and make recommendations on how to strengthen the project grievance redress mechanism.
- As necessary, support ZECO to create awareness about the availability of mechanisms to address gender, gender-based violence (GBV), violence against children (VAC) and other social issues.

The assignment will be undertaken over a period of thirty six (36) months from the date of contract signing. However, subject to the progress of project implementation, performance of the NGO and need, an extension may be considered.

The Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals now invites eligible NGO to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consulting NGO should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. The NGO should have the following qualifications and experiences

A. Should meet the eligibility criteria and have no conflict of interest as per the World Bank Procurement Regulations.

B. Core Business and year is Business

- Have a minimum of ten (10) years' relevant experience in development programs in in conditions similar to Zanzibar in the fields of energy, health, education, social or financial services.
- C. Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the below:
- Have a minimum of ten (10) years' experience working with a wide range of stakeholders including Community Based Organizations (CBOs), international organizations, and Zanzibar Government agencies or similar jurisdictions at national and local levels.
 - Should have extensive knowledge of the local communities in Zanzibar or experience working in similar conditions, community engagement and grievance management.
 - Have a good track record in project planning and implementation of resettlement and rural development programs.
- D. Technical and Managerial capability of the firm in the areas of in resettlement, community development and participation, including familiarity with local languages and customs. (Provide only the structure of the organization, general qualifications and number of key staff. Do not provide CV of the staff. Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.)
- Knowledge of the prevailing land acquisition and resettlement laws and processes of Zanzibar and the World Bank or similar, and experience in resettlement activities on the island will be an added advantage.

The attention of interested NGO is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. NGO intending to submit expression of interest should not have conflict of interest and unfair competitive advantage as per Bank's Procurement Regulations.

An NGO will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: www.majismz.go.tz and/or www.zanzibar-energy.com.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, 07:00 to 03:30pm East African Time. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person (hard copy along with a USB drive), or e-mail by 02:30pm EAT on January 25, 2022.

Ministry of Water Energy and Minerals
ZURA building 5th floor,
Procurement Unit, Room No. 502.
Attn: Saleh Said Suleiman (Project Coordinator)
P.O. Box 1569 Zanzibar
Maisara, Zanzibar
Tel: +255 776 858555
E-mail: procurement@majismz.go.tz and copy to saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz

REVISED RATES AND CHARGES EFFECTIVE 1st JANUARY 2022.

TRANSACTION/SERVICE	DETAILS	PREVIOUS BAND	PREVIOUS RATE	NEW BAND	NEW RATE
Cash Withdrawal - OTC	Current Account	TZS ≤ 500,000	6,500	TZS ≤ 100,000	7,000
		TZS 500,001 - 1,000,000	7,500	TZS 100,001 - 500,000	7,500
		TZS 1,000,000 - 5,000,000	8,500	TZS 500,001 - 1,000,000	8,000
		TZS 5,000,001 - 25,000,000	10,000	TZS 1,000,001 - 5,000,000	10,000
		TZS > 25,000,000	0.12% Max 177k	TZS 5,000,001 - 10,000,000	15,500
				TZS 10,000,001 - 15,000,000	20,000
				TZS 15,000,001 - 25,000,000	28,000
				> TZS 25,000,000	0.12% Max 177k
Cash Withdrawal - OTC	Savings Accounts	TZS < 100,000	4,720	TZS ≤ 100,000	4,920
		TZS 100,001 - 500,000	5,500	TZS 100,001 - 500,000	5,700
		TZS 500,001 - 5,000,000	6,000	TZS 500,001 - 1,000,000	6,200
		TZS > 5,000,000	0.12% Max 177k	TZS 1,000,001 - 5,000,000	8,100
				TZS 5,000,001 - 10,000,000	11,500
				TZS 10,000,001 - 15,000,000	17,500
				TZS 15,000,001 - 25,000,000	24,500
				> TZS 25,000,000	0.12% Max 177k
Cash Withdrawal - ATM	Cash withdrawal from ATM	5,000 - 150,000	1,300	5,000 - 100,000	1,300
		150,001 - 600,000	1,500	100,001 - 200,000	1,500
				200,001 - 600,000	1,700

PRODUCT/SERVICE	DETAILS	CURRENCY	PREVIOUS RATE	NEW RATE
Normal Savings: J20	Monthly Maintenance Fee	TZS	1,888	2,000
Current Account: Corporates	Monthly Maintenance Fee	TZS	17,700	20,000

PRODUCT/SERVICE	DETAILS	CURRENCY	PREVIOUS RATE	NEW RATE
Personal Loan	Facility Fee	TZS	1.77%	2.00%
		USD	1.77%	2.00%
		EUR	1.77%	2.00%
		GBP	1.77%	2.00%

PRODUCT/SERVICE	DETAILS	CURRENCY	PREVIOUS RATE	NEW RATE
ATM	Mini-Statement	TZS	299.00	350.00
MT 940	SWIFT Customer Statement Message	TZS	2,950.00	11,800.00
		USD	1.18	4.50
		EUR	1.18	4.50
		GBP	1.18	4.50
SimAccount	Mini-Statement	TZS	40.00	295.00
SimAccount	Balance Enquiry	TZS	40.00	350.00

PRODUCT/SERVICE	PREVIOUS BAND	PREVIOUS RATE	NEW BAND	NEW RATE
Commission on Government Securities	TZS 500,000 - TZS 50,000,000	30,000	Up to TZS 100 Min	70,000
	TZS 50,000,001 and Above	50,000	Above TZS 100 Min	100,000

PRODUCT	SEGMENT	CATEGORY	CURRENCY	PREVIOUS RATE	NEW RATE
Application Fees: First Application/Renewal	SME, MSE and Agri Loans	SME - Up to 300 Mln	All	236,000	Free
		SME - Up to 300 Mln - 1 Bln	All	413,000	Free
		SME - 1 Bln to 3 Bln	All	590,000	Free
		MSE	All	0.59%	Free
		Agri Loans: TZS 50 Mln - 300 Mln	All	413,000	Free
		Agri Loans: TZS 300 Mln - 3,000 Mln	All	590,000	Free
Facility Fee: First Application	SME, MSE and Agri Loans	SME	All	2.36%	1.77%
		MSE	All	1.77%	1.77%
		Agri Loans	All	2.36%	1.77%
Facility Fees: Renewals	SME, MSE and Agri Loans	SME - Up to 300 Mln	All	"1.2% min 236,000 no max"	"1.77% min 236,000 no max"
		SME - Up to 300 Mln - 1 Bln	All	"1.2% min 236,000 no max"	"1.77% min 236,000 no max"
		SME - 1 Bln to 3 Bln	All	"1.2% min 236,000 no max"	"1.77% min 236,000 no max"
		MSE	All	2.36%	2.36%
		Agri Loans: TZS 50 Mln - 300 Mln	All	"1.2% min 236,000 no max"	"1.77% min 236,000 no max"
		Agri Loans: TZS 300 Mln - 3,000 Mln	All	"1.2% min 236,000 no max"	"1.77% min 236,000 no max"
Restructuring Fee	SME, MSE and Agri Loans	SME, MSE and Agri Loans	All	0.59% of the restructured amount	0.59% of the restructured amount
Documentation and Legal Charges	MSE	MSE	All	0.5% of Loan Amount	0.59% of Loan Amount

PRODUCT/SERVICE	DETAILS	PREVIOUS RATE	NEW RATE
Credit Cards Gold	Joining Fee	23,600	Free
Credit Cards World Reward	Joining Fee	59,000	Free
Credit Cards Gold	Annual Fee	42,480	50,000
Credit Cards World Reward	Annual Fee	120,360	100,000

OTHER CHARGES				
DESCRIPTION	CURRENCY	PREVIOUS RATE	NEW RATE	
Cheque Normal Clearance(Same locality & Upcountry Cheques)"	TZS	590	N/a	
	USD	0.30	N/a	
	EUR	0.30	N/a	
	GBP	N/a	N/a	
Encashment of third party cheque without checklist	TZS	11,800	Free	
	USD	Equiv	Free	
	EUR	Equiv	Free	
	GBP	Equiv	Free	
CCTV image retrieval for ATM per transaction	TZS	118,000	Free	
	USD	N/a	Free	
	EUR	N/a	Free	
	GBP	N/a	Free	
Pay on Application and Identification	TZS	0.3% Min 23,600: Max 295,000	N/a	

All Rates and Charges are VAT inclusive





REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI) (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL SELECTION)

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
ZANZIBAR ENERGY SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AND
ACCESS PROJECT

CREDIT NUMBER: 68970-TZ
CTF LOAN NUMBER: TF0B5747-TZ
CTF GRANT NUMBER: TF0B5660-TZ

Assignment Title: Consultancy Services for Energy Efficiency Strategy of Zanzibar
Reference No: P169561

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), through The United Republic of Tanzania, intends to implement the Zanzibar Energy Sector Transformation and Access Project (ZESTA) with financing obtained from the World Bank. RGoZ intends to apply part of the funding for the consulting services of Energy Efficiency Strategy of Zanzibar

Objective

The objective of this assignment is to support RGoZ in developing an Energy Efficiency strategy and action plan to promote and sustain overall energy efficiency improvement in Zanzibar.

Scope of assignment

The Consulting firm will be required to perform the following tasks:

- Review of existing policy and institutional framework and financial instruments and incentives to support the implementation of energy efficiency programs and targets. This task will conduct a detailed stock taking of the existing policies, incentives, and institutional mechanisms related to energy efficiency, and assess their effectiveness and identifies any existing gaps to the energy efficiency implementation strategies;
- Identification of local barriers to and review of international experiences in energy efficiency improvement. This task shall analyze and identify the local barriers to energy efficiency improvement by sector i.e. industry, commercial buildings, public sector, residential etc. that prevent meaningful implementation and financing of these measures. The consultant shall then review international experience and in a matrix propose options for solutions from global experience to address each of Zanzibar's main barriers;
- Review of key international experiences in promoting and implementing EE programs. Globally, OECD member countries have a long history in energy efficiency and have accumulated experiences in formulating and successfully implementing related policies. More recently, some emerging economies are beginning to achieve significant energy efficiency improvement by adapting policies to their own unique circumstances. This task will summarize the various types of policies and measures and distill the key experiences and lessons which could be relevant to be applied in the context of Zanzibar;
- Develop of estimate of energy efficiency potential by sector. Using macro data (e.g. energy intensity, growth forecasts, utility data etc.) and micro data (e.g. 5-10 walk-through audits of in select facilities/sub-sectors, equipment consumption and sales data etc.) to determine the technical and economic market potential for energy efficiency.
- Assessment of energy efficiency improvement potential and the cost effectiveness of energy efficiency investment in select high-profile subsectors. This task will identify key systems/equipment/sub-sectors and detail the specific types of interventions and programs that could be developed to realize the identified energy efficiency savings. The interventions should be ranked through cost benefit analysis, ease of implementation etc. For each main system, the consultant should propose possible approaches (e.g. information campaigns, dedicated credit line financing, incentives for audit/investment, guidebooks/case studies utility programs etc. This task will also include an assessment of previous demand side management (DSM) initiatives, their impact and sustainability and propose further measures;
- Assessment of energy efficiency and conservation potential in the electricity supply industry (ESI). This will include a review of previous demand side management (DSM) initiatives, their impact and sustainability propose further measures. In addition, supply side energy efficiency in the ESI shall be assessed;
- Institutional and legal framework, funding and detailed implementation plans. Based on the menu of systems and approaches developed in the previous tasks and the requisite stakeholder consultation, the Consultant shall propose an institutional set-up and develop conducive guidelines for RE & EE to manage the implementation of energy efficiency in Zanzibar. This will set minimum technical requirements for energy performance of buildings, offices etc. It will also develop and establish a compliance enforcement system for buildings energy code based on building 'energy passport' or 'energy performance certificates. This should include funding levels and potential sources, staffing coordination mechanisms etc. For each agreed initiative the Consultant shall prepare a detailed implementation plan that shall include an objective statement, barriers to be addressed, target participants, actions to be undertaken, indicators to assess program efficacy, cost-benefit analysis, funding and financing requirements, evaluation plan etc.
- Roadmap of key Government actions and next steps. Based on a detailed review and assessment of the economic and sector conditions in Zanzibar as well as the outputs of the previous tasks, the Consultant shall develop a roadmap with the key actions for the RGoZ to take. This will include policies, regulations, testing and enforcement, energy efficiency programming, incentives, information dissemination etc.
- RISE Indicators. The Consultant may wish to refer to the Readiness for Investment in Sustainable Energy (RISE www.rise.worldbank.org) indicators for a list of policies as well as benchmarks with other countries.
- Capacity building. The Consultant will be expected to provide local and international study tour related to RE&EE and also to devise a capacity building program, that will include, the hands-on implementation of 3 – 4 energy efficiency programs on a pilot basis, in order to support the strengthening the capacity of local individuals/institutions throughout the assignment. Furthermore, the technical support will be expected to reaffirm the staffs on how to design the buildings complying with Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) by using the building simulation software. The consultant shall procure energy simulation software (Design Builder and IDA-ICE).
- Stakeholder workshops. The Consultant will be expected to carry out and fund consultative and validation workshops, including venue provision, supply of stationary and identifying and sending invitations to participants.

The assignment will be undertaken over a period of approximately eight (8) calendar months from the date of contract effectiveness. The envisaged input of the Consultant is twelve (12) man-months.

The Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals now invites eligible consulting firm to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consulting firm should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. The consulting firm (or consortium of firms) should have at least the following qualifications and experience:

A. Core Business and year is Business

- At least ten (10) years' experience in consulting work of which five (5) years must be in similar assignments.

B. Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the below:

- Must have successfully carried out at least three (3) assignments of similar nature and scope in the energy sectors in the Sub-Saharan Africa region or similar conditions.

Technical and Managerial capability of the firm in the areas of power supply, energy efficiency, and demand side management. (Provide only the structure of the organization, general qualifications and number of key staff. Do not provide CV of the staff. Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.)

The attention of interested consulting firm is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Firms intending to submit expression of interest should not have conflict of interest and unfair competitive advantage as per Bank's Procurement Regulations.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. For firms participating in JV, each member of JV should independently meet the requirement of EoI criteria. For firm participating as association of lead and subconsultant, only the experience and qualification of lead firm will be assessed as per EoI criteria

A Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: www.majismz.go.tz and/or www.zanzibar-energy.com.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, 07:00 to 03.30pm East African Time. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person (hard copy along with an USB drive), or e-mail by 02.30pm EAT on January 25, 2022.

Ministry of Water Energy and Minerals
ZURA building 5th floor,
Procurement Unit, Room No. 502.
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P.O. Box 1569 Zanzibar
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Tel: +255 776 858555
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Revenue collection system collapse occasions 3bn/- loss at Mwanza CC

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

Collapse of the revenue collection system in Mwanza City Council is said to have caused 3bn/- loss.

This was revealed by the Regional Commissioner Robert Gabriel at the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) meeting.

The RC said the City of Mwanza has been adversely affected in regard to revenue collection, some 3bn/- that was supposed to be collected could not be collected due to the disruption.

According to reports on internal

revenue collection for the period July to November this year, the City of Mwanza had collected 7.9bn/- out of 17.7bn/- earmarked.

He explained that the money could not be collected because the system failed to issue Control Number, and added that if it was a just disruption why Mwanza City only and He said security organs have launched inquiries on the mishap on what really happened until it failed to issue the Control Number.

"I am instructing City Council officials to make more revenue

collection efforts and find out why the system failed, and during this time for preparations of the budget, planning officers should make sure to invent new revenue sources.

"The Council receives 200,000/- revenue but there is a person in the middle who receives 1.5bn/-, hence security organs should look into the revenue issue with a 'security eye' as people are in need of development," said RC Gabriel.

He said the revenue from the new sources to be invented should be channeled to development projects in education and health sectors.



Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd logistics director Haji Ally (R) hands over one of reflective jackets and 70 LED signal traffic gear to Kinondoni district traffic officer Notker Kilewa (L) at an event in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The equipment are meant to support the police force to perform their responsibilities efficiently. Centre is chairman of road safety committee for Kinondoni, Idd Mohamed Azzan. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Coca-Cola donates reflective jackets, LED signal traffic wand to traffic police in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

COCA-COLA Kwanza Ltd has handed over 200 reflective jackets and 70 LED signal traffic wand to Kinondoni traffic police to support the force to carry out their mandate of enforcing traffic efficiently and ensuring the safety of road users.

The handover ceremony was held at Coca-Cola Kwanza's office in Dar es Salaam yesterday and was attended by the Kinondoni Regional Traffic Officer and Coca-Cola Kwanza staff led by Logistics Director, Haji Ally.

Speaking during the event, Ally said: "As part of our commitment to safety we believe in the safety of the community we serve and that is why we have decided to support the Kinondoni traffic police with 200 reflective jackets and 70 LED signal traffic wand worth 8m/-."

According to Ally, the donated equipment would increase work efficiency of the police force, thus ensuring safety of all road users.

"We hope the support can be of great use to traffic officers as they marshal the highways especially during the forthcoming festive season," said the beverage company's Logistics Director.

Ally called upon other stakeholders to collaborate with the government in value adding projects, promising that Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd will continue to support efforts made by the government and its institutions to improve and protect the lives of Tanzanians.

Kinondoni District Traffic Officer, Notker Kilewa hailed Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd for their generosity, noting, the donation is of great importance while they carry out their duties on the road.

"The reflector jackets and LED signal traffic wand will enable our officers to be visible from a far to maintain traffic rules and guidelines. The equipment will immediately be dispatched to district traffic officers and stations regional wide," said Kilewa.

Earlier, Chairman of the road safety committee in Kinondoni District, Idd Mohamed Azzan added the timing is a blessing because the festive season is when road travel numbers are at their highest and so are accident cases.

Azzan said: "Achieving lasting change in improved road safety requires the government, private partners, civil society and the community to work together. I am particularly gratified with Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd for their commitment to this cause and playing their part diligently."

Community called upon to identify parents with twins for assistance

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TANZANIANS have been called on to report families that have twins that are faced with economic hardships for them to receive assistance for the upkeep of such children.

The call was given in Dar es Salaam Tuesday this week by the chairman of Eden Diana Mbena, the Chairman of Twins Foundation, an institution that assist parents with twins.

Mbena made the appeal while at Buguruni Mivinjeni area while handing over various items including maize flour, sugar and soap to Grace Ngoje, the mother of triplets.

She said in the society there are parents with twins who are faced with hard living including Grace who was identified by government executives of Buguruni Mivinjeni area.

She said Grace was living a tough life; her meals are not certain due to lack of money to buy food and other

necessities and added that all those living in similar situation should be identified.

"As Chairman of Eden Twins Foundation, received reports about this parent, and in collaboration with other stakeholders, we have come to assist her, whatever little we have," she added.

She said Eden Twins Foundation is still a nascent institution and has been making efforts to go around parents with twins to assist them.

For her part, Grace said the man

who impregnated her ran away when her pregnancy was three months and that she has been fending for herself to up-bring her triplets who were now one month old.

"I live a hard life, sometimes when the kids cry a lot I get the urge to run away, abandon them, but I hesitate. I am very thankful for the assistance as it has encouraged me to tolerate," Grace said.

She further said she sells vegetables at the Ilala market the business that does not earn her much to meet the kids' up-keeping needs.

Buguruni Mivinjeni Street Chairman Fadiga Legele said the parent lives a very hard life and that his office has been making efforts to mobilise various stakeholders to come to her assistance.

She said in his street she has report of Grace living a hard life to support her triplets and added that there could be others in similar situation.



I live a hard life, sometimes when the kids cry a lot I get the urge to run away, abandon them, but I hesitate....



Shinyanga regional commissioner Sophia Mjema (L) hands over 50 mattresses to Shinyanga regional Prison commander Lazaro Nyanga (R) to reduce congestion. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Youth life skills counseling for social, economic development

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

YOUTH have been urged to attend various camps on life skills which would help them to be independent and self-minded for their social and economic improvement.

The call was aired in Dar es Salaam by Melkiado January who is Business Development Consultant during a one day youth life skills boot camp held in the city.

The camp was organized by a Dar es Salaam based organization Clear vision Business Consult in collaboration with Soft Literacy Hub aimed at imparting life skills to youth.

January said that lack of life skills is one of the major problems which is facing many youth to meet their goals hence more efforts were needed by the government and community to rectify the challenge.

He said the course was designed to respond to the high demands from employers and parents on the lack of life skills from youth.

“So the course aimed to make youth independent minded, self-disciplined and determined to their Goals,” he added.

January, who consults with Clear Vision Tanzania and facilitated one course, mentioned topics which were taught during the course as life skills values, personal

entrepreneurship characteristics, goal setting, time management and self organisation, saving and money management.

He also said Clear Vision and Softy Literacy Hub also collaborated with UTT AMIS to offered financial literacy skills to youth which include saving and money management skills.

Speaking during the one of the courses organized recently by his organization, January was quoted as asking small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) to stick to digital marketing in their business in order to increase their income and state coffers. He said that digital marketing is not yet embraced by many Tanzanians, including entrepreneurs.

He said there is enough room for the SMEs to use it in promoting their products or brands.

He noted that methods of digital marketing include website, social media networks, email marketing and online advertising.

January lists some advantages of the platform as it can reach targeted audiences more effectively, delivers immediate results, allows direct response from intended audience and it is more cost effective.

However he cautioned that it can be harmful if not done professionally.

Explaining further, he said the website is important because it can help to gain business

Education stakeholders urged to abide by principles, guidelines

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

EDUCATION inspectors, head teachers and other officials have been urged to abide by principles and guidelines aimed at improving teaching and learning environment in their respective areas.

Ministry of Education Science and Technology Deputy Permanent Secretary Prof Caroline Nombo made the call when winding up a quality assurance training meeting in Songea, Ruvuma region which involved quality assurance officers, head teachers from the region.

He said the quality assurance training which has been conducted countrywide is aimed at bringing changes to the education sector as well as improve learning in schools across the country.

Prof Nombo said those trained should be custodians of the training by overseeing that learning was provided with quality to ensure the country's education sector was strong.

For his part, the coordinator for education in Ruvuma Zephania Japhet said a total of 11,580 educationists have participated in the training whereby 584 participants were from Ruvuma region.

The Director for quality assurance in the ministry of education science and technology Ephrasia Bachuma called upon participants to keep a close eye to children especially girls who faced various challenges that made them to fail to continue with studies.

The chairman for the training Abdallah Mchelu hailed the government for organizing such trainings for teachers saying they will go a long way into improving learning in the country.

Widening of mountain road to boost Giderawi village economic wellbeing

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

The widening of the two-km road on Mt Dabir in Dabir Ward, Babati district is expected to push up the economies of more than 500 households of Gidewari village that depends on farming and livestock keeping.

Speaking to this paper last week, Gidewari villagers hailed Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) for the work saying upon completion will provide opportunities to crops and livestock traders to go to the area with large trucks which in the past could not do so.

Gidewari Village Chairman Baltazar Akonay said the widening of the road will enable big trucks to pass through it.

He further said more than 500 Gidewari village households and those from neighbouring villages from Bashnet ward will benefit.

He said the villagers cultivate pigeon peas, beans, grams and sorghum hence these crops, including livestock will be purchased by dealers who in the past failed to reach the area due to the narrow road along Mt Dabir.

“We are all farmers here, and one man can harvest up to 200 bags of crops, while the lowest harvest per person is 20 bags who we regard as lazy,” said Akonay.

He also hailed the government for providing funds to TANROADS for the road project which he said will also greatly reduce accidents.

Speaking to this paper, Gidewari Branch CCM Chairman, Petro Matle said the road will strengthen the economic wellbeing of the people in the area as they will also be able to sell the salt they produce.

For his part, Manyara Region TANROADS Manager, Bashiri Rwesingisa said after the road along Mt Dabir is widened, economic activities of the people in the area will receive a huge boost.

“We are all farmers here, and one man can harvest up to 200 bags of crops, while the lowest harvest per person is 20 bags who we regard as lazy”



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Use recent environment funds for indigenous groups to clear out Lake Manyara ecosystem

INTRIGUING reports were being heard over the past week of herds of wildebeest, zebra and others meandering around farms and habitations near Lake Manyara, as the lake flooded and expanded, removing a substantial swathe of feeding ground from the wildlife. They thus strayed in large numbers into the surrounding areas they wouldn't normally reach, and that spelled trouble for those living in the neighbourhood. They are firstly harmful to people and then predators follow them in new feeding areas.

What the wildlife authorities in the area are doing is to dart the animals and then relocate them to safer zones in the wider Serengeti ecosystem, of which Lake Manyara National Park and the adjacent Tarangire National Park are part of the wider ecosystem. That has worked or shall work for the moment, but trying to project that situation into the future suggests that the solution is unsustainable, as the reported trends shall intensify rather than lessen. Droughts are becoming more acute, and flooding even more hazardous.

Even without the recent flooding, there were already substantial setbacks in how the wildlife authorities in the area manage population pressures and a usable ecosystem where vital migratory routes for animals are left intact. If they were in charge of policy, stakeholders like the Frankfurt Zoological Society would definitely suggest population displacement, but this isn't what conservation groups worldwide agreed on the situation during sideline meetings around the global environmental

conference (COP26) in Glasgow. They reached a formula for assisting indigenous groups in the area not to harm the wildlife ecosystems.

Not much has been said about the cash reportedly placed for that purpose, which media reports said go way over one billion US dollars, much higher than the recovery and stabilisation credit from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) earlier, which was given at just over one billion dollars. It is to this kind of situation that the cash could be leveraged, to pick out the population groups and finance their safe relocation into properly agricultural areas, in Manyara Region or elsewhere. That can definitely be done.

It is even possible that this is the sort of scenario that environmental agencies around the world have in mind, if one recalls the inspiring title of three books by the founder of the Frankfurt society, the late Dr Bernhard Grzimek, that is, 'Serengeti Shall Never Die.' If populations are allowed to expand, and in the past six months the government has refrained from clearing out the population especially around the less expansive zone of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, this motto is set for ruin. The cash so availed needs to be used for the purpose of reassuring the viability of conservation ecosystems all over the country, especially where migratory paths or corridors have been invaded. It is understandable if the government hesitated to undertake a population relocation with its budgetary resources but there is now a new turn. So far authorities are silent if the cash is there already, and how to use it.

Big powers seem excessively neutral in Ethiopian conflict

AFRICAN countries know that foreign countries can't be expected to fight their wars, that ultimately it is up to each country to keep law and order within its borders, but since a breakdown of the same often involves availability or resources from outside to internal rebellious groups, seeking outside support is unavoidable. Some of it was available to Ethiopia from its former province of Eritrea owing to the bitter history of warfare between the ethnic groups fighting for control of central government, or breaking away. It didn't last long and more recently Ethiopia looked like it was falling apart with advancing rebels.

That situation is in the course of being reversed, as the rebels had stretched into other provinces to unite with other groups discontented with reforms in Addis Ababa, and launched a multipronged assault to surround the capital from various sides. Those studied in warfare were wondering if the rebels had the strength and resource base to sustain that onslaught, and after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed left the work of governing in caretaker hands to lead the resistance to this onslaught, things appear to be changing. And it also appears it is regional powers in the neighbourhood and further north that are helping out, visibly.

While Ethiopia wasn't actually being demanded to accept conditions of the rebels, the emphasis really was on the federal authorities not to press its case in the matter, let matters slide in a direction

that was unpredictable. At present the rebels have opted to move out of other provinces as the positions are now unsustainable, and urge their friends in global humanitarian camps to tell the federal government to stop operations in Tigray province, which implies that there is a war between Tigray and Ethiopia, a faulty position. The issue is that the province needs to lay down arms and recognise federal authority there.

It is possible that rebel leaders look upon the Eritrean example to try to secede but the party of so-called secession was in office in Addis Ababa for the better part of 30 years, from the time that Meles Zenawi replaced Mengistu Haile Mariam in 1991 when Eritrea formally seceded, to 2019. Eritrea was, on the contrary, seized by Emperor Haile Selassie in 1962 to be made part of Ethiopia, partly on account of its long coastline, and anyway the people of the area are kindred. That is history, but Tigray doesn't have such excuse, that it had for the better part of the late colonial period developed as a separate entity, etc.

Africa can't afford to ignore the fact that thousands of people have lost their lives and many are suffering because a party leadership decided that 'if we aren't ruling in the capital, then we separate and form an independent country.' That is a morally faulty position, and coercing the federal authorities to look the other way as the country breaks apart isn't exactly a responsible position either. That is what it really is.



Unplanned rural urbanisation must be stopped



By Special Correspondent

URBAN people "buying" a small plot of communal land near to Harare to build a house are running a number of personal risks and are fooling themselves that they are getting a bargain.

For a start, communal land cannot be sold. It is held in trust by the State for those who can show they have land entitlement in the particular community. So what people appear to be buying in legal theory is an allocation of trust land, and that can be reversed almost immediately if it can be shown that the allocation was done corruptly or not in accordance with the rules, both traditional and legal.

The result is that the "buyer" has zero security of tenure and can be moved off the land without compensation.

The second major error is that people think they are getting a bargain. All land, as land, is cheap and a few hundred square metres does not cost much unless the location factor is so great that it adds a lot to the final value. What creates the value and creates the bulk of the selling price is the servicing, the roads, the sewers, the water mains and the power grid.

The cheap stands people think they are buying in communal lands have zero services. They are part of a farm. This causes trouble from the beginning, when people need water and would like a power connection. And on small plots sewage disposal becomes a serious problem so that it does not contaminate the water supplies. Latrines and wells close together is considered a very bad idea. This is one reason why, in theory, 4 000 square metres is considered the minimum size housing plot where there is no sewer connection and especially where there is no water supply.

The potential legal, health and planning problems on a small housing stand in communal areas rise dramatically if anyone was daft enough to try and get a subdivision of a resettlement farm. Here the State is in direct control and any attempt to subdivide is likely to bring prompt and heavy response.

Of course State land can be rezoned as residential. This is how quite a few new suburbs are created with a State-owned farm being zoned for housing, properly laid out and planned, the services put in and the land subdivided and then sold. The original land might have been free; the final price then is the cost of the services.

Private land can also be subdivided for housing and frequently is. But again a developer wanting to subdivide a farm has to gain the planning approval and put in the services. Even when you have a plot in an existing urban area that can be split, you are selling a serviced plot on the bit you are not using yourself and the planning authority is already in place.

What is very important is that rural land is not called urban land and sold as such without going through the fairly expensive provision of services and sorting out the town planning requirements. When this is neglected we know exactly what you get, a rural slum if the settlement is small and Epworth if it is larger.

There is need for more serviced land to be made available, and for that matter need for more of this urban land to be used for flats and other higher-density housing so we do not see Harare, Norton and Mazowe becoming a continuous urban area. That is now being worked on but while people can expect State and council schemes to be without profit, they cannot expect them to be subsidised. Private schemes will always have a profit margin.

Some of those moving out into rural areas say they are doing so because they want to live away from a big city and a far more peaceful and restful area. Well this is fine. There are people around the world who work in cities and live in villages or very small towns. But the point is that those villages are recognised, legal land rights and basic services are sorted out and, critically, the residents pay their rates and so the authorities can afford to build the schools and other social amenities they need.

Indeed some of the rural district councils could even work out how these small semi-urban settlements could be laid out, how the tax revenue they generate could be spent, and the sort of contribution they could make.

There is even a strong argument for such settlements far from cities. Many people in Zimbabwe maintain a tie of some sort with the rural community they, or their parents, or their grandparents came from. Some might well want to retire there one day, but possibly with urban amenities like running water. Again some smart planning could allow this, with again the rates able to support the wanted services.

Meanwhile we need to prevent, promptly, the unplanned rural slums. Traditional leaders obviously can, and are, playing their part. Some chiefs are already taking action against the lowest levels of traditional leadership where the corruption seems to be most intense.

But they should not be left to do this themselves. Selling State land, or selling a right to occupy State land, is clearly corrupt and so criminal proceedings can take place. Little used at the moment, for some reason, are the provisions in our planning legislation that criminalise a fair swathe of breaches of the planning rules and regulations.

Those provisions should be used. They can even be applied against someone who has clear title to the land being subdivided and sold off without the proper planning procedures being first met.

We need to remember that every mistake we make now means that there will be a mess that someone else will have to clean up later. And meanwhile it is the corrupt, the land barons and other extremely unpleasant people who are making the money, almost always in breach of some criminal law.

But things like zero planning, wrongly sited settlements that are almost impossible to service with water pipes and sewers, overcrowded schools because the new people are not paying the rates to extend them or build more, and the rest of the disasters we get when we ignore basic common sense, let alone the law, simply mean huge expenditure down the line.



Indeed some of the rural district councils could even work out how these small semi-urban settlements could be laid out, how the tax revenue they generate could be spent, and the sort of contribution they could make

CUZCO, Peru

“When I was a little girl we didn’t suffer from water shortages like we do now. Today we are experiencing more droughts, our water sources are drying up and we cannot sit idly by,” Kely Quispe, a small farmer from the community of Huasao, located half an hour from Cuzco, the capital of Peru’s ancient Inca empire, told IPS.

She is one of the 80 members of the Agroecological School of the Flora Tristan Peruvian Women’s Center, a non-governmental institution that has worked for the recovery of water sources through traditional techniques known as seeding and harvesting water in this part of the southern Andean region of Cuzco.

Muñapata, Huasao and Sachac are the three rural Quechua-speaking communities in the province of Quispicanchi, located between 3150 and 3800 meters above sea level, that have so far benefited from the project. The feminist-oriented institution promotes solutions based on nature and community work to address the problem of water scarcity and inadequate water use practices.

“We want to boost water security as well as gender equality because they are two sides of the same coin,” Elena Villanueva told IPS. On Dec. 14 she presented in this city the results of the initiative whose first phase was carried out in 2020 and 2021, with the support of the Basque Development Cooperation Agency and Mugen Gaietetik, an international association for cooperation with countries of the developing South also based in Spain’s northern Basque region.

According to the National Water Authority (ANA), Peru is the eighth country in the world in terms of water availability, with a rich hydrodiversity of glaciers, rivers, lakes, lagoons and aquifers. However, various factors such as inefficient management of water and uneven territorial distribution of the population, in addition to climate change, make it impossible to meet consumption demands.

“The lack of water severely affects families in rural areas because they depend on small-scale agriculture for their livelihoods. The melting of glaciers as well as the increase in the frequency and intensity of droughts due to climate change are reducing water availability,” Villanueva explained.

This impact, she said, is not neutral. Because of the gender discrimination and social disadvantages they face, it is rural women who bear the brunt, as their already heavy workload is increased, their health is undermined, and their participation in training and decision-making spaces is further limited.

“Moreover, although they are the ones who use water to ensure food, hygiene and health, and to irrigate their crops, they are not part of the decision-making with regard to its management and distribution,” she stressed.

The expert said that precisely in response to demand by the women farmers at the Agroecological School, where they receive technical and rights training, they are focusing on reviving water harvesting techniques used in ancient Peru, while promoting the equal participation of women in rural communities in the process.

She said that approximately 700 families living in poverty, some 3,500 people – about 11 percent of the population of the three communities – will benefit from the works being carried out.

Harvesting water

So far, these works are focused on the afforestation of 15 hectares and the construction of six “cochas” – the name for small earthen ponds, in the Quechua language – and an infiltration ditch, as part of a plan that will be expanded with other initiatives over the next two years.

The ditch, which is one kilometer long in 10-meter stretches, 60 centimeters deep and 40 centimeters wide and is located in the upper part of the community, collects rainwater instead of letting it run down the slopes.

The technique allows water to in-



Women and men from the rural community of Sachac, at more than 3500 meters above sea level, build a kilometer-long infiltration ditch to capture rainwater and use it to irrigate crops in Cuzco, in Peru’s Andes highlands. CREDIT: Janet Nina/IPS

Rural women in Peru seed water today to harvest it tomorrow

filtrate slowly in order to feed natural springs, high altitude wetlands or small native prairies, as well as the cochas.

In their communal work, villagers use local materials and greenhouse thermal blankets to help retain water. In addition, they have used extracted soil to raise the height of the ditch, to keep rainwater from running over the top.

Although the ditch has been receiving rainwater this month (the rainy season begins in November-December), the ecosystem impact is expected to be more visible in about three years when the cocha ponds have year-round water availability, helping villagers avoid the shortages of the May-October dry season.

Several community members explained to IPS that they will now be able to harvest water from the ditch while at the same time caring

for the soil, because heavy rain washes it away and leaves it without nutrients. Some 150 agricultural plots will also benefit from a sprinkler irrigation system, thanks to the project.

Since agriculture is the main livelihood of the families and this activity depends on rainwater, the main impact will be the availability of water during the increasingly prolonged dry periods to irrigate their crops, ensure harvests and avoid hunger, for both villagers and their livestock.

Eucalyptus and pine, huge consumers of water

The mayor of the Sachac community, Eugenio Turpo Quispe, told IPS that this is the first time that water seeding and harvesting prac-

tices have been carried out in his area. “We had not had the opportunity before; these works have begun thanks to the women who proposed forestation and the construction of cochas and ditches,” he said.

The local leader lamented that due to misinformation, two decades ago they planted pine and eucalyptus in the highlands of his community. “They have dried up our water sources, and when it rains the water disappears, it does not infiltrate. Now we know that out of ten liters of rain that falls on the ground, eight are absorbed by the eucalyptus and only two return to the earth,” he explained during the day that IPS spent in the community.

Turpo Quispe said they had seen forestation and construction of cochas and ditches in other communities, but did not know how

to replicate them, and that only through the Flora Tristán Center’s project have they been able to implement these solutions to tackle the serious problem of shrinking water sources.

In Sachac, the three techniques have been adopted with the participation of women and men in communal work that began at six in the morning and ended at four in the afternoon. “Side by side we have been planting native plants, digging ditches and hauling stones for the cochas,” the mayor said proudly.

In this community, 9,000 seedlings of queuñas (Polylepis) and chachacomos (Escallonia Resinosas) – tree species that were used in the times of the ancient Inca empire – were planted. “These trees consume only two liters of rainwater and give eight back to Pachamama (Mother Earth),” Turpo Quispe said. As part of the project, the community has built fences to protect crops and has relocated grazing areas for their animals.

“We have planted seedlings and in 10 or 15 years our children and grandchildren will see all our hills green and with living springs so that they do not suffer a lack of water,” the mayor said.

Kely Quispe from the community of Huasao is equally upbeat: “With water we can irrigate our potatoes, corn and vegetables; increase our production to have enough to sell and have extra money; take care of our health and that of the whole family, and prevent the spread of covid.”

“But just as we use water for life, it is also up to us to participate on an equal footing with men in irrigation committees and community councils to decide how it is distributed, conserved and managed,” she added.

The decade of water security

Villanueva of the Flora Tristán Center said it was important for the country’s local and regional authorities to commit to guaranteeing water security in rural areas within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development was declared for 2018-2028 by the United Nations and SDG6 is dedicated to water and sanitation, to ensure universal and equitable access for all, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, and support the participation of local communities in improving management and sanitation.

“At the national level, public policies aimed at seeding and harvesting water should be strengthened because they revive the communities’ ancestral knowledge, involving sustainable practices with low environmental impact that contribute to guaranteeing the food security of families,” she said.

However, Villanueva remarked, in order to achieve their objectives, these measures must not only promote equal participation of men and women, but must also be accompanied by actions to close the gender gap in education, access to resources, training and violence that hinder the participation and development of rural women.



Kely Quispe, a farmer trained at the Flora Tristán Center’s Agroecological School, holds a tomato in her organic garden in the farming community of Huasao. Her vegetable production depends on access to water for irrigation, but climate change has made water more scarce in the Andes highlands region of Cuzco in southern Peru. CREDIT: Janet Nina/IPS

Financing sexual reproductive health is empowering youth

By Beatrice Philemon

SEXUAL Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) is key for development of any nation. But its access in a youth-friendly environment manned by well-trained staff has been a challenge in Tanzania, just like many other developing countries.

Activists are now appealing to the government through district councils to allocate budget for SRHR education amongst adolescents and youth, training of health-care workers and establishment of service delivery points.

Samwely Mkwatwa, National Project Manager at Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) says so far there is no allocation of public funds to finance SRHR, leaving the burden to a handful of Non-Governmental Organizations.

"We believe the budget will help adolescents, guardians and parents to get proper education on SRHR, help Tanzania to have well-trained healthcare workers providing SRHR services to young people and assist the government to have correct information on what is required for adolescent girls and boys so that they can access adolescent and youth-friendly health services in their localities," he said.

He said there is need to invest in this area because majority of adolescents and young people are not knowledgeable enough about SRHR services and where they can access the same.

A research conducted by Action Aid Tanzania in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region and Mbozi District in Songwe Region shows that limited number of HIV and SRHR service delivery points for provision of adolescent girls and youth-friendly services is the main challenge facing both areas.

In a bid to address this challenge, UMATI and ActionAid Tanzania are implementing a project called Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight Capacity for Rights-based Public Resources Management in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa (PSA).

The main goal of the project is to achieve improved accountability and gender responsiveness in public resource management particularly in the areas of HIV/SRH services for adolescents and youth and contribute to the realization of Southern African Development Community (SADC) health commitments for Tanzania.

Under the project, adolescents and young people will be trained on SRHR and how to utilize adolescent and youth-friendly health services in service delivery points located within their respective towns and villages as well as how to establish platforms to discuss issues relating to reproductive health.

Currently, the project is being



Desteria Manyanga (right) Programme Officer for Adolescent Reproductive Health and Gender at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, speaks recently on eight national standards and criteria for service delivery points that offer adolescent and youth-friendly health services across the country.

implemented in 12 villages in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region and Mbozi District in Songwe Region with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The villages where the project is being implemented are Mvumi, Msowero, Ludewa, Ulaya, Muhenda, Chanzulu and Itete in Kilosa District and Iyula, Hasamba, Itaka, Zelezeta and Igamba in Mbozi District.

At regional level, ActionAid Tanzania in collaboration with UMATI is working with Regional Health Management Team (RHMT) to improve planning and identification of priorities and management of funds and performance for the provision of services.

At district level, they work with Council Health Management Team (CHMT) to provide technical support and supervision for quality, inclusive Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services and commodities at youth-friendly service delivery points.

At ward level, they work with Ward Development Council (WADC) to ensure issues of accessibility and availability of adolescent youth-friendly services are included in village budgets as well as village assemblies and councils to ensure accountability in healthcare.

At village level, project implementers work with village assemblies and village councils to ensure accountability in healthcare services.

Upendo Daudi, UMATI Technical Officer said so far over 500 adolescents and young people have been trained on SRHR, effects of early marriage, teenage pregnancies, abortion, HIV/Aids, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including the rights and responsibilities of youth within their localities.

"We decided to focus on adolescent girls and boys because, majority of them are not aware of sexual reproductive health rights, which in turn increases teenage pregnancy rates, HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases," she said.

Also, beneficiaries were sensitized

to go to nearby service delivery points (dispensaries and health centres) to access adolescent and youth-friendly health services. The project challenged the government to invest more in SRHR area, build service delivery points and have platforms to discuss health issues.

According to her, this will help beneficiaries to grow and develop in good health, avoid teenage pregnancies among girls, get the right information from health experts and obtain advisory services that respond to their sexual and reproductive health needs.

So far more than 500 adolescents and young people have been trained on SRHR in both districts and 12 village health committees have been also formed to ensure adolescents received adolescent youth-friendly health services.

Beneficiaries have established 16 youth platforms that comprise of 400 members who create awareness on SRHR to their peers both in schools and within their localities in collaboration with doctors and nurses.

They use platforms to discuss main challenges they encounter in reproductive health and how to solve the same, how to demand their rights and get it, business opportunities available within their villages and how to utilize them.

Through the knowledge and skills gained from UMATI, beneficiaries have been able to educate their peers on SRHR as well as identify the main challenges they face in their localities.

She named challenges identified as lack of adolescent and youth-friendly health services in their localities and service delivery points where adolescents can access the right information on SRHR and other health services, lack of qualified health workers specialized in SRHR services, poor infrastructure that prevent young people from accessing health services and inadequate education on SRHR to local communities.

Also, adolescent and young people are not given a chance to participate in decision-making so that they can say what they need to village health com-

mittees, village development councils and the national government.

So far, all the challenges raised have been submitted to the ward and villager leaders through various dialogues and youth platforms for actions.

"We need to pay attention to the health of adolescents and give them the right information and services to help them understand their sexuality and protect them from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases," she added.

Rehema Kasekwa (51), resident of Zelezeta village in Mbozi District said if adolescent girls and boys do not get the right information at the right time, they cannot meet their dreams and become vulnerable to early pregnancies and HIV/Aids.

She called on adolescents to use the skills acquired during the training to entice others to use youth-friendly health services in their localities to avert early and teenage pregnancies, diseases and early death.

Penina Brauni (25) who lives at Mvumi village in Kilosa District, a beneficiary of the training, said the project has made significant changes to adolescents in the village.

"Thanks to the knowledge and skills gained from the training, there is significant increase in the number of adolescents and young people visiting Mvumi dispensary every day to get information on SRHR and access adolescent and youth-friendly health services," she said.

The village health committee has provided special room for adolescents to access youth-friendly health services, something that was a taboo in the past.

The committee has also allocated special day (Saturday) for adolescents to access advisory services on reproductive health, HIV counseling and testing and SRHR services.

She called on UMATI and PSA project implementers to assist them access brochures and other teaching materials to distribute it to other youth who did not have a chance to attend the training.

Desteria Manyanga, Programme Of-

ficer-Adolescent Reproductive Health and Gender at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, said the ministry has developed seven national standards and criteria required for Service Delivery Points (SDP) namely dispensaries and health centres to offer adolescent and youth friendly health services across the country.

Standard one is on adolescents' health literacy which states that health management systems should ensure that adolescents are knowledgeable about their own health, and they know where and when to obtain health services.

Standard two is on parents and community support. It states that health Service Delivery Points (SDPs) should implement systems to ensure that parents, guardians and other community members and community organizations recognize the value of providing health services to adolescents and support such provision and the utilization of services by adolescents.

Standard three speaks about appropriate package of services. It requires SDPs to provide a package of information, counseling, diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation health services that fulfill the needs of all adolescents. It directs that services be provided in the SDP and through referral linkages and outreach.

Standard four is about service providers' competencies. It wants health service providers to demonstrate technical competence required to provide effective health services to adolescents. It states that both health service providers and support staff should respect, protect and fulfill adolescents' rights to information, privacy, confidentiality, nondiscrimination, non-judgmental attitude and respect.

Standard five is about facility characteristics. It states that an SDP should have a welcoming environment, sufficient space, convenient operating hours, and maintain privacy and confidentiality. Also, it must have the equipment, medicines, supplies and technology needed to ensure effective service provision to adolescents according to national policies and guidelines.

Standard six is about equity and non-discrimination. It states that health facilities should provide quality services to all adolescents irrespective of their ability to pay, age, sex, marital status, education level, ethnic origin, sexual behaviour, disabilities and other characteristics.

Standard seven is about data and quality service improvement. It requires SDPs to collect analyses and use data on service utilization and quality of service, disaggregated by age and sex, to support quality improvement. Also, it directs that SDP staff are supported to participate in continuous quality improvement.

And, standard eight is about adolescents' participation. It states that adolescents should be engaged in the design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health services and in decisions regarding their own care as well as in certain appropriate aspects of service provision.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

By Special Correspondent

IT covers 9 million sq miles from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean and from the Sahara in the north to Cape Point in the south. And in between lie some of the world's most ancient cultural sites and precious natural wonders.

However, despite its vast size, sub-Saharan Africa has never been proportionately represented on Unesco's world heritage list, its 98 sites dwarfed by Europe, North America and Asia.

Now, the first African to be made head of the world heritage centre has said that needs to change - and fast. Lazare Eloundou Assomo, a Cameroonian who led the reconstruction of the Timbuktu mausoleums after they were badly damaged in 2012 by Islamist fighters allied to al-Qaida, has said it will be a priority of his time in office.

"What we think has room for improvement is that, when you look at the list, you still, 50 years after [the signing of the world heritage convention], see that there are some regions of the world that are not equally represented in the list as compared to others," he told the Guardian.

"This is something that we, together with the [Unesco] member states and other state parties, have ... to address."

Assomo, who started in his new job earlier this month, said small island developing states had also historically suffered from a disproportionately low number of recognised sites. Of the 27 countries with no sites of any kind on the Unesco list, only four are not either in Africa or classed as a small island state.

At the other end of the spectrum, wealthy countries - such as Italy (58), China (56) and Germany (51) - have ratcheted up dozens of sites, making the most of the very tangible influx of money and tourism that



The Batammariba's traditional fortified mud tower houses of Koutammakou in Togo.

New head of Unesco world heritage centre wants to put Africa on the map

comes from the more abstract notion of recognising a country's heritage.

For Assomo, it is not a question of chasing numbers, but of using Unesco's collective cultural and financial clout to help underrepresented countries overcome the lack of resources and expertise that has proved an obstacle in the complex and costly nomination process.

"The training and capacity-building of heritage experts is an area where we will have to put more emphasis

[on] in the future to help address this imbalance," said Assomo. Unesco would like to see greater cooperation between member states, he added, with countries in Europe and other regions helping to fund training programmes.

"Africa is the cradle of humankind. It has so many cultural, natural sites that are important, which people value a lot," said Assomo. "But some categories of site in Africa are not necessarily the same type of categories that you find in other regions."

The "sacred forests" of west Africa - patches of land preserved over countless generations because of their religious and cultural significance - were a good example, he said. According to a recent study in Togo, the forests are as environmentally important as they are culturally precious, and, on a continent bearing the brunt of the climate crisis, their protection is vital.

"Africa is today ... on the frontline of the effect of climate change. This is also something ... which makes us

believe that mobilising our efforts for existing world heritage sites in Africa should be a priority," said Assomo.

Both natural habitats, such as the Niokolo-Koba national park in Senegal, and cultural treasures, such as Mozambique's San Sebastian fortress, battered by increasingly intense cyclones and heavy rains, are vulnerable to the changing climate. Assomo, a former Unesco head representative in Mali, is particularly worried about the impact on Timbuktu, the fabled city in the Sahara

- and world heritage site since 1988, which has been affected by long-term desertification.

"If we don't do something about the effect of climate change, about the natural disasters [that] continue multiplying ... If we don't do something about the growing [number of] forest fires; if we don't do something about hurricanes ... these sites are going to disappear.

"Our responsibility is to work with countries to ensure that we maintain them and we preserve them and we pass them on to the next generation. So for me, it's an urgent matter," said Assomo.

Africa's 98 world heritage sites range from the famous - Tanzania's Serengeti national park, for example - to the lesser-known, such as Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba, in Togo.

Fifteen African sites make up nearly 30% of the "in danger" world heritage list, due to a variety of threats including poaching, illegal logging and conflict. One site that is not yet on the endangered list is Lalibela in north Ethiopia, a place of pilgrimage and home to 11 medieval monolithic cave churches carved out of the rock, which in recent weeks has been fought over by government forces and Tigrayan rebels.

Assomo said he could not comment on "national issues". But whenever heritage sites became involved in conflict, Unesco has urged those in control to protect the sites from looting and vandalism, he said. Through his work in Timbuktu, where Unesco helped reconstruct the mausoleums wrecked in 2012, he has learned the value that cultural heritage can have in the aftermath of conflict.

He said: "That work has shown how culture and cultural heritage are important to help people recover from trauma, start having an economic living after the conflict, but also help bring back the social cohesion that was lost because of the conflict."

Private sector advised to be proactive in making agriculture more transformative

By Guardian Reporter

THROUGH the Second Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP II), Tanzania has articulated the central role of the private sector in agriculture, according to the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Kaspar Mmuya.

As per ASDP II, public investment in the agricultural sector does not directly produce the expected results such as productivity enhancement and poverty reduction, but rather facilitates the private sector (including farmers and commercial partners) to achieve the desired results and targets.

Mmuya noted that the government has created an enabling environment for private sector investment and is committed to continuing.

"The private sector must participate more actively in agriculture to enhance their contribution to the national income instead of waiting to make demands on the government on issues it can address," Mmuya noted.

He urged the private sector stakeholders to be more proactive in bringing faster agri-development at different levels, from input supplies, farm-level production, agro-processing, agriculture trade and agricul-

tural export.

He further commented on the importance of private sector investment in contributing towards industrialization in Tanzania, challenging the private sector to play a more significant role in ensuring a year-round supply of raw materials for the industrial sector as low installed agro-industry capacity is a considerable challenge.

The DPS made these remarks during a stakeholders' workshop to validate Joint Agriculture Sector Review (JSR) report recently in Dar es Salaam. The report reviewed the sector's performance for the period 2017/2018-2020/2021.

Production of this report is in line with the commitment to enhance mutual accountability for results and actions that African countries, including Tanzania, signed under the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.

The report was produced through a consultative and evidence-based process, which included two complementary studies: Agriculture Sector Review (ASR) and Agriculture public expenditure review (AgPER).

The JSR process was led by the Prime Minister's Office, ASDP II National Coordination Unit,



Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office Kaspar Mmuya addresses the Joint Agriculture Sector Review validation workshop in Dar es Salaam recently. Seated is the Tanzania AGRA Country Manager, Vianey Rweyendela (C) and Senior Agriculture Economist, World Bank, Emma Isinika Modamba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

and carried out by a national JSR Technical Team, composed of members from the Agriculture Sector Lead ministries (ASLMs) and the non-state actors.

ASR and AgPER studies were facilitated by four national consultants: Professor Deogratius Mushi, Professor Beatus Kundi, Selemani Omari and Dr Hussein Nassoro. The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank provided technical and financial support to the whole JSR process.

Evidence generated by the two studies will play a pivotal part in informing planning and decision making to improve systems for accelerating agriculture's efficiency and performance in Tanzania, said Vianey Rweyendela,

AGRA Country Manager.

The ASR 2017/2018 - 2020/2021 notes that the agricultural sector made notable performance during the review period. Dr Mushi said that there is improved provision and utilization of farm inputs and services, crop production is generally increasing for both food and cash crops with set targets for 2020 nearly or fully met. He added that the coun-

try's regulatory, institutional, and programmatic framework for agriculture is strong, well-aligned with the national vision and direction. However, significant challenges remain, such as inadequate resources to effectively implement ASDP II, low productivity levels, failure to reach performance targets in agricultural trade, and others.

Selemani Omari, the lead consultant for AgPER said that the total agricultural budget allocations between 2017/18 and 2019/20 were higher than TZS 585.2 billion for FY 2015/16. He noted that despite the increased allocation, the government expenditure on agriculture has remained low at 2.9% of the government budget, and the country is yet to meet the CAADP target of allocating at least 10 per cent of the government budget to agriculture.

Both ASR and AgPER call for enhanced resource allocation to agriculture which would further facilitate addressing performance challenges in the sector. Specifically, the two reports recommend more public spending to high return areas such as agricultural research, extension services, irrigation and resilience building to enhance climate change adaptation. They also recommend improvement on tracking of private sector investment and off-budget agricultural expenditures to better inform decisions.

Tanzania is implementing the Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP II), which aims to transform the country's agricultural systems and increase the productivity and income of smallholder farmers. AGRA work in Tanzania revolves around supporting ASDP II to benefit smallholder farmers.

Liberal facade hides Lebanon's patriarchy

Beirut, Lebanon

Despite its apparent liberalism, Lebanon scores low in gender equality, especially in politics.

According to the Gender Gap index, Lebanon ranks third last in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, with only Syria and Yemen, both plagued by war, scoring lower.

According to Reliefweb, since 2010, Lebanon has witnessed a consistent decline in its relative gender gap score - reaching close to zero in terms of political empowerment.

In November, incumbent Prime Minister Najib Mikati was criticized for saying that Lebanon's Independence Day celebrations were similar to a "divorced woman celebrating her wedding anniversary ... but let's not forget that if she had remained understanding until her last day in the marriage, she wouldn't be divorced."

Rima Hussein, professor at the Lebanese American University (LAU), says empowerment in the country is superficial.

"On the surface, we are seen as an example because Lebanon has a high number of educated women, with many female entrepreneurs. In appearance, we seem more liberated, but that does not translate into political empowerment at a practical level," she says in an exclusive inter-



Women played a major role in recent protests in Lebanon. However, this has not translated into political power. Credit: Mona Alami

view with IPS.

There is only one woman in the current government.

In the previous election in 2018, only six of 86 women who registered to run for the 128-seat Parliament won their

seats. Five of them were members of political parties, which helped facilitate their victory.

Only one, former television news presenter Paula Yaacoubian ran as an independent, won a seat. Unlike other

female candidates, she did not come from a political family nor backed by a local male political leader.

While under Article 7 of the Lebanese constitution, gender equality is guaranteed, personal status is often in the hands of religious communities. Lebanon recognizes 18 religious communities, each with a different status law, which means gender equality may not apply.

"Inequality stems from the patriarchal framework of households, where family codes and communal laws see women as objects owned by their family. This reality affects women's political participation in Lebanon," explains Hussein.

The patriarchal system, where women educate their sons differently from their daughters, is one of the biggest challenges faced by Lebanese women. Another stems from the sectarian system, one of the most detrimental factors hindering women's political representation, explains Yaacoubian. More than two decades have passed since Lebanon adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Yet,

it has failed so far to comply with the treaty, more specifically when it comes to the gender quota system allowing women's integration into political life. "Lebanon's patriarchal system, which is built on laws that aim to control women and youth, does not allow for real citizenship, with factors of separation such as class and religion prevailing," says Hussein. "When you think of it, there is no real Lebanese citizenship, no social contract that binds us together. Women have a great role to play but cannot because of the legal system that differentiates between men and women."

This translates to Lebanon falling behind regarding women's representation, with no quotas to act as a safeguard, unlike other regional countries.

In nearby Jordan, in appearance, a more conservative country than Lebanon, nine percent of women hold ministerial positions. Another 12 percent participate in Parliament, with an additional 32 percent participating in the local legislatures.

In Iraq, Women set an unprecedented historical record in the 2021 election. According to an article by the New Arab, 97 female candidates were elected to the 329-seat chamber this year, which equals 29.4 percent of the new Iraqi parliament. This represents 14 more seats than the required quota for female MPs, which is 83, or 25% of parliament according to Iraq's electoral laws.

The New Arab estimates that the support for female candidates was so significant that 57 MPs will enter the next parliament based solely on registered votes rather than the allocated quota system.

"Conversely, women's access to politics is restricted in Lebanon. As an example, former MP Dina Boustany only entered parliament after the death of her father. Women get into parliament due to their familial relations," says Myriam Sfeir, Director of the LAU Arab Institute for Women. "There is a famous saying: 'women enter parliament as a result of the death

of a relative'. Then they leave political life when their male descendant comes of age. In addition, Lebanese political parties are simply more willing to fund men."

Yaacoubian, who is the only woman to have broken the rules by venturing into politics without the sponsor of a family name, wealth, or the support of a male political leader, underlines that entering political life as a woman is not without cost in Lebanon.

"Women are treated as if they are missing some quality (that men are supposed to have). The prevailing mentality is that men know better, although studies have shown that women tend to be less corrupt and more humane in politics," she says.

Independent political players such as Yaacoubian, explains Hussein, are often the object of bullying, with efforts made to diminish their value on a personal level or attack their reputation, which would never happen to a male political candidate.

Despite remaining on the sideline of the Lebanese parliamentary life, women have been at the helm of the 2019 protest movement.

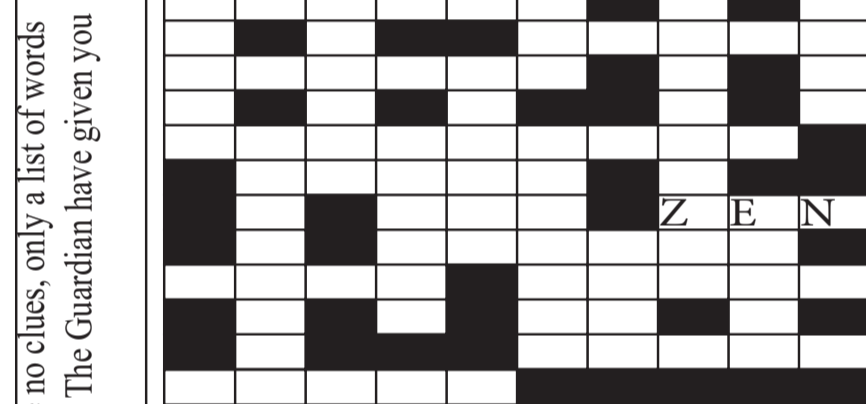
They succeeded in easing conflict between separate sectarian regions, such as Ain Remaneh and Chiyah in Beirut, and protected protestors when the riot police attacked them.

In November, three judges, all women, handed in their resignation to protest political interference in the judiciary's work and the undermining of decisions issued by judges and courts.

"Women are very present, especially as civil society actors. Lebanese women are demanding to be included on decision tables. They are carving a space for themselves in the political world. However, a quota system is essential to ensure better representation in the next parliamentary elections," says Sfeir.

Women must be brave and persevere at any cost if they want to enter politics, concludes Yaacoubian.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 187 00--



- 3 letters EVE, ZEN, TUG,
- 4 letters AFAR, MENU, MEAT,
- 5 letters FRESH, STAGE, TUBER, ADOWA,
- 6 letters VOICE, BELOW, ELOPE
- 6 letters FRANCE, ARDENT, ENDURE, RAYGUN
- 7 letters EATERY, ENAMEL,
- 8 letters MEGABIT
- 9 letters OSSIFIED
- 9 letters RINGOUZEL, HONEY MOON

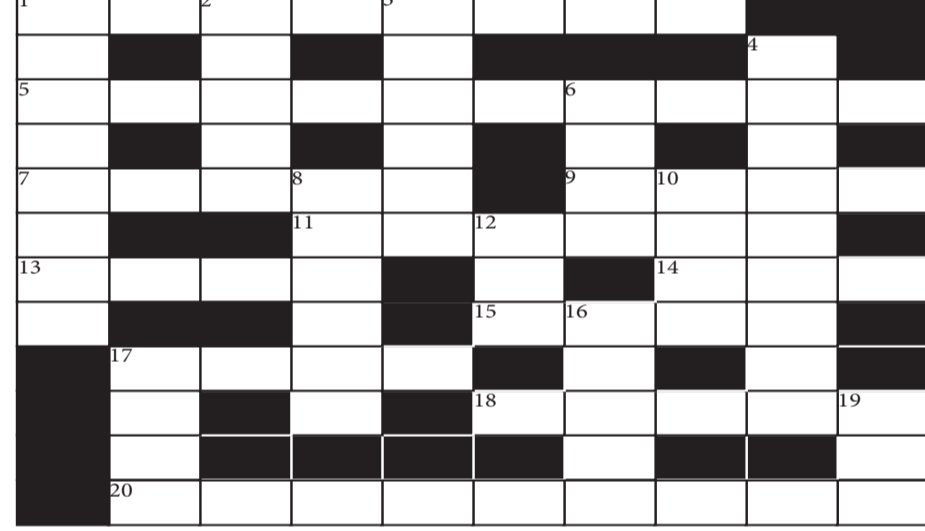
WORD-FIT

CROSSWORD

SOLUTIONS

GRABBLE, ROBE, AGENT, BUAHOMAGE, BEMBA, YONOTRY, KATANGAON, MASTEAM, AILSTAIN, ADELLE, DUELER, DOFF

KENYATTA, LIBYAN, MIAOW, MASSESS, AVERLETT, NANCAREER, JUNE, AUNUFROM, OFA, SWATMA



- CLUES: Across**
- Tanzania's current President
 - country speaking English and maori
 - the area of variation between limits in a particular scale
 - a dish of meat and vegetables cooked slowly
 - a person who is in charge of a Newspaper
 - the place where one lives a mischievous child
 - Bamako is her Capital city
 - grumble
 - two sides of a leaf of a book
 - the time from noon to evening
- CLUES: Down**
- a king or queen
 - a wild white or yellow flower, especially a daisy
 - burned materials to produce heat
 - make less powerful
 - lowest in rank
 - gewgaw
 - a charge payable to use road
 - word meaning you exist
 - once more
 - Village Jesus turned water to wine
 - an immoral act

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MTA WA MAGOMA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS WAMBO YA PWANI 18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MBAVU ZANGU 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS RAFIKI I 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00 - 05:00 MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	



Two million customers using SimBanking transactions valued at 300billion/-

By The Banker Reporter

ADOPTION of digital payment solutions by customers of CRDB Bank Plc has increased by 21 percent to two million people since May this year with transactions involved peaking over 300bn/-.

The bank's Director of Treasury, Alex Ngusaru said in Dar es Salaam mid this week while announcing the winner of a Toyota IST as the seven months campaign dubbed, 'Mzigo Promotion,' came to a climax, that during the period, transaction volumes surged by 40 percent.

"Through our improved SimBanking Application which allows people to open their accounts online, more than 10,000 customers have done so during the period," Ngusaru said adding that the campaign was aimed at encouraging the public to adopt digital payment solutions which CRDB offers.

He pointed out that during the campaign, there

were monthly increases of customers adopting various digital transaction solution including payment for air tickets for those travelling aboard Air Tanzania Company Limited.

"We just introduced the air ticket purchasing service using SimBanking and the response by customers has been very good," he noted while stressing that because of the massive investment done in digital platforms, over 90 percent of transactions at CRDB Bank are being done outside physical branches.

Customers are withdrawing or depositing cash through CRDB Wakalas, paying bills including those of the state through Government Electronic Payments Gateway but also get digital loans for business owners.

"This campaign was divided into two parts, mobilization and sensitization of the public so that they can know that digital payment solutions are safe and effective but also encourage those who know the system to increasingly



The winner of CRDB Bank's 'Mzigo Promotion,' Danford Mbulungwe brandishing ignition switch for his Toyota IST motor vehicle after being presented by the bank's Treasury director, Alex Ngusaru at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam mid this week. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

use it," the CRDB Treasury Director added.

Some 500 customers of the bank got 15m/- in cash awards during the six month campaign because of daily transactions while those who excelled

monthly drive home a Toyota IST hutch-back with winners based in Dar es Salaam for June, Dodoma for July, Mwanza for August, Tanga for September while October was taken by a resident of Mtwara.

"The latest winner is Danford Mbulungwe, a resident of Dar es Salaam who has an account at Kijitonyama Branch," Ngusaru declared while urging the public to continue using SimBanking to transact.

UK slaps HSBC with \$85.2m fine for anti-money laundering failures

LONDON

The Financial Conduct Authority has fined a UK unit of HSBC Holdings 64 million pounds (\$85m) after finding "serious weaknesses" in the automated processes it used to monitor suspicious transactions, the latest example of the watchdog's increasingly assertive stance against the firms it regulates.

HSBC Bank failed to comply with money laundering regulations between 2010 and 2018 because its policies and procedures for two of its key automated transaction monitoring systems were "not appropriate or sufficiently risk sensitive", the regulator said. The FCA detailed a series of key failings in the bank's monitoring software, which meant suspicious transactions were not immediately identified and sent to UK authorities.

One customer had connections to an individual who was already under British police scrutiny over potential suspect money via an unexplained wealth order. Another customer had possible links to a terrorist organisation.

The FCA said that on another occasion in 2011, monitoring alerts were suppressed meaning that all such alerts in Wales were halted. That meant the bank had to retrospectively file 1,780 suspicious activity reports.

HSBC's failings were considered to be "particularly serious because many of the failings occurred over a prolonged period of time despite numerous internal and external reports highlighting these failings throughout the relevant period", the regulator said.

"This meant that for a prolonged period of time HSBC failed adequately to detect and report potentially suspicious activity," HSBC agreed to resolve the matter and so qualified for a 30 per cent discount on its fine, the FCA said.

HSBC's failings were considered to be "particularly serious because many of the failings occurred over a prolonged period of time despite numerous internal and external reports highlighting these failings throughout the relevant period".

"We are pleased to resolve this matter, which relates to HSBC's legacy anti-money laundering systems and controls in the UK," HSBC said in a statement. "HSBC has made significant investments in new and market-leading technologies that go beyond the traditional approach to transaction monitoring."

The fine comes after earlier warnings HSBC received from the US Department of Justice about a failure of its US subsidiary to monitor wire transactions out of Mexico, according to the regulator. That prompted the FCA to order a more comprehensive review of its policies.

Half of mobile phone borrowers in default

NAIROBI

More than half of loans taken through mobile phone platforms are in default in the wake of Covid-19-induced job cuts and business closures that have pushed thousands of people into a debt trap, a new survey reveals.

The findings of the household survey by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), FSD Kenya and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) show that 50.9 percent of the respondents have defaulted on mobile loans. The mounting defaults emerged in a period digital lenders have flooded Kenya with high-interest rates that rise up to 520 percent per year.

The Covid-19 economic hardships also saw an average of 41.8 percent of borrowers default on loans tapped from



Central Bank of Kenya governor, Patrick Njoroge.

friends and relatives while 40.8 percent were unable to settle goods borrowed on credit from shopkeepers. The least default for credit borrowed outside the mainstream banking system was on advances to staff by employers at 11.3 percent, given the ease to recover the cash from monthly salaries.

Workers and businesses defaulted on loans worth billions of shillings following the imposition of stringent measures to contain

the spread of the coronavirus. "The top three credit providers where a majority of respondents reported to have defaulted on a credit facility are: mobile banking loan (including Fuliza), digital apps loan and loan from family/friend/neighbor," the survey report said.

"Loan from employer is the best performing perhaps reflecting the check-off system - that is loan deduction at salary/wage payment time." Credit from saccos also recorded lower than average default at 16 percent, owing to the use of collateral and guarantors, as did credit from input suppliers or buyers of farm produce.

Bank personal or business loans recorded a default rate of 22.1 percent, according to the

survey, but separate CBK data put defaults at 13.6 percent of total loans or Sh435 billion. The survey defines a loan default as including missing a scheduled repayment, paying late and not making any payment at all.

Mobile banking and digital loans are issued without collateral, making them vulnerable to default by borrowers. They are also often taken as an emergency measure by cash-strapped individuals or enterprises, hence the higher risk of default.

Many Kenyans now find they can get loans in minutes, with banks relying heavily on algorithms that build a financial profile of customers in the quest to minimise the risk of default. The higher

non-performing digital loans had triggered the increase in the number of defaulters reported to one of Kenya's three credit reference bureaus (CRBs), hurting the borrowers' chances of being able to take more.

To avoid defaults, borrowers tapped loans from a number of firms to settle loans owed to rival digital lenders, piling their debt and getting themselves negatively listed by CRBs. But the CBK last year offered defaulters of digital loans a relief. The banking regulator barred unregulated digital mobile lenders from forwarding the names of loan defaulters to CRBs and stopped the blacklisting of borrowers owing less than Sh1,000.



Absa Bank Tanzania Limited's human resources manager, Anna Chacha (3rd R) presents a sample of groceries including soap, rice, cooking oil, flour and sugar to head of Paediatric Oncology Unit at Muhimbili National Hospital, Dr Regina Kibona assistance donated by the bank's employees to the hospital in Dar es Salaam mid this week. Others in the photo are the bank and hospital officials. Photo courtesy of Absa.

Visa completes acquisition of fintech payment platform Currencycloud

LONDON

World's leader in digital payments, Visa, has completed the acquisition of Currencycloud, a global platform that enables banks and fintechs to provide innovative foreign exchange solutions for cross-border payments.

Currencycloud gives businesses the capability to move money across borders, and transact globally in multiple currencies, fast. Experts at what they do, their technology makes it easy for clients to embrace digital wallets, and to embed finance into the core of their business - no matter what industry they're in.

Since 2012, Currencycloud has processed more than \$100bn to over 180 countries, working with banks, financial institutions, and Fintechs around the world, including Starling Bank, Revolut, Penta, and Lunar. Based in London with offices in New York, Amsterdam, Cardiff & Singapore, Currencycloud works with partners including Visa, Dwolla, GPS, and Mambu to deliver simple, clear cross-border infrastructure solutions for clients. They are regulated in the UK, Canada, the US, and the EU.

In July, Visa signed a deal worth 700 million British pounds (about \$925 million) to acquire Currencycloud to

advance money movement around the world. The acquisition will empower Visa and Currencycloud clients and partners to provide greater transparency, flexibility, and control for consumers and businesses when making international payments or doing business in multiple currencies. The acquisition builds on an existing strategic partnership between Currencycloud and Visa.

Currencycloud's cloud-based platform already supports over 500 banking and technology clients with reach in over 180 countries and will continue to serve and support its customers and partners across the industry.

Local investors excited with ACEX digital trading platform access

By The Banker Reporter

THE introduction of African Consolidated Exchange in Nairobi last week will allow many African cryptocurrency investors access the global market and keep abreast with rapidly changing technologies in commodities trading.

A cryptocurrency trader who is also a broker at Tanzania Mercantile Exchange, said the ACEX platform is a game changer to thousands of local investors who had, for many years wanted to join global movement.

"Things are moving fast in this area of virtual currency trading and we as Tanzanians should not be left behind," said George Chambaga who is founder and CEO of CyberTrade Tanzania Limited. Chambaga said the new platform will also help to push governments in East Africa come up with a regional mechanism to regulate cryptocurrency trading.

"Bank of Tanzania and its peers in EAC should move quickly because investors are exposed to the global market and use digital tools to trade and make profits," he observed saying if well regulated the virtual currencies will make huge contribution to economies of Africa.

Chambaga was backed Dr Jim Mhogo from Saint John University in Dar es Salaam who said, in fact African governments are losing more because of resistance and bureaucracy in accepting cryptocurrency trading.

"It's a game of speed and accuracy, when you are busy debating others are making money and new discoveries are coming onboard," Dr Mhogo said who



ACEX's CEO, Peter Mucheru speaking during the digital market place platforms' launch in Nairobi last week.

is also lecturer in global economics and currency conversion.

He said there are thousands of Tanzanians who are engaging in virtual currencies and other commodity trading online through digital platforms based outside Africa which is more risky and denies the country revenue. "Now here is the opportunity for us to join the global virtual currencies trading because this is becoming a multibillion dollars business as Bitcoin has proved," Dr Mhogo

argued.

Last week, ACEX's CEO, Peter Mucheru said during the launch that the platform intends to rewrite African history by revolutionizing the finance ecosystem through digital means. Mucheru said ACEX will be the first exchange where native producers from Africa can list their produce, fix their competitive price and earn direct rewards from their efforts. He named products such as cobalt, cocoa and timber as being syntheti-

cally indexed and offered as quotes for traders to take advantage of.

We also have a micro-financing model, which allows us to partner with local microfinance institutions and facilitate them with funds to provide as credits to micro, small and medium enterprises," he said. Mucheru further noted that for Tanzania, ACEX is currently reviewing some few microfinance institutions - that when approved will start empowering MSMEs with capital access. "We

understand there is still faint knowledge when it comes to digital economy, with many people in the region fearing scams and online fraudsters," he noted. In order to trade on the platform, local investors will need to purchase an initial investment of at least 100 of Temcoin (SXTEM) which is the native cryptocurrency of ACEX.

Commenting on the launch, local digital trader, Elibariki Shilla who has three years experience with the ACEX's functioning and TE Markets, said that stakeholders and investors can take advantage of the centralized platform because it offers multiple assets trading options unlike any other consolidated market in the world.

"For those who fear the digital trading initiatives, there are experts who offer knowledge and understanding on how to properly exploit the opportunity, as one can also trade by following what the verified traders do, step by step," Shilla said.

Another digital entrepreneur, Joshua Fanuel backed Shilla by urging

youth to use the platform to fully exploit the digital opportunities and overcome the unemployment challenges. Fanuel however said before doing so, one needs to make sure they gain enough information so that they can make informed and profitable trading decisions.

"Like in any business, before you put your money one needs to know everything there is about that business. Same for this, you need to be well informed and understand how it goes then start trading," he noted.

In the ACEX platform there will be a handful of verified people who will be known as merchants who will be allowed to engage in the business of converting SXTEM to fiat (nationally issued currencies) and vice versa.

According to ACEX these merchants will be cast across all regions of Africa to facilitate smooth financial transactions because their fee will be minimal. These merchants will additionally be solving the issue associated with foreign remittances on the African continent.

Fitch unexpectedly upgrades SA outlook

JOHANNESBURG

Fitch Ratings unexpectedly upgraded its outlook on South Africa's credit rating, providing some respite as the nation grapples with the economic damage wrought by a fourth wave of coronavirus infections.

The company kept the nation's foreign- and local-currency ratings at BB-, three levels below investment grade, and changed the outlook to stable from negative. The move reflects "the faster than expected economic recovery, the surprisingly strong fiscal performance this year and significant improvements to key gross domestic product-based credit metrics" after the nation made changes to the way GDP is calculated, Fitch said in a statement Wednesday.

"A recovery is under way and GDP now seems on track to return to pre-pandemic levels during 2022, notwithstanding a 1.5% quarter-on-quarter contraction" in the third quarter, partly triggered by violent unrest in July, Fitch said. The agency expects the economy to grow 4.7% this year, 2% in 2022 and 2.4% in 2023.

"The pandemic continues to weigh on economic performance and remains a source of downside risk for public finances, but the likelihood of severe negative effects on creditworthiness has declined over the



SA Finance Minister, Enoch Godongwana.

last year," despite the emergence of the omicron variant and the rapid surge in new cases in South Africa, it said. While it expects measures to be tightened to curb the spread of the virus it assumes they would be short

in duration and targeted, primarily hitting the hospitality industry rather than overall economic activity. The outlook change comes a year earlier than Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana expected and signals

that the downward trend in Fitch's rating of South Africa, may be reaching a turning point.

The stable outlook follows a medium-term budget buoyed by windfall mining revenue and an upward

revision to GDP that showed debt is now forecast to peak at 78.1% of GDP - almost 10 percentage points lower than the government estimated in February - in the 2026 fiscal year. The consolidated budget deficit is also expected to narrow faster than previously expected.

"Government will continue to demonstrate its commitment to fiscal sustainability and enable long-term growth by narrowing the budget deficit and sizeable debt," National Treasury said Thursday. The rand gained 0.3% against the dollar at 10.46 a.m. local time Thursday.

Still, Godongwana faces a tough task to rein in debt, reduce budget shortfalls and fast-track growth-enhancing reforms in an economy stuck in its longest downward cycle since World War II. His proposed fiscal framework could be undermined by demands for increased social support measures, international travel bans imposed after the discovery of the omicron variant in the country, concessions on government wages, on-going electricity supply constraints and policy uncertainty.

South Africa's debt assessments by the three major firms are at the lowest levels since the country first obtained credit ratings in 1994. Moody's Investors Service assesses it two steps below investment grade while S&P Global Ratings ranks it on the same level as Fitch.

IMF, Mozambique to discuss first credit facility since graft scandal

MAPUTO

The programme would aim to help ease finance pressures, support poverty reduction and equitable growth, and catalyse additional development financing.

The International Monetary Fund will start discussions next month on an extended credit facility with Mozambique, the fund said on Tuesday, its first potential programme with the country since suspending support in 2016.

That year Mozambique unveiled hefty state-backed borrowing it had previously failed to disclose, in a \$2 billion corruption scandal that prompted donors to cut off aid and sparked a currency collapse and debt crisis.

Since then the IMF has delivered some targeted aid to help Mozambique recover from natural disasters and cyclones, but the extended credit facility would be its first formal programme. "Staff stand ready to commence negotiations in late January 2022, in accordance with the authorities' preferred timeline," the IMF said in a statement after a staff visit to the country.

The programme would aim to help ease financing pressures as Mozambique recovers from the pandemic, support poverty reduction and equitable growth, as well as catalyse additional development financing, the Fund said.

One of the world's most impoverished countries, Mozambique is still grappling with its hefty debt burden, as well as an Islamist insurgency and the impact of Covid-19, which led to its first economic contraction in three decades last year.

The discovery of massive liquefied natural gas (LNG) reserves saw Mozambique emerge as a potential major global exporter of the fuel, but graft scandals and the insurgency have dented or threatened the promised benefits.

The IMF said growth would reach 2.2% this year and 4% in the long-term, with the realisation of LNG reserves delivering an even sharper increase. Risks to the outlook include vulnerability to climate change and a deterioration in the security situation, which could delay or stop LNG projects, it added.

Fiscal pressures are acute, it said, with economic difficulties of state-owned enterprises and the debts linked to the corruption scandal presenting risks. Mozambique is disputing in the courts the validity of some of the debt, including a loan of \$622 million from investment bank Credit Suisse.

US remittances share grows as Europe lags

NAIROBI

North America now accounts for two-thirds of all Diaspora remittances into Kenya, taking a larger market share at a time when money sent home from Europe has dropped to a 13-month low.

New data from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) on remittances by source country shows that the Americas accounted for 67 percent of the remittances sent home in October, up from 51 percent in February 2019, the earliest date available for the breakdown.

Meanwhile, Europe's share of remittances has dropped from 25 percent to 14 percent in the period. The rise in US remittances at a time when Europe's is shrinking reflects the severity of the economic hits on the two regions during the Covid-19

period, with European economies suffering more due to harsher restriction measures imposed to control the spread of the virus.

"Generally it is Covid-19 disruptions that have affected Diaspora flows...Europe was affected more because they had more punitive restrictions and longer lockdown periods," said George Bodo, head of research at Genghis Capital.

In October, remittances from North America stood at Sh25.5 billion (\$226 million), a new all-time high from the area, while those from Europe stood at Sh5.2 billion (\$46.06 million). The US accounts for 98 percent of the North America remittances, reflecting the large Kenyan Diaspora in the country and its status as the world's foremost economy.

The dominance of the region - and in extension the US - as the largest source of Diaspora dollar looks set to continue, with the CBK saying in November the US alone accounted for 67.3 percent of total remittances, equivalent to Sh24 billion (\$215.4 million). Total remittances during the month stood at Sh36.2 billion (\$320.1 million).

There is also growing prominence of dollar inflows from Asia, especially Saudi Arabia, on the back of increasing migrant labour including domestic workers, doctors, university lecturers, consultants, bankers, engineers, nurses and hotel managers. The higher Diaspora inflows have however failed to stem the decline of the shilling, which is trading at an all-time low of 113 units to the greenback due to increased importer demand.



George Bodo, head of research at Genghis Capital.

Money laundering is fast becoming a thorn in the flesh of our economy

By Annie Butondo

IN recent years, money laundering has become a thorn in the flesh to many in our society today. People have been charged continuously with this offence for instance, in between 2015/20 at least many people were charged in courts of the United Republic of Tanzania for the offence.

The question being what is the reason for such a rise in money laundering cases in Tanzania? Is it either due to lack of knowledge or ill minds of people who tend to engage in money laundering knowing that such act constitutes as an offence in the laws of the country?

Therefore it is important to understand the meaning of money laundering, what is it? What is the law covering money laundering? How is it conducted? What are the effects of engaging in such a crime, and what are the strategies that have been taken to combat the crime in Tanzania.

Money laundering in simple terms means the act of concealing the origins of 'dirty' money earned through criminal activities and releasing it undetected into legitimate business activities, the purpose being to prevent it from being tracked and confiscated by the government. It is commonly associated with criminal activities such as drug trafficking, corruption, extortion, tax evasion and a range of other criminal activities.

Regarding the law covering money laundering, The Anti-Money Laundering Act was enacted on 2006 as strategy

taken to criminalize the activity. Under section 3 of the Act, it defines money laundering as an engagement of a person or persons, direct or indirectly, in conversion, transfer, concealment, disguising, use or acquisition of money or property known as illicit origin and in which such engagement intends to avoid legal consequence of such action.

The Anti Money Laundering Act No 12 of 2006 has imposed sanctions including fines and imprisonment to either individuals or body corporates that are found liable for committing the crime. However the law also under The Proceeds of Crime Act provides that where an accused person is found liable of the crime, the Director of Public Prosecutions then makes an application to the court of forfeiture and confiscation of the properties of the convicted obtained through illegal means.

The Economic and Organized Crime Act No 13 of 2016 under the First Schedule has enlisted money laundering to constitute as an economic offence hence the court with jurisdiction to adjudicate and hear cases of such nature is The High Court's Economic and Corruption Division.

Money laundering has become a thorn in the flesh as it perpetuates crime. It affects the social, economic and political stability of the country. This is because it enables criminal activity to take place within the society. Money laundering enables organized crimes to infiltrate institutions and erodes the integrity of the financial system of the country.

There are many questions that people in the society ask themselves regarding money laundering and they include: How can I not indulge myself in money laundering? The answer is simple; you have to make sure that, the money flowing into your business aligns together, that the technological plan of your business will show a clear view of all activities that are running in your business and to conduct a risk based due diligence to any suspicious transactions taking place.

Can a person who has deposited money in my bank account that I know nothing about, be answerable for money laundering?

What steps could I take to secure myself from engaging in the crime? In such circumstance you are to inform your bank holding the account on such transaction so that the bank traces it and as a reporting person under The Anti Money Laundering Act it will report to the Financial Intelligence Unit for further actions to be taken. If that is not done you will be an accomplice to the crime as you failed to take any measures about the matter.

What are the common ways that criminals use to conduct money laundering?

There are ways that are used such as: smurfing which means the criminal breaks down large chunks of cash into multiple small deposits, to many different accounts to avoid detection. Other methods used involve investing in commodities such as gems and gold that can easily be moved to other

jurisdictions, gambling, counterfeiting, using shell companies, selling valuable assets such as real estate, wire transfers and others.

If found liable for money laundering, what procedures follow? As an economic offense under The Economic and Organized Crime Control Act the procedures for arraignment and for the hearing and determination of cases shall be in accordance with the provisions of The Criminal Procedure Act Cap 20. Basically once a person is arrested in respect of an economic offence, the person arrested shall as soon as practicable in not more than 48 hours be taken to the court within whose local limits of the arrest.

Where the charge will be read to the accused but will not be required to plead, to the High Court when the evidence against the accused will be complete. The accused will then apply for bail if the offence is bailable. The DPP after studying the case file and statements of intended witnesses and finds the evidence to be insufficient he then shall immediately enter nolle prosequi if not then he shall draw upon information in accordance with the law, signed by him together with three copies of witnesses statements to the High Court. Then the district/ resident magistrate court upon receipt of copy of the information and the notice it shall commit the accused for trial to the High Court.

The government has undertaken different strategies including enhancement of the effective criminal system by criminalizing money



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laundering and providing for the seizure and confiscation of illicit proceeds and implementing series of preventive measures directed at credit and financial institutions.

However, it is clear that legislation by itself is not enough to combat money laundering it requires the society at large to engage in combating this crime by reporting to the national authorities of all transactions that are considered to be suspicious and refraining from engaging in such activities that are against the laws of the United Republic of Tanzania. As by doing so we will be building a better tomorrow for the future generation!

Cryptocurrencies drew about \$30bn from VCs in 2021

NEW YORK

Need more proof that this is the year digital assets went mainstream? How about the fact that venture capital funds have poured about \$30 billion into crypto, or more than in all previous years combined for the little more than a decade-old technology.

That is almost four times the previous high of about \$8bn in 2018, or the year following Bitcoin's more than 1,300 per cent breakthrough gain, according to transaction data compiled by PitchBook Data.

"We've moved beyond just digital gold. We've got financial services, art, gaming as a subcategory of NFTs [non-fungible tokens], Web 3.0, decentralised social media, play-to-earn - all of that made investors think 'We don't have enough exposure,'" said Spencer Bogart, general partner at San Francisco-based Blockchain Capital, one the largest investors in the industry after financing more than 120 companies since its inception in 2013.

As other established firms such as Coinbase Ventures, Digital Currency Group and Polychain Capital bet on the next big crypto thing, all manner of experimental projects - a social media app that turns celebrities into tokens, a play-to-earn non-fungible token game inspired by Elon Musk or a collectible consisting of a list of words - secured funding. "Investors are funding anything and everything," PitchBook analyst Rob Le said.

The sudden emergence of what was once considered niche sectors such as NFTs showed investors what they might be missing out on, according to Mr Bogart, noting how the once obscure online non-fungible token marketplace OpenSea is now drawing comparisons to the e-commerce site Etsy.

The \$30bn tally includes fundraising rounds raised by the likes of Robinhood Markets and Revolut, revenue-generating financial technology companies that merely touch crypto. But looking strictly at US venture capital transactions also shows outside investing this year with some \$7.2bn in deals, four times the previous record set in 2018, according to PitchBook data.



The world's leading cryptocurrencies.

FSD Africa Investments invests £3m into Kenyan fintech IMFact

NAIROBI

FSD Africa Investments (FSDAI), the investing arm of FSD Africa, has announced a £3 million (\$3.9m) investment into IMFact, to provide working capital to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

As a "pooled receivables" factoring business, IMFact purchases bulk invoices from MSMEs for a mix of upfront cash and deferred payments. This gives the sellers access to cash without the need to follow up or wait for invoices to be paid, freeing up capital to buy new inventory, pay suppliers, and grow the business.

IMFact's "pooled receivables" model differs from the pre-existing invoice discounting practice where the best receivables or invoices are cherry-picked by the financing company meaning the rest of the receivables pool cannot be used as collateral. It also provides faster access to working capital than the invoice discounting usually offered by banks because it does not require an upfront deposit or guarantees.

FSDAI's funding, the first external equity investment in IMFact, comes at a critical time, with Covid-19 having placed undue pressure on MSMEs in many sectors, most notably in the healthcare sector. IMFact's innovative solution is particularly timely owing to its ability to release additional cash flow that hitherto was locked up. Under current plans, and subject to further fundraising, IMFact is projected to provide funding totalling £475m to around 570 businesses over the next five years and support around 5,600 jobs.

Many of the MSMEs expected to benefit are family-owned businesses including those that distribute medical equipment and pharmaceuticals to public and private organisations. However, IMFact will also be working with supply chain businesses in other industries.

Among the first to partner with IMFact is ABC Pharmacy Ltd, which supplies pharmaceutical products to pharmacies, hospitals, and clinics across the country but had faced challenges due to inad-



Anne-Marie Chidzero, Chief Investment Officer, FSD Africa Investments.

equate working capital.

Through IMFact's financing, ABC Pharmacy is now making a transition in its business model by extending its credit terms to clients. With the increase in capital available, the company has been able to increase sales and grow its business. Dr. John Muturi, CEO of ABC Pharmacy said: "The financing from IMFact will be a game-changer for our future business operations."

FSDAI's ultimate objective in making the investment is to encourage the development of technology-enabled, "pooled receivables" financing across Africa. Our analysis shows Africa lags behind global averages for this kind of financing rep-

resenting less than 1% of global volumes. On the continent, only South Africa has a markedly developed factoring model while the penetration in Kenya stands at less than 2%.

IMFact was established in 2019 by Cardano Development (CD), an incubator and fund manager based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, with financing from KfW on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It received initial capital from Rockefeller Foundation and Convergence. IMFact Kenya is the first regional hub to become operational and was developed by CD with funding support from Total Impact Capital Advisors (TIC).

Jane Marriott, the British High Commissioner to Kenya, said: "Building back from COVID-19, boosting Kenya's status as a hub for financial services, and creating jobs, are at the core of the UK's Strategic Partnership with Kenya. We're pleased to support this investment by FSDAI into IMFact, which will support SMEs in Kenya to build back from the challenges of the pandemic."

Anne-Marie Chidzero, Chief Investment Officer, FSD Africa Investments, said: "We are pleased to be working with IMFact to support the rapid financing of MSMEs in Kenya at a time when many are struggling to get access to working capital from traditional lending institutions. We particularly look forward to seeing the impact the investment has on Kenya's medical and pharmaceutical sector and hope to encourage further scaling of fintech solutions to solve the funding gap among smaller businesses."

Peter Fiala, Chief Investment Officer, IMFact said: "IMFact is extremely pleased to have passed the extensive scrutiny of FSDAI's due diligence process which has paved the way for them to become a cornerstone investor in IMFact following the successful financial close of our third-round capital raise. This investment paves the way for further capital investors, including debt, which will support the further deployment of capital to our fast-growing list of clients."

Joost Zuidberg, Chief Executive Officer, Cardano Development, said: "We are delighted to welcome FSDAI into IMFact in support of our early growth in Kenya and expansion to other African markets. We are passionate about financial services innovation and believe that IMFact will prove to be a step-change in broad access for Africa's MSMEs to working capital. With its innovative approach in using the pooling of debtors to mitigate risk, IMFact has a very competitive product that directly addresses the barriers for Africa's MSMEs to access formal and affordable finance."

WORLD

Omicron surge: 'Major nations should shoulder responsibilities'

WASHINGTON

MAJOR countries must shoulder responsibilities, take the lead to provide COVID-19 vaccines for low-and middle-income countries, and help them foster production capacity as the Omicron variant is rapidly spreading around the globe, the Chinese ambassador to the United States said on Tuesday.

"As the Omicron variant is rapidly spreading around the globe, we are facing a very severe situation. Therefore, it is pressing to ensure ample supply and fair distribution of vaccines," said Qin Gang.

As the representative of Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Qin made the remarks while attend-

ing the Virtual Meeting on COVID-19 Omicron Variant hosted by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Issues such as the global impact of and response to the Omicron variant were discussed at the meeting, joined by several foreign ministers and representatives of regional organizations.

China has been working hard to make COVID-19 vaccines global public goods, and help meet the vaccination targets of the World Health Organization, said Qin.

According to him, China has provided nearly 2 billion doses of vaccines for more than 120 countries and international organizations so far, making China the largest supplier of vaccines to other countries.



In this July 28, 2021 photo, China's new Ambassador to the United States Qin Gang makes remarks to Chinese and US media upon arrival in the United States. XINHUA

On top of \$100 million in donations to COVAX, China has pledged to donate an additional 100 million doses of vaccines to developing countries, and provide another 1 billion doses of vaccines to Africa.

One-third of 5.6 billion shots of COVID-19 vaccines administered outside China were provided by China, said Qin.

Calling on the international community to fight the pandemic together, the Chinese envoy said: "We must oppose disinformation and vaccine discrimination, and raise the vaccina-

tion rate."

China will continue to work with the international community to advance international cooperation on COVID-19, narrow the global "immunity gap" and jointly build a global community of health for all, he said.

Noting that the Omicron variant poses a new challenge to Beijing Winter Olympic Games, he said, "China will take more effective measures to protect athletes and guests of all countries. We are confident to host a streamlined, safe and splendid Winter Olympics." Xinhua

Russia and US agree on security dialogue mechanisms, says foreign minister

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said that Moscow and Washington have some points of agreement on dialogue mechanisms relating to security guarantees, noting that there are no any conflicts of interest among all countries in the region.

"As for involving their [dialogue mechanisms], there is, in my opinion, an agreement, at least between Moscow and Washington, for sure. But I see no reason why such an approach would contradict the interests of some other states in our common region," the Russian top diplomat told the RT TV channel yesterday.

Lavrov also noted that bilateral contacts on security safeguards between the Russian and US side were scheduled for early 2022.

On December 17, the Russian foreign ministry released draft treaty on security guarantees, as well as some agreements on security measures for Moscow and NATO member states.

The proposals were handed over to the US on December 15 during the meeting in the Russian diplomatic service. Agencies



Situation in northern Ethiopia remains highly fluid, says UN

UNITED NATIONS

THE situation in northern Ethiopia remains highly fluid and unpredictable despite some reported improvements in the security situation in areas where fighting has recently erupted, such as the border areas between Afar and Amhara, said a UN spokesman on Tuesday.

In Amhara, some internally displaced people have returned to their place of origin. However, it remains difficult to verify these numbers due to access constraints.

People also continue to be displaced in Afar and Western Tigray, said Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (pictured). UN humanitarianists said they had heard of airstrikes reportedly carried out on Alameda town and nearby areas in the Southern Zone in Tigray between Dec. 15 and 17.

Dozens of casualties were reported, including several deaths. The humanitarianists had not been able to independently verify these reports, due to the security situation and access constraints, said Haq. No trucks carrying humanitarian aid had arrived in Mekelle, Tigray, through Afar since last week.

As of Tuesday, a 20-truck convoy carrying food and nutrition supplies remained in Abala town, the last entry point in Afar into Mekelle, due to operational and security issues, he said.

Aid operations in northern Ethiopia were still facing multiple challenges, including the inability to bring in sufficient supplies, fuel and cash to Tigray, as well as the rapid increase in the number of people in need due to conflict and displacement in Amhara and Afar, said Haq.

"We remain concerned about the dire humanitarian situation and any further deterioration in northern Ethiopia. We continue to call on all parties to the conflict to urgently and immediately facilitate the free, sustained, and safe movement of humanitarian workers and supplies into Tigray, Afar and Amhara."

Meanwhile, parts of southern and southeastern Ethiopia are currently experiencing drought, which is significantly affecting livelihoods, livestock production and water availability, with the humanitarian situation likely to deteriorate rapidly, he said. Humanitarian operations throughout Ethiopia face a funding gap of 1.2 billion US dollars, he said. Xinhua



Progress on social harmony hailed in Indonesia

JAKARTA

INDONESIA has made progress in fostering a sense of unity among the country's ethnic groups, according to Dali Santun Naga, a professor at Jakarta's Tarumanagara University.

The academic's upbeat assessment reflects the prevailing views of the country's leaders. This was evident during the annual conference of Perhimpunan Tionghoa Indonesia, or INTI, an association of Chinese communities.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo chaired the online meeting, at which he praised the contribution of ethnic Chinese Indonesians to the task of national construction. He called on them to continue their efforts in order to secure a better future for the country.

The president said he hoped the association will maintain its position on the front line of efforts to preserve harmony and solidarity.

INTI Executive Chairman Indra Wahidin said the association will continue to encourage its members to do more for the country and the people.

Widodo called on the association to work further in promoting national unity and harmony, and asked the association to develop a partner-



People take pictures with a Santa Claus statue and a Christmas tree at the Fatahiah Museum in Jakarta, Indonesia, Dec 20, 2021. XINHUA

ship between its members and grassroots enterprises. The promotion of partnerships between large and small businesses has been a priority of the government, he said.

Indonesian Vice-President Ma'ruf Amin and Chief of the Indonesian National Police Listyo Sigit Prabowo were also among the speakers at the online meeting in Jakarta. A message from Moh Mahfud MD, the coordinating minister for

political, legal and security affairs, was read out at Sunday's meeting, in which he assured the participants of the government's drive to maintain equal treatment before the law for all citizens.

Such reassurance from top officials will be well received by some minority groups in the country, including those of Chinese origin. A number of minority groups have suffered in the past as a result of

discriminatory practices.

Waning sentiment

Naga told China Daily that unfriendly sentiment toward Chinese Indonesians has been steadily waning. The academic cited the issuance of a law in 2008 aimed at eliminating discrimination against minorities.

Mahfud said the association's decadeslong contribution to social harmony has

been much appreciated. He also pointed to the efforts of other Chinese-Indonesian organizations like Paguyuban Sosial Marga Tionghoa Indonesia, or the Social Association of Chinese Indonesians.

They have helped many disadvantaged people, especially during the coronavirus pandemic.

Wahidin said the association has provided scholarships for young Indonesians to study at universities abroad and had given donations to people in disaster areas. It has also supported the national program of COVID-19 vaccination, distributing at least 1.4 million masks and significant amounts of basic items for families during the pandemic.

Through their activities, INTI and the other Chinese-Indonesian organizations are winning stronger social acceptance and full recognition in the world's largest Muslim-majority country.

Widodo told the meeting that he is keen to address the country's problems of unemployment, poverty and social inequality, and said small businesses are playing vital roles in fighting the pandemic and reviving economy.

The writer is a freelance journalist for China Daily. Agencies

Saudi blamed for 'foot-dragging' death of envoy to Yemen

TEHRAN

IRAN on Tuesday blamed Saudi Arabia for foot-dragging in allowing Iran to bring home its envoy to Yemen, who later died of the COVID-19 infection.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on the sidelines of Hassan Irloo's funeral that the Iranian Foreign Ministry had tried to obtain quick permission from Riyadh to evacuate Irloo by a plane af-

ter he was infected with the coronavirus, but "the Saudi side was unfortunately very late in making a decision in this regard and some executive bodies of Saudi Arabia dragged their feet."

The airspace of Yemen, including the Sanaa airport, as well as its land and sea borders have been under the control of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition, which has intervened in the Yemeni war since 2015 after the Houthis took over the capital Sanaa and much of Yemen's northern part.

"We will formally lodge a protest in accordance with international conven-

tions, and at the same time, we hope that Yemen will be able to get out of this war and severe humanitarian siege as soon as possible through a political solution," Abdollahian was quoted by Iran's Press TV as saying.

Earlier in the day, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh announced the death of Irloo, "who contracted the coronavirus at his place of mission" in Sanaa.

"Unfortunately, he returned to the country in an unfavorable condition, and despite using all the treatment steps to

improve his condition, he was martyred this morning," Khatibzadeh said.

Irloo was transferred to the Iranian capital of Tehran by an Iraqi plane on Sunday, after Iraq mediated between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the two rivals in the region.

Yemen has been mired in a civil war since late 2014, when the Iran-backed Houthi militants seized control of much of the country's north and forced the Saudi-backed government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi out of Sanaa. Agencies

Dozens of casualties were reported, including several deaths. The humanitarianists had not been able to independently verify these reports



China prepares legislative revision to better safeguard women's rights

BEIJING

CHINESE lawmakers have put their heads together to deliberate a draft law revision for better protecting the rights and interests of women, eliminating discrimination against them and enhancing their feelings of security.

The draft revision to the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women was submitted for its first reading on Monday at an ongoing session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature. The legislative move is another

major revision to the law which was enacted nearly 30 years ago.

The draft defines efforts of the country to take necessary measures to gradually improve the systems for protecting the rights and interests of women, and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

Gender-based exclusion and restriction of women in enjoying all lawful rights and interests are prohibited, according to the draft.

The draft also includes stipulations on strengthening mechanisms for assessing gender equality in laws and policies and improving the

system of gender-specific data gathering and monitoring indicators.

Pointing out that some instances of hidden discrimination against women still occur, Peng Jing, a chief supervisor with Chongqing's lawyers association, said that assessing gender equality before rolling out new policies will help to prevent discrimination against women at the source.

Women's rights in education and employment are also emphasized in the draft. With the exception of special majors, no schools shall refuse to enroll women students on the pretext of gender or raise the

enrollment standards for women, says the draft law revision. It adds that governments at all levels shall take measures to guarantee that women have equal rights and opportunities to receive secondary and higher education.

Employers shall respect women's rights to work, as well as their reproductive rights and interests, according to the draft.

Special labor protection shall be provided to women workers during their menstrual period, pregnancy, obstetrical period and nursing period, the draft adds. Li Mingshun, a professor from China Women's

University, said that the legislative move responds to the new expectation and needs of women for more dignified working experience and a better life.

It also embodies the guidance of legislators for "respecting the social value of childbirth," Li said. To protect rural women's land rights, the draft stipulates that women's rights and interests in rural collective economic organizations shall not be infringed upon for reasons such as their being single, married, divorced or widowed.

The draft also includes provisions on safeguarding women's safety

and human dignity. Pestering or harassing women under the pretext of being in a relationship, or after the end of cohabitation or divorce, are prohibited by the draft, as well as divulging or disseminating women's private personal information.

The draft also clarifies the joint duties of both husband and wife in the family life. Women shall, at the time of divorce, have the right to request the husband to make compensation if the wife has been shouldering more duties in respect of bringing up the child, taking care of the old and assisting the husband in work, among others. Xinhua

Russia, Iran, Turkey to hold summit in Tehran in February-March 2022 – Iranian diplomat

NUR-SULTAN

RUSSIA, Iran and Turkey have agreed to hold the next Astana format summit in Tehran in February-March 2022, depending on the coronavirus situation, Senior Assistant to Iranian Foreign Minister for Special Political Affairs Ali Asghar Khaji told TASS yesterday.

“Yes, it [the summit] is planned. We are preparing to hold it early next year. It will depend on the pandemic situation. But in general we have agreed to hold the summit. Most likely, we will be able to hold it in February or March,” the Iranian diplomat said.

Khaji said the issue was on the agenda of talks in Nur-Sultan and will be reflected in a separate provision of the guarantor nations’ final statement.

When asked whether the summit will be preceded by a foreign ministers’ meeting, he replied: “Yes, we have agreed on the matter. It will be



next year. In January or early February we will hold a meeting of foreign ministers, and a summit will follow that.”

He also said that the next international Astana format meeting on Syria will be convened within a few weeks after the summit of Russia, Iran and Turkey. “It [the date] depends on the summit, several weeks after the summit,” the Iranian diplomat said.

On July 1, 2020, Russian, Iranian and Turkish leaders held an online summit dedicated to Syrian regulation, discussing the prospects of a face-to-face meeting in Tehran when the epidemiological situation improves.

Agencies

UN mission voices concern about military mobilisation in Libya’s capital ahead of elections

TRIPOLI

THE UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) on Tuesday expressed concern about military mobilization in the south of the capital Tripoli.

“The UNSMIL is concerned about the unfolding security situation in Tripoli. The current mobilization of forces affiliated with different groups creates tensions and increases the risk of clashes that could spiral into conflict,” UNSMIL said in a statement.

“Any disagreements on emerging political or military matters should be resolved through dialogue, particularly at this stage when the country is navigating through a difficult and complex electoral process that should usher in a peaceful transition,” the statement said.

The mission warned that the developments in Tripoli do not bode well for the ongoing efforts to maintain stability and establish security and political conditions conducive to peaceful, credible, inclusive, free, and fair elections.

The mission called on all Libyan actors to “exercise restraint at this delicate moment and to work together to create

a security and political atmosphere that preserves Libya’s progress and enables peaceful elections and a successful transition.”

The Special Adviser of the (UN) Secretary-General on Libya, Stephanie Williams, is currently engaging Libyan stakeholders to facilitate the achievement of this goal,” the statement added.

Since the early morning on Tuesday, southern Tripoli has witnessed military mobilization of armed groups, sparking fears of confrontations.

According to local residents, a large number of military vehicles and heavy weapons were deployed and schools closed in the area for fear of possible military action.

The developments unfolded a few days before the presidential elections which face difficulty as the Elections Commission failed to publish the final list of candidates.

The elections are part of a roadmap adopted by the UN-sponsored Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) in February, with the aim to bring stability in Libya.

Xinhua

US population grew at record low rate in 2021

THE United States’ population grew at a slower rate in 2021 than in any other year on record as the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the more subdued growth the country has experienced in recent years, the US Census Bureau said.

“The slow rate of growth can be attributed to decreased net international migration, decreased fertility, and increased mortality due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic,” the Census Bureau said on Tuesday.

The year 2021 is the first time since 1937 that the US population grew by fewer than 1 million people, reflecting the lowest numeric growth since at least 1900, when the Census Bureau began annual population estimates.

The population of the United States increased in the past year by 392,665, or 0.1 percent, according to the US Census Bureau Vintage 2021 Population Estimates released on Tuesday.

Slower population growth has been a trend in the United States for several years, the result of decreasing fertility and net international migration, combined with increasing mortality due to an aging population.

Between 2020 and 2021, the population of 33 US states increased. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia lost population. Eleven of those 18 areas that lost population had losses of

10,000 people or more, the figures released on Tuesday showed.

“Apart from the last few years, when population growth slowed to historically low levels, the slowest rate of growth in the 20th century was from 1918-1919 amid the influenza pandemic and World War I,” Luke Rogers, chief of the Census Bureau’s population estimates branch, said.

Since Apr 1, 2020 (Census Day), the nation’s population increased from 331,449,281 to 331,893,745, a gain of 0.13 percent, the figures showed.

The United States’ official death toll from the coronavirus outbreak has been by far the highest in the world with over 800,000 deaths recorded in the country from the disease, according to data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Xinhua

The slow rate of growth can be attributed to decreased net international migration, decreased fertility, and increased mortality due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic

CHINA’S manned submersible Fendouzhe (Striver) has completed 21 dives with a depth of over 10,000 meters, carrying 27 scientists to the deepest parts of oceans. Both the figures are the highest in the world.

The submersible has just recently returned to a port in the city of Sanya, south China’s Hainan province from a 53-day expedition, carried by the scientific research ship Tansuo-1. It marked that the submersible has completed its second stage of sea trials of 2021.

During this expedition, which was joined by over

China’s manned deep-sea submersible finishes 21 dives of over 10,000 metres in oceans

60 researchers from 10 organizations, Fendouzhe finished 23 dives, six of which exceeded a depth of 10,000 meters. It has successfully landed on the Challenger Deep, the deepest known point of the seabed at the southern end of the Mariana Trench.

The Challenger Deep has a depth of more than 10,900 meters at its deepest point. As a key channel in the deep sea and a mysterious region that sees active geological activities, it is considered one of the frontiers of ma-

rine science.

During the second stage of sea trials, a series of deep-sea instruments were tested in a depth of over 10,000 meters, including full-ocean depth autonomous underwater vehicle Wukong and an acoustic release transponder.

Besides, as a submersible that is able to dive deep and work with a high precision, Fendouzhe obtained a batch of valuable samples, including water, sediment, rocks and micro-organisms. It has accumulated valuable data

for use in comparative studies of environments, geological structures and life forms in different trenches.

It is worth mentioning that after the expedition, the 67-year-old scientist Wang Jian became the first man in China that has joined surveys to the North and South Poles, topped the Qomolangma and dived into the waters over 10,000 below the sea surface. He is also the oldest person in the world with such an accomplishment.

During the second stage of sea trials, the Mariana Con-

sensus was initiated by participating scientists, which calls for the establishment of a standardized system for deep-sea expeditions to realize the long-term preservation and sharing of deep-sea scientific samples and data.

The Consensus adopts a volunteer cooperation and sample sharing mechanism.

Besides, the expedition also launched the Mariana Trench Environment and Ecology Research Project (MEER). The project will invite experts and scholars from both China and abroad,

After Frost’s departure, ice remains hard to melt in Britain-EU post-Brexit talks

LONDON

WHILE Britain and the European Union (EU) are generally hopeful that British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss’s new role as the chief negotiator for post-Brexit talks might make negotiations more amiable, many are clear-eyed that it remains difficult to break the stalemate across the Channel.

On Tuesday, only two days after Truss was handed the Europe portfolio following the sudden resignation of former Brexit minister David Frost, Truss took a quick move to have an online meeting with European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic.

Reiterating that Britain wants a constructive relationship with the EU, Truss said: “The UK position has not changed. We need goods to flow freely between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, end the role of the ECJ (the European Court of Justice) as the final arbiter of disputes between us, and resolve other issues.”

She urged the two sides to “pick up pace” on talks in the new year, saying reaching an agreed solution remains their “preference.”

However, the issue involving trade in Northern Ireland remains thorny despite the change of the key British negotiator.

As part of the agreed rules following Britain’s departure from the EU, the Northern Ireland Protocol means goods between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland could continue to be sent seamlessly across the border which is now the only EU frontier within the British Isles.

However, a de-facto border was cre-



British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss

ated down the middle of the Irish Sea, which has been heavily criticized by businesses saying it has made it more difficult to send goods to Northern Ireland from the British mainland.

Discussions between London and Brussels about how to operate the protocol have reached an impasse, with the EU reportedly complaining about Frost’s hardline stance and bad temper.

However, anyone expecting a softer line on Brexit from the British side with Truss now as chief negotiator would likely need to think twice as she said: “If this does not happen we remain prepared to trigger Article 16.”

Article 16 is an emergency mechanism in the Protocol that either Britain or the EU can use to introduce temporary safeguard measures to protect its economy and society in the event of “serious economic, societal or environmental difficulties that are liable to persist.” But it could lead to a trade

war and the collapse of the Brexit trade agreement.

Charles Grant, director of the Centre for European Reform, a thinktank, expressed doubt whether Truss’s popularity within British ruling Conservative Party can help strike a successful deal with the EU on the protocol.

“I doubt Truss will enjoy Frost’s power and authority over the UK’s approach in Brexit talks, for four reasons.

First, she lacks the close personal bond with Johnson that Frost had formed.

Second, she is not an EU expert, and Frost is.

Third, unlike Frost, she is not naturally a politician who likes to delve into the detail.

And fourth, being foreign secretary is already a full-time job that will demand a lot of her attention,” Grant said.

The general state of mind across the EU is “we are on a wait-and-see mode,” and diplomats prefer to be cautious about predicting about the future and have “low expectations,” an article on U.S. news portal Politico said on Monday.

Following Tuesday’s virtual meeting, Sefcovic said on Twitter: “I’m committed to continue working towards a conclusive understanding with the UK on practical solutions for NI (Northern Ireland) stakeholders.

The EU’s position is known. Our goal: stability and predictability.” Despite the uncertainties, Professor Iain Begg from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) told Xinhua that he welcomed the prospect of new talks.

“I thought the proposals from Sefcovic on easing border controls would enable a solution for Northern Ireland,” he said.

However, he pointed out that the two sides remain far apart on key issues such as the role of the ECJ. Britain’s resistance to any role for the ECJ remains “untenable,” he said.

Xinhua

Living a happy life is the primary human right

CHINESE President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the 2021 South-South Human Rights Forum, which opened in Beijing on Dec. 8.

Noting that human rights represent the progress of human civilization, Xi said in the letter that it is a common pursuit of human society to protect the life, value and dignity of everyone and deliver human rights to all.

Putting people first and taking people’s aspiration for a better life as a goal to strive for is a responsibility placed on all countries, he said, adding that the Communist Party of China is committed to respecting and protecting human rights.

Xi’s letter profoundly explained how China views human rights, introduced the country’s concrete actions to safeguard human rights, and demonstrated the country’s sense of responsibility to carry forward the common values of humanity and promote the healthy development of the international human rights cause.

The Communist Party of China (CPC) is a political party that has always respected and protected human rights. It has been upholding the banner of democracy and human rights since the day it was founded. It has united and led the Chinese people to fight for national independence and liberation in a tireless struggle, founding the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and making the people the masters of the country.

After the PRC was founded, the CPC has led the Chinese people in completing socialist revolution and construction, and establishing socialism as China’s basic system. It has created the fundamental political conditions and



A villager poses for a picture with the grapes he harvests in a village in Awat county, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, Sept. 21, 2021. File photo

the institutional foundation for the development of China’s human rights cause.

As China adopted the policy of reform and opening up, it has been forging ahead on the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Continuously unleashing and developing productive forces, China has made the historic transformation of raising the living standards of its people from bare subsistence to an overall level of moderate prosperity, and then ultimately to moderate prosperity in all respects. China has come a long way in human rights progress.

President Xi places high importance on respecting and protecting human rights. He has raised a series of original and appealing visions on human rights, including the philosophy of placing people at the center and putting people and their lives first.

He also holds that living a happy life is the primary human right and is pushing forward with the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

China is committed to a people-centered approach, places

the interests of the people in the first place, promotes human rights progress with development, advocates whole-process people’s democracy, and promotes the free and comprehensive development of the people.

It has successfully blazed a trail of human rights development that conforms to the trend of the times and made remarkable achievements in its human rights cause.

Charles-Armel Doubane, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic pointed out that the world should learn from China’s experience of placing people’s development in the central place and strive for common progress.

China’s practice fully indicated that living a happy life is the primary human right. Winning the battle against poverty, China has lifted nearly 100 million rural people out of poverty and met the poverty eradication target set in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule.

To protect the lives and health of the people, the country has put the people and their lives

in the first place in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. All individuals are taken good care of, including newborns and centenarians.

Italian expert Paolo Vincenzo Genovese who had once been deeply involved in China’s poverty alleviation said the 1.4 billion Chinese people are gaining an increasingly larger sense of fulfillment, happiness, and security, and China’s practice has provided valuable experiences for other countries to promote the development of human rights.

China has been active in global governance of human rights and fulfilled its international human rights obligations, contributing important wisdom and strength to international human rights undertakings.

The country has proactively launched international cooperation to fight COVID-19 and sent huge batches of anti-pandemic materials to the rest of the world.

China is the first country in the world that has promised to make COVID-19 vaccines a global public product, and has so far provided over 1.8 billion doses of vaccines for more than 120 countries and international organizations, making vital contributions to the fair distribution and accessibility of vaccines.

To promote common development of the world, China adheres to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits.

It has promoted the high-quality construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, under which batches of cooperation projects have been implemented, creating over 300,000 jobs for participating countries and enhancing the wellbeing of their people.

People’s Daily

through relevant science plans and international cooperation.

Chen Chuanxu, chief scientist of the second stage of sea trials, introduced that Fendouzhe completed 51 dives this year, and three of them were made in five days.

These dives have made the launching and retrieval of the submersible adaptable to a wider scope of sea state, and trained more oceanists, which has made it possible for Fendouzhe to carry more scientists across the world to the deepest areas of the world.

People’s Daily



Dar es Salaam Disc Jockey, Abdul Mohamed, popularly known as 'DJ Dully' (L), is presented with a dummy cheque of 7m/- by 'Mdundo' representative, Frida Mugarula, once the former emerged victorious in a DJ competition, known as 'Mdundo DJ Battle', which took place in the city recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Mohamed wins Dar DJ competition, bags 7m/-

By Guardian Correspondent

AFRICA's leading online music service, dubbed 'Mdundo,' has announced Dar es Salaam Disc Jockey, Abdul Mohamed, alias 'DJ Dully', as the winner of this year's Disc Jockey competition, known as 'Mdundo DJ Battle'.

Apart from clinching the event's top honour, 'DJ Dully' has raked in cash prize totaling 7,000,000/-.

The DJ has further landed a spot on a live radio program to play the winning DJ mix. The 'Mdundo DJ Battle' saw more than 200 local DJs enter the competition.

'DJ Dully' was met by the 'Mdundo' team earlier this week where the check was handed over to him and the title celebrated.

'Mdundo' Senior Marketing Manager, William Abagi, said: "The 'Mdundo DJ Battle' has been extremely well received with hundreds of entries from across the country."

"We would like to thank all the DJs that have participated in the competition and especially 'DJ Dully' for his amazing efforts in this competition."

The competition is creating a platform for DJs in Tanzania to showcase their talents to 'Mdundo's' 10 million monthly users.

The 'Mdundo DJ Battle' is an oppor-

tunity for DJs to leverage and expand their fanbase and further their brand reach, this is the first time 'Mdundo' is running the DJ battle.

"The 'Mdundo DJ Battle' has been a huge success, it is the first battle we are running and the participation and support have been great."

"We're looking forward to running the second edition in 2022 and hopefully engage even more DJs in the country," Abagi pointed out.

'Mdundo' works with more than 100,000 musicians from across Africa and Tanzania has the platform's biggest user base recording 4.1 million unique users in the quarter leading to September 2021.

The music service has partnered with Vodacom Tanzania to offer music lovers access to premium music content, DJ Mixtapes, for as low as 100/- daily.

Interested supporters of the 'Mdundo' DJ Battle should follow Mdundo social media accounts for further information, Instagram: @mdundomusicTz, Facebook: @mdundomusic, Twitter: @Mdundotanzania.

'Mdundo' is proud of having over 10,500,000 monthly users in Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, and other African countries and works directly with over 100,000 African musicians.

Lions Cricket Club cruises to DC-MCC T20 Cup tourney last four

By Guardian Reporter

LIONS Cricket Club has inched closer to clinching this season's Balakrishna Foundation Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC)-Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) T20 Cup tournament's top honour after making it to the showdown's semi-final with a 12-run victory over Caravans B outfit in the city last weekend.

The quarterfinal, played at Leaders Club venue, was a closely contested affair and had to go to the last ball of the match to decide the winners.

Experienced batsmen, Atif Salim, and Pramod Shetty, had an impressive showing at the crease when Lions Cricket Club had a chance to bat first and amass 144 runs dropping nine wickets in the allotted 20 overs.

Opening batsmen, Gulraiz Haideri and Taher Chakera, exited the crease early as Caravans B bowlers attempted to frustrate efforts by the former to get off to a good start.

Chakera could not reach double-digit figures as the batsman returned with four runs, fellow opener Haideri held on for a few more overs, notching 17 runs which consisted of two fours and a six.

Shetty that was deployed a number four steadied the ship with his 34 runs that included four boundaries and a six.

Salim boosted the total with a series of solid knocks that saw him notch 28 runs which included two fours.

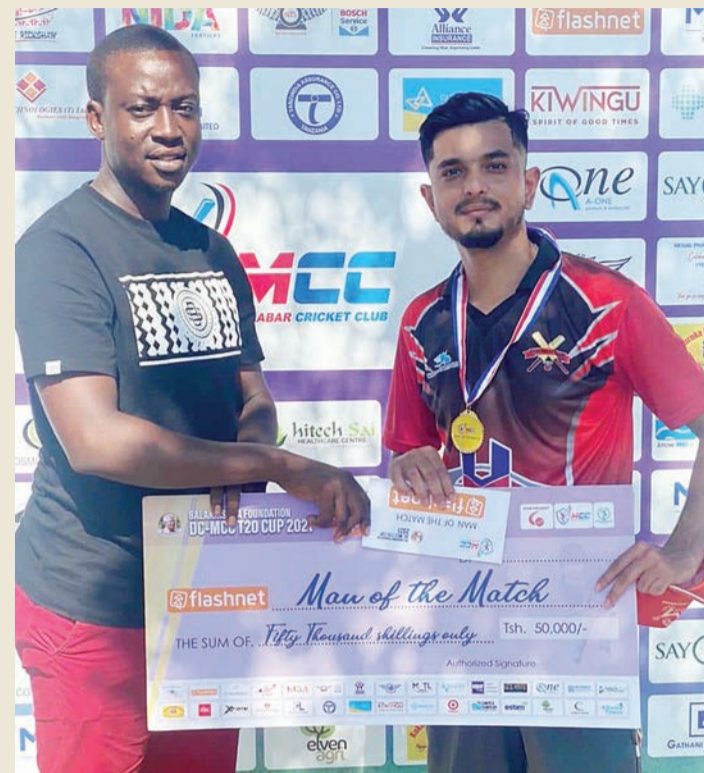
Youthful player, Abubakar Selemani, who was this time around placed at the middle-order, ended with 11 runs clearing the boundary once.

There was no other batsman in the outfit's batting unit that managed to end with a double-digit figure as Caravans B bowlers upped their tempo.

Middle-order batsmen, Mubin Hassan and Ali Sumar, and low-order batsman, Ramadhani Mbunde, could so far chip in with six runs each.

Youthful bowler, Karim Athumani, led Caravans B side's bowling unit's efforts to restrict Lions Cricket Club's score to a manageable target, as he took three wickets leaking 25 runs in four overs.

He was ably assisted by Anand Ram and Johnson Nyambo that ended with two wickets apiece.



Lions Cricket Club's Gulraiz Haideri (R) gets Man of the Match prize from Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chief Executive Officer, Hamisi Abdallah, shortly after the former's side confronted Caravans B squad in this season's Balakrishna Foundation Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC)-Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) T20 Cup tournament's last eight's tie that took place early this week. PHOTO: LIONS CRICKET CLUB

Posting 145 runs to emerge victorious turned out to be a tall order for Caravans B squad, the outfit in response recorded 132 runs dropping nine wickets in 20 overs.

The opener, Anoop Kumar, top-order batsman, Nyambo, and middle-order batsman, Issa Safari, were the batsmen with a notable showing at the crease as Caravans B squad's efforts to reach the target waned in the last over.

Kumar was the batsman with the most runs, notching 31 runs which consisted of a boundary and two sixes.

Caravans B squad's chase experienced a huge setback, as the side's skipper, Vineeth Chandran, made his way back to the pavilion early on, ending with three runs.

Lions Cricket Club's bowling unit sought to keep on tormenting Caravans B squad's batsmen with early dismissal of one of the key players, Gokul Das.

The youthful performer's efforts to make his presence felt were frustrated, given the cricketer scored 17 runs clearing the boundary once.

Nyambo managed to push Caravans B outfit's score with his 29 runs and Safari chipped in with 18 runs.

Sobin Joseph and Harith Kisa-juje had not out stints, record-

ing five runs not out and four runs not out respectively, their efforts though could not give Caravans B outfit the victory.

Experienced cricketer, Abdulsamad Ahmed, played a pivotal role in Lions Cricket Club's efforts to keep the Caravans B outfit in check, the bowler had an impressive four-wicket haul, giving away 32 runs in four overs.

Youthful Haideri compounded Caravans B squad's woes, taking three wickets in four overs. The promising cricketer was ultimately voted as the best player of the match.

Haideri was presented with a cash prize totaling 50,000/- with the award being sponsored by Flashnet Company.

Lions Cricket Club is this season's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division B T20 champion.

Caravans B side, a second-string side of Caravans Cricket Club, is a team that has come back this year and made rapid progress in local tournaments.

The side roped in several U-19 cricketers, who represented Tanzania in this year's Africa Region Qualifiers for ICC U-19 World Cup in Kigali in October, giving them chance to prove their worth in club tournaments.

The tournament, which is

organized by MCC in association with DC and Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), was officially inaugurated in Dar es Salaam in 2016.

The DC-MCC T20 Cup tournament, which was not held last year due to the coronavirus outbreak, has involved 16 teams this time around.

The teams that are participating in the tournament are Estim, Aga Khan SC, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC), Tamil Nadu Sports Club, GP Pak Stars, Alaf Aces, K&P Constructions outfit, and Caravans Cricket Club.

Lions Cricket Club, Union SC, Sandy's Super Strikers, Annadil Burhani, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), Dar Black Panthers, Upanga SC, and hosts, MCC, complete the list.

The 16 teams, the organizers revealed, had been divided into four groups playing against each other in the round-robin phase, with the top two winners in each group qualifying for the quarterfinals.

The eight teams locked horns in the last eight last weekend, seeking progression to the semi-finals, with the last two reaching the finals.

Balakrishna Foundation is the competition's main sponsor. Other supporting sponsors include Estim Constructions Limited, Alliance Insurance Limited, Canara Bank Limited, Nida Textiles Limited, NTS- Bosch, Tanzania Limited, Kivingu, Cosmos Group, Alliance Finance Limited, Eleven Agri Limited, and Rickshaw Travels Limited.

Unoplast Tanzania Limited, Honest Logistics Limited, Davis & Shirliff Limited, Hittech Sai, METL Group, Abacus, UC Unity, ABC Emporio, Flashnet, A-One Products, and Bottlers Limited are also the co-sponsors.

Essar Life of Style, Gathani Tanzania Limited, Aurobindo, Xtreme Fitness, Target Brands, Ahead Africa Solutions, Regal Pharmaceuticals Limited, Unity Computers, Tanzindia Assurance Company Limited, and Wipro Technologies Tanzania Limited complete the co-sponsors list.

Midfielder set to leave Azam FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC has agreed to a request tabled by their midfielder, Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy', to terminate his current contract that is running out at the end of this season.

A statement confirmed by Azam FC's information officer, Thabit Zakaria, is that Abubakar has submitted his application for contract termination in writing to the club's management.

Earlier Abubakar had been suspended by Azam FC's leadership indefinitely along with fellow footballers, Aggrey Morris and Mudathir Yahya.

The footballer refused to return to training camp while his teammates were allowed to return to the group.

Zakaria said the management of Azam FC has already agreed to the request of the midfielder, who has been with Azam FC since the team won the Mainland Premier League top honour in 2013/14 season.

The Azam FC leader noted: "The leadership will sit down and look at the possibility of completing his request because this is a possibility and no one is determined to make it hard for Abubakar this is the life of football."

"We have agreed with him on his

request to terminate the contract and he should go and get his reply letter as soon as possible on the office he submitted his letter," Zakaria added.

Azam FC's decision has given the midfielder freedom to join Yanga, a team that his father, Abubakar Salum, played for during his playing days.

Yanga expressed their desire to sign the player last season but efforts to rope the midfielder in happened to be unsuccessful after their offer was rejected.

If Abubakar moves to Yanga, he will give the side more edge due to his excellent goal-scoring skills that he showcased when he was playing at Azam FC. He will add to the variety of midfielders like Khalid Aucho, Mukoko Tonombe, Zawadi Mauya, Yannick Bangala, and Feisal Salum.

Abubakar will have a huge task to make sure he breaks in the starting lineup.

The 29-year-old has 42 caps for the national team 'Taifa Stars', with one goal to his name for the team since his debut in 2012.

Amid his request of leaving Azam FC, he leaves room for young Tanzanian midfielder, Sospeter Bajana, to prosper at the outfit due to having a guaranteed position.



Indian models showcase the South Indian Saree's creation at the India-Tanzania Fashion Show, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. The show is geared towards celebrating India's 75 years of independence and 60 years of India-Tanzania diplomatic relationship and cultural exchange between the two countries. PHOTO: BEATRICE PHILEMON

No more all-powerful managers: Premier League's move toward the director of football model

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

ENGLISH football was considered the last bastion of managerial autonomy.

Former Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger summed up the resistance to change in May 2017 when confronted with reports the Gunners were planning to appoint a director of football.

"What is [a] director of football? I don't know what it means," he began.

"Is it somebody who stands on the road and directs play right and left?"

I never could understand what it means. I am manager of Arsenal football club, and as long as I am, I will decide what happens on the technical front, and that's it."

On the one hand, Wenger's defiance was his thinly veiled frustration at the gradual erosion of his long-standing authority, justified by decision-makers above him who felt the club needed to modernize in the face of sustained decline.

It was an internal tension that ended with Wenger acrimoniously leaving the club in 2018.

But on a grander scale, following Sir Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013, Wenger was also the last truly autocratic manager in remit.

(There is a much-told story that Wenger's control was so absolute at one point many years ago, that any member of staff desiring a new work phone had to receive sign-off from the Frenchman himself.)

Arsenal's story post-Wenger is a prime example of the difficulties English clubs have had in implementing this system.

They transitioned away from a manager who oversaw all aspects of football operations to establishing nine department heads, reporting into a hierarchy Wenger was only one part of, only to then strengthen Mikel Arteta's grip on the club three years later.

Wenger's job title was "manager." His successor, Unai Emery, was called "head coach," as was Arteta before he was later "promoted" to "manager."

The Premier League may be the most lucrative and best-watched division in world football, but there's plenty of evidence that the game in England is still adjusting to a model long since implemented in Europe and beyond.

In the modern era, it's no longer just the manager who is exclusively tasked with creating a team's vision and culture.

Clubs aim to create a long-standing identity based on values that are intended to be impervious to the vagaries of managerial changes.

David Webb believes clarity is the key issue in that process.

Webb has occupied various roles, including head of football operations at Huddersfield, head of elite potential



Former Huddersfield Town's Head of Football Operations, David Webb.

identification working under Mauricio Pochettino at Tottenham, and technical director at Ostersunds in Sweden.

"I spoke to a big Championship club at the end of last season about a role," Webb told ESPN.

"They had no idea about the role at all, what it meant, or how it intersected with their current coaching and management setup. And this was a modern-day football club. Some areas are still lacking that understanding of what a sporting director actually does.

"When I was at Huddersfield, for example, the role was 'head of football operations,' but it was basically 'sporting director' or 'technical director,' just worded differently.

"I said to them, 'With the fans, this is where you need to have an open communication with them so they understand who is coming in and what their role is.'"

Other clubs have their own version of these issues. Everton's director of football, Marcel Brands, left the club on Monday, with speculation he did not agree with the appointment of Rafael Benitez as manager and that their working relationship was strained as a result.

Tottenham made a hash of bringing in head coach Nuno Espirito Santo in the summer -- eventually sacking him after just 17 games -- following confusion in their approach arising from Fabio Paratici's appointment as "managing director, football" to work alongside chairman Daniel Levy.

Manchester United named ex-Scotland midfielder Darren Fletcher as their first technical director in March, but

the calamitous end to Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's reign as head coach led the club to recognise they needed guidance in long-term strategy.

It was telling that Ralf Rangnick was convinced to replace Solskjaer as head coach midseason in part because of the promise of a two-year consultancy role to follow, in the latter role, he'll help restructure a club whose decision-making has been heavily criticised ever since Ferguson's departure.

"If you are transparent with the fans, then it makes the sporting director accountable, you get the connection with the fans straight away. And then, when you're looking to build a philosophy, it gives the fans a longer-term view to buy into it," said Webb.

"It also takes the pressure off the head coach as well. They are the face of many things -- the style, trying to win games -- but the overview is they are passing through, helping the club build in a certain way.

"If they do well, naturally, they're going to move on, and the role of the sporting director is keeping the bloodline going with a coach who can buy into those philosophies. From there, the cycle will start again."

All but five Premier League clubs list a significant role above the conventional head coach or manager on the division's official website, but the names vary from technical director, head of football administration, sporting director or, in Marina Granovskaia's case at Chelsea, member of board of directors in charge of football.

In the minds of many supporters, this can cre-

ate confusion over who exactly does what.

"It is just a naming convention really," Phil Giles, co-technical director of Brentford, told ESPN.

"Sporting director, technical director and director of football are more or less the same role, in my opinion.

Every single club will have a slightly different variation on how that works, who reports to that person, who that person reports to themselves, and how that operates in relation to the board. Really, it should be the sporting director who brings in the head coach.

"The advantage you have of something like me and Rasmus [Ankersen] bringing in a head coach is that you can build that relationship and set the expectations before they come into the role so they know exactly what they're getting themselves into."

Giles has worked alongside Ankersen for six years, helping take the club from ninth in the Championship to Premier League promotion in 2020.

Last Friday, Ankersen announced he would be stepping down at the end of the month to form his own sports agency.

It will leave Giles as the club's sole technical director, and although Ankersen departs amid a flurry of praise from the club, Giles describes a division of labour he's likely to miss.

Speaking before the announcement, Giles said: "We have pretty clear responsibilities.

For example, Thomas looks after the day-to-day at the training ground, team selection and all the rest of it.

Rasmus and I are working more on building the club up. We're also very different. Rasmus

is much more out there, speaking to people, making contacts and thinking about the long term -- new coaches we could bring into the club, or whatever it might be. I'm much more doing the day-to-day management of the whole operation.

"We're really chief executives of the training ground. Outside transfer windows, we are much more focused on building the foundations of the club, making sure [Matthew Benham] the owner's ideas are integrated into the club and he is happy with the way the football side of it works.

"[The owner] has got some pretty clear concepts and we are the architects of putting that in place.

"For example, at the start of the season we'll put together a football strategy document outlining our aims and targets for the coming season.

"We'll work with our staff on that to make sure we set the targets appropriately so it is stretching enough for everyone."

One consequence of English football's slow transition has seemingly been a lack of home-grown talent entrusted to perform these roles.

Paul Mitchell, formerly of Southampton and Tottenham, is now at Monaco, and Michael Edwards has enjoyed great success at Liverpool, but prominent British technical directors are still in relatively short supply, less still those with the same profile as ex-players such as Leonardo at Paris Saint-Germain or Marc Overmars, director of football at Ajax.

Even Dan Ashworth, something of a pioneer in England, left the Football Association in 2018, after the England team he oversaw reached a World Cup semifinal, and joined mid-table Brighton.

Edwards will be replaced by his deputy, Julian Ward, when he steps down at the end of the season, but the top Premier League clubs still favour overseas options as part of a technical director structure. Of the traditional Big Six, Arsenal employ Edu as technical director, Granovskaia is in control at Chelsea, Tottenham's transfer activity is driven heavily by Paratici, City have Txiki Begiristain and Rangnick will soon join Fletcher in moving United forward.

Webb came to prominence in 2013 as head of recruitment at Bour-

nemouth, who accelerated through the divisions to reach the Premier League in 2015 and stay there for five seasons.

"When I started, there was a stigma towards English people doing it to be fair because the European culture -- Germany, France, Holland, Spain -- they had the process in place for a number of years," Webb said. "Culturally in England, we were -- and still are in some areas -- shifting away from the manager's role having the full control over the club."

Webb is expected to rejoin the growing British contingent.

He is weighing up interest from several clubs, including Lazio, Celtic and PAOK in Greece. Another unnamed Premier League club could also be an option.

"For me, it's about having that clarity I mentioned earlier and the project, working where a club has a vision of where they want to be and how exciting that is," he said.

"Also, my skill set needs to fit them and vice versa."

Neither Webb nor Giles had a conventional route into the sporting director world.

Webb had an advertising sales job and also worked in a school, spending time off travelling Europe to learn different coaching methods.

He had 15 job interviews before catching a break at Crystal Palace in 2002. Giles had an interview at a hedge fund before joining Brentford owner Matthew Benham's company, Smartodds, where he analysed sport through a data lens.

"I have years of experience outside football and I bring that," Giles said. "You hear a lot of talk about making sure clubs now have really strong processes in decision-making at the top level."

Formal qualifications are not required for the job, but some do exist.

There is a two-year course run by the Football Association, a "Level 5 for Technical Directors" that invites applicants already in a technical director role or individuals who clubs or the FA identify as having the potential to take up a position within three years.

The last course ended in October, with 12 graduates all holding positions at clubs ranging from Forest Green Rovers to Chelsea.

Inevitably, however,

the success of technical directors, sporting directors -- or whatever title they're given -- is largely judged from the outside through the lens of the transfer window.

"Myself and Rasmus are actual directors of the club, so there is an inherent accountability that comes with that in terms of fiduciary requirements, financial requirements," Giles said.

"We're the ones on the line if there is anything untoward about what we do."

Transfers are always fraught with risk in that regard.

The proliferation of technical directors is grossly outweighed by the explosion in agents since FIFA deregulated the industry in 2015.

It is estimated that there were around 400 to 500 agents working in England before FIFA decided that no entrance exam or formal qualification was required.

Within a year, the number was estimated to have risen as high as 2,000 and last month, the FA published a list of intermediaries registered in England. It stretched to 54 pages.

Giles said: "It's fairly easy to see where it is getting complicated. What needs to happen is, you need to deal with one agent who represents a player and the players pays his agent to represent him. That's the cleanest way. It gets a lot more complicated when you get a lot of agents getting themselves in on a deal."

Webb recalls a specific incident. "There was an example at Tottenham when we were after a top French talent," he said.

"I can't say the name but it came to the point where we had done all our technical, scouting and profiling work, and we thought based on the paperwork, we had the player's actual representative.

"It turned out he'd given out four different mandates. There was a family member claiming to be one, a big agency, one of his friends and then another smaller agent.

In the end, all of them wanted an agency fee. We had a very strict criteria of what we'd pay as an agent fee as a percentage, and it wasn't enough split four ways. So it became too messy.

"As much as we really wanted the player, the best option for us was to walk away and go for another option. The life of a technical director is rarely straightforward."



SPORT

No more all-powerful managers: Premier League's move toward the director of football model

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Nabi: Yanga players all out to clinch NBC Premier League silverware

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, has disclosed the squad's resilience in this season's NBC Premier League tie against Prisons, played in Rukwa early this week, signals maturity in his squad.

The NBC Premier League leader notched a crucial 2-1 win over Prisons in the duel, played at Nelson Mandela Stadium, once the former had trailed the latter by lone goal for a few minutes.

Nabi pointed out his squad is adamant it is eager to clinch the Premier League's top honour.

Yanga recently made its way back to Dar es Salaam and is shaping up for a Premier League tie against Biashara United slated for Sunday in Dar es Salaam.

Nabi said his side's ability to post a victory against Prisons in a difficult situation proves that the outfit has shown it can lift the top-flight title.

Yanga came from a goal down to notch the win over Prisons. The hosts went 1-0 up after towering forward Samson Mbangula netted via a header.

The visitors leveled matters via midfielder, Feisal Salum, as the footballer found Prisons' back of the net with his left foot.

Yanga later went 2-1 up via an own goal by one of Prisons' players, when the footballer had attempted to boot the ball away, with Yanga midfielder, Khalid Aucho, having arrived in the area to connect a cross from a teammate.

Nabi revealed: "Look, we have come from behind, we made mistakes but the players showcased composure, equalized, and later got the winning goal."

"This is a sign that we have what it takes to clinch silverware this season, I'm very proud that my players and assistants have given a great honour to the outfit's leadership and our fans who are with us every game."

Nabi added that he was shocked when his players stood firm and expressed readiness to honour the fixture, much as eight of Yanga players were suffering from severe cold, headache, and coughing.

The Tunisian tactician pointed out his players' illness started before their trip from Dar es Salaam and the situation forced the technical bench to leave midfielder, Yannick Bangala, whose condition was critical.

"The players got sick before we left Dar es Salaam, we had to leave Bangala back to rest, there were others who made the trip much as they were sick," he disclosed.

"As we went to the training session, the number of players falling ill increased, it scared me a lot and officials started taking steps to see if the game could be moved forward," he said.

Nabi mentioned the players, who suffered from the disease, as goalkeeper Djigui Diarra, defenders Djuma Shabani, captain Bakari Mwamnyeto, and Dickson Job, midfielders, Mukoko Tonombe, Feisal Salum, and striker, Fiston Mayele, who all played the game.

"When the players heard that there were plans to request for another date for the match, they followed me and opposed the move, they said they would not want a change of date... as a coach, you must be shocked but look at how they gave their all."

"This is great maturity shown by these players and this also shows that they are ready for a championship battle in any environment."

Pressure on Azam FC, Ruvu Shooting ahead of crunch NBC Premier League tie



Azam FC's players listen to head coach, George Lwandamina, and his backroom staff as they were in training in Zambia in August, shaping up for this season's NBC Premier League. Lwandamina has left the side. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC is targeting a swift return to winning ways when the club entertains Ruvu Shooting in Dar es Salaam today in what will be their final game of 2021.

The seventh-placed Azam FC is winless in the outfit's last two NBC Premier League matches.

The Ice Cream Makers last tasted victory in November when they beat strugglers, Mtbwa Sugar, 1-0, and have only been able to register two draws since, a disappointing run that has left them 11 points behind the leader, Yanga.

Under interim head coach, Mohamed Badru, however, there have been definite signs of life at Azam FC.

A win in this season's Fed-

eration Cup and a pulsating 2-2 draw against Mbeya City FC in a league tie has helped Azam FC boost morale in their squad.

It remains unclear who will be available for Azam FC selection today, due to an outbreak of flu cases at the Chamazi club.

Congolese Idris Mbombo who missed Azam FC's last game against Mbeya City FC, could be missing again from the action if still infected, together with six other players.

Meanwhile, Ruvu Shooting is winless in the club's last nine Premier League fixtures and occupies 12th place in the top-flight standings, just

two points clear of the dreaded relegation zone.

They remain perilously close to the dreaded drop zone, just a point clear of 13th-placed Prisons.

Nathaniel Chilambo, Sadat Nanguo and Rashid Juma will be the key players for Ruvu Shooting coach, Boniface Mkwasa.

In head-to-head stats, Azam FC and Ruvu Shooting have clashed in 20 top-flight league matches since the 2010/11 season.

Azam FC has claimed 11 wins compared to two for Ruvu Shooting, while seven games have ended in a draw.

Azam FC's line-up from their 2-2

draw with Mbeya City FC on December 18: Ahmed Salula, Bruce Kangwa (Paschal Msindo 72'), Daniel Amoah, Abdallah Kheri, Nicolaus Wadada, Frank Domayo (Rodgers Kola 72'), Paul Katema, Sospeter Bajana (Ismail Aziz 46'), Never Tigere, Prince Dube, Tepsie E Vance.

Ruvu Shooting's line-up from their 2-1 defeat to Geita Gold FC on Friday: Mohamed Makaka, Nathaniel Chilambo, Cassian Poner, Michael Masinda, Eradius Mfulebe, Shaban Msala, Zubeir Dabi, Abdulrahman Mussa, Rashid Juma (Pius Buswita 77'), Fulgence Maganga, Sadat Nanguo (Ismail Mohamed 77').

Azam FC trio included in Zimbabwe's provisional squad for AFCON finals

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC's Zimbabwean trio of defender, Bruce Kangwa, midfielder, Never Tigere, and striker, Prince Dube, is among 30 players in coach Norman Mapeza's

Zimbabwe national team's provisional squad for the Africa Cup of Nations finals which kick off on January 9, 2022, in Cameroon.

The trio is set to make its de-

but appearance at the AFCON finals if they make it into the final squad.

Coach Mapeza will select his final 23 players on December 31 before the team departs for

West Africa.

Dube has gate-crashed into the provisional squad following a lengthy period on the sidelines.

He returned to action two weeks ago in Azam FC's goalless home draw against Kagera Sugar before netting his first goal of the season in a Federation Cup game against Green Warriors.

He was not part of the 40-member provisional squad registered with CAF last month but Zimbabwe was granted a special waiver to add fresh players to their roster.

However, it remains to be seen if Azam FC will release the trio as they have two crucial league games in that period.

They face Ruvu Shooting today before taking on second-placed Simba SC next week.

Zimbabwe's national team 'Warriors' are in Group B in the AFCON finals together with Malawi, Guinea, and Senegal.

This will be Zimbabwe's third consecutive AFCON finals appearance.

Provisional Squad:

Goalkeepers: Petros Mhari (FC Platinum), Martin Mapisa (FC Zamora),

Talbert Shumba (Free State Stars), Taimon Mvula (Dynamos).

Defenders: Peter Muduhwa (Highlanders), Alec Mudimu (Torpedo Kutaisi),

Takudzwa Chimwemwe (Nkana), Jordan Zemura (AFC Bournemouth), Tapiwa Sibanda (Cranborne Bullets), Godknows Murwira, Frank Makarati (Dynamos), Gerald Takwara (Venda Football Academy), Teenage Hadebe (Houston Dynamo), Bruce Kangwa (Azam FC), Onismor Bhasera (SuperSport).

Midfielders: Temptation Chiwunga (JDR Stars), Kelvin Madzongwe (FC Platinum), Bill Antonio (Dynamos), Thabani Kamusoko (Zesco United), Never Tigere (Azam FC), Kuda Mahachi (SuperSport United), Shepherd Mhlanga (Chicken Inn), Ishamel Wadi (JDR Stars), Panashe Mutimbanyoka (FC Platinum).

Strikers: Admiral Muswe (Luton Town), Knox Mutizwa (Golden Arrows), Prince Dube (Azam FC), David Moyo (Hamilton Academical), Knowledge Masona (Al-Tai), Tino Kadewere (Olympique Lyonnais).



Arusha basketball outfit's player, Michael Limo (R), seeks to get the better of Dar Youth team's ballers when the squads met in a competition, known as 'Likizo Cup', at Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park courts in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

DO WE NEED FRIENDS
TO SUPPLEMENT US OR
TO COMPLIMENT US?

