



AGRICULTURE



BUYERS OF UNDRIED PYRETHRUM FLOWERS WARNED PAGE 3

EDUCATION



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JUSTICE



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CRIME



GOVT SET TO BUILD WARD POLICE STATIONS COUNTRYWIDE PAGE 6



South Africa's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Noluthando Malende-Mayepe, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday delivering keynote address at the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of Nelson Mandela's death. Photo: Carlos Banda

Ministers exploring SGR link prospects

By Guardian Correspondent, Kinshasa

of Congo (DRC) have initiated talks on the construction of a standard gauge railway

TANZANIA and the Democratic Republic

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JK graces UDSM's Nelson Mandela yearly memorial

By Henry Mwangonde

FORMER president Jakaya Kikwete, who is also Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, has appealed to African leaders to embrace selflessness and dedication in serving the people in remembering the life, vision and impact on the global stage of legendary South African leader Nelson Mandela.

Invited to give a public lecture at the Hill for the South African High Commission and United Nations resident missions, he said Mandela illustrated the ethics of a leader who had the people to the centre of his feelings.

"Mandela was humble and never allowed his famous name to overshadow the humanity in him, he always associated and mingled with everyone," he stated.

The chancellor used the platform to inspire students, academic staff and the public, encouraging them to embrace Mandela's values of compassion, equality and justice.

He said Mandela became an important figure in the African National Congress (ANC), helping to set up a section for young people, the ANC Youth League.

This activism made him a target of arrest by the apartheid authorities, and he was thus arrested for treason - the crime of betraying your country's government - several times. Still Mandela never went back, retaining

affinity with the movement.

Shabnam Mallick, head of mission for the UN resident coordinator, said Mandela's impact extended far beyond South Africa, earning him global recognition as a symbol of peace, justice and reconciliation.

"As we gather here today, let us reaffirm our commitment to the principles Mandela embodied. Let us strive for inclusive societies that uphold equal rights and opportunities for all, regardless of background," he emphasised.

Prof William Anangisye, the vice chancellor, said in his remarks that during the liberation struggle, UDSM was also at the forefront of the movement.

It kept the academic fire burning on the liberation movement and many of the freedom fighters studied, lectured or participated in intensive and incisive debates that took place here at the Hill," he explained.

He said the debates featured such topics as African liberation, the African position in international politics, regional integration and Pan-Africanism which are still inspiring contemporary debates.

Thus the university saw the necessity of establishing the Mwalimu Nyerere Chair of Pan-African Studies later in 2009, he stated, noting that the panel is directed by capable

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Commission roots for police officers welfare

By Guardian Reporter

MASSIVE reforms are needed in the salary structure for police officers and prison warders in the wake of findings by a presidential commission that low-ranking officers get little retirement pension due to low salaries and early retirement.

Dr Laurean Ndumbaro, a cabinet minister and member of the commission, made this observation in an extensive briefing for senior media personnel at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He said the presidential commission on criminal justice delivery which presented its report to President Samia Suluhu Hassan last week took note of a genuine outcry from low-ranking officers.

They said the situation leaves them in serious financial challenges after retirement which usually comes at an early age, he said.

"The main cause of the complaints is that the new system of calculating pension for low-ranking officers has affected the amount of pension that one gets upon

retirement. It involves a lot of allowances while the retirement age is early," the report affirmed.

It further proposed improvement of salaries for prison and police officers, where legal allowances are embedded into the salary structure. Police and prison officers are paid a series of allowances, totalling up to 1.9m/- while their salary level averages 900,000/- upon which are computed pension deductions, the report specifies.

"We have advised that the allowances be included in the salary so that when retirement comes, the pension is also substantial," he said.

Ambassador Ernest Mangu, a former inspector general of police and a commission member, said the main challenge was that low ranking police officers work for short periods.

That reduces their capability to contribute substantial amounts to social security funds contrary to high-ranking officers who retire at 60 and receive a

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“Everywhere we went people asked us, what is the difference between this commission and others, and we told them that it is the will that anchors the president's political action. It gives us confidence

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Canadian government yesterday announced a \$50m (Canadian dollars, about 92.9bn/-) in support of girls' education and skill development programmes generally.

Harjit Sajjan (pictured), the International Development minister for Canada, announced the move here yesterday, noting that \$25m/- is geared for adolescent girls learning project (Every Adolescent Girl Learn-EAGL), in association with the United Nations

Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Adolescent girls at upper primary and secondary levels will be supported to study mathematics and science subjects, to increase completion rates for girls in secondary schools.

The project is geared to focus on enabling adolescent girls, aged 10-19 years, to enhance their skills to match market trends. It will also provide access to quality alternative learning pathways for those who become pregnant, along with young mothers dropping from the formal education system, he stated.

He acknowledged UNICEF Tanzania's track record of designing successful educational programmes, expressing the hope that the project will inspire young girls to realise EAGL project goals.

The other C\$25m component is directed to technical and vocational education since



the education for skills project is expected to increase adolescent girls and women participation in

economic activities.

The grant will be used to strengthen the capacity of 12 folk development

colleges and 16 community based organizations to design and deliver effective skills training for women and adolescent girls, the minister noted.

The project, run by colleges and institutes in Canada, seeks to promote alternative pathways to education for women and adolescent girls, he stated.

It seeks to increase women's participation in skills training programmes, improve their access to business skills, and pick up skills for social and gender-based rights in their communities, he said.

"Without doubt, when women and girls have equal opportunities to succeed, they can be powerful agents of change," he asserted.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Education, Science and Technology minister, appreciated the gesture of support, saying the government

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Ministers exploring SGR link prospects

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(SGR) from Uvinza in Kigoma Region to Kindu in DRC via the Burundian city of Gitega.

Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba explored the issue in talks with his DRC counterpart Nicolas Kazadi here, on the sidelines of finance and investment ministers and peer review panel of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

The project is meant to connect Burundi and DRC to the global market through the port of Dar es Salaam, the minister stated, also massively boosting trade within the East African Community (EAC).

The government was preparing to commence construction of the 411km-Tabora to Kigoma via Uvinza section of the SGR project, where the procurement process for the design and construction contractor has already been completed.

Tanzania has requested a loan from the African Development Bank (AfDB) as well as the African Development Fund (ADF).

The two agencies can supervise the availability of a loan to finance the construction of the SGR line for the sixth lot from Tabora to Uvinza and the seventh lot of Uvinza-Malagarasi (156 km.

The DRC minister said that the project was important for both countries, noting that its completion will increase economic opportunities and stimulate their development and other partners.

Along with the railway, deliberate efforts are needed to improve road and port infrastructure, he said.

Two electric locomotives and one set of regular electric trains were received last month, with revamping of 1,430 wagons reported to be at the halfway stage.

Once commissioned, the SGR train, running at an optimal 160 km per hour, will cut the time between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro to about two hours, officials affirm.



Tanzania has requested a loan from the African Development Bank (AfDB) as well as the African Development Fund (ADF)

Speeding vehicle kills 2 villagers in Mtwara

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

TWO residents of Mitengo village in Mtwara Region have died after they were hit by a speeding vehicle.

Confirming the accident, Mtwara Regional Police Commander Nicodemus Katembo said that the incidence occurred yesterday around afternoon at Mitengo road in Mtwara Region.

Katembo named the deceased as Salum Mzee (28), a resident of Chipuputa in Mtwara District who was the driver of the motorcycle and Fabian Christian (32), a resident of Magomeni in Mtwara who was a passenger.

"Those on the motorcycles were on their routine activities when a vehicle with registration No, T 335 EAL owned by Mbaraka Bakari hit them," he said.

Katembo said the motorcycle passengers all lost their lives on the spot and that their bodies had been identified by their relatives who are residents of Mtwara.

The regional police boss said the cause of the accidents was speeding, saying the driver of the lorry was recklessly.

He said the Police in Mtwara were conducting a special campaign to create awareness to road users to abide by road traffic regulations.

He said the Police will continue to take serious legal measures to all users who do not abide by traffic

regulations.

Every year road accidents cause the deaths of more than 1.35 million people, disproportionately affecting the developing countries.

In Tanzania, the latest World Health Organisation data established that road accidents account for 6.12 per cent of total deaths, with an actual count of around 18,054 deaths per year.



Those on the motorcycles were on their routine activities when a vehicle with registration No, T 335 EAL owned by Mbaraka Bakari hit them

JK graces UDSM's Nelson Mandela yearly memorial

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leadership, with three distinguished professors succeeding one another since it was formed.

It has held intellectual festivals each year for the past 14 years since it was first mooted in 2008, he added.

Canada gives \$50m for girls' education

FROM PAGE 1

is committed to boosting cooperation between the two countries in improving education.

Many Tanzanians have benefited from the cooperation, he stated, elaborating that the government is working on ways to revolutionize education, which needs the collaboration of various stakeholders.

"The government still wants to see people going abroad to further their studies," he said, urging that

the Canadian government consider support to study in polytechnics.

Dr Daniel Baheta, the UNICEF mission head of education, appreciated the Canada government for the support, saying UNICEF applauds the cooperation between the governments of Tanzania and Canada aimed at improving education, especially for girls."

The on-going cooperation arises from the steady stewardship of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the mission executive intoned.



Finance ministry permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba (2nd-L) leads Tanzania's delegation in bilateral cooperation talks in New York yesterday with The Netherlands' delegation, led by International Cooperation deputy minister Steven Collet (2nd-R). The exchange was held on the sidelines of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum meetings focusing on the evaluation of the progress in implementing the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals, whose deadline is 2030. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Commission roots for police officers welfare

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substantial amount, he elaborated.

The report suggested a rise in the retirement age for low-ranking police and prison officers "to match with the recommended age for civil servants so that their contributing time to social security funds increases."

Ambassador Ombeni Sefue, former chief secretary and vice chairman of the commission, said he was confident that the proposals will be implemented due to the political will exhibited by President

Samia.

"Everywhere we went people asked us, what is the difference between this commission and others, and we told them that it is the will that anchors the president's political action. It gives us confidence," he said, citing it as the reason the team reached out to the public.

Powers of arrest vested with regional and district commissioners raised complaints, with someone stating that he was arrested and kept in custody from Friday up to

Monday "just because the DC by that time was going after his girlfriend. This is unfair," he said.

Attorney General Eliezer Felishi said police officers are required to inform a nearby police station before arresting suspects.

"There are incidents where suspects are being arrested while such information has not been shared with a nearby police station," he stated.

Omari Issa, a business administrator and member of the commission, said that law enforcers

have to look keenly at the provision of justice and fair treatment of people at police stations.

Zuhura Yunus, the director of presidential communications said that President Samia prioritises the provision of justice, citing the release of 2,240 prisoners since assuming office in March 2021.

"The launch of Mama Samia Legal Aid campaign aims to provide legal aid to the public throughout the country. Under the campaign, Tanzanians will get legal aid free of charge," she added.



Visitors to the 18th edition of the Universities, Higher Education, Science and Technology exhibition organised by the Tanzania Commission for Universities and in progress in Dar es Salaam are attended to at the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy's pavilion yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Dr Mwinyi, UNESCO delegation discuss preservation of Stone town heritage site

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi met with a UNESCO delegation at Zanzibar State House yesterday and discussed various issues about the preservation of the Zanzibar Stone Town.

Dr Mwinyi was in company of the Minister for Tourism and Heritage, Simai Mohammed Said and other senior ministry officials.

He said apart from Zanzibar's huge development strides, the

preservation of the internationally recognized Stone Town as a heritage site still continues according to the provided standards.

He told the delegation that the Zanzibar government has been taking various steps to protect the heritage site including removal of motor vehicles parking areas from all areas of the Stone Town, to continue attracting tourists and other visitors.

He added that in implementing these measures, the government

decided to establish car parks at the Darajani area nearby.

He also told the delegation that other steps taken by the government is to collaborate with the private sector to protect the heritage site, especially in refurbishing aged buildings according to the required procedures in returning them to their former appearances.

He added that the government closely monitors the work and makes sure the value of all historical items inside the buildings are

returned to their former places after refurbishing.

In regard to the Beit el Ajaib and People's Palace, President Mwinyi told the UNESCO delegation that the Zanzibar government, in collaboration with the government of Oman, continues to supervise their rehabilitation.

For its part, the UNESCO delegation called on the Zanzibar government to continue preserving its heritage sites to rescue them from changes in technology.



Swala Solutions acting operations manager Roy Kiprono Kimutai (L) symbolically hands over a teachers' house earlier this week to Matongo councillor Godfrey Kegoye (in blue) and Matongo village government chairman Daud Itembe (in hat) at a ceremony held at Matongo Secondary School in Tarime District. The house was jointly built by the firm and Barrick Gold's North Mara mine. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Pyrethrum firms told to take steps against agents buying undried crop

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

REGIONAL authorities in Mbeya have called on firms that buy pyrethrum to take steps against agents buying pyrethrum flowers from farmers that have not been dried, saying they mar the crop's value in so doing.

Mbeya District Commissioner Beno Malisa gave the directives on Wednesday at the crop's stakeholders meeting held at Mbalizi town that discussed various challenges facing the crop.

The meeting involved various pyrethrum stakeholders including farmers, sellers of farm inputs, pyrethrum buyers and various Mbeya District officials.

Malisa said there are some agents who force to buy undried pyrethrum flowers

from farmers in order to attain purchase targets set by their firms.

He said such approaches by agents mar both the pyrethrum market and the quality of the crop produced in the District.

"You have to be firm against your agents who cheat, there are two ways to stamp out the practice, one is to take steps against them or giving motivation to those bringing pyrethrum that satisfy the required quality standards," DC Malisa said.

He said Mbeya District leads in pyrethrum production in the country and that the crop produced in the district is of high quality compared with that produced in other areas in the country.

He called on these unfaithful agents to immediately stop the practice to avoid

legal action against them.

He also called on pyrethrum farmers to stop selling the crop that has not been dried as they contribute destroying the market that has been earning them income.

Some buyers of the crop appealed to the government to help in providing education to farmers claiming that they have been educated to stop selling undried flowers but continue doing so.

One of the buyers, Gerald Joseph said they helped farmers by building for them special driers but do not use them, and continue selling undried pyrethrum flowers.

For his part, Fr. Obed Mwalenge appealed to government officials to be provided with education on the better farming practices of the crop.

Mbeya District Agriculture Officer, Gideon Mapunda said they have been educating farmers on better farming practices of the crop, including picking and drying to ensure its quality.

Tanzania in final plans on implementation of GGW

By Getrude Mbago

TANZANIA is finalising the preparation of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Great Green Wall (GGW) which will significantly support initiatives aimed to restore natural vegetation and overcome impacts of climate change.

GGW was launched in 2007 by the African Union, the game-changing African-led Great Green Wall initiative aims to restore the continent's degraded landscapes and transform millions of lives in the Sahel.

This ambitious project is being implemented across 22 African countries and will revitalize thousands of communities across the continent. It brings together African countries and international partners under the leadership of the African Union Commission and the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green. More than USD 8 billion has been raised and pledged to support this game-changing initiative.

Supported by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the GGW action plan will among others support professional capacity building, access to financial resources to implement projects aimed at boosting sustainable land use management and technologies that will contribute to combating the spread of deserts and drought.

Speaking during the validation workshop of the action plan in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Kemilembe Mutasa, the Assistant Director, Environmental Assessment and Climate Change Management, Vice President's Office (Division of Environment) said that the implementation of the action plan will closely engage sectoral ministries, institutions, development partners and stakeholders.

She acknowledged that environmental degradation in the country has continued to threaten livelihood and the economy and the government in collaboration with stakeholders are taking considerable efforts to reverse the situation which include putting in place policy, legal, institutional and regulatory instruments.

These efforts have helped lessen the impacts of environmental degradation. However, the environment has continued to deteriorate partly due to inadequate strategic and specific interventions for the different localities and ecosystems."

Farhat Ali Mbarouk, the director of

environment, Zanzibar's first vice president office said the GGW national action plan is part of the implementation of activities of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - UNCCD.

She said the Great Green Wall, launched in 2007 by the African Union (AU), is a game changing initiative aimed at restoring the continent's degraded landscapes and reversing trends in desertification, climate change, and biodiversity loss through a common set of interventions.

Ever since its launch, the Great Green Wall has been implemented in the Sahara and Sahel regions, and it has recently expanded to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, including the United Republic of Tanzania," she noted.

"Other benefits of the GGW Action Plan include support for drought control, natural resource management, development of rural production systems (agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry), development of production infrastructure and various economic activities by considering issues of gender and youth," she explained.

FAO Country Representative, Nyabenyi Tipo said in close collaboration with the SADC Secretariat, the FAO, through a sub-regional cooperation project, "Technical Assistance to SADC to institutionalize, monitor implementation and out-scale the Great Green Wall (GGW) in Southern Africa Region Project." The project supported the coordination and provision of national experts in SADC countries in the development of National Strategies and Plans of Implementation (NAP); yesterday's validation workshop served as a platform for identifying potential initiatives to be supported and scaled up.

She said Tanzania is the third country to develop a NAP this year, thanks to the collaboration between the environmental department under the Vice President's Office team, and the other partners consulted either via virtual exchanges or face to face meetings.

"FAO is committed to supporting the Great Green Wall Initiative across the continent and in the sub-regions. So far, we have supported the collection of continental scale data in close collaboration with the AU, as well as supporting the Pan African Agency for the Great Green Wall (PA-GGW), regional and national institutions from over 30 countries," she said.



Expression of Interest - Tender for Green Leaf & General Transport 2023 - 2024

Ekaterra Tea Tanzania Ltd is seeking competent transport service providers to express interest in participating in a tender for Green Leaf and General Transport within the ekaterra Plantations and from Outreach farmers to various ekaterra Tea factories in Mufindi & Njombe Regions of Tanzania.

The trucks will be on dedicated basis and will be used in:

- Company & Out Grower Green Leaf Transport – 3 to 5 Ton Truck properly designed for green leaf transport from Company Tea Estates and from Out Grower Farms to the ekaterra Tea factories in Mufindi & Njombe.
- General Transport – 3 to 5 Ton Truck properly designed for transport of general items, farm implements, harvesting machines etc. from various points within the company Tea estates.

The EOI should include the following documents:

- Number of Trucks and Ownership Details: Provide comprehensive details regarding the number of trucks available for green leaf and general transport, including their ownership information.
- Company or Individual Details: Submit complete information about your company, including its legal name, address, contact person, telephone number, email address and company registration documents.
- Tax Compliance Certificate: Include a valid tax compliance certificate that demonstrates your adherence to tax regulations and obligations.

Ensure that all required documents are submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Expression of Interest - Tender for Green Leaf and General Transport 2023 - 2024" and addressed to:

Attn: Procurement Manager

The EOI should be delivered and placed in the Tender Box either at:

ekaterra Tea Tanzania Ltd Head Office reception, P. O. Box 40, Mufindi, Tanzania	ekaterra Tea Tanzania Ltd Dar es Salaam Office. P.O. Box 4955, Mlimani City Office Park, Office Building No.4 Unit 402, Sam Nujoma Road, Ubungo, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
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The deadline for the EOI is 5:00pm on 31st of July 2023. Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered. Shortlisted companies will be invited to participate in the subsequent tender process.

Ekaterra Tea Tanzania Ltd, Procurement Department.



WAJIBU - INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

INVITATION FOR TENDER CONSULTANCY SERVICE

Date: 21ST JULY 2023

KEY INFORMATION:

Assignment Title	:	Mid-Term Review of the WAJIBU Strategic Plan 2021-2025
Contract Duration	:	90 days
Location	:	Dar es Salaam
Delivery/Product	:	Final Report of the Mid-Term Review of the WAJIBU Strategic Plan 2021-2025

WAJIBU - Institute of Public Accountability is a reputable think-tank institution founded in 2015 with the purpose of fostering an environment that supports and promotes good governance and public financial accountability (PFA) in Tanzania. WAJIBU works to empower citizens and their representatives to demand proper accountability and good governance in the collection and use of public resources. It mobilizes public engagement with duty bearers and elected representatives (Members of Parliament, Councilors, and Street/Village chairpersons) on issues of public accountability and good governance.

WAJIBU is looking for a competent institution, firm or individual consultant to conduct Mid -Term Review of the WAJIBU Strategic Plan 2021-2025 as per the detailed Terms of Reference attached to WAJIBU's website www.wajibu.or.tz

This tender is open from 21st July 2023 to 03rd August 2023 at 10:00 am. For any inquiry, please contact us through:

Tell: +255 736 666 916
+255 659 605 500
Email: info@wajibu.or.tz

TCU told to ensure quality education

By Getrude Mbago

MINISTER for Education, Science and Technology Prof Adolf Mkenda has directed the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) to continue strengthening efforts to supervise and control the quality of education issued by various universities.

Prof Mkenda made the emphasis in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday when opening the 18th Exhibitions on Higher Education at Mnazi Mmoja grounds that the government has made major reforms in the country's education system so as to align with the current demand and employment market considering changes in science and technology, TCU should supervise to ensure that expected goals are achieved.

He said that the commission, universities and stakeholders need to be aware of problems that compromise the quality of education in the nation and continue making regular improvements so as to get education back on track. "We are currently conducting an intensive review of our curriculum from primary to university level, it is better for all universities to collaborate in facing existing challenges by investing in initiatives that will help produce competent graduates," he said.

Prof Mkenda however said that the government was proud of the achievements recorded in the higher education sub-sector and it will continue to strengthen quality control systems so as to meet national, regional and international standards.

He said for the country to attain its development goals of having an industrial economy, there is a need for concerted efforts to prepare human resources that possess competencies required by the market.

"We need to invest in quality because without doing so, we will end up producing a workforce which is not competent, universities have a role to produce good graduates and TCU should also supervise quality of education in the higher learning institutions," he asserted.

He further urged higher learning institutions to continue with the review of existing curricula as per guidelines so as to align with the ongoing changes in the labour market and current economic and social needs.

He noted that for the country to achieve the industrialization drive, there is a need for

concerted efforts to prepare human resources that possess competencies required by the market.

He wanted the institutions to ensure that they increase creativity, invest in research and impart knowledge and skills to the candidates so as to prepare them to face current global challenges.

"All the sectors contributing to the country's social and economic growth fulfill their goals through having competent personnel. The higher education subsector has a huge contribution in producing middle and high skilled labour," he insisted.

TCU executive secretary, Prof Charles Kihampa said the exhibitions have every year been bolstering cooperation between the government and the universities as well as overseas education agents where a total of 83 exhibitors who include higher learning institutions have participated in the exhibitions.

He said visitors in the exhibitions get the opportunity to learn and expand their understanding on several areas of finance, engineering, aviation, construction, education and other services provided by various public and private institutions.

Prof Penina Muhando, TCU board chairperson said the commission has been organizing the exhibitions since 2006 with the major objective being to create a marketing platform for higher learning institutions within and outside Tanzania to publicize to the public their academic programmes and other services they offer.

Others include demonstrate the role played by Higher Education Institutions, Professional Bodies, as well as Research and Development in the country's overall development; educate and inform potential students and the public at large about the programmes, products and services available to them in our local Higher Education Institutions and elsewhere and foster Higher Education Institutions - industry partnerships.

The exhibitions also provide a forum to engage stakeholders in a dialogue on Higher Education issues in the country and enable prospective higher education applicants and the general public to interrelate with universities, regulatory bodies and research institutions to enable them make an informed career choice.



Bakari Mohamed (4th-R), the Tanzania Forest Services Agency's Lake Victoria zone commander, pictured in Mwanza city yesterday symbolically presenting a consignment of timber worth 4m/- to Nyamagana district commissioner Amina Makilagi (to his right) for making desks to be used in primary school in the district. Photo: Correspondent Vitus Audax

TAWA charts strategies to fight elephant poachers in Western Serengeti, Tanzania

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) has discovered three new tactics used by elephant poachers to avoid being arrested by authorities.

This includes staining the tusks with chemicals that hide them from being detected by inspection systems at airports and other borders.

Some poachers have also been grinding the elephant tusks and transporting them as powder, which makes the inspectors unable to determine if it is derived from elephant tusks.

This was revealed yesterday by TAWA's wildlife officer class I, Tryphone Kanon at a seminar for editors from various media houses held in Bagamoyo, Coast Region.

The two-day seminar has been organized by the Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) under the Tuhifadhi Maliasili project funded by the United States Agency for Development (USAID).

He revealed the third tactic used by the poachers was to process the ivory tusks by adding value and producing finished

products by putting various decorations on them to cheat inspectors at the airports.

He however said the government authorities have recognized this and continued to heighten security entry and exit points to fight the poachers' tactics.

"These people have been constantly changing their tactics to avoid being caught and we are also strengthening ourselves intellectually every day, we have rats from the Sokoine University (SUA), we have dogs that help us in inspections and many have been caught trying to transport those tusks and recently a Chinese man was arrested for making various products using elephant tusks," he said.

He said: "Normally, when an elephant's tusks pass through the scanner machine, it is seen that this shape is an elephant's tusks, so when they saw that they were caught, they started to grind them and fill the powder in a tea bottle, so it is not easy for the machine to determine that it is an elephant's tusks."

He said that in recent years they have struggled to deal with elephant poaching until it reaches 0 per year unlike previous years where up to 50 elephants were killed

by poachers per year.

He said elephant poaching has involved a wide network ranging from first level to the fifth level of poaching, the first level involving people living near the reserve who know the forest or the reserve well.

Kanon said these people are the ones who guide the poachers to know where the elephants are because it is not easy for a foreigner to understand the migratory behaviour of these animals.

He said the third level poachers are brokers who enable elephant killers in protected areas and then collect them and transport them to urban areas ready for business.

"Poachers of the fourth level are those who collect the tusks and transport them abroad while poachers of the fifth level are the big poachers, most of whom are outside the country and a good example of these people is the ivory queen who was imprisoned," he said.

Kanon said the government has however been taking measures to eradicate the network by catching the chain of all the people who benefit from the ivory trade and bringing them to face legal measures.

He added that the poachers have been using various methods to kill the elephants, including the use of poisons on pumpkins.

Agency for foreign universities happy with efforts on opportunities for overseas studies

By Correspondent Pascal Mayalla

THE agency for foreign universities in Tanzania and East African countries, Global Education Link, has been commended for its efforts to provide Tanzanians and East Africans with opportunities to study abroad at affordable costs.

The compliments were made by the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Adolf Mkenda, during his visit to GEL pavilion of the Higher Learning Institutions Exhibition, including Universities under TCU, and

several foreign universities taking place at Mnazi Mmoja grounds, Dar es Salaam.

Minister Mkenda said the government greatly appreciates the efforts made by agents of foreign universities, led by Global Education Link and other agents, in providing opportunities for Tanzanians to get education abroad, following the presence of greater needs than the capacity of our universities, in the country to admit, so the work done by these agents of foreign colleges, is a great and good work that helps the nation.

Prof. Mkenda said, these agents of foreign universities not only help

Tanzanians to secure study opportunities abroad, but they also help the nation to get experts in the important fields that Tanzania does not have.

On his part, the Managing Director of Global Education Link, Abdul Malik Mollel, said that this year, GEL has brought 14 universities that are conducting on sport admission at Mnazi Mmoja Ground.

Abdul Malik congratulated President Samia for opening up the country and congratulated the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and the Tanzania Commission for Universities, TCU, for creating an enabling environment for foreign university agents to help the nation with study opportunities abroad.

The TCU exhibition, which began on Monday of this week, has attracted more than 74 universities and institutions, and are expected to end this Saturday.

TANZANIA FOREST CONSERVATION GROUP	
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2022	
This publication of the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure is per regulation 13(a) of the Non-Government Organization Act (Amendments), Regulation 2018, which requires Non-Government Organizations receiving funds exceeding TZS 20 Million to publish bi-annually the funds received and its expenditure.	
DETAILS	ACTUAL - TZS
RECEIPTS	
Opening fund balance	779,236,978.00
Disbursement from Donors	3,703,972,742.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM DONORS	4,483,209,720.00
PROGRAMMES EXPENDITURE	
Participatory Forest Management	304,938,158.00
Environmental Education	533,826,072.00
Community Development (Poverty reduction in rural communities)	2,122,889,339.00
Research	110,602,308.00
OTHER PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE	
Personnel, Institution Development and Resources Mobilization	1,419,019,395.00
TOTAL PROGRAMMES EXPENDITURES	4,491,275,272.00
Grant Receivables	(8,065,552.00)
Grant Receivables comprises contractual commitments from donors. Grant receivables are initially recognised at contracted value and subsequently measured at amortized cost based on actual amounts received from donors less provision for impairment.	
Executive Director Tanzania Forest Conservation Group Plot 323, Msasani Village Mwaikibaki Rd P.O. Box. 23410 Dar es Salaam Tanzania	



Local Change Through Global Exchange™


STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

This publication is made in accordance with regulation 13(a) of the Non-Governmental Organization Act (Amendments), Regulation 2018 which require Non-Governmental Organizations to Publish bi-annually the funds received and its expenditures.

MC - Tanzania is a locally registered Non-Government Organization (NGO) with a mission to contribute towards improving oral Health and dental care through existing promotion, prevention, curative, and rehabilitation services. The organization aims to see communities throughout Tanzania live free from oral and dental diseases. MC-Tanzania is an affiliate of Miracles Corners of the World (MCW Global), a New York Based non-for-profit organization. Below is the statement showing Grants support and Income Received, Expenditures incurred for the year ended 31 December 2022 (Audited) and for the year ended 31st December 2021 (Audited).

SUPPORT GRANTS	As of 31 December 2022 TZS	As of 31 December 2021 TZS
Restricted Funds	321,716,159	271,854,195
Unrestricted Funds	260,000	1,310,000
Total	321,976,159	273,164,195
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Project Expenses	179,150,703	176,698,940
Administration Expenses	52,510,523	59,198,435
Operation Expenses	90,054,934	35,956,820
Depreciation Expense	12,818,660	4,774,120
Total Expenses	334,534,819	276,628,315
Deficit for the Year	(12,558,660)	(3,464,120)

The above extracts are from the financial statements of the organization for the year ended 31st December 2022 and for the year ended 31st December 2021, which have been prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards. The Financial Statements Were Audited by Enson Africa Certified Public Accountants and received a clean report The Financial statements for the years 2022 and 2021 were approved by the Board of directors on 11th April 2023


Dr. Deodatus Mtasiwa
Board Chairperson


Christina Mongi
Director

MC-TANZANIA



P.O. BOX 34665, DAR ES SALAAM
P.O. BOX 538, SONGEA
P.O. BOX 10636, ARUSHA

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT



APPLICATION FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP FOR PRASHANT OETHA whose photograph provided above is applying to the Minister of Home Affairs for Tanzanian Citizenship. His nationality at present is INDIAN and Country of origin is INDIA and Occupation is BUSINESS MAN, address ZINGU KWA NYORO (BAGAMYOYO) has been in this country since 2004.

Anyone who knows any reasons why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant, should send as written and signed statement of fact to the Commissioner General of Immigration, P.O. Box 512, Dar es Salaam. Use reference: DN/57297.





One of suspected conmen cornered in Dar es Salaam's Light Industrial Area yesterday afternoon pleads for mercy from an enraged crowd that was about to set upon him. Sources said he was part of a gang attempting to swindle a girl out of a mobile phone at Mwenge in Kinondoni District. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

LRCT, public institutions to review capital punishment

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

LAW Review Commission of Tanzania (LRCT) has met with private institutions including REPRIEVE from UK and Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) for receiving and exchanging views on how to make amendments on the law on the country's capital punishment.

Speaking here yesterday at the meeting, LRCT acting executive secretary, Geasi Mwaipaja said the Commission will continue receiving recommendations from various stakeholders including private institutions.

Mwaipaja, who was accompanied by lawyers Japhace Daud, Msafiri Shamsi Idd and Zakaria Kegoro, said in the law regarding death sentence they have met with REPRIEVE from the UK for experience on how other countries had abolished the death sentence.

For his part, LHRC Senior Programme Officer, Raymond Kanegene said the law on death sentence has been a problem as it does not provide freedom to Judges in interpreting the law, by meting out an alternative punishment according to the gravity of the crime committed taking into consideration the accused's history and his/her condition.

In addition, REPRIEVE's Programme Officer, Linda Kitenge said the institution has been at the forefront in the fight for the right to live by participating in various debates that help to abolish death sentences in various African countries including Malawi, Kenya and Uganda.

She said as for now the institution has started working in Tanzania in collaboration with LHRC.



...the Commission will continue receiving recommendations from various stakeholders including private institutions

Investors called upon to explore chances in automobile industry

By Guardian Reporter

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Dr Hashil Abdallah has called upon investors to grab opportunities in the country's automobile industry.

The PS was concerned that there are a lot of potential and opportunities in the automobile market including transportation of agricultural goods from farms to markets.

He made the statement on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the launch of an Indian commercial vehicle to Tanzania—Ashok Leyland 'Phoenix' which will be imported by a Dar es Salaam based firm—Kifaru Motors (T) Ltd.

He said the newly introduced commercial vehicles are important to Tanzanians as they will be used in the transportation sector, adding, the vehicle will provide relief to transporters of agricultural and industrial goods due to low fuel consumption.

"We are thankful to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for creating an enabling business and investment environment. Foreign investors coming to Tanzania have a guaranteed security of themselves and their businesses as well as comfortability in doing business," said Dr Abdallah, adding that farmers have been facing transport challenges as most of their crops can hardly reach markets in urban areas.

He mentioned some of the efforts that are geared to improve the business and investment environment as review of policies and legal frameworks that affect investment, industrial sector and business.

The PS commended the government and the people of India for their commitment that has paved the way for the growth of industries and expansion of trade opportunities in Tanzania.

Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, High Commissioner of India to Tanzania said the vehicles have specific features for Tanzanian customers.

Pradhan noted that Ashok Leyland has been present in Tanzania for more than a decade and has supplied more than 3000 units of Ashok Leyland trucks and buses to the Tanzania People's Defence Force, police and private sectors serving the elite forces and retail customers.

"My compliments to Kifaru motors for introducing the

vehicles; this will bring comfort to Tanzanian business people," stated the High Commissioner, noting India has been serving the Tanzanian market for many years.

Kifaru Motors Limited Executive Director, Retired Brig. General Michael Luwongo said the company is a reliable dealer of the vehicles from India, insisting they have been working with the Indian vehicle manufacturers for several years.

"We decided to launch the vehicle in Tanzania after we realized that it will have diverse

benefits to users. People can use the cars in small businesses and transportation of crops from farms," said Luwongo insisting the car is economically viable.

He said that Ashok Leyland "Phoenix" is useful for transportation of goods, water, beverages distribution, agri products, bread companies, pharma companies, gas companies, industrial & white goods, courier, small retailers and can easily enter small lanes of Kariakoo and other city markets.

Ashok Leyland Limited is the

flagship company of Hinduja Group and manufacturers of trucks and buses with factories at India, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom and are the 3rd largest manufacturers of buses, 14th largest in trucks and the largest in defence logistic vehicles in the world with its vehicles known for their ruggedness and durability.

Ashok Leyland Ltd as an organization has successfully completed its '75 years' of journey in the commercial vehicle industry.

TouchFoundation Tanzania

Publication of Financial Statements

In accordance with Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendment) Regulation, 2018, Touch Foundation Tanzania is pleased to publish its financial statements and funding status for the six-month period ending September 30, 2022. All funding has been provided by Touch Foundation, Inc. (a US-based NGO) and Grand Challenge Canada.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income (numbers shown in '000 TZS)

	FY2022 For the 6 Month Period Ended: 30 September 2022
Revenue	
Contributions	2,696,487
Currency Exchange Gain (Loss)	796
Total Revenue	2,697,283
Expenditures	
Personnel	538,166
Grants	1,125,427
Construction	-
Equipment	49,314
Professional Services	201,379
Travel	611,936
Other Program Costs	171,061
Total Expenditures	2,697,283
Net Income	-

Statement of Financial Position (numbers shown in '000 TZS)

	FY2022 For the 6 Month Period Ended: 30 September 2022
Assets	
Cash and Equivalents	55,444
Receivables	980,343
Prepaid Expenses and Insurance	40,661
Other Assets	531,252
Total Assets	1,607,700
Liabilities	
Accounts and Grants Payable	1,150,161
Accrued Liabilities	39,097
Refundable Advances	418,443
Total Liabilities	1,607,701
Equity	-
Total Equity	-
Total Liabilities and Equity	1,607,701



Economic and Social Research Foundation

PRESS RELEASE

ESRF APPOINTS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Board of Trustees of the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) announces the appointment of **Prof. Fortunata Songora Makene** as the new Executive Director of the Foundation with effect from 14th August, 2023.

She will be the fifth Executive Director since ESRF was established in 1994. She takes over from Dr. Tausi Mbagi Kida, whose tenure of office was ended after being appointed by H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania as the Permanent Secretary, President's Office (Investments) on 26th February, 2023. Dr. Kida will continue to be a Senior Advisor and Principal Research Associate to ESRF.

Prof. Fortunata Songora Makene is an expert in development sociology, gender, and social protection. She has extensive experience in academic and policy research. Her work is rooted primarily in sociology, but it incorporates elements of law and anthropology. She has supported research and policy work on social protection and human rights, development, sociology of law, transnational institutions, and urbanization mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and the United States of America (USA). She has more than 30 publications focusing on socio-economic reforms, advancing gender equity, women and girls' economic empowerment, children's rights to education and health, urbanization, and women leadership. Prof. Makene has taught Sociology, Global Studies and Women's Studies at Worcester State University and Clark University in the USA and was the Head of the Department of Research and Policy at UONGOZI Institute (where she also designed a Women in Leadership Programme) and the Head of the Department of Strategic Research and Publications at the Economic and Social Research Foundation.

Prof. Makene serves as a member of the National Advisory Committee on Generation Equality Forum to promote Economic Justice Rights in Tanzania. In September 2022, she received the Phenomenal Woman of Worth Award from the African Women Leadership Organization as a recognition of her groundbreaking expertise in women's leadership.

Prof. Makene was educated at the University of Minnesota (USA), where she obtained a Ph.D. in Sociology where she is also a MacArthur scholar and Compton Peace Fellow. She also holds a Master of Science in Social Responsibility from St. Cloud State University (USA); and, B.A. Sociology from the University of Dar Es Salaam.

Her main challenges at ESRF will be to continue consolidating the Foundation's mandate as the centre of excellence in policy research relevant for guiding sustainable growth and development in Tanzania and the region. She will be out for collaboration with stakeholders in the public and private sectors. ESRF is actively engaged in social economic policy research, policy dialogue and programmes for capacity development of both government and non-state actors in Tanzania.

We congratulate and wish her all the best in the new responsibility.

Phillemon L. Luhanjo

Phillemon L. Luhanjo
Chairperson, ESRF Board of Trustees

Economic and Social Research Foundation
51 Uporoto Street, Ursino Estate, • P.O. Box 31226, Dar es Salaam - Tanzania.
Tel: +255 22 2926084 - 9 • Fax: +255 22 2926083

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Egyptians visit Tanzania to explore opportunities, forge partnerships

By Getrude Mbago

EGYPTIAN trade mission consisting of 15 major companies has visited the country to explore opportunities in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and hotels' hospitality sector.

The mission which arrived early this week met and conducted meetings with leaders, local companies and stakeholders in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

Speaking during the Business-to-Business (B2B) meeting held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, director general of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Commission Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga said the Egyptian mission included a number of companies operating in the fields of IT, furnishing, detergents and hotel supplies.

He said that the government has simplified investment regulations in order to attract investors from around the world.

Dr Mwasaga further said the country has been making efforts to implement more e-governance initiatives and promote the use of digital technologies in public services.

"We are currently investing much of our efforts to ensure that we provide all needed support to start-ups that grab the emerging technologies so as to bring transformation in various fields such as transportation, hospitality and other areas," he said.

According to him, the mission has got enough opportunity to sit and discuss with various Tanzania technology companies and start-ups, this will help forge robust relations which will boost the ICT sector for sustainable development," he said.

A recent report from the World Bank has listed Tanzania as one of the top countries globally for effective use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in delivering public services. The report, called the GovTech Maturity Index (GTMI), analyzed a total of 198 countries and placed Tanzania at 26th position globally, second in Africa, and topping the list in the East African region.

The report indicates that the use of ICT in Tanzania has increased by 0.86 percent in the last year, which is a significant improvement.

Hicham Arafa, chief operations officer of Bright skies of Egypt said the mission, organized by the Egyptian Exporters Association (Expolink) has become a success under the patronage of the National Bank of Egypt and in collaboration with the Egyptian commercial representation agency and targeted

exportation councils.

He acknowledged that Tanzania is endowed with many natural resources and investment opportunities and as a result of efforts by authorities to improve trade and investment environment, the companies see it better to come and forge trade relations with Tanzania companies as well as the government.

"We have been here in Tanzania since Sunday for a three-day visit, we have met and held talks with officials to discuss means of cementing trade relations and boosting Egyptian exports, this is one of our productive trips," he asserted.

He noted that the Egyptian ICT sector has been growing significantly offering wider opportunities for investors in outsourcing, Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) and electronics.

Dr Godwill Wanga, executive secretary of the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) said the firms will also help Tanzania establish digital systems so as to help the country be able to collect all the tourist revenues.

"We are trying to talk with our colleagues from Egypt, learn from them how they are managing their tourism and revenues, we are learning how they are capturing revenues from this important sector using digital systems," he said.

According to him, currently, most of our tourists are coming in the country only with their bags after clearing all the needed payment using systems that are situated outside, we want to ensure that we now come up with a local system which will connect with various service providers including banks, tour operators and others so that tourists will pay and book for hotels using our local system," he explained.



We have been here in Tanzania since Sunday for a three-day visit, we have met and held talks with officials to discuss means of cementing trade relations and boosting Egyptian exports, this is one of our productive trips

SA, Tanzania lead Nigeria in top 10 sub-Saharan Africa varsity rankings

By Special Correspondent

THE Times Higher Education (THE) ranking of universities in sub-Saharan Africa, has rated universities in South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda higher than many Nigerian institutions.

The University of Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg, South Africa, topped the inaugural THE's sub-Saharan Africa university rankings.

According to the EduTimes Africa, July 2023 edition, "The public institution, commonly known as Wits University, which celebrated its centenary last year, and has Nelson Mandela among its alumni, topped THE's innovative new ranking."

The second highest-ranked university is the University of Johannesburg, also in South Africa, while the third is the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, in Tanzania.

Covenant University, a private Christian university in Ota, Ogun State, which occupied the seventh position, is Nigeria's best-ranked institution.

The others are the University of Pretoria, South Africa placed fourth, Makerere University, Uganda fifth, and the University of the Western Cape, South Africa in sixth position.

The University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) in Rwanda, Ashesi University, Ghana, and Tanzania's

Ardhi University are in eighth, ninth and tenth positions respectively.

The ranking highlights the strongest universities in sub-Saharan Africa across a comprehensive range of performance indicators - covering five areas such as 'access and fairness', 'Africa impact', 'teaching skills', 'student engagement', and 'resources and finance'.

The ranking produced in collaboration with Mastercard Foundation, ranked 88 universities from 17 countries in the region.

Of all the countries, Nigeria with 37 universities has the highest number in the ranking, followed by South Africa with nine, Ghana and Kenya have seven each, and Somalia and Uganda have five each.

The ranking provides a rich source of data on the differences between public and private universities. Of the 88 ranked universities, 59 (67 percent) are public, 21 (24 percent) are private not-for-profit and eight are private for-profit (9 percent) and seven of the top 10 universities are public.

Public universities received an average overall score in the ranking of 50 and charged students a median of £966 (about N992, 140,572) per year. By comparison, private institutions scored an average of 43, with not-for-profits charging £1,922 (N1, 946,986), and for-profits charging £3,291 (N3, 333,783) annually.



National Insurance Corporation officials pictured on Tuesday escorting Kyela district commissioner Josephine Manase (4th-R) in disembarking from Mbeya II, a ship which has just been refurbished by the state-owned agency. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt plans to build ward police stations countrywide - minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

THE Government plans to police stations in all wards countrywide, manning them with one-star rank police officers, vehicles and motorcycles to help fight crime.

Hamad Masauni, the Home Affairs minister said yesterday at a public rally held at Galapo Ward, Babati District after inaugurating a new police station built by the residents in collaboration with the government.

Masauni said during the current Financial Year, the government has in place strategies to send policemen of one-star rank at every police station countrywide.

"The government vows to take police services closer to the people, this is a grand plan the core of which is to build a police station in every ward in the country.

"Beginning two years ago, we sent training policemen and promoted them to one-star rank,

and this will be followed by supporting them with working tools.

"In this issue, the government, in the FY 2023/24 Budget, has already provided 15bn/- for the purchase of vehicles in all districts," he said.

For his part, Acting Manyara Regional Police Commander, ACP Lucas Mwakatundu said the land plot for the construction of Galapo police station was provided by the village government.

He said the area has recently

seen the increase of investors of fuel stations, financial institutions and other production sectors including farming and business.

"The construction of Galapo Police Station started in 2007 from residents' ideas.

"It is 150 sq metres in size and built by people's efforts helped by the government at a cost of 52.9m/-," Ag RPC Mwakatundu said.

For his part, Babati Rural Member of Parliament, Daniel Sillo thanked the government for supporting people's efforts towards maintaining peace and security there are.

He said the police station will serve four wards and appealed for it to operate 24 hours a day.



Muheza Primary School head teacher Bernard Luanda (3rd-R) shows his Standard Six pupils on Tuesday how best to water a tree garden. Looking Left is Selijo Muihava, also a teacher at the school. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Arumeru DC urges villagers to stop cultivating cannabis

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Emmanuela Kaganda, Arumeru District Commissioner has called on people who engage themselves in the cultivation of marijuana to stop doing so else the government will take steps against them including forfeiture of their farms.

She made the remarks here yesterday during the special crackdown against cannabis cultivation at Kisimiri Juu village in the district, which is part of the national crackdown against illicit

drugs.

In the operation led by DC Kaganda and members of the district's Defence and Security Committee, 270 bags of cannabis were destroyed and 300 kgs of seeds thereof was also seized and destroyed while four people were arrested and taken away by the police.

However, she expressed her dissatisfaction by the move by residents of the village to remove streets names and postcodes that had been erected on their houses,

the move that makes it difficult to identify the right owner of the houses that had bags of cannabis found in them.

She said the government's strategy now is to formalise land ownership in the village and issue title deeds so as to identify actual owners of the farms, especially those cultivating cannabis.

"The government, through the Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has been educating the public to stop cultivating cannabis, but there are

some who still cultivate the illicit drug," said the DC.

For his part, Jackson George, the representative of DCEA Commissioner of Operations said despite DCEA providing education to the people, there are people in Kisimiri Village still cultivating cannabis in secret. The crackdown against the cultivation of cannabis in Arumeru district continues in the district to make sure residents of Kisimiri Juu, Kisimiri Chini and Losinoni Village in Arusha Region stop cultivating the drug.



AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION TANZANIA LIMITED

PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF BANK PURSUANT TO SECTION 7 AND 8 OF THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT 2014

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

Balance sheet table with columns: Current Quarter 30-Jun-23, Previous Quarter 31-Mar-23. Rows include Assets (Total Assets: 310,386), Liabilities (Total Liabilities: 286,329), and Capital and Reserves (Total Shareholders Funds: 26,181).

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Income statement table with columns: Current Quarter, Comparative Quarter, Current Year Cumulative, Previous Year Cumulative. Rows include Interest Income (10,377), Net Interest Income (5,990), and Total Comprehensive Income (600).

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Cash flow statement table with columns: Current Quarter, Previous Quarter. Rows include Cash flow from operating activities (4,355), investing activities (630), and financing activities (3,199).

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

Condensed statement of changes in equity table with columns: Share Capital, Share Premium, Retained Earnings, Non-Distributable Reserve, General Provision, Others, Total. Rows show Current Year 2023 and Previous Year 2022 balances.

Signature table with columns: Name, Signature, Date. Includes Managing Director (I. John), Head of Finance (H. Kharbush), Head of Internal Audit (J. Kilato), and Directors (P. Ishengoma, Mr. R. Dave).

MINIMUM DISCLOSURES OF BANK CHARGES AND FEES

Large table of bank charges and fees categorized by Personal Banking, SME Banking, and Corporate Banking. Includes sections for Savings, Current, and Tiered accounts with pricing in TZS, US\$, and GBP.

Table of general charges and agency banking fees. Includes sections for Bankers Cheque, Dishonored/Unpaid Cheque, Transactional Service Fees, Deposit/Withdrawal Transactions, and Agency Banking Fee.

Table of withdrawal fees categorized by transaction tiers and BancABC fees, with columns for BancABC Fees, Government Levy, and Total Fees.

FRIDAY 21 JULY 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

We're still way off target in tackling challenges posed by toxic chemicals

A media roundtable with its focus on the implementation of the national action plan on sustainable production and use was once held in Dar es Salaam. It was several years ago.

Experts standing as resource persons led other participants in deliberating on environmentally safe ways of getting rid of toxic chemicals and other materials.

Many had their focus on fake electronic and plastic-based goods, most of them imported, and how they are usually used or disposed of.

Going by the way the deliberations went, it was all so clear that many Tanzanians knew precious little about how to deal with problems associated with the use of goods with inherent potential to wreak havoc on the environment.

Some saw ordering the return of the suspicious imports to their countries of origin as a much better option than burning or burying them where they had landed because, in any case, most such items never really break down and rot and would remain a health hazard for worryingly long periods.

The agencies represented at the roundtable included the Cleaner Production Centre, the Fair Competition Commission, the then Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority and the Tanzania Bureau of Standards.

All these were on the whole in agreement with the Environment Directorate in the Vice President's Office that it was important to produce and consume goods and services that responded to the people's basic needs and led to a better life.

But they were also near-unanimous that doing so should go alongside cutting on the use of natural resources, toxic materials and emissions of toxic waste and other pollutants.

One reservation, though, was with respect to why there was much greater interest in diagnosing the problems

than in coming up with solutions whereas the disposal of hazardous waste has been at the centre of many long legal battles.

One environmentalist says dealing with the issue would be a much less daunting challenge if people cared to remember that every household contributes to the accumulation and disposal of hazardous waste in the form of commonly used items like cleansers, paints, batteries or motor oil.

He adds that each person has options available to him or her for reducing dependency on hazardous materials by cutting on use and ensuring more careful disposal.

It is noted that many labels on containers have precise precautionary information on contents and ways to handle, store, use, recycle, reuse and safely dispose of toxic items and waste.

Experts say it is a NO-NO-NO to burn or dump any hazardous material on the ground, including by burning it or disposing of it "down the sink", unless one was sure that it could safely be disposed of through the sewer system.

Yet how often do we care to use latex gloves when handling waste or to wrap empty containers in several layers of newsprint before disposing of them alongside household refuse as a way of preventing environmental contamination and reactive potential?

We commonly flush pesticides, herbicides, oil paints, paint cleaners, and oil and transmission fluids into the water system while nonchalantly adding car batteries to household garbage, when this is another NO-NO-NO - and we know it!

Wise purchase, use, storage and disposal of chemicals can greatly mitigate the negative environmental impact of these chemicals. This is time-tested expert advice. But shall all of us adequately and appropriately heed it? Do we have the ability and willingness to do so?

Investment policy dilemma as large miners demand revision

POLICY-MAKING, especially in taxation, is similar to the proverbial stone of Sisyphus, who the gods have condemned to push a stone up to the top of a modest mountain.

However, before he can reach the top and rest, he will inevitably slip and slide down with the stone - in which case he would have to start the pushing again.

The legend has no opportunity to abandon the task, just as the likes of governments and diplomats have no choice but to soldier on.

That is what the Finance minister may predictably feel if it so happens that the demands put across by some notable members of the mining sector fraternity are such that they may disturb expectations.

The minister knows full well that the government is quite spirited in that direction, as current global supply chain disruptions owing to intractable tensions between East and West provide an opportunity to attract mining capital in our direction. Some had given up about Liganga and Mchuchuma until the Ukraine war led to new coal pursuits.

Accompanied by top officials of the Tanzania Chamber of Mines (TCM), a number of mining firms and especially in the rare earth metals newcomers have demanded revisions on income tax obligations arising from the current Finance Act.

They argue that the provisions need to be clarified along with the capital gains tax, citing also electricity connection and costs for road infrastructure leading to mining sites. TCM officials agree that fines, levies must be reviewed.

The difficult part is that the stakeholders want these issues, or demands, to be 'clarified' before they start pursuing large mining activities.

That was more or less what was stated by top official of Faru Graphite Corporation at a midweek breakfast meeting.

Still, the stability of fiscal governance suggests that even if the government would accept that a revision is relevant, it could not be done with any haste, as that would risk igniting an avalanche of demands for tax revisions.

That kind of situation, at least for starters, would imply that the government would have to reach a bona fide understanding with the mining chamber or specific firms.

It would suggest that the tax obligations would not be demanded or visibly enforced in the current situation, and then cancelled by some budgetary trade off next year.

The Sisyphus model implies that such trade-off - showing sympathy for one sector, upping the ante for another sector - may then lead to a similar round of demands.

The point here is that Treasury will have a circle to square in figuring out how the wish to make the mining sector contribute at least 10 per cent of GDP by 2025 is not imperilled by discouraging new mining firms targeting rare metals. In the global green energy transition, Tanzania has to take its rightful role there, while ensuring that the sector equitably contributes to the budget.

The easier thing might then be to reform the public sector and lessen its demands, raising its revenue contribution even in the short term - which might prove hardly popular.

In the circumstances, we need to do more reforms even if just to ease the tax burden on new investors meant to pay large public sector foreign debts. And this would be more a matter of reducing taxes rather than devising some.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

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



As a physician, I want you to stop your medications...

By Dr Julian Barkan

“MRS Jones, I see you are here today for headaches and high blood pressure. Your pressures are very elevated. Have you been taking your blood pressure medication?”

“I do... but not every day.” This sort of exchange would always frustrate me, as the reasons for coming to see me are so preventable. The ER (Emergency Room) is completely flooded and here is a patient who could have stayed home by just taking medications as prescribed.

Recently, as I've stepped away from my daily grind in the ER and taken a broader view, I've realized that these issues can be systemic, even though they appear individual.

What are the barriers for this patient taking her medications? If she has a perfect understanding of the medication and her condition, then her lack of using the medicine is her fault.

However, often the information flow to the patient is not perfect or even complete. Patients have to trust their doctors. However, with time constraints created by the medical system, the personal relationship with doctors has been tarnished.

As physicians are the forward-facing part of the profit-first medical business, it is assumed that they benefit from prescribing medications. Coupled with cost barriers, patient trust decreases and they are less likely to adhere to medications. However, physicians do not benefit from prescribing and they want their patients to be off of medications.

About 1 in 5 prescriptions in the

US go unfilled, it turns out. I had no idea that this was the case, even after years of working in medicine. My thinking was that I wrote a prescription and a patient went to get it right after our visit together. But this just is not the case.

About three in ten of all adults report not taking their medicines as prescribed at some point in the past year because of the cost. This includes about 20 per cent who say that they didn't fill a prescription or took an over-the-counter drug instead. About one in 10 patients say they cut pills in half or skipped doses.

Many people have issues with affordability. In many cases, this directly correlates with age (up to 65) and the number of medications. The sicker you are, the harder it is to obtain your medications. Same goes if you are poor.

The problem is that sick people often need more medications, especially as chronic conditions worsen. Barriers like cost and access to care make these conditions worse as they are left untreated.

However, under all circumstances, it is my job to make a patient understand why a certain medication is recommended. That starts with trust.

Shared decision-making, first coined in 1982, is a process whereby clinicians collaborate with patients to reach well-informed medical decisions. This process is especially relevant in conditions where there is a close trade-off between harms and benefits.

As a physician, I offer the evidence behind my thought process but I leave it up to the patient. Patients should lead the discussion toward what matters most to them when it

comes to health, life and financial decisions.

Often I will hear: “You are the doctor, you decide.” Patients are right to think this way. They have insurance, so they came to see the expert.

So, why am I asking them for their opinion? Simple: because health is a relationship with your body. I am here to offer the advice I know. I cannot make decisions for what you will or will not do for your health. That will come from education mostly and all I can do is to teach what I know.

I try to put myself in the shoes of my patients whenever I can. Empathy builds trust. But I also believe strongly in patient autonomy and want them to understand their medical issues.

I can share only what I know and try to be humble enough to tell patients when I do not know something. I think shared honesty is just as important as shared decision-making.

If a patient is going to be vulnerable with me at very important moments in his or her life, I have to earn his or her trust with honesty. This is the only way I can help a patient get to a healthy state.

Many medications are expected to be used by a patient for the rest of his or her life. It is condition-dependent since the severity of a disease process will dictate dose, medication type and the possibility of stopping the medicine in the future.

For instance, diabetes can be reversed if you still produce insulin. Hypertension can be reversed with sustained weight loss and diet change. Arthritis can be mitigated with physical therapy so that fewer

medications are needed.

We are lucky to live in an age where medications are widely available; as long as we use them only when needed.

Once a patient and I have decided to start a medication, it is important to establish future expectations. For example, diabetes should be tracked every three months. High cholesterol levels are tracked for between every six months and a year. Each condition has its own follow-up schedule.

Adherence to medications will either depend on physical results (fewer headaches with controlled blood pressure) or will be simply based on trust from the established relationship with a physician.

Ultimately, a medicine should only be continued if it is helping. This can mean some specific measurement gets better (like the glucose in your bloodstream if you are diabetic) but more importantly it means improved quality of life, reduced symptoms, and feeling better.

I always tell patients that laboratory values are necessary to guide decisions, but how you feel day-to-day is so much more important.

By having patients use shared decision-making and trust their physicians, medications can be of great value to help patients. If I think starting a medication will improve someone's quality of life, I will recommend it.

I will then do everything in my power to help get my patient off of that medication. I believe this approach gives my patients the best chances for a healthy, long life.

* A Wise & Well dispatch.

Here is a rare chance for lasting change to pandemic preparedness and response

By Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Helen Clark

WE write, with bluntness and urgency, as we are gravely concerned

that the opportunity presented by the High-Level Meeting and the expected Political Declaration on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response is being squandered.

The current draft of the political declaration, to be the focus of consultations on July 10 and 11, does not express the commitments required of Heads of State and Government to transform the international system of pandemic preparedness and response. Instead, it reads as a health resolution.

We have been clear and consistent in our recommendations regarding governance, equitable access to countermeasures, preparedness and surge finance, the need for clear rules and roles, and for a strong World Health Organisation.

We are committed to principles

of equity, inclusion, and regional resilience. Our recommendations are intended to ensure that all regions are at the decision-making table and fully benefit from a transformed system.

A key recommendation is to secure sustained highest-level political leadership on pandemic preparedness and response between and during health crises. This is required to ensure protection to health, societies and economies, and to stop outbreaks from becoming pandemics.

Neglecting to invest in multi-sectoral pandemic preparedness left the door open to Covid-19, which now accounts for an estimated 24 million excess deaths and enduring social and economic consequences.

We are concerned that if Member States only tinker with the language of the draft political declaration and do not request a substantive shift in political ambition befitting the UN General Assembly, the efforts to agree the declaration will be wasted.

We recognize the importance of the ongoing processes in Geneva. Yet, much as we all want the pandemic accord to succeed, this is not guaranteed.

The UNGA High-Level Meeting's Political Declaration offers a one-time and historic opportunity to commit to lasting and transformative change to pandemic preparedness and response. We call on leaders and decision-makers to make this moment count.

Additional notes: Former Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former New Zealand prime minister Helen Clark penned this open letter early this month in their capacity as co-chairs of the former Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

The letter is meant for the leaders and decision-makers responsible for the Political Declaration expected to be agreed for the September 20 UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness

and Response.

They led the panel together with 11 distinguished panelists, spending eight months rigorously reviewing various dimensions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In May 2021 the co-chairs submitted their evidence-based landmark report entitled ‘Covid-19: Make it the Last Pandemic to the World Health Assembly’.

They made recommendations which, taken as a package, could transform the international system in a way that could make it the last pandemic of such devastation.

The panel was established by the World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General in response to a May 2020 World Health Assembly resolution. Its recommendations have helped to lay the groundwork for ongoing reforms to the international system.

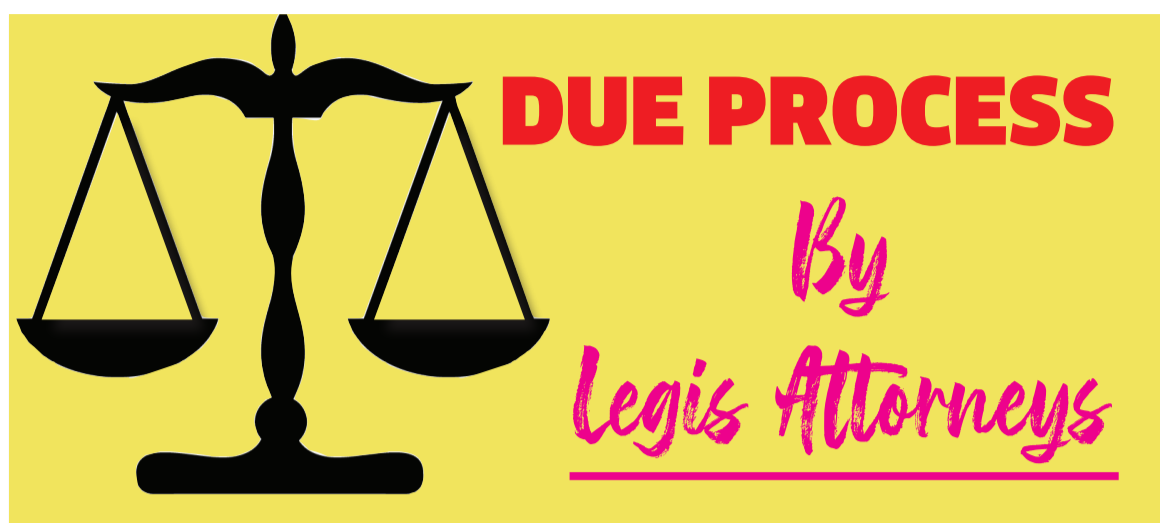
The team's interest is to see a fit-for-purpose, transformed and effective international system for pandemic preparedness and response.

Laws protecting intellectual property in Tanzania Mainland

CREATIONS of human mind such as inventions, literary and artistic works, designs and symbols as well as names and images used in commerce fall under intellectual property.

Some intellectual property experts divide intellectual property into four branches and others three. These are copyright, trademark, patent and sometimes trade secrecy. For the purpose of this article, we have classified the same into three parts namely copyright, trademark and patent.

Intellectual property rights are recognised throughout the world and in our continent there are two major organizations which oversee intellectual property. These are the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) which was incorporated through Harare Protocol 1982 which Tanzania is part of.



Copyright

In Tanzania, the main statute that regulates copyright is the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act Cap. 218 R.E 2019. Section 4 of this law defines copyright as the sole legal right to print, publish, perform film or record a literary or artistic or musical work.

Things like books, pamphlets and other written materials or computer programmes all enjoy their protection in this book of statute. The main institution that can be used to register an artistic work is Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA) which was established under section 5 of the Copyright Act.

As for the litigation aspect, courts

of law have for years been upholding provisions of the statute and damages granted for infringement.

In the case of Jutoram Kabatele Mahalla vs Vocational Education and Training Authority in Civil Appeal No. 63 of 2019 whereby the appellant was a registered owner of various books and products that have some special road traffic signs which the other party in the case used without consent, the Court of Appeal recognised the appellant as the owner and ordered the authority to, among other reliefs, pay the appellant damages amounting to 50,000,000/-.

Trademark

This is mainly governed by the Trade and Service Marks Act, Cap. 326. Section 2 of this law defines trademark as any visible sign used or proposed to be used in connection with or in relation to goods or services for the purpose of distinguishing in the course of trade or business the goods or services of one person from those of another.

For example, one can mention a mark that introduces a product to customers or even a quote. Trademarks are registered with the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA). The law protects the registered owner of a trademark and any use without the owner's authorization or consent entitles the owner to seek damages in a court of law.

In the case of Double Diamond Holdings Ltd vs East African Spirits T. Ltd and Another, Commercial Case No. 8 of 2018, the court faced a scenario whereby two parties were in dispute over resemblance of their trademarks; one uses White Diamond and another Diamond Rock. The court ordered that they had both registered their marks thus have exclusive ownership and there was no any confusion.

Patent

This is all about invention or innovation such as a new technological in industrial sector and other technologies. The Patent (Registration) Act Cap. 217 is among the laws that oversee this area of intellectual property.

For one to register this type of property, there are two places to go to: BRELA as per section 18 (1) of the Patent Registration Act and ARIPO. However, this type of property has seen few successful owners in our country since for a person to acquire registration; they must be the universal inventor of the said product.

Innovative Tanzanians are strongly advised to register their works as this gives one higher right than the unregistered owner. It is weird that at this age, some people tend to hide their ideas, thinking it's the proper way to preserve the same.

For example, there are many local herbs said to treat different diseases but the same are being hidden within small communities. We call upon relevant authorities to sensitize Tanzanians so that those who are innovative can protect their works locally and internationally.

Note: the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. They only provide either elementary or basic legal knowledge on the above subject. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case in question.

You can send questions or comments to our email info@legisattorneys.co.tz or postal address Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P. O. Box 3750, DSM. You can visit our website www.legisattorneys.co.tz

BY PHILIPPE BENOIT AND DAVID SANDALOW

Leveraging Africa's renewable energy potential: A call for global partnership

AFRICA is caught in the crosshairs of climate change. Despite contributing just 3-5% of global carbon dioxide emissions, the continent will endure climate change's destructive impact, including more severe storms, rising temperatures and erratic rainfall in the years ahead that threaten the well-being of hundreds of millions of people.

Renewable energy is an important part of the solution - and Africa enjoys an enormous potential in this regard. With some of the world's highest levels of solar irradiance, vast expanses of land with favorable wind conditions and powerful rivers with immense hydroelectric potential, Africa is teeming with renewable energy resources. However the continent's progress in tapping into this potential lags, leaving a huge energy access challenge as well as a power generation deficit that is stunting business and other drivers of inclusive economic growth.

As the world gears up for the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) to be held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the need to address Africa's energy needs sustainably is all too apparent. Doing so will require rethinking the approach and reshaping policies to dramatically grow Africa's energy system.

This will require big and bold actions, including massive investments in large-scale infrastructure. It will also require investment in information and other soft assets. And, significantly, it will also necessitate small and micro-scale grassroots initiatives which are particularly important to ensure that local populations remain active participants in the process.

The shortage of energy in Africa is a pressing problem. Over half the people in Africa still don't have electricity access - a major contributor to persistent poverty. This gap drives households to rely on inefficient and polluting energy sources like charcoal, wood, and kerosene. This pervasive energy deficit, highlighted in the "Tracking SDG7: The energy progress report for 2022" has profound implications for health, education, and sustainable development across the continent.

An even larger portion of the population lacks access to clean cooking technologies, a crisis disproportionately affecting women and girls, and exposing them to harmful household air pollution that was responsible in 2019 for approximately 700,000 deaths across Africa. Rather than diminishing, the number of people without access is projected to potentially rise from 923 million in 2020 to 1.1 billion in 2030.

But Africa's energy problem extends beyond the lack of access to electric



Over half the people in Africa still don't have electricity access -- a major contributor to persistent poverty. Credit: Energy 4 Impact Senegal

ity and clean cooking targeted by SDG#7. In too many places across the continent, there is a lack of sufficient and reliable electricity to power businesses that are the backbone of Africa's growth drive. The result is a combination of inadequate supply or expensive generators acquired to compensate for the inefficiencies. Fundamentally, Africa's ability to stimulate local entrepreneurs or attract international developers and capital is too often being undermined by a weak electricity network.

The shift in focus to renewables provides an opportunity to change the narrative and realities of Africa's power system. The large amounts of financing being discussed for climate (including in the lead-up to and at COP 28) - amounts which tend to exceed the levels of funding traditionally mobilized for poverty alleviation - provide an important opportunity for the continent.

Mobilizing funding to harness Africa's bountiful renewable energy

would not only help to meet its current and increasingly large future energy needs, but also contribute to global efforts to avoid prospective greenhouse gas emissions.

Moreover, Africa's renewables are large enough to both meet domestic needs, and also help to power green development abroad, including through the export of green electricity to Europe or even, eventually, hydrogen generated from its massive hydropower resources.

Unlocking Africa's renewable potential will require supportive policies, robust regulations, technological innovation, and substantial investment. Strong, sound and predictable regulatory frameworks and institutions are key.

Better information is also key. For example, the African Energy Commission has established the Strategic Framework on the African Bioenergy Data Management that seeks to raise awareness of the potential of the bio-energy sector, reflecting the specificities

of the reality on the ground in the region.

Given Africa's limited financial resource base, any solution requires reaching beyond Africa's borders. Wealthy nations can bring capital, expertise, and adapted technologies to the continent. South-South cooperation can encourage peer learning, the dissemination of technological solutions adapted to local climatic conditions and the developing country economic context, and support the deployment of the increasing financial capacities of emerging economies to support Africa's renewables.

Multilateral development banks, development finance institutions, export credit agencies and private capital should also all do more.

The hosting of COP28 in the UAE provides an opportunity to mobilize funding for Africa from a broader set of actors and countries, moving beyond the traditional North/South divide. In fact, climate finance has been identified by the COP28 host as one

of the key goals of this COP. As COP28 President Sultan Al-Jaber said at last month's climate finance summit held in Paris, "For countries that have done the least to cause climate change, climate finance remains inaccessible, unavailable and unaffordable..." Can COP 28, with UAE leadership, deliver for Africa on this potential?

One UAE initiative - the Zayed Sustainability Prize - has already helped promote local action in addressing these challenges. (One of the authors is a member of the Selection Committee for the Prize.) Over the years, the Zayed Sustainability Prize has supported sustainable change around the world by recognising and rewarding innovative and impactful organizations working to overcome development barriers, including limited access to reliable power, clean water, quality healthcare, and healthy food.

For example, M-KOPA, which won in the Energy category in 2015, uses digital technology to help its customers make micropayments towards essential products and services, such as smartphones, refrigerators, solar panels, even bank loans and health insurance. Last month, it closed US \$250 million in new funding to expand its fintech services to underbanked consumers in Kenya, Nigeria, and more recently, Ghana.

Another winner was the Starehe Girls Centre which empowers disadvantaged girls by providing them access to quality education. The school won the Prize in 2017 in the Global High Schools category in recognition of its efforts to reduce its utility bills through the installation of solar panels and more efficient lighting. These financial savings have allowed it to admit more girls from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Generating local action is a critical input to ensure that massive investment programs translate into a just transition for households. To this end, large-scale infrastructure must be accompanied by people-centric programs.

Africa's renewable energy potential could both help drive enormous economic growth in the region while also helping the world address the challenge of climate change. The potential is there, and it will require action in ways big and small.

Philippe Benoit is research director for Global Infrastructure Analytics and Sustainability 2050. He previously held management positions at the World Bank and the International Energy Agency and has over 20 years of experience working on Africa and David Sandalow is Inaugural Fellow at the Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University, and a member of the Selection Committee of the Zayed Sustainability Prize.

BY CECILIA RUSSELL

Lawmakers' vital roles in ensuring dignity for the aging populations

COUNTRIES with falling population growth face twin dilemmas: Ensuring their aging population live healthy and fulfilling lives and removing barriers to parenthood.

This was the focus of a recent workshop in Thailand reviewing the ICPD30 process and preparation for the Summit for the Future slated for next year (2024).

The workshop was opened by Professor Keizo Takemi, MP Japan and Chair of AFPPD, who contextualized the issue.

"In the Asia Pacific region, a profound shift awaits us. By 2050, one in four individuals will be about the age of 60, with a majority of them being women. The empowerment and the well-being of these women become essential for their meaningful and independent participation in the socio-economic development."

The meeting sought to highlight what is required from lawmakers to ensure a dynamic and balanced aging society where older people will be physically, mentally, and economically self-reliant as possible, with a sustainable healthcare system.

Dr Rintaro Mori, Regional Adviser, Population Ageing and Sustainable Development at UNFPA, in an interview with IPS, said parliamentarians' role included "macro level policy planning to prepare for the coming population aging and low fertility including both economic and human rights perspectives."

Their role was to lead the governments' reform policies and systems of the country to adjust for "the emerging population trend, such as pension reform and education sector reforms to accommodate all ages," and "investing in early and later years to take preventative measures to improve social security, health, and well-being."

Mori said this was possible using a life-cycle approach with a strong emphasis on prevention:

"Prevention is the most cost-effective way to promote healthy and active aging. Life-long investment in social security, health promotion, and psychological well-being (relationship) is the key."

Boosting fertility was crucial for countries facing declining and aging populations. Dr Victoria Boydell from the University of Essex in the UK said it is vital to remove barriers to parenthood but not through the trend of reducing access to sexual and reproductive health services.

According to research by UN Women and the International Labour Organization, 1.6 billion hours a day are spent in unpaid care work - representing 9 percent of global GDP, and women carry out at least two and a half times more unpaid household work than men. These factors need-



Dr Rintaro Mori, Regional Adviser, Population Ageing and Sustainable Development at UNFPA, told the conference it was crucial to invest to improve social security, health, and well-being. Credit: APDA

ed to be considered by lawmakers.

Boydell said policy responses to boost fertility and remove barriers to parenthood included supporting early childhood development, enrollment in quality childcare from an early age, compensation for the economic cost of children through the allocation of benefits, tax exemptions, and other subsidies.

Other practices include fos-

tering employment, especially amongst mothers, for example, part-time and flexible working conditions, promoting equal pay, equal sharing of paid and unpaid work, and allocating benefits to low-income families.

Regarding SRH services, there could be an increase in access to infertility treatment, fertility targets and policies to support the higher number of children.

access to contraception and abortion. Choice was a key right that needed protection.

In a case study, Chalermchai Kruangam, an MP from Thailand, said it was expected that a growing number of older people would need institutional long-term care - with considerable costs to the fiscus. It was, therefore, crucial to encourage governments and stakeholders to support modifications of

living arrangements for older people and provide access to knowledge and training on new technologies, particularly digitalization and information technology. This would ensure that older people remained independent for longer periods, especially if supported health facilities near their homes.

Willie Mongin, an MP from Malaysia, said governments needed to formulate and implement necessary measures to ensure that social systems are ready to meet the older adult's needs, improve their lives and the well-being of their families and communities - so they can live their lives with dignity. With the World Bank, Malaysia was formulating a strategic plan or blueprint to address an aging population's impact, including economic growth, productivity, social protection, and health care.

Mori told IPS it was important to note that "older persons are a quite diverse population. Some of the wealthiest persons are among the older population. The health

status of older persons is quite different depending upon the individual. Any country should have basic social security infrastructure based on the needs and demands of the population, not solely on the age of a person."

He also said governments should take into account the older persons' diversity in their plans to, for example, encourage them to remain in the workplace beyond traditional retirement ages.

"The health, skills, and knowledge of older individuals are diverse, and governments should not plan such economic and labor market policies based on the assumption that older persons are homogenous, Mori said. Recently in Japan, trends show that small and frontline jobs seem to be suitable for older persons (Sakamoto 2022).

Note: The workshop was organized by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

IPS UN Bureau Report



Parliamentarians and experts met in Bangkok to discuss the ICPD30 process and preparation for the Summit for the Future 2024. Credit: APDA

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 16:00-19:00HRS 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 16:00-19:00HRS 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 DJUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMUJAWYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Childhood immunisation begins recovery after COVID-19 backslide

GENEVA

GLOBAL immunisation services reached 4 million more children in 2022 compared to the previous year, as countries stepped up efforts to address the historic backsliding in immunization caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Data published on Tuesday by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, in 2022, showed that 20.5 million children missed out on one or more vaccines delivered through routine immunization services, compared to 24.4 million children in 2021.

In spite of the improvement, the number remains higher than the 18.4 million children who missed out in 2019 before pandemic-related disruptions, underscoring the need for on-going catch-up, recovery and system strengthening efforts.

The vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP) is used as the global marker for immunization coverage.

Of the 20.5 million children who missed out on one or more doses of their DTP vaccines in 2022, 14.3 million did not receive a single dose, so-called zero-dose children.

The figure represents an improvement from the 18.1 million zero-dose chil-

dren in 2021 but remains higher than the 12.9 million children in 2019.

Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General said: "These data are encouraging, and a tribute to those who have worked so hard to restore life-saving immunization services after two years of sustained decline in immunization coverage. But global and regional averages don't tell the whole story and mask severe and persistent inequities. When countries and regions lag, children pay the price."

UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell said: "Beneath the positive trend lies a grave warning. Until more countries mend the gaps in routine immunization coverage, children everywhere will remain at risk of contracting and dying from diseases we can prevent."

Russell said that viruses like measles do not recognize borders, calling for efforts to urgently catch up children who missed their vaccination, while restoring and further improving immunization services



from pre-pandemic levels.

Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance said: "It is incredibly reassuring, after the massive disruption wrought by the pandemic, to see routine immunisation mak-

ing such a strong recovery in Gavi-supported countries, especially in terms of reducing the number of zero-dose children. However, it is also clear from this important study that we need to find ways

of helping every country protect their people, otherwise we run the risk of two tracks emerging, with larger, lower middle income countries outpacing the rest."

The early stages of re-

covery in global immunisation have not occurred equally, with the improvement concentrated in a few countries.

Progress in well-resourced countries with large infant populations,

such as India and Indonesia, masks slower recovery or even continued declines in most low-income countries, especially for measles vaccination.

Of the 73 countries that recorded substantial de-

clines* in coverage during the pandemic, 15 recovered to pre-pandemic levels, 24 are on route to recovery and, most concerning, 34 have stagnated or continued declining.

These concerning trends echo patterns seen in other health metrics. Countries must ensure they are accelerating catch-up, recovery, and strengthening efforts, to reach every child with the vaccines they need and - because routine immunization is a fundamental pillar of primary health-care - take the opportunity to make progress in other, related health sectors.

Vaccination against measles - one of the most infectious pathogens - has not recovered as well as other vaccines, putting an additional 35.2 million children at risk of measles infection.

First dose measles coverage increased to 83 per cent in 2022 from 81 per cent in 2021 but remained lower than the 86 per cent achieved in 2019.

Last year, 21.9 million children missed the routine measles vaccination in their first year of life - 2.7 million more than in 2019 - while an additional 13.3 million did not receive their second dose, placing children in under-vaccinated communities at risk of outbreaks.



Tanzania right at centre of geopolitical chessboard as clean energy demand up

By Baraka Thomas

IN a rapidly evolving world where the demand for clean and sustainable energy sources is gaining momentum, Tanzania finds itself at the centre of a geopolitical chessboard due to its vast untapped reserves of critical minerals.

These minerals, essential components of renewable energy technologies, hold the key to driving a global agenda of energy transition. However, their exploitation also raises significant geopolitical implications that warrant careful consideration.

Tanzania boasts substantial reserves of critical minerals, including lithium, cobalt, graphite, and rare earth elements. These minerals are crucial for producing batteries, solar panels, wind turbines, and electric vehicles, which form the backbone of a low-carbon future. As the world seeks to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and combat climate change, the demand for these minerals is set to skyrocket.

Lithium, a crucial element in EV batteries, is found in abun-

dance in Tanzania. With the rise in global demand for electric vehicles, securing a sustainable and diversified lithium supply chain becomes paramount. Tanzania's vast lithium reserves can contribute significantly to meeting this demand and establish the nation as a vital player in the electric mobility revolution.

Cobalt, another critical mineral, is a key component in lithium-ion batteries. As concerns grow over ethical and sustainable sourcing practices, Tanzania's responsible mining initiatives present an opportunity to develop a transparent cobalt supply chain. By adhering to stringent environmental and social standards, Tanzania can position itself as a trusted supplier of cobalt for clean energy technologies.

Rare earth elements (REEs), vital for numerous applications, including wind turbines and electric motors, are also present in Tanzania. By leveraging its REE reserves, Tanzania can bolster its position in the global supply chain, contributing to the global energy transition and reducing dependence on a limited number

of REE-producing countries.

This abundance presents Tanzania with a unique opportunity to become a major player in the global clean energy supply chain. By strategically harnessing and responsibly managing its critical mineral resources, Tanzania can not only accelerate its own economic development but also play a pivotal role in supporting the energy transition worldwide.

However, such a transformation comes with geopolitical challenges that must be navigated wisely. As global demand for critical minerals intensifies, competition among nations to secure access to these resources is expected to intensify. Tanzania must tread carefully to avoid becoming overly reliant on foreign investment and to ensure that it maximizes the benefits for its own citizens.

To foster a global agenda of energy transition, Tanzania should adopt a comprehensive approach that prioritizes sustainable development, environmental protection, and equitable resource distribution. By forging partnerships with international stakeholders

and leveraging their expertise, it can strike a delicate balance between attracting foreign investment and safeguarding its national interests.

Furthermore, promoting transparency and good governance in the extractive sector is of utmost importance. Tanzania should implement robust regulatory frameworks that ensure fair resource extraction practices, prevent environmental degradation, and guarantee a fair share of revenues for local communities. Transparency in the bidding process and revenue management will instill confidence among investors and enable Tanzania to attract responsible and ethical partners.

Moreover, Tanzania's engagement with international organizations and regional blocs can facilitate knowledge sharing, capacity building, and technology transfer.

Collaborative initiatives that promote research and development in critical minerals extraction, processing, and recycling would not only benefit Tanzania but also contribute to global efforts in achieving a sustainable energy future.

As Tanzania positions itself as a key player in the critical minerals market, it must be mindful of the social and environmental implications. Local communities and indigenous groups must be engaged and provided with meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

Environmental impact assessments and sustainable land management practices should be at the forefront of all mining operations to mitigate ecological risks.

In conclusion, Tanzania's abundance of critical minerals offers a significant opportunity to spearhead the global energy transition. By embracing sustainable development principles, fostering transparency, and prioritising social and environmental considerations, Tanzania can establish itself as a responsible and influential player in the global clean energy sector.

Through careful management and a collaborative approach, Tanzania can not only unlock its own economic potential but also contribute to a greener and more sustainable future for the entire planet.

Govt and WHO collaborate on programmes to buttress efforts in management of, and response to, catastrophes

By Guardian Reporter

OVER the recent years, climate change and natural disasters have increased in frequency and severity. They arrest development and disrupt livelihoods.

The management of these risks is vital to protect people's health from emergencies and disasters, to ensure local, national, and global health security, to attain Universal Health Coverage and to build the resilience of communities, countries, and health systems.

In a bid to strengthen management and response, Tanzania is collaborating with the United Nations to improve competencies to prepare, manage and respond better to disasters.

Key amongst the discussions were, reflections on priority areas of the capacity diagnosis namely, disaster risk governance, understanding risk, investing in disaster and climate risk resilience, and disaster preparedness and response capacity.

The training had representatives from various units and departments of all the institutions, public and private and central level. These participants were very instrumental in the assessment of disaster and climate risk management in Mainland and Zanzibar in 2022.

Aside from the workshop, the United Nations including World Health Organization (WHO) have been working closely with the government to address disaster management issues in the country. This includes a scoping mission undertaken by the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative.

The assessment identified key strengths, challenges and gaps and proposed remedies. The assessment involved experts from the Government, the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC), and Non-Governmental organizations.

The recommendation from the workshop is slated to be submitted for high-level political validation for implementation across the country.

ENDING CONFLICTS, INCREASING THE VALUE OF LAND AMONG TANZANIANS

By Francis Kajubi

Suphian Ali (47), a resident of Kunguru suburb in Dar es Salaam, will never forget the pains of living on a land with no legal ownership document.

In 1999, he bought a two-acre of land and spent 18 years on it comfortably, until 2017, when he fell into a conflict with his neighbor over the demarcation.

The conflict ascended because Ali had no title deed for the owned land, which would have helped him to solve the conflict immediately with his neighbour.

Ali said that he built a residential house on the piece of land, eight years after the purchase, but he was not sure of the border with his neighbour's land.

"Most of the people who buy land from landlords don't make a follow-up for a land survey to the respective authorities. People stay with their land for years without a title deed especially in rural areas," said Ali.

According to him, most people own land, but are not considered to be the owners since they don't have title deeds or related legal documents.

However, he said, spiraling annual fees linked to land ownership and other payments scare away land owners from seeking possession of legal documents.

Ali is among the millions of Tanzanians who have fallen into conflicts, lost land or use such land as an asset for development purposes, such as use as collateral to access bank loans.

The Land Act No. 4 Cap 334 of 1999 Section 23 (2) states: "Any person who at the commencement of this Act, has, without any official title, acquired and occupied as his home for not less than three years, land in an urban or peri-urban area other than land held for a granted or customary right of occupancy or as a tenant of a person so holding land or land to which subsection (2) of Section 51 applies, shall by virtue of this Act be deemed to occupy that land as a residential licensee under a license granted from year to year to that person by the local authority having jurisdiction in the area where that land is situated."

Section 29 (1) (b) of the same Act reads: "When the land commissioner decides to issue right of land ownership to a person who is subjected to land ownership or has an offer to land ownership, shall provide a certificate which is regarded

as title deed of land by the respective person."

Article 24 (1) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania 1977 stipulates: "Every person is entitled to own property, and has a right to the protection of his property held in accordance with the law."

To overcome land conflicts and other related problems, the government is currently taking bold initiatives to ensure all Tanzanians legally own land they live on come 2025.

The initiative involves surveying all non-surveyed land, planning and formalization of informal settlements to enable people to benefit economically from the land they own.

Through the 2023/24 budget priorities, the ministry of Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development will inspect 230 big and small farms, to determine compliance with legal ownership conditions.

However, in the Finance Act 2023/24, the government had brought more relief to landowners, by reducing and suspending land ownership fees.

Last week's Property Watch edition published a story developed from the FinScope Tanzania 2023 report by the Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) saying more than a half Tanzanians live on land with no legal documents of ownership.

In the 2023/24 budget speech tabled last month in the National Assembly land minister Dr Angelina Mabula, highlighted seven priorities for transforming land and the housing sector for the benefits of the people through a 171.3bn/- ministerial budget.

Land management and application of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in data collection and storage, land formalization are among top priorities.

She said out of the total budget, 8.2bn/- is allocated for the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) to process legal ownership of land.

"The ministry shall also survey the borders of 200 villages, prepare plans for land use and approve 200,000 traditional title deeds. The ministry shall digitise 1,647,330 land records which are now in the analogue form," she said.

Article 74(a) of CCM manifesto for 2020-2025, directs the government to ensure that all land is planned, surveyed and legally owned by the people for residential and commercial purposes through possession of



A woman captured while working on a farm.

title deeds.

"The importance of title deeds is to guarantee security of ownership and facilitate mitigation of land disputes. Also, title deeds can be used as collateral on financial institutions and legal instruments," defended Dr Mabula.

She said as of May 15, 2023, financial institutions had disbursed loans worth 60.1bn/- to 1,382 borrowers with title deeds and customary title deeds.

The minister said the borrowers were from the districts of Mbozi, Iringa, Babati, Bariadi, Arumeru, Mbarali, Manyoni, Kilombero, Bagamoyo, Mbinga na Tandahimba.

"I would like to assure the public and financial institutions that customary title deeds are valid and legal documents; I insist they continue to use them for economic benefits," said Dr. Mabula.

In the previous financial year, the ministry had also pledged to inspect the ownership of 230 farms in order to determine compliance with ownership conditions. As of May 15, 2023, a total of 216 farms were inspected (97 percent).

During the period, the ministry also reviewed ownership details of 635,833 land owners of the 500,000 targeted land owners by June 2023, an equivalent of 127 percent of the target.

During 2022/23, a total of 2,684 land disputes were resolved.

The ministry had during 2022/23 planned to formalize 300,000 settlements, only managed to formalize 190,768 settlements, an equivalent of 64 percent.

The ministry planned to erect 100 beacons in various areas of the country, as of May 15th 2023, 106 beacons were erected in the regions include Dodoma (13), Pwani (27), Iringa (13), Mbeya (28), Tanga (9), Manyara (4), Singida (3), Kagera (3), Geita (2) and Tabora (4) making a total of 1,041 beacons erected on surveyed land countrywide.

However, through the five years Land Tenure Improvement Project (LTIP) 2022/27, the ministry is expecting to formalize more settlements.

The \$150 million (345bn/-) LTIP World Bank funded project targets the formalization of informal settlements in 559 streets, prepares land use plans in six districts and 500 villages, prepares 250 village center plans and verifies boundaries of 500 villages.

The outcome of formalization and planning of villages will facilitate the obtaining of 500,000 certificates of customary right of occupancy (CCROs), and two million residential licenses (RLs).

It will also focus on improvement of land management which will involve building 22 survey centers in 22 regions and erect new 400 beacons countrywide.

She said the centers will facilitate efficiency in land surveying and contribute to reducing time for planning and survey costs.

According to the minister, the government has also planned to install the Integrated Land Management Information System (ILMIS) in 132 councils and construct four lecturer Halls in Morogoro and Tabora Ardhi Institutes.

In the year 2023/24, she said, the government will start implementing the Land Data Infrastructure (LDI) project with a \$65 million (159bn/-) loan from the Exim Bank of South Korea.

Tabling the 2023/24 budget in the National Assembly last month, the Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba proposed for the amendments of the Land Act Cap 113 of 1999, to reduce premium of land value from 0.5 percent to 0.25 percent;

To reduce annual title deed fee from the previous 50,000/- to 25,000/- per title deed; to reduce the title deed registration fee from 20 percent to 10 percent;

To reduce fee for title deed application from 20,000/- to 5,000/- and to suspend the deed plan fee which land owners were previously charged 20,000/-.

The Population and Housing Census 2022 results by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) show that Tanzania Main land has 13,907,951 properties.

Of these properties, 4,132,438 an equivalent of 29.7 percent are in urban areas and 9,776,513 an equivalent of 70.3 percent are in rural areas.

However, of the total properties, 12,717,893 an equivalent of 91.4 percent are residential properties, while 470,476 an equivalent of 3.4 percent are both residential and commercial properties.

The remaining 719,582 properties, an equivalent of 5.2 percent, are used for other various purposes.

The census results further state that the country's human population reached 61.74 million, a 27.23 percent increase from the 2012 population that stood at 44.93 million.

The Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report for Local Government Authorities 2019/20 reveals that during the audit on land ownership it has learned that 27 district councils were possessing land valued 1.14trn/- which had not been granted title deeds as required by the law.

"The negligence of not surveying, planning and formalization of land can lead into conflicts especially on land owned by district councils against host communities," reads the CAG report adding:

"I suggest that the respective district councils survey their land, so that it can be owned legally."

In ensuring access to land is secure and equitable for all, the United Nations (UN) has set the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 1.4.2), which measures individuals' land tenure security, and SDG 5.a.1, which measures tenure security over agricultural land from a gender perspective.

Neema Lugangira, a Special Seats legislator argued that the Land Act does not favor women when it comes to land ownership suggesting further review of the law.

Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs Dr. Damas Ndumbaro admits that the number of women who directly own the land they live on or cultivate is not satisfactory.

"The situation is not caused by the law but community perception depending on our African traditions and customs which in turn call for

government and NGOs collaboration to sensitize the public on the essence of women's right to land ownership as per the National Construction Article 24 and as stipulated by Section 3 (1) and (2) of the Village Land Act No. 5 of 1999," said Dr. Ndumbaro.

According to the minister, most customary laws are against women's right to land ownership.

"In this case, the government is ready and inviting stakeholders to collaborate to sensitize communities on women's right to land ownership," said Dr. Ndumbaro.

The African Union's Agenda 2063 gives importance to securing women's land rights as a critical area for action in eradicating poverty and reducing gender equality gaps.

According to the research findings dubbed 'Women's Access to Land in Tanzania: The Case of the Makete District 2017' by Kerbina Moyo from the Department of Real Estate and Construction Management, School of Architecture and Built Environment Stockholm, states that within households, men occupy about 47 percent of the land.

Mixed ownership reaches almost 37 percent, while women occupy a small portion which is 16 percent of the family land in Tanzania.

It states that customary land tenure accounts for 97 percent of land in the Makete district while general land tenure forms three percent.

Makete district in particular, the study found that 63 women, an equivalent of 56 percent of the interviewed in Bulongwa, Lupalilo, and Mwakautu villages had acquired land through inheritance in the form of either family or clan land.

Purchase of land ranked second with about 30 respondents (27 percent), allocation by friends took third position with eight respondents (seven percent).

Allocation by friends or relatives and leasing of land accounted for three percent each from three interviewed respondents.

"Allocation by village leaders formed four percent with five respondents," reads the survey report.

The minister of lands also recognizes the importance of women land ownership by saying: "The transformation initiatives in the land sector take into consideration women's right towards land ownership;

They also target at ending conflicts, increasing the value of land among Tanzanians."

NAIROBI

SAFARICOM plans to add 595 new fifth-generation (5G) sites by the end of March next year to rival Airtel Kenya that currently boasts more locations that support the superfast speeds.

The telco says in the latest annual report that it targets to increase its 5G sites from the current 205 to 800 by the close of March 2024, in a development that will require Airtel to add more sites or cede its current lead.

Airtel Kenya last week announced it has taken the number of its active 5G sites to 370, positioned in 16 counties and 180 wards nationwide.

This means Airtel is currently ahead of Safaricom, which added 170 5G sites to take its count at the end of March to 205 compared with 35

Safaricom eyes 595 new 5G sites in battle with Airtel

in a similar period last year.

Safaricom's 5G sites, however, cover 23 counties compared with Airtel's 16.

"Our aim is to continue increasing the empowerment of our customers with superfast internet at work, at home and on the move, by supplementing our growing fibre network," says Safaricom in the annual report.

But Airtel Kenya also stands ready to increase its active sites past the current 370 as it prepares to battle Safaricom for a larger share of the fast-growing data business.

The Kenyan unit of India's Bharti Airtel disclosed earlier that it had



A sign showing Fibre ready zone in Nyeri town

over 600 5G-ready sites that do not require any further modifications before going live.

"Airtel 5G will revolutionise various sectors, such as smart cities, education, healthcare, Agri-tech, transport systems, entertainment, and more, shaping the future of Kenya," said Shish Malhotra, managing director at Airtel Kenya.

The 5G technology is much faster compared to the current widely available 4G but requires more high-end smartphones in addition to the expensive data bundles that are out of reach for the majority of Kenyans.

Subscribers who want to use the superfast in-

ternet have to buy new handsets that are compatible with 5G before they can hook to a service that offers much faster data downloads and upload speeds easing congestion.

In April this year Safaricom extended its super-fast fifth-generation (5G) network coverage to 28 towns across Kenya's 21 counties, empowering its customers in the covered areas to enjoy accelerated connectivity for both their homes and businesses.

The move grows the number up from 11 towns in eight counties covered when Safaricom first rolled out commercial use of 5G in October last year, pointing to an aggressive push by the telco to expand its data business as part of efforts to counter slow growth in voice calls revenue.

MTN SAYS OUTDATED TELCO LAWS WILL HOLD AFRICA BACK

LAGOS

HERE is an urgent need to make African economies fit for the digital age, said MTN Group CEO Ralph Mupita, who has called for balanced, modern telecoms regulatory frameworks across Africa.

Mupita said balanced laws increase investor confidence, promote innovation, and drive growth in the industry.

The MTN Group boss said a McKinsey series of interviews with telecommunications leaders.

He expressed his views on low rates of smartphone penetration, broadband access, telecom legislation and new investments in digital infrastructure.

Blended, he said, these enable the continent to leapfrog its current hurdles and make seismic advances in everything from education, healthcare, agriculture, logistics, mining, and other industries.

On legislation, Mupita said:

"There is an urgent need for more harmonised and modern regulatory frameworks across Africa."

He continued: "Regulation is a potential massive driver of the growth and transformation of the industry. The regulatory frameworks that we have had over the last 20 years have served us very well. They were designed in the transition era from voice to data, basically from 2G to 3G technology."

"But these regulatory frameworks are not fit for the future, and without change, will keep Africa behind as the rest of the world advances. They are based on a belief that you need four to five or even six-player markets when we see consolidation globally in many markets."

Mupita urged governments to help rebalance the digital ecosystem by creating fairer business conditions for the telecoms sector.

He explained: "A real issue



MTN plaza in Lagos city

on the African continent is a lack of harmonisation of regulatory frameworks as you move from country to country.

"How you approach spectrum acquisition in country X and country Y, which might even be neighbours, but be quite different. It's very chal-

lenging for us as a multinational operator in 19 markets, where the regulations differ from country to country.

"Modernising and evolving regulations is critical for creating a more attractive climate for global capital. Many estimates show that the continent needs \$100 billion in

capital investments to meet the goal of universal broadband by 2030, and what is being spent now is insufficient."

Mupita's plea follows a similar request from the GSM Association - a global industry body of mobile network operators - which called for telecom policies and regulations

based on internationally accepted principles.

In its Mobile Economy 2023 report, the association notes telecoms infrastructure serves as the foundation of all modern digital economies and calls upon policymakers to take action that develops the industry by removing combative sector-specific regulations.

Call for clarity

For Mupita, the call to action comes after recent legal squabbles involving MTN Group in some African markets.

Earlier this year, MTN was at odds with the Ghana Revenue Authority over a \$773 million tax claim; the matter was subsequently withdrawn, after extensive discussions.

While, in Cameroon,

MTN has failed for ten months to access its bank accounts, worth over \$23 million.

This is at the request of Ahmadou Baba Danpullo, a business tycoon with strong government connections, who is in dispute with South African authorities and a bank of that country.

MTN Group is headquartered in South Africa.

MTN Cameroon is now facing operational challenges, CEO Mitwa Ng'ambi said recently, adding that the situation could negatively impact the 12 million subscribers it serves.

The matter has since drawn the attention of the South African government, which has expressed concern regarding the treatment of MTN.

Kingspan to acquire majority stake in its German rival Steico for €251m

BELIN

IRISH building materials company Kingspan has acquired a 51percent stake in German insulation company Steico for €251m. The shares were bought from Schramek, Steico's Austrian parent.

Steico runs four production sites in Poland and France, where it makes 27 product lines. Last year, it had an operating revenue of €445m.

Steico's products are based around wood-fibre insulation and wood-based building envelopes. As of December 2022, it had gross assets of €509m.

Gene Murtagh, Kingspan's chief executive, said: "The acquisition of a majority stake in Steico represents an exciting next step in our strategy to provide the full spectrum of insulation products."

"Its suite of wood-based building envelope solutions broadens our ability to enable our customers to meet their sustainability and energy performance needs."

The acquisition is due to be completed in early 2024. Kingspan Group plc, the global leader in high performance insulation and building envelope solutions, is pleased to announce that it has entered into an agreement with Schramek GmbH ("Schramek") to acquire c.51% of the shares of Steico SE ("Steico"), with an option to acquire a further c.10 percent of shares in Steico in the future.

Steico is the world leader in natural insulation and wood-based building envelope products, based in Germany and listed on the unofficial markets of several German Stock Exchanges. It has a very well invested asset base, with four large production sites comprising 27 lines situated in Poland and France, including additional capacity nearing completion with up to EUR200m revenue headroom.

Steico had audited operating revenues of EUR445m in the 12 months to 31 December 2022 and EBITDA of EUR90m in the same period. As at June 2023, Steico guided 2023 revenues of c.EUR378m at an EBIT margin of 8 percent - 10 percent (FY22 14.6 percent). As at 31 December 2022, Steico had gross assets of EUR509m.

The initial consideration for the shares will be EUR35 per share, plus potential deferred consideration of up to a further EUR35 per share contingent on achievement of specified thresholds with a material uplift in profitability.

The initial consideration of approximately EUR251.4m will be satisfied on completion, with 25 percent of the consideration potentially being exchanged for new shares in Kingspan (subject to Kingspan share price at completion).

The consideration payable under the put and call option to acquire Schramek's remaining c. 10 percent in Steico is for a capped amount based on a multiple of future earnings.

The acquisition is expected to be earnings neutral initially, based on Kingspan consensus EPS for 2023 and Steico guidance for 2023.

In addition to Steico's existing ambitious growth plans we anticipate significant long term leverage via the Kingspan sales channels.

The existing Steico executive management team will be retained in the business, and will continue to manage and develop the business. Upon closing, Kingspan will seek fair representation on Steico's administrative board.

The acquisition is conditional on regulatory clearance, and is expected to complete in early 2024. Following completion, Steico will continue to maintain its listings on the German Stock Exchange.



A man doing insulation installation

Canadian architect on a mission to rebuild Ukraine

KYIV

PRINCIPAL of WZMH Architects, Zenon Radewych, is spearheading a drive in Ukraine to use its system of stackable concrete modules to rebuild apartment blocks damaged by invading Russian forces.

He believes the Speedstac system, developed with WZMH's innovation lab, Sparkbird, can help Ukrainian cities rebuild faster and make better use of damaged structures by adding modules to them.

As of March this year, the cost of rebuilding Ukraine was estimated to be \$41bn, according to a joint assessment by the government of Ukraine, the World Bank, the European Commission, and the UN.

Housing is a big part of that. Last year, the Kyiv School of Economics calculated that as of September 2022 some 136,000 residential buildings had been damaged or destroyed, among them nearly 16,000 apartment buildings. Within Ukraine, some 5.4 million people have been

displaced and 8.1 million have fled abroad.

Following an endorsement by the Ukrainian embassy in Canada last year, officials in Kyiv and Irpin have requested proposals from WZMH on using Speedstac to restore specific buildings, and will use these proposals to seek international funding, with help from WZMH.

"There's a lot of interest from Ukrainian government officials reaching out to us," Radewych told GCR. "We say show us where you want to rebuild, give us a letter of support saying that yes, you want a building here with 'x' amount of units, that you'll support us on the ground in terms of approvals etcetera, and we'll do the concept and go knocking on doors to get some funding."

At the same time, WZMH is engaging with architects, universities, and students in Ukraine to encourage them to design with the Speedstac concept. It sponsors four paid design internships at two Ukrainian universities, and has organised "hackathons" among

architecture and IT students.

How the idea evolved The modules are self-contained rooms with built-in electrical and plumbing services, which Sparkbird says can be "transplanted" by crane into damaged buildings. A locking mechanism allows modules to be added or removed as needed.

Radewych, a Canadian of Ukrainian heritage, first came up with the Speedstac idea for residential schemes in North America. But after the February 2022 invasion, many Ukrainians fleeing it went to Canada. Among them were architects, seven of whom Toronto-based WZMH would go on to hire. Amid that influx, the idea of applying Speedstac to support the Herculean task of rebuilding Ukraine took root.

An early idea was to slot individual Speedstac modules into spaces left by damaged individual apartments, but after speaking to Ukrainian structural engineers and getting to know the 1950s and 1960s-built

towers, themselves built with prefabricated concrete panels, Radewych's team now think it will be better to replace whole building sections.

"If the end of the building's been hit, slice off that end and rebuild with Speedstac," Radewych said. "If the top of the building's been damaged, slice that off and add Speedstac. If the middle is damaged, rip out that portion and rebuild."

Eleven construction workers killed as monsoon rain destroy building

ISLAMABAD

Eleven workers were killed early Wednesday after a portion of the outer wall of a sprawling compound collapsed after being weakened by rains near an under-construction bridge on the outskirts of Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, police and rescue officials said.

A wall was damaged by the wind and rain, causing it to collapse onto workers tents at a construction site.

The victims were working on a bridge, but the wall that caused the deaths was part of a nearby building.

Five other employees were injured. The workers were among 112 fatalities since the monsoon began in Pakistan on 25 June.

The wall fell while the workers sat inside their roadside tents at the construction site.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a statement expressed his sorrow and grief over the deaths.

Local police official Mohammad Akram and Emergency Service Rescue 1122 said the collapse happened amid the monsoon rains near the neighborhood of Golra and that the bodies of the deceased were recovered. At least five construction workers were also injured, senior police officer Khan Zeb said.

Officials said the rains hadn't caused any damage to the walls of the under-construction bridge and that the laborers were killed or injured when the wall of a nearby building collapsed, burying them under the rubble.

Monsoon rains have been lashing Pakistan since June 25, killing at least 112 people in weather-related incidents. The rains have also swelled Pakistan's rivers in eastern Punjab province, swamping hundreds of villages and displacing at least 15,000 people.

The rains returned to Pakistan a year after climate-induced downpours inundated at one point one-third of Pakistan, killing 1,739 people. The floods also caused \$30 billion in damage in cash-strapped Pakistan in 2022.



Damaged building sections in Kyiv

CONSTRUCTION

US FUND TO BUILD 5,000 AFFORDABLE HOUSES IN KENYA

NAIROBI

THE International Finance Corporation (IFC) is set to make an equity investment worth Sh2.96 billion (\$20.9 million) in a US-owned Southern African asset manager that is developing 5,000 affordable houses in Kenya.

The IFC said in new disclosures that its equity co-investment with the Investment Housing Solutions group of companies (IHS) in the project will see it take up a maximum stake that does not exceed 20 percent in a fund set up to finance the affordable housing venture.

The fund has a target equity investment of up to €130 million (\$140 million/Sh19.8 billion), sourced from various institutional investors.

Its target area is the Nairobi metropolitan area with expansion to other counties depending on demand.

A minimum of 15 percent of the funds committed capital shall, however, target areas outside of Nairobi.

"The proposed IFC investment is an equity co-investment package by IFC of up to €19.3 million (approximately \$20.9 million) to invest along with IHS Kenya Green Housing Partnership LLP and IHS Kenya Green Housing SCSp (the Fund) in the development and acquisition of approximately 5,000 newly developed, resource-efficient, green affordable housing properties in Kenya," said the IFC in its disclosures.

"The proposed IFC investment will consist of up to €10 million (approximately \$10.9 million) from IFC's own account and up to \$10 million equivalent in euros (app. €9.3 million) from IFC acting as the implementing



The ongoing construction of affordable housing at Buxton

entity of the UK-IFC Market Accelerator for Green Construction Program (MAGC)."

By the end of last year, IHS had raised more than \$740 million (Sh104.7 billion) since 2008 in capital that has been deployed in six multi-investor funds, one single-investor fund and listed a publicly traded REIT in Johannesburg.

IHS Kenya Green Affordable Housing Fund was launched in 2021.

The affordable housing drive in Kenya was put in place as one of the Big Four agenda items by the previous administration.

It has picked up pace over the past year after being identified as one of the key policy areas by the Kenya Kwanza

administration, largely under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

The push for more affordable houses in Kenya is informed by the annual housing deficit that is estimated at 200,000 units.

Expensive home loans, owing to a number of factors including the high cost of land, low levels of income and limited access to affordable long-term finance, have curtailed the development of the mortgage market in Kenya.

As a result, the government together with the World Bank, lenders and other financial institutions, teamed to form the Kenya Mortgage Refinancing Company (KMRC), which is disbursing loans to primary lenders such as banks in the form of long-term funds, with the goal

of unlocking affordable home loans for Kenyans.

On Monday, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) announced a technical assistance programme for the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) and local banks to strengthen the recently introduced risk-based pricing mechanism for customer loans.

The programme, which has a budget of \$514,345 (Sh72.7 million), will also see the IFC offer support to credit reference bureaus on how to provide better credit scores for small enterprises, use of alternative data for credit scoring and create awareness to borrowers on consumer protection practices.

The support represents the second phase of the IFC's Kenya Credit Reporting Strengthening Project, which was put in place in June 2022 to help the local financial sector recover and stabilise from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"IFC will support the CBK to strengthen credit reporting supervision, and in their efforts to enhance lending policies and protect customers," said the IFC about the programme that runs until December 2025.

"This project also supports the private sector through technical assistance to financial institutions such as banks to improve their internal rating models as a key component of compliance and risk-based pricing of credit".

Banks have been adopting risk-based credit pricing as part of wider reforms that are aimed at improving access to credit.

The reforms entrenched in the Kenya Banking Sector Charter seek to instil

fairness, transparency, financial literacy and financial access.

By the beginning of June, the CBK had cleared the risk-based pricing plans of 33 out of the 39 licensed commercial banks in the country.

All commercial banks had been required to submit plans for this kind of pricing by the end of May 2019.

The expectation is that allowing banks to price this way when lending to a customer will unlock more lending to the private sector.

It will also allow borrowers with good repayment records to access new loans at friendlier terms.

Other than strengthening the risk-based credit pricing plan, the project will also see the IFC provide technical support for the country's credit information-sharing mechanism and MSMEs.

Credit access by the private sector has remained constrained in Kenya since 2016, when the introduction of a rate cap on custom loans constrained banks' ability to cater for risk when lending.

The removal of the cap in November 2019, while boosting the single-digit credit growth into double digits, has failed to fully unlock access to the formal loans market for small businesses, amid competition from the government for funds.

The credit market was further hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, which caused massive job losses and closures of businesses, making it harder for borrowers to service loans and forcing banks to tighten credit conditions to protect their books.

Man destroys Catholic church property after drug overdose

LAGOS

CROSS River State Police Command has arrested one Asha Dominic after he invaded a Catholic church and destroyed property worth millions of naira, following an alleged drug overdose. The incident happened on Sunday night at St Bernard's Catholic Parish, Enyi, Boje in Boki Local Government Area of the state.

According to a source in the area, Miss Rhema, a member of the church, Asha Dominic, who is from neighbouring Obanlikwu Local Government Area and resident in the area as farm help, allegedly took an overdose of the drug called "ice" and was driven by the impact of the drug to invade the church in the middle of the night and destroyed the altar, chairs, tables, glass windows, tiles and valuable documents.

"The doors were shut but not bolted or locked with padlock, so he gained access into the church through the

third door to commit the havoc," Rhema told Vanguard on phone.

She said after the destruction, the man slept off inside the church until the morning when people, who went for morning prayers, were taken aback by the strange state of their church while the perpetrator laid asleep on one side of the destroyed floor.

The Assistant Parish priest, Reverend Father Matthew Majok, could not be reached on phone but our source said the Reverend Father incharge of the church was on suspension. However, the assistant (Majok) visited the church on Monday to record details of items destroyed.

"I just came back from school and heard that our main priest is on suspension and I don't know the cause but his assistant, Father Majok was here on Monday to take down details of what were destroyed by the man."

Ms Irene Ugbo, the state Police Command spokesman said she was yet to be briefed on the matter.



Plastic pollution in the mangroves around Lamu island.

Microplastics choke Kenya coastline despite 2017 ban

NAIROBI

UNDER the scorching midday sun of Mahoo village in Taita Taveta County, silt deposits and rocks cover the pathway of Mwanguwa Ravine, revealing patches of steep areas that when it rains floods.

Without water, it is safe to navigate the ravine, but walking through the deposits of silt, you notice parts have been turned into landfill sites, carrying mostly used diapers, plastic bags and bottles.

Mwanguwa is one of several ravines in the area that pour their waters into Njoro Springs, which is connected to River Lumi. This river empties into Lake Jipe, an inter-territorial lake straddling the borders of Kenya and Tanzania.

This lake is a shallow backwater of the Lumi River, which afterwards becomes the Ruvu River, and enters the Nyumba ya Mungu Reservoir in Tanzania.

After joining there with the Kikuletwa hot spring, the stream flows as the Pangani River into the Indian Ocean.

And so, other than causing health risks to thousands who depend on water from all these sources, this waste and particularly plastic refuse, poses a serious environmental danger to the Indian Ocean.

According to Grantone Mwandawiro, the Taita Taveta county executive committee member for Water, Sanitation, Environment Climate Change and Natural Resources, plastic refuse disposal is a thorny issue.

In a 2022 Municipal Solid Waste Management Audit Report, the county indicates that most of the mismanaged plastic waste end up in water bodies through drainage channels since most of the population without collection services dump waste in storm drains.

According to the report, the county generates 3,329 tonnes of plastic waste per

year.

Kenya consumes about 1.3 million tonnes of plastics per year; 27 percent is collected and eight percent is recycled.

Kenya imposed a ban on plastic carrier bags in 2017, which was later reviewed to include single-use plastics in protected areas

According to the National Environment Management Authority (Nema), land-based activities account for about 80 percent of all marine litter found in Kenya's oceans, rivers, and beaches with the Indian Ocean bearing the biggest brunt.

In October 2021, the European Journal of Sustainable Development Research, published a joint study by five scientists from the University of Nairobi, the University of Kwa Zulu Natal, and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute that painted a horrifying reality of a high presence of microplastics – fragments of plastics – in Kenya's Indian Ocean.

According to the study, the concentration of MPs in the surface waters along the Kenyan coastline was higher compared to other parts of the world.

Kevin Lunzalu, a marine ecologist, says when plastics enter aquatic or marine ecosystems, they don't degrade but break down into microplastics.

"This takes thousands of years to break down, making their impact on marine ecosystems everlasting," explains Mr Lunzalu.

Amos Wemanya, an environmental scientist, says the functionality, quality of ecosystem services, and resilience of the ocean are impacted by a new wave of human-induced threats resulting from plastics.

"Since microplastics have a very long lifespan, they continually absorb organic pollutants as they stay in the marine environment, making them even more dangerous to ocean life and humans," explains

Wemanya.

Microplastics compromise how marine animals function, causing entanglement and ingestion that can be lethal.

"The tiny plastic fragments are persistent in the marine ecosystem and due to their small size in nature, these fragments are mistaken as food and ingested by a range of marine animals," explains Lunzalu.

Endangered marine species like sea turtles face more threat from microplastics, he says.

"High concentrations of small plastic fragments alter the temperatures of the sand on the nesting beaches, which results in the artificial determination of the sex ratios of the turtles. For juveniles and adults, the harm mainly comes from direct ingestion, causing internal injuries."

Humans are not exempted from the impact of microplastic pollution since they depend on fish from the ocean and its adjoining ecosystems.

Research published in March by ScienceDirect Journal estimated that close to 15 percent of the microplastics in the guts studied have the potential to translocate gut barriers of fish into muscles where they get ingested by humans.

But experts remain positive. According to Lunzalu, though it is nearly impossible to eradicate microplastics in the oceans due to their quantities, there is hope.

Kenya has put in place frameworks and regulations to reduce single-use plastics use, mitigate the impact on the environment, and enhance consumer behaviour. This is backed by international protocols.

At the individual level, experts say it is possible to reduce ocean-bound plastics by trimming the consumption of items packaged in or made from single-use plastics.

Tata to build £4bn battery gigafactory in Somerset

LONDON

TATA Sons is set to build a £4bn gigafactory in the UK, believed to be one of the largest-ever investments in the country's car industry.

The facility in Somerset will produce sustainable battery cells and packs for use within the mobility and energy sectors, for customers in the UK and Europe. The "anchor customers" will be Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and Tata Motors - both part of the Tata group of companies.

The government said the investment would create up to 4,000 new direct jobs as well as "thousands more in the wider supply chain". Production is expected to start in 2026, with an ambition to produce 40GW of cells annually and use "100 per cent clean power".

The battery production industry has been eyed as a high-value growth area for contractors, but key figures said in May that the UK was running out of time to kickstart the industry.

The ISG-led construction of a

planned £3.8bn gigafactory in Northumberland was paused earlier this year after its developer Britishvolt went into administration.

The Australian company that subsequently bought Britishvolt said in February that it wanted to restart the project "as soon as possible", but last month the BBC reported that the owner's offices had been raided by police.

Wates is also building a £450m gigafactory in Sunderland - its largest-ever project - while Mace chief executive Mark Reynolds recently told Construction News that his company was targeting gigafactory work, including a major forthcoming project in the UK.

The Tata factory announcement follows months of negotiations. The BBC reported that up to £500m in government subsidies and grants had been offered to "get the deal over the line". The government said details of the support provided to Tata Sons "will be published in due course".

Low-cost Israeli method of producing 'green' hydrogen is a game changer

TEL AVIV

IN a significant step towards combating climate change, researchers from Tel Aviv University achieved a major breakthrough in the production of "green" hydrogen. Their method not only sidesteps air pollution but also offers a high level of efficiency.

Hydrogen is an essential raw material for both agriculture and industry, with the potential to dramatically cut down carbon dioxide emissions. The production and combustion of hydrogen do not emit polluting gasses, and hydrogen can also be transformed into electricity or synthetic gas. "Green" hydrogen refers to hydrogen that is obtained without generating pollutant emissions. The new method was developed by doctoral student Itzhak Grinberg and Dr Oren Ben-Zvi under the guidance of Professors Ifach Yacoby and Lihli Adler-Abramovich. Their findings were published earlier in July in the peer-reviewed journal, Carbon Energy.

Currently, "green" hydrogen is primarily produced by passing an electric current through water molecules to separate the hydrogen and oxygen atoms. According to Ben-Zvi, this electrolysis method "requires precious and rare metals such as platinum along with water distillation."

That's "15 times more expensive" than "grey hydrogen," which refers to hydrogen extracted from natural gas, methane or other fossil fuels. Efforts to fight climate change are moving away from "grey hydrogen" because its production releases significant amounts of carbon gas that cannot be captured.

Instead of applying electrolysis to water, the researchers instead turned to enzymes.

Hydrogen "is produced by enzymes in microscopic organisms, which receive the energy for this from photosynthesis processes," Grinberg explained. "In the lab, we 'electrify' those enzymes. That is, an electrode provides energy instead of the sun. The result is a particularly efficient process, with no demand for extreme conditions, that can utilize electricity from renewable sources such as solar panels or wind turbine."

One problem that researchers encountered, Grinberg noted, is that "the enzyme 'runs away' from the electric charge, so it needs to be held in place through chemical treatment. We found a simple and efficient way to attach the enzyme to the electrode and utilize it."

The researchers used a water-based gel to attach the enzyme to the electrode and were able to produce green hydrogen using a biocatalyst. The method showed 90 per cent efficiency, meaning 90 per cent of the electrons introduced into the system were deposited in the hydrogen without any secondary processes.

The innovation was simply using the gel to produce the hydrogen.

"We soaked the electrode in the gel, which contained an enzyme for producing hydrogen, called hydrogenase," Yacoby said. "The gel holds the enzyme for a long time, even under the electric voltage, and makes it possible to produce hydrogen with great efficiency and at environmental conditions favourable to the enzyme – for example, in salt water, in contrast to electrolysis, which requires distilled water."

Another advantage to using the gel is that it "assembles itself, Adler-Abramovich said.

"You put the material in water, and it settles into nanometric fibres that form the gel. We demonstrated that these fibres are also able to stick the enzyme to the electrode. We tested the gel with two other enzymes, in addition to the hydrogenase, and proved that it was able to attach different enzymes to the electrode," she explained.

ANI

UK PM Rishi Sunak braced for defeats in key elections

LONDON

PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak faces voters in very different parliamentary seats yesterday and risks losing all three contests in what would be the worst one-day mid-term result for any British governing party in more than half a century.

The votes are one of few remaining opportunities to gauge public support before a national election expected next year, and a chance to assess if the opposition Labour Party can convert their run of double-digit poll leads into victories.

Sunak, a former finance minister and investment banker, has cultivated an image as a technocrat who can solve complex policy challenges. But he has failed to fully shake off his party's chaotic past.

The elections are to fill seats vacated by former prime minister Boris Johnson, who resigned as an MP last month after he was found to have misled parliament over parties held in Downing Street during the COVID-19 pandemic, and an ally who resigned in solidarity.

A third vote is being held after a member of parliament quit over allegations of sexual harassment and cocaine use.

The results of the so-called by-elections are expected to come in the early hours of today.

If Sunak loses all three votes it would suggest his party was in danger of losing power at the next election as members of the public express their frustrations over stubbornly high inflation, rising taxes and economic stagnation.

The last time a governing party lost three by-elections in a single day was in 1968.

Unfavorable view

The prime minister's popularity is at the lowest level since he was appointed in October, according to a YouGov poll published on Wednesday. About two-thirds of voters currently have an unfavorable view of Sunak, the poll found.

The betting odds suggest the Conservatives will lose all three elections, even though the party won large majorities in two of them in 2019.

The Conservatives won the constituency of Selby and Ainsty in northern England with a majority of 20,137 at the last general election. Labour said if it won the seat it would mark the biggest majority the party has overturned at a by-election since World War II.

In Somerton and Frome in southwest England, the opposition Liberal Democrats are hoping to overturn a Conservative majority of 19,213.

In Johnson's former seat of Uxbridge and South Ruislip on the western fringes of London, Labour is seeking to overturn a Conservative majority of 7,210.

Asked if the prime minister was confident of winning the three seats, a spokeswoman for Sunak said by-elections were historically difficult for governments, and the contest that the Conservatives were most focused on was the general election.

Agencies

The less-told stories of China's health cooperation with Africa

By Yi Fan

A small mountain village in Jimma, southwest Ethiopia, is the place where Chinese cardiovascular expert Mei Gengnian was laid to rest. Head of China's first medical team to Ethiopia in 1974, Dr Mei treated more than 300 patients and performed seven operations on his busiest day. However, the Chinese doctor's Africa trip ended abruptly one and a half year later when he died of a tragic car accident after wrapping up medical consultations in a disaster-stricken area. Yet his mantle was taken up by his son, Mei Xueqian, who joined another Chinese medical team to Africa in 1998 and again headed to Ethiopia.

The story of Dr Mei and his son offers us a glimpse into China's longstanding medical assistance to and health cooperation with Africa. In 1963, the first Chinese medical team set off from Beijing, transited in three different countries and arrived in Algeria 10 days later. In the six decades since, China has sent more than 22,000 medical personnel to Africa, providing more than 220 million diagnoses and treatments for people in over 50 countries in Africa.

Global narratives on Africa's development place much emphasis on the economic dimension while the social dimension—public health in particular—is sometimes underappreciated. Yet Africa, home to the largest number of developing countries, is determined to modernize its public health system, one of the priorities in the continent's Agenda 2063.

For that to happen, a number of bottlenecks, ranging from professional skills, infrastructure development to disease preparedness, still need to be addressed. Within this context, China's assistance to and cooperation with Africa on public health can be brought to bear. What started off as sending medical teams has been gradually broadened, as China shares experience it has gained in the course of its own



The then Chinese ambassador to Ethiopia H.E. Tan Jian (1st left) inaugurated the Dr. Mei Gengnian Road together with the then mayor of Jimma Mr. Mekiyu Mohamed (2nd right), and the then President of Jimma University Prof. Fikre Lemessa (3rd left) in Jimma, Ethiopia on April 5, 2018. Dr. Mei is a well-known Chinese medical doctor who sacrificed his life in Ethiopia and was buried in the suburbs of Jimma. (Photo/Embassy of China in Ethiopia)

public health modernization.

This starts, first and foremost, with capacity-building. Human resource management and health research are two of the strategic priorities laid out in the Africa Health Strategy (AHS) 2016-2030.

To meet this need, China has carried out medical training in various forms including clinical teaching, surgical demonstration, academic lectures, online courses and training programmes in China. In February this year, having received training by China's 23rd medical team to the country, Zambian doctors independently performed, for the first time, endoscopic pituitary tumor surgery through nose, a type of operation once deemed too difficult that Zambians had to spend a large sum of savings and travel abroad for it.

On-the-ground training is complemented by the sharing of best practice in diagnostics and treatment. South Africa and China, for instance, enjoy longstanding cooperation on traditional medicine, which is employed by the former to improve health conditions in rural areas.

Assistance on health infrastructure is another crucial part of China's cooperation with Africa. In the Strategy for Quality Health Infrastructure in Africa 2022-2030, the African Development Bank identified large and diverse health

infrastructure needs due to the growing population on the continent.

With widely-acclaimed efficiency in infrastructure building, China stepped up to the plate. The Nigeria-China Friendship Hospital commissioned in 2013 is a case in point. With a total investment of over 12 million US dollars, the hospital was built within only 22 months, supplemented by grants of medical equipment to this health facility.

Such efficiency was also manifested at the height of the Covid pandemic when China helped design, build and deliver Nigeria's largest makeshift hospital in a month. Over the years, China has helped to build more than 130 hospitals and clinics across the continent, improving local access to health facilities.

In addition, cooperation is geared increasingly towards disease preparedness. As is made clear in the AHS, prevention is the most cost-effective way to reduce burdens on the health system.

A good example would be the 100-bed diagnosis and treatment center in Liberia built by China during the Ebola outbreak, which was designed for rapid virus detection.

A more recent example is the headquarters of the African Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),

whose first phase was inaugurated earlier this year. This flagship project announced by China in 2018 during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation stands as the first pan-African CDC. It will strengthen African countries' capacity to "detect, prevent, control and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats", as its official website promises.

Six decades of medical assistance to Africa is more than a high-sounding promise; it is a practical demonstration of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, a commitment made by President Xi Jinping 10 years ago on his first visit to the continent. These principles continue to guide China's engagement with its African partners.

Broadly speaking, China's cooperation with Africa can be seen as an outgrowth of its tried-and-tested development philosophy at home. It stresses people-centered, implementation-driven and future-oriented development, which is considered key to kick-starting modernization processes.

China has articulated a long-term objective of achieving modernization by mid-century, which by and large aligns with Africa's timeframe for attaining its development goals by 2063. It can be expected that cooperation on public health, among others, is set to gain momentum in the years to come.

Yi Fan is a Beijing-based international affairs commentator and a regular contributor to The Independent Online, Pretoria News, and The Reporter (Ethiopia)

Putin discusses Russia's losses from grain deal and terms for its resumption

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is ready to return to the grain deal immediately if all previously agreed-upon conditions for its participation in the initiative are met and the arrangement's "original humanitarian essence" is restored, President Vladimir Putin said during a meeting with government officials on Wednesday.

According to him, Western countries entirely twisted the essence of the grain deal, resulting in profits for European companies and losses for Russian businesses.

Failure to fulfil obligations

Russia repeatedly extended the grain deal, demonstrating "miracles of endurance and patience, tolerance," but no one was going to fulfill any responsibilities to the country, Putin said.

Russia had to deal with "arrogance and impudence," as well as "promises and empty talk" from the West. The West did everything it could to derail the deal, and now Western countries are "virtually lying to the entire world" and "claiming that Russia is allegedly to blame for the disruption of this deal."

UN personnel "sincerely tried to fulfill all of the West's commitments, but were unable to do that," he added.

In addition, the West fully perverted the grain deal's original humanitarian intent, turning it into a profit tool. "At first, the meaning or the intent of the grain deal had enormous humanitarian significance. The West completely perverted this essence," he said. "Instead of truly assisting countries in need, [the West] used the grain deal for political blackmail, and as I previously stated, turned it into a tool for making money for transnational corporations and profiteers on the global grain market," Putin added.

Russia's losses

Putin noted that the grain deal led to direct losses for Russian farmers. "This [grain deal] turned into direct losses and losses for Russian agricultural producers, for enterprises producing fertilizers," he said at a meeting with the government. According to him, "because of a 30-40% discount on Russian grain on global markets, the losses of Russian farmers amounted to \$1.2 bln."

Putin added that "domestic fertilizer



producers also faced a similar problem - their losses reached \$1.6 bln." "For example, the cost of imported spare parts for equipment for them has grown by 40% and the growth of costs in financial transactions was about 10%," the president stated.

According to him, the West even creates obstacles to Russia's free deliveries of fertilizers to the poorest countries.

"None of the conditions of this [grain] deal have been met, including the lifting of sanctions on Russian grain and fertilizer exports to global markets. Furthermore, even the free deliveries of mineral fertilizers by us to the poorest countries are being hampered," he said at a meeting with the government.

Putin added that "out of 262,000 tons of products blocked in European ports, only two batches were sent - 20,000 tons to Malawi and 34,000 tons to Kenya."

"All this despite the fact that we are talking about a purely humanitarian initiative, to which no sanctions should apply in general," the Russian leader stressed.

Russian President Vladimir Pu-

tin dismissed the assertions about the global importance of Ukrainian grain as speculative and false.

"Russia has a 20% share of the global wheat market, while Ukraine has less than 5%. These numbers speak for themselves," he said.

Putin emphasized that "it is Russia that makes a colossal contribution to global food security. And any claims that only Ukrainian grain feeds the hungry all over the world are speculative and false," he added.

He also added that Russia is prepared to replace Ukrainian grain on the global market, both free and commercial volumes.

"I want to assure you that our country is capable of replacing Ukrainian grain both commercially and for free, especially since we expect another record-breaking harvest this year," he said.

Return is possible

Russia was opposed to the deal's extension because continuing it "in the form in which it existed" had lost

any meaning, Putin said. Moscow "is not against the grain deal as such" and "will consider the possibility of returning to it," but only if all previously agreed-upon conditions for participation are met.

These conditions include lifting sanctions on Russian grain and fertilizer deliveries, removing all obstacles for Russian banks servicing food supplies to the global market, including their connection to SWIFT, resuming deliveries of components and spare parts for agricultural machinery and fertilizer production to Russia, resolving all issues with ship chartering and insurance of Russian food exports, resuming operations of the Togliatti-Odessa ammonia pipeline, unblocking Russian agricultural assets, and restoring the grain deal's original humanitarian intent.

The grain deal was concluded on July 22, 2022, in Istanbul. The first part of the agreements for a period of 120 days with the possibility of automatic extension was signed by the UN and Turkey separately with Russia and Ukraine. It concerned the export of Ukrainian grain across the Black Sea.

The second part for a period of three years was signed by the UN and Russia - this memorandum dealt with the removal of restrictions on exports of Russian agricultural products and fertilizers.

The agreement was later extended three times, the last two times for 60 days. At the same time, Moscow repeatedly stated that the Russian part of the deal, which has not been implemented, should also be fulfilled.

Agencies



Dar es Salaam youngsters are pictured playing soccer at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Tanzania's youths now urged to take up boxing

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

TANZANIA'S youths have been urged to engage in boxing and view it as a powerful tool for personal development and empowerment to cater to their financial needs.

StarTimes Tanzania Director of Marketing and Content, David Malisa, issued the plea in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he graced the launch of StarTimes Live Boxing Fight, scheduled for July 29.

It will be broadcasted live through Startimes channel number 197.

He said that boxing has numerous positive impacts on the lives of young participants as it can provide youths with various physical, mental, and social benefits making it a powerful tool for personal development and empowerment.

"Star Media (T) Limited through its StarTimes brand in collaboration with Bongo Fighting Championship (BFC) One and Quantum Infinity have organized boxing bouts to be held on July 29," Malisa revealed.

According to him, over 13 fights will take place on the day including the one for the UBO title that will have Abdul Ubsys (Tanzania) confronting Ivan Magumba (Uganda), Emmanuel Shija is set to come up against Yusuph Fundi in the WBC title bout.

"The fights will be broadcast live through TV3 channel available in StarTimes decoder, on dish channel

number 197 in Smart package, and for antenna users, the fights will be shown on channel number 131 in Mambo package," he noted.

He further noted that boxing offers a significant physical impact on the youths, regular training and participation in matches promotes physical fitness, strength, and coordination in a time sedentary lifestyle and obesity rates are increasing among young people.

"Boxing serves as an effective means to combat these issues and encourages youth to stay active and adopt a healthy lifestyle," he said.

He further revealed boxing more-over instills discipline and mental toughness in young individuals as the sport demands rigorous training, focus, and dedication.

Aspiring boxers, the official noted, must learn to persevere through challenges and setbacks teaching them valuable life skills in the process.

He added that boxing can open doors to new opportunities for young talents because as they progress and showcase their skills in local and international fights, they attract the attention of coaches, sponsors, and talent scouts.

Such exposure can lead to the performers accessing scholarships, sponsorship, or even the chance to represent the country in international bouts.

Coast Region hoops training program garners plaudits

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Giants of Africa organization's basketball training program's coordinator, Albertho Bwemelo Kigoye, has termed the initiative, which took place at the Minaki Secondary School in Coast Region, as a great success.

More than 120 youths participated in the training program, which boosts efforts to develop basketball domestically.

Kigoye, also a graduate of the Giants of Africa basketball program, stated the training became a success given there was a large number of young people that went for it.

"The number that came out is large, given that this training has been held here for the first time," Kigoye stated.

The coordinator revealed the training has also been held regularly in Kenya and Cameroon.

Kigoye said he, students and coaches of Konga Basketball Academy including the center's tacticians Denis Lipiki, Benny Ngogo, Moris Haji, Godluck Benjamin, and Bahati Mgunda took charge of the program.

He said the young people who participated in the training enjoyed and liked the use of the Swahili language in basketball training.

The coordinator noted that the junior players recommended that the program should be done regularly so they can improve health, sportsmanship, and friendship between the youngsters and various coaches.

"I would also want to ask the sponsors to come forward to provide intellectual cooperation for the development of this game in this country," Kigoye appealed.

According to the coordinator, the position he got at the Giants of Africa organization was based on the idea of using Swahili in the 'basketball fundamentals clinic' as well as participating in the organization's programs.

"I feel good because I will have the chance to work in basketball instead of playing, recognize the talents of children while they are still young, and develop them," Kigoye noted.

The coordinator pointed out Tanzania can scale great heights in the game if the country's hoops stakeholders cooperate with various clubs to discover talents and develop the youngsters for senior clubs.

Fifteen-year-old Kasimu Juma, a student at Ukonga Secondary School that took part in the training, said that the training has made him love the game.

Juma promised to continue attending basketball training at the Ukonga court, Magereza in Dar es Salaam.

"I thank Kigoye for coordinating this training that made many young people come forward," Juma noted.

Another youngster, John Joseph (15 years), a student at Banana Secondary School, said that the training he took part in has enabled him to learn aspects of the game that he had not known.

End of an era: Yanga constitution, player finances and club prospects

By Correspondent John Kimbute

TWO short eras seem to have come to an end at city giants Young Africans SC, also known as Yanga, within the same period, with the scant possibility of duplication in the coming season, while a season from now the club may recollect itself for a restart.

As it is in public life, there are different milestones from which one can stand either in review or retrospect of what occurred in the recent past, in which case one can talk coherently of a GSM Group era in Yanga, which is of course a Hersi Said era. A Fiston Mayele era is logical.

More significantly for technical purposes, the past two years were a Nasreddine Nabi era, raising the proviso as to which of these four elements constitute the club era in a narrow sense.

Club fans, sympathizers, and a section of the pundits focus on the first two milestone points of view to trust in continuity, that the club sponsor is there and the club president who handled issues in the recent past is there, so all will be well. That view is plausible, and coherent but is just the hardware.

The software lies in the second set of milestone points of view, the departure of a gifted coach and a star player, not for any dispute but the inability to hold onto them.

It casts a picture of weakness and relative poverty, not firstly against the big clubs laying out large sums of money for their services, but more poignantly, in contrast to their archrivals across the street, who aren't suffering from any such blemishes.

If it comes out as it is feared, that the sort of recruitment for head coach and technical bench, as well as a replacement for the star striker and a few others being taken up now, prove below par, the end-of-era syndrome will persist.

It will move from a crisis of losing a coach and players to one of inability to keep them and indeed even to replace them.

It is then a crisis of confidence in the brand itself, chief-



Yanga's head coach, Miguel Gamondi (L), and his assistants Khalil Ben Youssef (C) and Moussa N'Daw take charge of the outfit's training session at Avic Town in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for 2023/24 season's tournaments. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

ly in maintaining an acceptable image of itself where it matters.

A cartoon-like sort of character in a soccer talk show on an FM radio station, named 'Panju', put it graphically by a crying scenario involving a Yanga fan deeply disturbed by the twin departures of the head coach and the star player.

In a way, they were a conjoint pair as the success the club achieved last season in particular had to do with exceptional skills at both ends, game plans and player chemistry designed by the coach, and exceptional finishing by the point striker.

Now all this must start again, and nobody knows if there is a credible replacement for Nabi or indeed for Mayele.

This imitative sobbing, despite all the confidence that Yanga fans are trying to put up in the circumstances, contrasts sharply with the way that their next-street rivals have been able to hold onto their squad, to the last person.

There are no big-name departures and Jonas Mkude, a veteran player who was also listed for 'thank you' at Simba SC was warmly accepted at the Jangwani Street outfit's camp,

in a bizarre mixture of player recruitment and public relations. Their reasons apart, it was disappointing. The clincher is how the Msimbazi Street side tackled the profuse news of departure chances for playmaker Clatous Chama and point striker Jean Baleke.

The two may not have attained the MVP status that Mayele has enjoyed at Yanga but their being retained with little more than a storm in a teacup was hurting for Yanga fans.

They would gladly have appreciated a similar outcome for either Nabi or Mayele, but alas! Mayele's departure was a painful reminder of the charade around Feisal Salum and his eventual departure, which boils down to a solid - or sordid - player recruitment policy where no renegotiation of terms can be done within contract time.

While the idea of an austere sponsor who does not want the figures to be reworked for each player virtually every season, it appears there is also an underlying weakness, sharp fiduciary drawback, compelling out-of-contract star player poaching rather than any real decision to

retain players in the squad that seems to be valuable.

It is for that reason that the first set of milestones is somewhat wobbly or feathers being ruffled somewhat, for it is failing the cash contest with the Msimbazi Street squad.

How Yanga is being caught flat-footed time and again has what it takes to discourage even the more ardent fans, brimming with confidence about the club president, or the sponsor.

And with Azam FC embarking on credible recruitments, replacing the technical bench, the Jangwani Street outfit had better take notice.

GSM Group to an extent risks taking the blame for the situation if all this comes to evident weakness not just in the Premier League but noticeably as well, in the CAF Champions League. GSM Group has a choice of seeking out an ardent Yanga supporter and they join forces.

The club cannot entertain dreams of playing at Group Stage of the premier continental club tourney and then balk at paying the likes of Feisal, Mayele, or Nabi.

Mozambican winger nears Simba SC return after leaving Al Ahly

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's top transfer market, Luis Miquissone is in the spotlight after parting ways with Egyptian outfit, Al Ahly, as questions arise about when the 28-year-old player will land in Tanzania.

The Msimbazi Street-based outfit fans are keenly waiting to see Miquissone return though nothing has been said about it with the club's honorary president Mohamed Dewji coming up with various teasers on Twitter.

Miquissone's departure was announced publicly through a press statement published on his social media platforms.

It stated: "As the agency representing Mozambique international Luis Miquissone, we would like to confirm an agreement with Al Ahly for the club and player to part ways."

The decision has been reached cordially after the winger returned from a loan spell with Abha Football Club in the Saudi Arabian Pro League.

Miquissone had only joined Al Ahly in August 2021 from Tanzanian giants Simba for a fee of €850,000 after catching their eyes during the CAF Champions



Luis Miquissone PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

League.

However, the player did not enjoy his debut campaign, netting five times and assisting once in 28 games in a season that saw Al Ahly finish third in the league.

He still led the club to the bronze medal in the Club World Cup featuring in victories against CF Monterrey and al Hilal.

Miquissone though still did not live up to expectations,

which led Al Ahly to loan him to Saudi club Abha on a season-long loan.

The midfielder so far made four appearances in Saudi Arabia, before returning to Al Ahly that decided to release the player on a free transfer.

The footballer joined Ahly, the Egyptian football giants and Africa's Club of the Century, two years ago having gained a pedigree around the continent in different domes-

tic leagues among them his native Mozambique, Tanzania, and South Africa.

He now looks ahead to a new chapter elsewhere, one which Brand Arc Sports will communicate further in the coming weeks.

The winger revealed in a statement: "I would like to thank the club Chairman, management, my teammates, and the coaches I've worked with in my time here."

"Allow me to also extend my gratitude to the wonderful fans of a club the magnitude of Al Ahly," Miquissone said.

Brand Arc Group Chairman, Thato Matuka, who helped broker what was then a career-defining transfer for the Mozambican winger is adamant there are no misgivings.

Matuka revealed: "We thank the club for the opportunity, we don't regret anything - Luis gave his best at the club, it's time to move on."

"We close this chapter with our chin up, yes, we have received a few calls regarding his future and we are confident in the direction we will take next," Matuka explained.

Changed role, same goal for Rapinoe at fourth and final World Cup

AUCKLAND

MEGAN Rapinoe has embraced a different role for the United States as the decorated veteran bids to bow out from the World Cup with a third title in a row.

The 38-year-old is set to retire from football at the end of the season and is the senior member of a US squad packed with young talent in Australia and New Zealand.

The forward scored six goals, earning both the Golden Ball and Golden Boot, as the Americans triumphed once more in France four years ago.

Her open-armed goal celebration became a defining image of the tournament.

Rapinoe is just as formidable off the field. She was a key voice in the team's battle with the US federation for equal pay and conditions, and remains an unflinching advocate for women and the LGBTQ community.

She is now past her prime on the pitch and won't play every minute at her fourth World Cup, but US coach Vlatko Andonovski said the 2019 Ballon d'Or winner was as important as ever.

"First and foremost, the thing with 'Pinoe' is, when she's on the field, she's a great player," he said in the build-up to the tournament.

"That's the first reason why she's on this team. "She's one of the most creative players that I've ever seen."

Rapinoe's experience and leadership will arguably be just as critical off the field for a squad that features 14 World Cup newcomers.

"She will have a role of a player-leader -- and leading the leaders as well," Andonovski said.

The United States begin their campaign on Saturday when they face Vietnam in Auckland and are favourites to retain their crown over the next month.

- Setting the standard -

Rapinoe took a knock in a June 10 game for her club OL Reign in the National Women's Soccer League but expects to be fit for whenever she is needed.

"It was quite minor," she said. "Not amazing timing, but such is life for an athlete. It's nothing I'm worried about for the start of the tournament."

Whatever minutes she ends up playing, Rapinoe still sets the standard for the rest of the World Cup squad.

"First, she's an amazing player, so on the field you already know where the level needs to be," said 18-year-old forward Alyssa Thompson.

"And off the field she's so funny and makes me feel comfortable even though I'm so young and she's much older than me.

AFP

Japan 'left behind' as Women's World Cup glory becomes distant memory

SYDNEY

JAPAN won the World Cup in 2011 playing a free-flowing style that made them the envy of women's football, but they have fallen behind since then, sparking accusations of mismanagement and neglect.

Japan used their slick attacking game to beat the United States in the final 12 years ago and went on to finish runners-up at the 2012 Olympics and 2015 World Cup.

But they failed to qualify for the 2016 Rio Games and have since struggled to haul themselves back among the top contenders in women's football.

Japan begin their latest World Cup campaign on Saturday against Zambia, but they are ranked 11th now and no longer among the favourites.

"I think we were left behind by the sudden strides that the rest of the world were making," former Japan coach Asako Takakura, who led the team at the 2019 World Cup, told AFP ahead of the 2023 edition.

In February, World Cup-winning striker Yuki Nagasato pointed the finger at Japanese football chiefs, saying they had "not done anything for 12 years to maintain or improve" the women's game in the country.

Nagasato, who last played for Japan in 2016, launched a tirade on her personal website after the team's games at the SheBelieves Cup were not broadcast at home.

"We don't want you to misunderstand, this is not only this time problem," Nagasato, who scored 58 goals in 132 international games, wrote in English on her website. "Lack of many things has been building up and this is the result of what they've done for us."

Only a last-minute television deal avoided a similar blackout in Japan for the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

- Overtaken -

Japan were a revelation at the 2011 World Cup, using teamwork and technique to overcome physically stronger opponents such as Germany, Sweden and the United States.

The team were credited with lifting the nation's spirits after the deadly earthquake-tsunami earlier in the year, and the players became overnight stars

AFP

Women's World Cup to 'proceed as planned' after shooting in Auckland

By Alex Pattie

THE Women's World Cup will 'proceed as planned' following a shooting in Auckland, just hours before the city stages the first game of the tournament.

Ahead of the opening match between hosts New Zealand and opponents Norway in Auckland, a gunman was reportedly found dead after killing two people and injuring multiple others in the city on Thursday (20 July). The shooting took place at a building site in Auckland city centre.

New Zealand's prime minister Chris Hipkins said: "Clearly with the Fifa World Cup kicking off this evening, there are a lot of eyes on Auckland. The government has spoken to Fifa organisers this morning, and the tournament will proceed as planned.

"Aucklanders and those watching around the world can be assured that the police have neutralised the threat and they are not seeking anybody else in relation to the incident. New Zealanders' safety and the safety of our visitors is our first priority.

"There will be an in-



Police officers cordon off the site of a shooting in central Auckland. Agencies

creased police presence obviously around Auckland to provide public reassurance, but the police have indicated that they don't think there is an ongoing security or safety risk."

The Italy team's training was delayed, with players unable to leave their hotel, while New Zealand Football issued a statement on social media, writing: "New Zealand Football are shocked by the incident in Auckland CBD this

morning.

"We can confirm that all of the Football Ferns team and staff are safe but we will not be able to comment further while details are still emerging. Please refer to New Zealand Police for further information. Preparations for the game tonight at Eden Park will continue as planned."

Meanwhile, reigning world champions USA issued the following statement: "Regarding the incident in downtown

Auckland, all of our US-WNT [US Women's National Team] players and staff are accounted for and safe. Our security team is in communication with local authorities and we are proceeding with our daily schedule."

Both teams involved in tonight's contest have assured the public that their players and staff are safe.

Norway's team hotel is located about 300-400m from where the

shooting took place, but a team spokesperson told the PA news agency that everything is calm in the Norwegian squad and preparations for the match are proceeding as normal.

Captain Maren Mjelde, through a statement, said: "Being informed about the consequences, the Norwegian team's thoughts are with those affected and their families.

"Everyone probably woke up quite quickly

when the helicopter hovered outside our hotel window and a large number of emergency vehicles arrived.

"At first we didn't know what was going on, but eventually there were updates on TV and the local media. We felt safe the whole time. FIFA has a good security system at the hotel and we have our own security officer in the squad.

"Everyone seems calm and we are preparing as normal for the game tonight, then we may have to adapt if there are any instructions from the authorities."

The Philippine Women's National Team also confirmed via social media that all members of their delegation were safe.

An Eden Park statement read: "Eden Park Trust extends its deepest condolences to the Whanau of the victims in the incident which took place in Auckland's CBD this morning. It is a sad day for Auckland on what should be a day of celebration.

"Eden Park has been working with all relevant agencies regarding this morning's incident and the impact on services and staffing."

THE INDEPENDENT

The mystery of the Women's World Cup player and the gender test that never happened

LONDON

THE name of Barbra Banda is uttered with breathless expectation as the Women's World Cup begins. Zambia's 23-year-old captain, who produced back-to-back hat-tricks for her country at the Tokyo Olympics, also scored twice in a shock victory this month over Germany, widely touted as one of the favourites in Australia and New Zealand.

And yet there is a deepening mystery over her eligibility to compete, given how the Zambian federation withdrew her from her last major tournament, the 2022 Women's African Cup of Nations (WAFCON), before she could undergo a gender test.

It has been reported that Banda was excluded from last year's competition, which served as Zambia's World Cup qualifier, because she failed gender testing procedures. However, Telegraph Sport has established that Banda never underwent the test, with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) disclosing that the Zambians chose instead to leave her out.

"I can confirm that there was never a test conducted by CAF on Banda," the organisation said in a statement. "We do not know the reason why she was not included in the squad or registered."

Zambia acknowledged that they had been made aware, after Banda's star turn at the Olympics, that her abnormally high testosterone levels were



Zambia's Barbra Banda will play at the Fifa Women's World Cup despite the Confederation of African Football indicating that she does not meet the criteria for international women's competition. Agencies

in excess of CAF's permitted levels and that a course of hormone suppression had been offered to the striker.

But Banda, along with at least two other players - including Racheal Kundananji, also in the training camp in New Zealand - is said to have refused to take any suppressants, fearing potential side-effects. Sydney Mungala, the team's spokesman, said last year that Banda was "surprised" to have been omitted from the squad list, despite being aware of the testing situation.

"Why is Fifa leaving testing to national federations?"

Two vital questions emerge here. Firstly, why, if her testosterone levels were of sufficient concern for her to be ruled out of WAFCON, does Fifa perceive no problem in Banda tak-

ing part in the biggest women's tournament of all? Secondly, why is Fifa, which demanded gender testing as recently as 2011, content now to leave any tests up to the national federations? Where is the oversight?

It is understood that Fifa is actively reviewing its policy on players with elevated testosterone levels, taking advice from legal and medical experts. But there is also an acknowledgement that it takes guidance, ultimately, from the International Olympic Committee.

The problem is that the IOC insists this is a subject for individual federations, creating a bureaucratic circle in which no one accepts responsibility. It is a recipe for enormous confusion over Banda's situation, with CAF indi-

cating that she does not meet the criteria for international women's competition but Fifa insisting that she does.

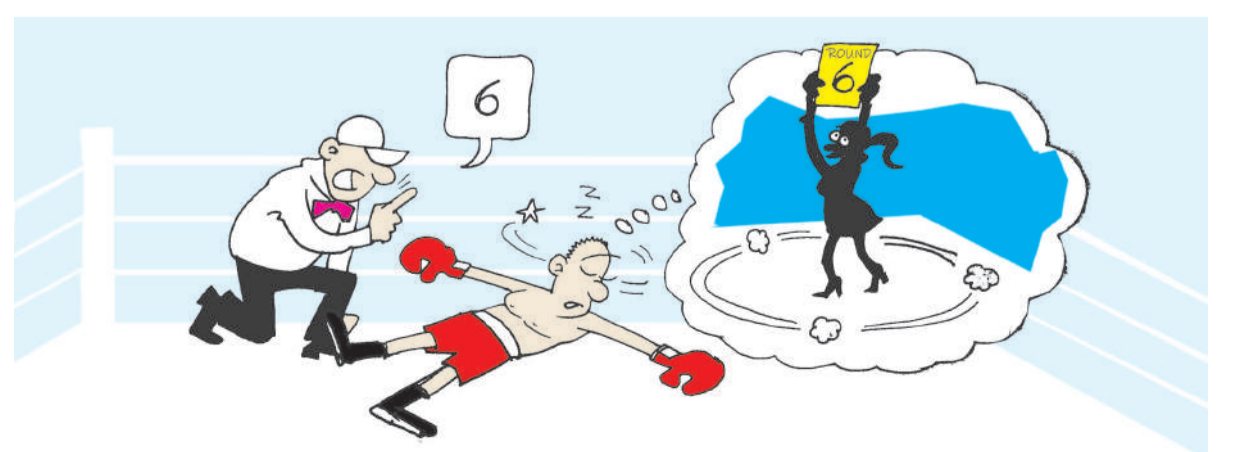
In discussing Banda, Sarai Bareman, Fifa's chief women's football officer, has said only that the issue is "hugely complex" and that "many people have their views". There is no suggestion that Banda's heightened testosterone is anything but naturally occurring, but it still has potentially significant implications on the field of play.

Testosterone is scientifically established as bringing a performance advantage, making athletes faster and stronger for longer. It is why World Athletics, in response to the saga over Caster Semenya, born and raised female but genetically male, has toughened its policy on runners with differences in sexual development.

Banda, for her part, has said that she is "very happy and excited" to be leading Zambia's World Cup challenge, which starts on Saturday against Japan. The deadline for any opponents to protest formally against her involvement has passed. But the questions over her eligibility - and Fifa's relative lenience on the matter - show little sign of receding.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Women's World Cup to 'proceed as planned' after shooting in Auckland

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

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15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

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05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

'Bingwa' contest's second season attracts 20 contestants

By Correspondent Shufaa Lyimo

ABOUT 20 people will battle it out in the second season of a contest, known as 'Bingwa', scheduled for July 30 in Dar es Salaam.

The 'Bingwa' contest, sponsored by StarTimes, has social media personalities battling it out in it. The contest's organizers noted 20 participants for the second season are soon set to enter camp in the city.

The contest's Project Manager Ombeni Phiri said it is more than entertainment given 18 participants had entered the first season.

Most of the contestants, he disclosed, are young people with a great influence on social media, and one of them emerged as the winner and was awarded a car.

He said the contest gears towards providing opportunities for young people to learn various issues including the opportunities available in social networks to promote and develop their brands.

StarTimes Marketing Manager David Malisa pointed out that after the first season, they received various feedback from the audience, which requested improvement in the second season.

Such feedback, the official noted, led to the organizers' failure to host it last year.

Malisa said that the contest brings plenty of opportunities because even if a participant will not win, he/she can get an endorsement, serving as an ambassador for some companies.

The official noted: "Artist Athuman Omary 'Harmorapa' was among the contestants for the last season, so the StarTimes Company gave him a one-year endorsement and opportunities went his way because of his participation."

Malisa called on the contest's viewers who will watch it via StarTimes should pay for their decoders because the second season has different educational content which will be useful to viewers.

Winner of the first season of the 'Bingwa' contest, Noel, instructed the second season's participants to be disciplined and comply with the slogan of the contest, 'I believe in myself'.

He was adamant that the participants should believe in themselves and use the opportunity to build their brands.

Noel offered motivation to the second season's participants as they begin their journey to success in the contest.

The contest's second season has various influential people on social media eyeing glory, including prominent comedian 'Mkali Wenu', Amirado, and fashion model, Hamid.

Tabora United appoints former Simba SC coach Goran Kopunovic



Serbian coach, Goran Kopunovic.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebwe

NEWLY promoted NBC Premier League outfit, Tabora United, has appointed former Simba SC boss Goran Kopunovic to take over as head coach, the club announced on Thursday.

Kopunovic, who enjoyed a nomadic playing career in Serbia and Hungary, was last involved in management with Hungarian side Maglodi TC.

Kopunovic also had a coaching spell at Rwandan club Police FC, where he spent three seasons and won the Peace Cup.

This will be his second spell in Tanzania. He was in charge of Simba SC in the 2014/15 season. In his six-month spell

at Simba SC, he guided the club to a Mapinduzi Cup triumph but finished third in the Premier League.

The 56-year-old gaffer is the latest coaching change in Tanzanian football this pre-season following in the footsteps of Argentine Miguel Angel Gamondi of Young Africans (Yanga) who took over from Belgo-Tunisian Nasreddine Nabi.

Congolese Mwinyi Zahera joined Coastal Union, Fred Felix 'Minziro' agreed to join Tanzania Prisons while USA tactician of Somali origin Abdihamid Moallin has been ripped in by KMC FC as clubs prepare for the new season with new coaches.

Kopunovic signed a one-year deal with the option of a further year and will start work immediately ahead of the club's preseason training.

Tabora United earned their first-ever promotion to the NBC Premier League on the last match day of the 2022/23 Championship League season.

The squad finished second ahead of Pamba FC to take the remaining automatic promotion ticket.

After earning topflight promotion, they changed the name from Kitayosce FC to Tabora United.

The name change is a step in rebranding the club to reflect the side's regional base and the financial support from the Tabora Municipal.

Two weeks ago, Tanzania Football Federation announced Tabora United as one of two teams that had been slapped with a FIFA transfer ban.

The transfer ban was due to outstanding dues to Egyptian coach Ahmed El Faramawy Yousef Mostafa Soliman. Soliman filed a lawsuit at FIFA for breach of contract.

After Soliman won the case, Tabora United was supposed to have paid him within 45 days since the decision was issued, but they did not adhere to the judgment.

The club was banned from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, up until the due amount is paid.

However, the ban has since been lifted after Tabora United cleared the club's debts with Soliman last week.

With the arrival of Kopunovic and the transfer ban issue sorted, Tabora United are now expected to announce their new signings ahead of the 2023/24 campaign.

'Twende Olympic' project launched in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Culture, Arts, and Sports Pindi Chana has said the project dubbed 'Twende Olympic' will help youths in the country realize their dreams in sports.

The 'Twende Olympic' project, funded by France's Embassy in Tanzania to the tune of over 1.6bn/-, is a cooperation project in the field of sports seeking to back sports practice in Tanzania.

The initiative is as well promoting the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympic Games in close collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports.

Pindi revealed at the project's launch in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday evening, stating that 'Twende Olympic' is a good project focusing on the youths who hold the labour power in the market.

"Out of the 61 million population in Tanzania, youths account for over 50 percent... youths possess many talents, what they need is the leadership on how to go about what they are doing to arrive at their goals," Pindi said.

She applauded the embassy for the innovation and creativity that aims to uplift sports endeavours in the country, noting that after two years of its implementation, they should come up with a way to develop the project.

To support the course, she revealed that France's Em-

bassy in Tanzania seeks to bring a special trainer in September to help build capacity among youths.

According to her, the initiative has been put in place following President Samia Suluhu Hassan's official visit to France last year, the visit witnessed many development areas, including sports, arts, and culture engaged.

"Through the visit, we have now started to witness various interventions taking shape and many more others ahead," she noted.

She observed that sports are among the country's top priorities, the reason the President decided to introduce a special ministry responsible for the sector among other initiatives.

France's Ambassador to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui, indicated that his country has concentrated on sports as one of four other major sectors of its friendship with Tanzania, besides education, vocational training, health, and agriculture.

"The support of over

1.6bn/- focuses on three areas including building capacity for the Tanzania Olympic Committee including training sessions along with building capacity, also targeting women specifically in Zanzibar," he said. Hajlaoui noted another area of empowering centers on two new Olympic disciplines, skating and break dancing, which will be introduced next year.

He noted the project components including the Tanzania Olympic Committee responsible for organizing

competitions and training for trainers and sports managers in several regions.

The second component aims to promote breakdancing and skateboarding through associations identified as We Present Tanzania (Break Dancing Association) and Tanzania Skateboarding Organization.

He noted that the third objective is to reinforce Zanzibar's adolescent and young women's participation in sports through the training of coaches.



Mjomba Band's vocalists entertain attendees of the ongoing 18th Higher Education, Science, and Technology exhibitions coordinated by Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) at Mnazi Mmoja ground in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

