



National Pg 5 Gaguti calls for strict protection of water sources



National Pg 6 ASA asks for more land area for seed production



National Pg 7 Review of education curriculums



Guardian BUSINESS

Kigoma port upgrading to bolster handling capacity to 1.6m tonnes

Russia's Putin seeks to even the score through tight measures on forex

National agriculture insurance scheme policy just about done

DSE turnover jumps by 300pc on week's opening

Day-old chicks long scarcity eases, local produce rises

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A YEAR long scarcity of day-old chicks arising from the Covid-19 pandemic has finally ended, thanks to increased local production.

Dr Annet Kitambi, an assistant director for veterinary services in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, said in an interview yesterday that after local producers started production supplies are no longer a problem.

"Production of DoCs is not a problem anymore, instead there a market challenge has emerged," she said, elaborating that the ministry is advising farmers to ensure they seek market outlets in different regions to avoid unnecessary losses.

Owing to higher supplies the prices of chicks for layers dropped from 3,000/- to 2,000/- per chick for layers and from 2,300/- to 1,600 per chick for broilers, she said.

For the whole of last year, the country imported 2,180,491 chicks for parent stocks (DoC-PS) while 563,800 were day old chicks, while imported eggs for parent stocks stood at 350,034 during the period, she stated

The country also exported 427,740 day

Production of DoCs is not a problem anymore, instead there a market challenge has emerged

old chicks parent stock and 373,670 day old chicks, while exports of eggs for parental stocks stood at 4,225,753 during the period, she elaborated.

Domestic investment is vital when disturbances like the Covid-19 pandemic break out urging more take up for those interested to invest in the hatchery of parent stocks, she said, emphasizing the need for local and foreign investors to take up grand-parent and parent-stock farms in the country, along with the production of vaccines and feed.

Underscoring the importance of domestic investment for the business sustainability especially when structural disturbances, she cited challenge of the market as causing losses to newly emerging investors in day old chicks product

Early June last year, the government

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EWURA raises petroleum products indicative prices

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MOTORISTS will have to dig deeper into their pockets as the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) increased the

indicative prices of fuel and petroleum products for this month despite government intervention on Monday

Titus Kagu, the communication manager at EWURA, unveiled the new indicative prices even as the govern-

ment scrapped a 100/- levy per litre on petrol, diesel and kerosene for the next three months.

He told a press conference here that the new prices could have been higher by 100/- had the government

not taken the positive action aimed at easing the shock.

Indicative price cap shows that retail prices for petrol rise by 60/- per litre, which is a 2.42 percent price push and 65/- per litre for diesel, cited as 2.77 percent rise for Dar es

Salaam. Indicative price for kerosene has gone down by 83 per litre, equivalent to 3.63 percent.

Compared to February prices, the bulk price for petrol has increased by 59.65/- per litre, equivalent

to 2.54 percent while the diesel price cap registered a 64.45/- increase per litre, equivalent to 2.92 percent, meanwhile as kerosene cap price was cut by 82.67/- per litre, equivalent to 3.82 percent, he said.

Retail and bulk prices for petroleum products in the northern zone comprising Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions rise by 165/- per litre for petrol and 207/- per litre for diesel, with a kindred option where. The bulk price of petrol rise by 164.76/- per litre, equivalent to 7.26 percent while diesel price registers 206/- rise per litre, equivalent to 9.62 percent.

Lack of kerosene at the Tanga storage facility had traders in the northern zone advised to purchase the product at the Dar es Salaam facility, the manager noted.

Bulk or wholesale prices of petrol and diesel in the southern regions of Mtwara, Lindi and Ruvuma rise by 43/- per litre for petrol, being 2.70 percent and 105/- per litre for diesel, being a 4.5 percent increase, he said.

Bulk prices for petrol and diesel increase by 43.27/- per litre and 105.57/- per litre for the two hydrocarbons respectively, equivalent to 1.8 percent and 4.60 percent rises as the traders have to purchase the product from Dar es Salaam.

The new prices arise from hefty price push for petroleum products in the world market, the bulk procurement premium and intermittent slide of the local currency against dollar, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience with the European Union's Ambassador to Tanzania, Manfredo Fanti (2nd-L), at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

World Bank lauds Tanzania for narrowing gender gaps

By Guardian Reporter

MORE women in Tanzania enjoy equal opportunities with men than in many other African countries, which is helping the country move millions of people out of poverty, the World Bank has declared.

Mara Warwick, the World Bank country director, said yesterday that this progress has contributed to the country's sustained economic growth, helping to bring it from low income to

lower middle income status by July 2020.

A new World Bank report shows that several constraints hinder Tanzanian women's efforts to realise their full economic potential, as despite the progress, women continue to face serious constraints in accessing land, hiring labour and acquiring productive assets.

The 17th Tanzania Economic Update titled "Empowering Women: Expanding Access to Assets and Economic Opportunities," says that the country stands to benefit enormously from ex-

panding women's economic opportunities, especially in terms of access to land and productive assets.

"Expansion of women's economic opportunities has contributed to Tanzania's sustained growth over the past 20 years, which recently culminated in its transition from low-income to lower-middle-income status," the report noted

"However, more can be done to enhance women's ability to realise their full economic potential and play a pivotal role in supporting an inclu-

sive and resilient post-crisis recovery."

The update affirms that Tanzania has made important progress in several areas, with the female labour force participation rate rising from 67 percent in 2000 to 80 percent in 2019, "well above the average of 63 percent for Sub-Saharan Africa and among the highest on the continent." Moreover, a substantial portion of Tanzanian

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EU team meets Z'bar leader, 'blue economy' tops agenda

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi yesterday outlined the Isles' blue economy, pointing at deliberate efforts being made in uplifting the marine environment to protect of marine life, as it is the mainstay of the blue economy strategy. He lauded the European Union (EU) for its assistance in

EU support in tourism where the Stone Town is a key attraction had been registered via festivals, including the Zanzibar film festival and 'Sauti za Busara' festival, he stated.

various development projects, holding talks with resident EU Ambassador Manfredo Fanti and his delegation. The Isles government has put in place robust mechanisms to ensure its blue economy policy is being implemented accordingly, thus EU support for these efforts will lead to speeding up development, he stated. One key strategy is assisting

seaweed farmers, mainly women, facilitating value addition to the crop instead of exporting it raw, he said, citing a seaweed processing factory being built at Chamanangwe in Pemba as one among Isles efforts to make sure the crop has greater benefits for farmers. In relation to the blue economy,

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EU team meets Z'bar leader, 'blue economy' tops agenda

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the Zanzibar leader told the EU delegation that assistance to small fishermen to take up modern fishing practices with improved fishing gear would help to increase their incomes. He also raised the issue of restoring the Old Stone Town historical site, noting that steps were being taken to bring back the zone to its natural appearance in a refurbished way. EU support in tourism where the Stone Town is a key attraction had been registered via festivals, including the Zanzibar film festival and 'Sauti za Busara' festival, he stated. Ambassador Fanti told outlined EU strategic plans to assist Zanzibar's development programmes, noting that the EU has faith in the capacity of the Isles authorities to oversee the opening up of the Zanzibar economy and development progress. Among initiatives by the EU is environmental protection being accorded priority, with the EU setting aside a special fund for the programme, which targets fishermen, the protection of forests and general environmental life preservation and its ecosystems. Setting up adaptation facilities in dealing with climate change would be included in fund outlays, he added.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Ambassador Liberata Mulamula (R) speaks at a meeting attended by senior officials of the government and UNHCR held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Second right is Home Affairs minister Hamad Masauni. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

Day-old chicks long scarcity eases, local produce rises

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temporarily eased restrictions on importation of chicks after biting

shortage that had farmers waiting for three months to obtain supplies.

Prof Hezron Nonga, the director of veterinary services, affirmed that day

old chicks were scarce since April due to the global impact of lockdowns arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, affecting importation of parental stock.

As a result, farmers could not get the chicks from breeders, mostly told to wait until August, in which case many had to close shop, he stated.

There was shortage of day old chicks amid growth in demand, in which case measures were needed to fill the gap, he added.



Tea growers in Igoda village, Mufindi District, look on yesterday as their harvest is weighed pending purchase at a processing plant nearby. Raw tea leaves sell at 12/- per kilo. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

Govt, USAID agree to collaborate in effort to promote health sector

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA and the US through its Agency for International Development (USAID) have agreed to develop their collaboration to implement different interventions in the health sector.

Ummu Mwalimu, the Minister for Health disclosed this yesterday in Dodoma after a meeting and talks with Kate Somvongsiri, Mission Director for USAID in Tanzania.

Mwalimu said the government will collaborate with the UN agency saying that among priorities set by the government were similar to those of the agency adding that the aim was to get positive impacts to the community.

She called the head of mission to ensure the organisation informed the government about the donation coming in the country and its target people.

"We are not forcing the fund to be channelled to the government but we want to know where it is channelled and how they are used to avoid double allocation of fund," she said.

She however thanked the US government for donating the vaccine against the covid-19 noting up to February 28 this year, 4.54 Tanzanians have received the jab which is equivalent to 4.4 percent.

Mwalimu said the government had set strategies to offer good health-care services especially in mother and child, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and Non-communicable diseases and improve infrastructure and health staff.

Kate vowed to sustain good jobs from her predecessors to improve the health sector highlighting some of three initiatives including the fight against malaria.

She said the US government through the presidential programme had set aside \$ 40 million in the 2022/2023 financial years to contribute to treatment of mother and child.

The head of mission said the USAID will play its role of ensuring the vaccine against Covid-19 and prevention of HIV/AIDS from mother to child.

Tanzania received the first consignment of over one million doses of COVID-19 vaccines of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 from the United States as part of the COVAX arrangement in July 26 last year.

The US Ambassador to Tanzania Donald Wright said his country was donating the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccines as part of the US pledge to provide at least 25 million of 80 million doses globally to Africa.

Wright added that the US was sharing the vaccines to save lives and to lead the world in bringing an end to the pandemic.

World Bank lauds Tanzania for narrowing gender gaps

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women are now salaried workers, the ratio of women to men in jobs paying wages and salaries rising from 0.35 in 2000 to 0.64 in 2019, it points out, noting further that the share of women engaged in unpaid agricultural work fell from 78 percent in 2004/2005 to 64 percent in 2015/2016.

Bridging the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Tanzania could lift

approximately 80,000 citizens out of poverty annually while increasing agricultural output by 2.7 percent, boosting gross domestic product growth by 0.86 percent, the global lender suggested.

Still, Tanzania's large and persistent gender gaps in agricultural productivity, wage rates, the business environment, access to land, home ownership and financial services continue to slow economic growth,

the report intoned.

It says about 25 percent of men are sole owners of land, versus just eight per cent of women, while about seven percent of women are sole homeowners compared to 26 percent for men, highlighting that Tanzania's rates of individual land ownership and home ownership remain below the average for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Evidence indicates that land reforms reducing costs

of registering land increase female land ownership, improve the quality of service delivery, and boosts registered land sales, it explained.

The authors also call for strengthening of women's land rights by offering land-titling subsidies to lower income households and by providing incentives to encourage spouses to co-title, the report asserts, noting that land reforms are recommended to address

quality of service delivery bottlenecks and boost female land ownership.

Public agencies need to make use of regulatory powers to enforce laws intended to protect women's access to land and safeguard them against discrimination in the workplace.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic female businesses were hurt more than male-owned businesses, with preliminary data for the June-July 2021 showing

that six out of ten male household members were working compared to five out of ten female members.

"Addressing the gender gap in agricultural productivity requires policymakers to focus on expanding women's access to male household labour, increasing their use of agricultural inputs, and encouraging their uptake of digital technologies," said YaaPokua Afriyie Oppong, World Bank sector leader

and report co-author.

Despite relatively high rates of female entrepreneurship, various constraints affect returns to women's enterprises, the report noted, citing the lack of access to capital and exclusion from male-dominated sectors, aside from inadequate access to childcare services.

"The government can promote women's economic empowerment by providing tailored business

and life skills training to female entrepreneurs," said Inaam Ulhaq, World Bank programme leader and report co-author.

"In addition, strengthening of efforts to end child-marriage, lower school dropout rates and providing childcare support will be vital to expand women's participation in the workforce," the top analyst added.

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Angelica Pasha, Tigo Pesa's chief officer for mobile financial services, addresses Kilimanjaro Region business owners in Moshi municipality at the weekend at an event Tigo organised primarily to educate them on the range of services the firm offers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister Bashe, German envoy to officiate at Tanzfood Expo 2022

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

GERMANY's Ambassador to Tanzania, Regine Hess and Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe are expected to lead more than 3,000 people in Tanzania and neighbouring East African countries to appreciate Tanzania's food varieties.

More than 120 companies from within and outside the country will participate in seeing and appreciating what is called "Taste of Tanzania" especially on how the farming sector contributes in employing and providing great contribution to the national net income.

Yesterday, Co-director of KILIFAIR Promotion Ltd, which is Organising international trade exhibition, Dominick Shoo said Ambassador Hess and minister Bashe will on March 11 this year launch the exhibition, popularly known as TANZFOOD Expo 2022 in Arusha.

"We understand that this sector is not only for our nation, but the country feeds many other nations in the South of Sahara. And that is why we decided to invest in the exhibition of international standards so that we pride ourselves by advertising the taste of Tanzania's foods," said Shoo.

He said already exhibition organis-

ers have started seminars and workshops to educate farmers on the need to increase quality and development in the farming sector.

"Visitors will use the exhibition to build a trade network in a friendly professional environment and the diversity of Tanzania foods," he added.

For his part, Anthony Kamanga, General Manager of Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) said: "We have 19,700 farmers who produce various horticultural crops of high quality that compete in international market."

"We are happy that our members will see big opportunities in the farming sector and how their participation in the sector can assist in flying the national flag at world markets."

For his part, German Development Agency (GIZ) Deputy Manager, Bernd Schmidt said he believes the exhibition, apart from bringing together farmers and traders from firms within and outside the country, Tanzania will greatly benefit in gaining experience and innovation in farming, packaging, processing, quality seeds, farm inputs and pesticides.

By Beatrice Philemon

TBL launches over 1bn/- water project in Dar

THE Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) has unveiled a 1.3bn/- worth project aimed to improve water supply in Dar es Salaam city.

Dubbed "Dar es Salaam Water Security (DWS)" the project which will improve water quality and quantity in the city and conserve water sources, will be executed by the Wami/Ruvu Basin Water Board (WRWB) in partnership with the WWF Tanzania. WRWB director Eng Elibariki Mmassy said yesterday at the launching ceremony

which was witnessed by deputy minister for Water, TBL country director, WWF Country Director, DAWASA representatives, director of water, National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) and others.

"This is a three years project which will be implemented from March 2022 to 2025 with funding from Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB) in collaboration with the Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL)," he said.

The project will focus on protecting watershed biodiversity in Dar es Salaam city and satellite towns through Bankable Nature based Solutions (BNBS) especially in the Msimbazi, Mzinga and Ruvu rivers sub-catchments.

It will also help conserve water sources by planting trees, construct five cattle troughs in Lower River, installation of concrete beacon around twenty degraded hot-spots water sources in coast and lower Ruvu catchment,

planting trees on about 200 hectares of land in coast and lower Ruvu catchment.

"We have decided to introduce this project due to population increase, increasing demand for irrigation farming activities for economic growth, water demand and shortage of water. It will go a long way to influence a range of players to work together to develop inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches for addressing water risks and contributions to improving water

quality and quantity as well as improving the livelihoods of the local communities in the catchment areas," he said.

Eng Christian Chonya, Freshwater Coordinator at WWF Tanzania hinted on the note that the project will be implemented within Dar es Salaam watershed which includes the Lower Ruvu and Coast catchments of the Wami-Ruvu Basin especially Msimbazi, Mzinga and Ruvu rivers. He said by 2030, water quality and quantity of Dar es

Salaam city will be improved through bankable nature based solutions, supporting people and nature of the Dar es Salaam watershed. He said Tanzania has abundant water resources in terms of lakes, rivers and wetlands but its level of development for consumptive and non-consumptive uses is very low.

"The equitable and universal provision of safe, affordable water and ecosystem restoration is one of the targets in


the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but progress has been slow especially in Dar es Salaam City," he added.

Minister for Water, Mary Maundi lauded ABI and TBL for taking initiatives to support this project.

He said the project will also contribute to the Tanzania Vision 2025 and invited other companies from different areas across the country to learn from TBL and ABI to assist Wami-Ruvu Basin improve quality and quantity of water.

HOUSE FOR SALE

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BARRICK

NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

Fuel Supply: AGO (Bulk Diesel)

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following services:

Fuel Supply: AGO (Bulk Diesel) Ex-tank Dar-es-Salaam

Pre-qualification criteria

- Ewura wholesale licence
- TRA importation licence
- Long term Hospitality agreement or proof of depot ownership
- Proof of registration with Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency of Tanzania
- Approved as an OMC by Ewura
- Regular importer of Diesel of an average of 10,000m³ per month for at least 12 months
- Proof of prior supply to Mining companies in the region

Expression of interest

The above goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced suppliers will be invited to receive the tender documents.

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation to nm.proposal@barrick.com:

- Company Profile(s); Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate, Ewura licence etc.
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgements and/or insolvency / bankruptcy proceedings, if any, during the last 3 years
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registrations as required. Applicants must quote the reference "NM Fuel Supply" in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI 7th March, 2022

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



INVITATION TO BID

TENDER NO. THPS/24 FEBRUARY/2022 – SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF MOBILE CANVAS TENTS.

Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) is an indigenous NGO established under non-governmental organization act No 24 of 2002 in 2011. THPS works in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), The Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health (MoH) in Zanzibar with a goal of ensuring accessible high-quality health care services to Tanzanians; through strengthening of health and community systems for comprehensive quality health services including HIV/AIDS; Tuberculosis; prevention of GBV; reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services; laboratory and health management information systems (HIMS).

- Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) has set aside funds for the operations of its undertakings during the financial year 2021/2022. It is intended that part of the fund will be used for the Procurement of Tents for Shinyanga, Kigoma and Pwani regions to be used for scaling up community COVID-19 vaccination efforts in line with the MoH acceleration strategy, and in collaboration with Regional Administration Secretary offices in the three regions.
- Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) therefore invites sealed bids from eligible, competent and qualified local vendors to apply for the job of Supplying and distributing Tents as follows;

LOT NO.	REQUIREMENT	DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS	UNITS	QTY
1.	Supply and Distribution of tents	<p>Complete set of tents with:</p> <p>Mobile Tent with 1 table and 2 Chairs</p> <p>1. Tent Size: L-3m x W-3m x H-2.5m with foldable entrance.</p> <p>2. Frame: Mild Steel Poles 25mm</p> <p>3. Materials: Roof and 3 side Walls: Heavy Duty Canvas 300gms</p> <p>4. Ground Sheet: Heavy Duty PVC 500gms</p> <p>Flexible Tables</p> <p>Flexible Chairs</p> <p>Transportation arrangement to Kigoma (8Pcs), Shinyanga (6Pcs) and RMO Pwani (9 Pcs).</p>	Pcs	23
			Pcs	23
			Pcs	46

- Bidding will be conducted through THPS Procurement policies and procedures.
- Interested eligible Bidders should send their proposals explaining how they are going to construct the required tents with the quotes for proposed tents.
- Only shortlisted bidders will be notified. If you do not hear from us please count that you are not shortlisted.
- During Submission you will be required to indicate your details in our Register: Name of the Company, Telephone number, Physical address and email address.
- All bids should be enclosed in plain wax or Sticker sealed envelope and Marked TENDER NO. THPS/24 FEBRUARY/2022 – SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF MOBILE CANVAS TENTS, and must be delivered and put in our tender box located at the Front desk of THPS Office 3rd floor, Coco Plaza building NBC Wing in Masaki area not later than Monday of 7th March 2022 at 01:00Pm;

Should be addressed to:

**CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER,
TANZANIA HEALTH PROMOTION SUPPORT,
P.O. BOX 32605,
DAR ES SALAAM**

- Late Bids and Electronic bids will not be accepted regardless of the circumstances.

African women identified as core of AfCFTA agenda

By Jenifer Gilla, Kigali

WOMEN have been recognised as the key players in the realisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) thus calling on governments to remove barriers and invest more efforts in empowering the group.

This was observed during discussions on the sidelines of the 8th session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) held recently in Kigali, Rwanda. Deputy executive secretary of the Economic Commission Africa (ECA), Antonio Pedro, explained at the meeting that the AfCFTA is dependent on investment in gender equality.

He underscored the importance of tackling the obstacles women face in participating in the economy, to reduce inequality between men and women.

The session which shed light on the significance of the AfCFTA in achieving gender equality towards achieving SDG 5 and Agenda 2063 in Africa also discussed the challenges and prospects for utilizing the opportunities presented by trade and AfCFTA towards gender equality.

Mama Keita, ECA director -Sub-Regional Office for East Africa, noted that African women-owned businesses contribute to 60 per cent of gross domestic product. Women can only fully engage in trade if they live lives of self-determination.

"It is up to us to remove barriers in the development of the continent and offer opportunities and measure success through the eyes of women and youth," she said.

Minister for Gender and Family Promotion in Rwanda, Jeanette Bayisenge said although her country has achieved great success in women's rights, there are still many challenges that need to be addressed.

"The AfCFTA, therefore, has great potential to be a solution through gender sensitive implementation," she said.

The event took place on the sidelines of the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), organised by ECA and the government of Rwanda in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other entities of the United Nations Systems.

ARFSD 2022 will be held from March 3th to March 5th on the theme "Building forward better: A green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063."



Dr Pindi Chana, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), speaks in Njombe yesterday at an exhibition of products made by people living with HIV and Aids. Photo: PMO

EAC SG urges African leaders to execute agreement on lowering air transport costs

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki is urging African leaders to urgently implement the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) agreement, in order to lower the costs of air transport in Africa and in turn boost development.

Speaking at the 7th Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) week in Kenyan capital Nairobi, Dr Mathuki stated that air cargo

currently accounts for only 2 per cent of the global air cargo adding that air transport remains out of reach for both passenger and cargo haulage due to high associated costs.

"These costs can be brought down if we have political commitment to implement the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) agreement," he noted.

The Secretary General noted that the region continues to ramp up investments in infrastructure to narrow the infra-

structure gap and enhance intermodal connectivity.

"These investments have yielded impressive results; for instance, the transit time from Mombasa to Kampala has improved from 20 days in 2010 to an average of 6 days in 2021, with a resultant cost reduction from US\$3,500 in 2010 to US\$2,200 in 2021," he noted.

The Secretary General hailed African leaders for prioritizing investment in One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs),

which have facilitated transboundary trade by enhancing border crossing efficiency.

"The use of technology at OSBPs has improved sharing and exchange of information among agencies, enhanced border security, reduced processing times at the border transit times for traders and transporters, and enhanced the reliability of the supply chain through streamlined and harmonised procedures," he said.

The Secretary General fur-

ther added that use of technology has enhanced regional competitiveness and led to implementation of initiatives such as the Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTs), Single Customs Territory (SCT), and upgrading Customs Management Systems.

For his part, Raila Odinga, AU High Representative for Infrastructure Development called for the delegates from across the continent to identify new and innovative fund-

ing mechanisms amidst limited public resources to fast track the continent's connectivity.

"Africa needs to create an enabling environment with bankable projects to get funding for infrastructure projects," he noted.

The Commissioner at the African Union Commission, Amani Abou-Zeid called for a win-win public private partnership and investment for projects that are carefully curated to reflect Africa's infrastructure priorities from 2021-2030.

The PIDA Week which commenced on 28th February will come to a close on 4th March and aims at bringing together international and regional expertise from multiple stakeholders to deliberate on the issues around infrastructure delivery in Africa, and those related to PIDA.

It will focus on how Africa can lead the way in the delivery of infrastructure in a post-COVID era, supporting the economic and social imperatives of the continent in the digital age



A representative (R) of one of the groups of vulnerable youths from three wards in Mufindi District, Iringa Region, presents the group's goals at a mental health workshop organised by Youth Mufindi project yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

MPs stresses importance of UHC

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

MEMBERS of the Parliamentary HIV/Aids and Narcotics Committee have explained on the importance of strengthening the Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Airing their views at different times on the country's health care improvement, they said just like the government established the system for the contribution of Rural Energy (REA) fund through tax deduction, the same could be done in regard to UHC.

The views were given at the training seminar involving 64 participants organised by Tanzania Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (TANCDIA) and Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health through World Health Organisation's (WHO) RECAP project.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam at the weekend Mbozi Member of Parliament said in order to have robust universal health coverage, there should be a national debate to reach a census.

"To be robust for UHC that aims to serve all Tanzanians, we should unanimously agree as a nation whether the system will be sustainable.

"I once visited USA and got some experience that in order to have universal health coverage, every person contributes even though each person's income is taken into consideration the service provided is equal to all," said Mwenisongole.

For his part, Dr Waziri Ndonde, speaking on the issue said preparations are needed in order to make sure there is right source of income that would enable for the procurement of medical equipment in health centres right from the ward level.

Assistant Director for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) from the Ministry of Health, Dr James Kiogwe said UHC will provide opportunities for all Tanzanians and that the number of people served by health insurance, including NHIF and its institutions is only 33 per cent.

He said the increase in the number of NCD sufferers has caused the government to spend a lot of money in treatment, hence adequate investment in the provisions of these services is important.

CSOs optimistic on anticipated forum with PM over Ngorongoro

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

REPRESENTATIVES of Civil Society Organisations, Community Based Organisations, Legal and Human Rights bodies as well as traditional elders say they are ready to sit with Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa to address issues of Loliondo Game Controlled and Ngorongoro Conservation Areas.

"We are happy to understand the Prime Minister intends to have an audience with Civil Society Organisations in effort to ensure that controversies and conflicts sur-

rounding various parts of Ngorongoro District get solved amicably," the representatives stated in a joint statement.

Without mentioning when exactly the anticipated meeting with the premier was, representatives of the 15 organisations, stated that they were confident with the premier and his government, adding that conflicts are usually fueled by some media outlets that have been misreporting the issues.

"We would also like to take this opportunity to warn counterfeit organisations that want to penetrate and meet the prime

minister despite being unknown, unregistered and with little of any knowledge about Ngorongoro or the Maasai communities," said William Ole Seki from Ngorongoro.

For his part, Petro Ahham from the Arusha Non-Government Organisations Network (ANGONET), pointed out, all civil organizations that have been operating in the country for years are well known so they do not expect to see some briefcase organisations mushrooming up to capitalize from the ongoing conflicts in Ngorongoro.

The joint statement was released after a

meeting of 15 various organisations from around the country including, Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA), Haki-Ardhi, Arusha Non-Government Organisations Network (ANGONET), Ujamaa Community Research Team (UCRT) and Pastoral Women's Council (PWC).

Stellar James, representing PWC said when it comes to conflicts it is usually women and children that suffer most, "But fortunately we have Mama Samia Suluhu, the president who does understand the predicament being faced by mothers and

their families, we are sure that all is going to be well," she said.

Others present at the joint meeting was the Civic and Legal Aid Organisation (CILAO), Oseremi Integral Development Association, Pastoralists Indigenous Non-Government (PINGO)'s Forum, the Integrated Development Initiative in Ngorongoro (IDINGO), Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF), Community Research Development Services (CORDS) and the Laretok Le-Sheria na Haki za Binadamu Ngorongoro (LASHEHABINGO).



Khamis Hamza Khamis (R), Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), and Tanzania's High Commissioner to Kenya, Dr John Simbachawene, attend a United Nations Environment Programme meeting in Nairobi yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tourism stakeholders to be trained for quick recovery after Covid-19 pandemic

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

A TOTAL of 150 stakeholders involved in the tourism sector value chain are expected to be trained on how to run their businesses for quick recovery under the Covid-19 recovery plan.

The Head of National Tourism College Dr Shogo Sedoyeka revealed this when he opened a training to tour guides on how to contain Covid-19 in the tourism sector.

He said the training is aimed at training and building capacity to stakeholders including food vendors, hotel owners and tour guides to operate during these times.

He said President Samia Suluhu Hassan in recognizing the tourism sector in economic development of the country that was the reason she issued funds to rescue the sector.

"President Samia has been issuing funds in various sectors namely education, health, water and infrastructure which have improved via the money," he said.

He named regions which have benefited

with the funds as Mbeya, Iringa, Ruvuma, Mara, Lindi, Mtwara, Njombe and Mwanza.

In another development Sedoyeka said the National Tourism College will continue to offer training to tour guides and all those with the necessary qualifications.

Speaking when opening the training on behalf of the Regional Administrative for Mbeya Dr Angelina Lutambi the Regional Medical Officer Dr Salum Manyatta said the pandemic has hit the tourism sector heavily.

He said in 2019 the country received 1.5 million tourists saying after the pandemic the number dropped to 602,800 adding that the government has continued with efforts to ensure all tour guides are vaccinated to contain the disease.

She added that in the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi manifesto, the target is to attract five million tourists by the year 2025.

Among the participants in the training, Nafisa Mtoro said hospitality was an issue to him saying the training will go a long way into improving his business.

Tanzania touts environmental protection efforts at UN summit

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA yesterday outlined its efforts to protect the environment, including ban on plastic bags as remarkable at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) summit in Nairobi, Kenya.

In his speech during the launch, Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Khamis Hamza Khamis said in response to effects of climate change, Tanzania has fulfilled its responsibilities as outlined in the National Climate Change Response (NCR) as well as the National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) for 2021-2026.

A statement released by Vice President's office said at the opening ceremony, Khamis presented Tanzania's special message on the environment in which he described Tanzania's efforts to combat environment degradation.

He described the efforts as combating the environment damage caused by plastic bags and said that in order to address the challenge, Tanzania has taken steps to ban the production, importation and use of such bags.

The deputy minister also added that in 2019 Tanzania enacted regulations to implement the prohibition of plastic bags explaining that in order to be successful it needs strong international cooperation including a common policy and effective joint measures to ensure the world is safe.

Khamis said that apart from these efforts as, Tanzania has continued to strengthen the capacity to climate change response to respond to the effects of climate change.

Some 193 member states of the United Nations (UN) have adopted resolutions aimed at drafting appropriate agreements for the elimination of plastic waste by reducing its use from its sources to the sea.

In addition, members of the conference hope to reach a joint decision in the early stages of tackling pollution caused by plastic bags that will be cited as a major source of pollution.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), more than one million plastic bottles are purchased every minute worldwide for drinking water while more than 5 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide each year.

Theme for the UNEP 5 is 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'. It is an opportunity for Member States to share best practices for sustainability.

It will also create momentum for governments to build on and catalyze impact on multilateral environmental efforts to protect and restore the natural world on which our economies and societies depend on.

Gaguti calls for strict protection of water sources in Ruvuma, Southern Coast Basin

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

MTWARA Regional Commissioner, Brig Gen Marco Gaguti has called for the protection of water sources in the Ruvuma and Southern Coast Basin due to the threat to the country's security posed by the destruction of the sources.

He also advised all stakeholders to preserve water in the Ruvuma and Southern Coast basin by using various strategies to educate the people at lower level of the society on the importance of preserving the water sources.

Brig Gen Gaguti (pictured) made the remarks here yesterday when opening a forum for the stakeholders of water resources management in the basin saying in the last 20 years at different areas there were rivers and stream that have now vanished.

He added that the need for water increases each day while water sources disappear, the situation he said could spur conflicts between the people and their government in case reserve forest areas are not going to be protected.

"For some, the understanding of water is minimal, for them water is that they see on the earth surface, when they use that they do not care about the water under the ground, hence it is our responsibility to educate the people on water preservation down to the lower levels of the society," he added.

Water Director from Ruvuma and Southern Coast Basin, Sudi Mpemba, speaking at the forum said the main aim of the forum is to bring together stakeholders from the cross-cutting sectors and agree on how best to develop water resources.



"We have so far identified 58 water sources in the basin, nine of which have been protected and demarcated such as the Mbwinji water source used by Masasi - Nachingwea Water and Sanitation Authority (MANAWASA), also there is Mitema water source with adequate quantity of water depended by Newala residents, which we have already protected," said Mpemba.

Retired Permanent Secretary in the Water ministry and chairman of the forum, Eng Mbogo Mfutakamba said water has occupied a great position in the country's economic activities, saying that a dollar's worth of water can generate up to four dollars in the country's economic development.

Earlier, Assistant Director of Water Resources in the Water ministry, Peter Kishiwa, said the country's water resources are now 1226 billion cubic metres, out of which 105 billion cubic metres is on the surface while 21 billion cubic metres is under the ground.



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Participatory Plantation Forestry Programme JOB ADVERT – CARPENTRY TUTOR (1 VACANCY)

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

Participatory Plantation Forestry Programme (PPF 2) is a bilateral assistance programme between the governments of Finland and Tanzania, which aims to promote sustainable and inclusive private forestry that contributes to Tanzania's economic growth and alleviates poverty. The programme is implemented in 80 villages from 10 Districts/Town Councils of Kilolo, Mufindi, Mafinga, Njombe DC and TC, Makambako, Ludewa, Wanging'ombe, Makete and Madaba.

PPF 2 commissioned the company, Leapfrog, to carry out and oversee a series of furniture design sprints, aimed at transitioning the furniture industry in Tanzania and allowing it to better suit the requirements of the urban middleclass. At the same time, PPF 2 has international experts assisting a number of small wood processing companies in the southern highlands by offering them advice on operational improvements and exposing them to new technologies. The aim of the international experts is to support the development and provide training and advice to the small and medium enterprises involved in wood products and furniture manufacturing. Unfortunately, their time in the country is limited, and PPF 2 would like to hire a carpentry tutor who will receive training and work alongside the experts in their fields. The carpentry tutor will be involved in the Leapfrog project where they will be exposed to new innovative furniture designs and manufacturing processes. The wealth of knowledge, and level of exposure to improved methods from the international experts will hopefully build his/her capacity as a carpentry tutor, and the skills and experience gained can be taught and passed on, long after the international experts have left.

Duty station

Forestry and Wood Industries Training Centre (FWITC)- Mafinga

Reporting

Reports to FWITC Centre manager

Duties and responsibilities.

- Provides support to FWITC management on commercial furniture manufacturing including management of a production team in terms of production outputs, product quality, material acquisition, designs, customers and sales, machine maintenance management, BOP and OSH.
- Tutor for FWITC's VETA carpentry training programme.
- Support furniture SME's capacity building under guidance of the furniture expert.
- Understand the furniture design sprint process and guide future experts in this process.
- Lead implementation of joinery and carpentry courses at FWITC
- Work with, and under the guidance of the international timber technologist
- Act as national carpenter to phase 2 of the "Strengthening Advanced Furniture Manufacture in Iringa Region"
- Assist expansion of SME support throughout the Southern Highlands

Duration:

March 2022 to December 2022 (dependent on successful completion of internal training and 3-month probation period) with the possibility of extension up to October 2023 depending on performance and need.

Qualifications

- Diploma or equivalent level in carpentry/furniture manufacturing/wood technology
- Fluent in Swahili and English
- Proven competence in safe operation of typical furniture workshop machinery
- Experience in vocational education and training in carpentry would be an added advantage

WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU:

- 1 A comprehensive compensation package for a position.
- 2 Ability to make a difference and lasting impact.
- 3 Work in a dynamic, collaborative, progressive, and high-performing team.
- 4 Opportunities to grow and learn with the industry colleagues are endless.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Applicants are invited to submit their application letters and CV's/Resume's
- Indicating the role title "CARPENTRY TUTOR" in the subject of your email
- Send your application via e-mail to hr@privateforestry.or.tz If you are not contacted by *Participatory Plantation Forestry Programme (PPF 2)* within seven (7) days after the closing date, you should consider your application as unsuccessful. Short listed candidates may be subjected to any of the following: security clearance; competency assessment; physical capability assessment, reference checking. Please forward applications **before 15th March 2022**

BEWARE OF CONMEN! PPF 2 does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau Telephone 113; text message 113 or *113#

400 graduate at AKU amid Covid-19 crisis

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE Covid-19 pandemic, 400 students have graduated from Agakhan Universities (AKU) campuses globally.

AKU Dar es Salaam campus, associate dean (Institute of Education) Dr Wachira Nicholas unveiled this over the weekend when speaking at the university graduation.

Dr Nicholas said in the last two years there has been a significant teaching challenge due to Covid-19 which made many students postpone their studies.

"Covid-19 led to the closure of colleges and for a long time we had the students online which is not very friendly. We believe that due to this challenge they have gone through they will do a good job wherever they go," he explained.

This year's best student with Zaituni Ali, who graduated with a master's degree in Mathematics, said that despite the challenges she faced as a student and had to study at home, she struggled and managed to finish.

Another graduate, Lameck Koikai, with a master's degree in Education leadership and management said: "I have gained this knowledge under skilled teachers and I am determined to go and provide what I have learned to the community."

The graduation was not only for Tanzanian students but for all Aga Khan Universities in Kenya, Uganda and the mother university located in Karachi -

Afghanistan and was connected online with approximately 400 students graduating.

In another development, the university was officially inaugurated by awarding the Medal of Honor to Sulaiman Shahabuddin as the third President and head of the Aga Khan University.

Inaugurating the title on behalf of the college principal Princess Zahra Aga Khan welcomed the President and said she believed he would use the skills he had acquired over the 30 years of experience he had served in various parts of East Africa and the world.

The new President Shahabuddin said he had honored to be appointed to the post and promised to use his ability to ensure that he would serve the position effectively.



Covid-19 led to the closure of colleges and for a long time we had the students online which is not very friendly. We believe that due to this challenge they have gone through they will do a good job wherever they go



Zanzibar House of Representatives in session yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

SAGCOT inaugurates second phase of food security project worth \$2.5million

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

THE Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) has launched the Second-Phase of the Sustain Programme at the tune of \$2.5million, which is geared towards addressing inequality, ecosystem degradation, and agricultural challenges in key growth corridors in the country.

The three-year project is funded by Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

through International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Speaking during the launching of the project here on Monday, director of environment in the Vice-President's Office, Dr Andrew Komba said the programme will start its execution in Kilombero cluster, Morogoro Region and later spread into other areas and is meant to address country's food security.

"The country will witness huge changes after the completion of this project by considering five

strategic objectives like biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management in the production system, integrated freshwater systems management, climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as coastal and ocean resilience," he said.

According to Dr Komba, the programme builds on the achievements of the first phase, implemented from 2014 to 2019. The current phase engages more stakeholders such as state actors like central and local government,

SAGCOT, farmers, consumers, development partners, private sector, and civil society in the center of production and supply chains.

He said that SAGCOT and SUA will establish and strengthen farmers' groups, training of smallholder farmers on Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and improvement of irrigation infrastructure.

He said the government as a supervisor and coordinator of the project will make sure there will be a sustainable chain of communication to private and public sectors

from the village, street, and councils to enable smallholder farmers' access information of the market from the field.

Komba showed an indicator of achievement as pointed out by the increase of partners.

NORAD's senior adviser, Ingvild Langhus said the aim of financing IUCN together with other partners as an opportunity to address the increase of productivity by looking at smaller farmers and the private sector in a sustainable way and preserving biodiversity and pro-

duction as well as climate change.

"We provide some financial support to another African country like neighboring Mozambique, in case there will be positive efforts we will assess it according to our ambitions then add another year of the project," she said.

IUCN's regional programme coordinator, Charles Oluchina, said a project will concentrate on three main areas as looking for water resources areas like smallholders farmers that practice conservation agriculture, and partnership main-

ly to the financial institutions that will provide loans to farmers besides environmental preservation. Tanzania depends much in it. John Banga, SAGCOT's manager at Kilombero cluster, said the area produces 60 percent of national food and the one affected much by climate changes, said there's the achievement of protecting it due to sustainable agriculture in Tanzania nowadays that will be in teamwork including partners under the vice president's office.



Water minister Jumaa Aweso (nearest to camera, in blue jacket) inspects infrastructure for livestock plunge dips built by Central Basin Water Board at Qang'dend. He was launching Qang'dend water source conservation project in Karatu District, Arusha Region, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

ASA asks for more land area for seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE deputy Minister for Agriculture, Anthony Mavunde has said he will continue discussions with the Treasury Office to make sure parts of forest farms in the country are returned to the Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA) to be used for seeds production as well as increase the budget for agricultural development.

The deputy minister made the remarks here when he visited ASA offices, and added that in addition to the 14 existing farms, it would suffice to have more as well as extra budget.

He said ASA, TOSCI and TARI are important institutions that are supposed to be empowered in their budgets to attain the set targets suggesting the reduction of numerous seminars and training in the Ministry of Agriculture and instead invest in scientific budgets in the three institutions that are designed to benefit farmers.

However, he praised ASA for increasing seed production from 1,436 tonnes in 2018 and believes that in the coming years they will increase production even more.

He said the agency still face many challenges to attain their seed production targets to 300,000 tonnes for the country while the current production is 1,750 tonnes for both ASA and other private firms.

He told ASA workers to abandon doing

work routinely and they should instead work together in various issues including innovation regarding production of various kinds of seeds.

He stressed for more production of soya in the country even though the crop's total production is 22,000 tonnes, saying demand is great in China and farmers should use seeds imported from Zambia to know their benefits.

Mavunde also called on district council officials to manage groups that get loans from councils' internal revenues to start seed production in order to beef up the country's seed bank.

For her part, ASA Director General, Dr Sophia Kashenge said the agency is faced with lack of working tools, warehouses for seeds storage and production infrastructures, as they produce seeds depending on rains as this gives them big challenges due to climate change.

She said they have 14 farms in all production ecosystems countrywide.

For his part, Morogoro District Commissioner Albert Msando called on ASA to establish animal fodder production to save livestock deaths due to drought that in turn is caused by climate change.

He said a few months ago not less than 15,000 head of cattle died for lack of fodder, the situation that sent many herders into poverty.

By Special Correspondent

'Share scientific knowledge to make it more relevant'

AFRICAN academics researching climate change should strive to share their knowledge with communities to help them to adapt and to ensure that their work has a direct link with the public.

This is according to Asia Dowtin, assistant professor of urban forestry at Michigan State University in the United States.

Dowtin says researchers should always ensure that science communication is a key aspect of their work so that their findings benefit communities who need such information to make decisions on both adaptation and mitigation regarding climate change.

"The major role of academia in climate change is certainly to conduct research, but research should not stop at journal articles. We

must actively engage in science communication to ensure that the knowledge we produce is accessed by the public," she told a webinar entitled Climate Adaptation for Africa's Cities as part of a public dialogue series hosted by the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP).

The AAP was co-created by Michigan State University and African thought leaders in 2016. It is a consortium of Michigan State University and 10 leading African universities, and the members usually collaborate to address continental and global challenges.

Research on the climate would not be of help to the public if it was only "presented in conferences" and not disseminated within the communities. This makes science communication a

vital part of any research undertaking, Dowtin added. Science produced by academia, however important it may be, would be of limited significance if it was not shared with the public and with policy makers.

Dowtin said for African cities to adapt to climate change, they needed to have more urban forests, be it on private or public land, as has happened in cities in the US.

City authorities should involve researchers in the planning of such forests, where their role would include conducting studies on soil types and determine the appropriate plant species for greening the cities, she told the 23 February event.

Numerous studies have asserted the impor-

ance of plant vegetation in cities and their role in improving air quality and in reducing heat on hot days. Consequently, it also reduces energy consumption for air conditioning.

Assane Beye of Cheikh Anta Diop University in Senegal told the webinar that while most of Africa was suffering the adverse effects of climate change through droughts, floods, starvation, conflict, diseases and migration, the Sahel region was the worst hit by these problems.

"Climate change has induced conflicts because of vulnerabilities of populations living across borders without any adaptation capacity apart from migration, which accelerates competition to access resources," Beye said, and added that these conflicts would persist

with a youth population that represents more than 65% of the total population, a sizable portion of whom were "without any education or qualification".

"If this huge youth population has no skills, then they will bring problems in the form of conflicts and terrorism. We as the academia, the universities and government therefore have a duty to train them and ensure they have skills." Education for the youth could therefore be one way of militating against climate change's adverse effects, for it could keep skilled young people out of conflicts brought about by a scarcity of resources and widespread poverty, Beye argued. It could also keep them from enlisting in terror groups. As a result, investing in education of the youth was critical in climate mitigation as ultimately "the cost of inaction is higher than the cost of action".



Hanang district commissioner Janeth Mayanja (2nd-L) launches a residential postal code address system in Hanang town at the weekend. She is with CCM district chairman Mathew Darema (L) and town council chairperson Rose Kamili. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

4,060 students 'no-shows' at secondary schools in Rukwa

By Guardian Correspondent, Rukwa

A TOTAL of 4,060 students who were selected to join secondary school education in January this year in Rukwa Region have not reported to their respective schools.

Rukwa Regional Commissioner, Joseph Mkirikiti linked the situation with absenteeism, noting said that so far 80.2 per cent of Form One students have reported at their schools.

The RC was addressing education stakeholders here on Thursday, saying that 16,264 out of 20,324 who were selected joined secondary education at different schools across the region. He however urged education stakeholders to help finding out the reasons behind students' absenteeism, as the problem has been growing each year.

"We need to work together to find out why these students are not at school; this will help us to come up with a solution," said the regional commissioner as he appeals to parents to prioritise taking their children to

school.

He highlighted the need for parents to be responsible for their children's future development because without educating them they will hardly secure employment or be able to employ themselves.

One of the stakeholders, Monica Kayanza said there are still some parents who do not consider education a priority for their children. She underscored the need for continued education on the importance of educating their children.

Michael Kanyenzi from Sumbawanga accused the village governments over failure to supervise the set regulations which requires every parent to ensure their children are enrolled in schools.

In late 2015, the government abolished fees for state-run secondary schools - 13 years after primary school fees were ended. The move was meant to guarantee every child in the country 11 years of free schooling.

Stakeholders hail govt on move to review and re-orientate education curriculums

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

EDUCATION Stakeholders have hailed the government's move to review and reshuffle education curriculums and highlighted some key areas that need more modification so as to enhance self-employment in the country.

In separate interviews, they called for intensive government investment on Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA), direct engagement of teachers on curriculum reforms and curriculum correlation on self-employment demands.

Evod Kanyaiyangiro, secretary of the Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region, recommended a life skill curriculum that will meet pupils' employment demand after primary and secondary studies since the one available persuades more on cramming for exams.

"The available curriculum does not support life skill engagement after exams as it amounts to high unemployment rate from those who fail and lack fees for Vocational Training, those who fail Standard Seven for example where do they go?," he asked.

He further called for a government free education policy on vocational training institutes as it will support pupils wishing to engage in entrepreneurship.

Kanyangiro said: "Engaging on twitter recently, I saw a letter that went

viral from a form one student, in Mtwara Region, addressing his headmaster on plans to drop out from the school and engage more on fishing activities. I honestly congratulated the boy."

"Here is where the government support on vocational training institutes matters as it would be an advantage to the pupil in scenarios where parents have failed to pay fees or plans to pursue more knowledge on fisheries."

He also said that teachers' responsibility on pupils' recommendations would ease the identification process for those fitting to go for entrepreneurship, a scene that would reduce the cost of accommodating too many pupils sitting for exams.

"Most times the governments tend to involve high officials like Education Administrative Secretaries forgetting to initiate programmes that will directly engage teachers' input as they encounter pupils directly," he noted.

He added: "Currently the government has endorsed this year's teaching calendar which demands teachers all over the country to teach the same module on the same day. On a psychological point of view I don't support this as it's the teachers decision to decide on the syllabus review based on the pupils understanding therefore it's a distraction," he said, adding that if teachers were involved in this they would have suggested a better way to go about."

Enea Muhando, a consultant with

the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) said the government budget on building pleasant classrooms has to go hand in hand with learning equipment that will support pupils' accountability on the existing technology and job market.

Muhando stressed that the good idea on government's support on classes' construction is not enough, but having learning instruments such as computers connected with free Wi-Fi, books and well equipped laboratories will boost their practical capabilities.

A psychologist and lecturer at Archbishop Mihayo University College of Tabora (AMUCTA), Dr Ildephonse Mkama stressed the demand on intrapersonal and interpersonal skills in education as it would enable pupils to manage the pressure that comes with failing exams.

"Imparting pupils with different life skills will help them have positive coordination of thoughts, problem-solving and compassion in both happy and difficult moments," he stated.

He further recommended the government to ensure teachers are knowledgeable in alternative teaching approaches so that they can impart skills and career pathways to pupils.

Ubungo MP, Prof Kitila Mkumbo said that there is a need to review all the old curriculums as they steer up the unemployment rate in the country.

Go for quality management systems, Tanzanian manufacturers counselled

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

MANUFACTURERS have been sensitized to use the quality management systems in their institutions or industries that would enable to improve productivity and increase trust to their customers hence compete in local and foreign markets.

The advice was given in Dar es Salaam over the weekend by the acting Director General of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Johanes Maganga, during the ceremony to grant licence to manufacturers and small and medium entrepreneurs.

A total of 303 certificates and licences were issued to the qualified manufacturers who applied for it between September to December 2021, where as 163 of them were SMEs.

The certificates and licenses provided were in food, and cosmetics products, construction materials, lubricants, hand sanitizers, electrical appliances, mechanical equipment, water and packaging materials.

Speaking, Maganga said quality management system services provided by the organization play a crucial role for the productivity and customer confidence in the markets.

He urged manufacturers who received their certificates to be good ambassadors in the use of standards in order to reach the industrialisation drive during this period where Tanzania is in the middle economy.

Maganga who is also Director of Testing and metrology at TBS asked

manufacturers to continue producing goods which meet required standards for the benefit of economy, environment and health of consumers.

He thanked the sixth phase government for financing SMEs in inspection and testing their products which shows that it has enough confidence with the organisation.

He said TBS has continued to set aside a budget to support SMEs to establish industries and get quality licences without paying anything.

"During the financial year 2021/2022 the organisation has set aside a total of 256m/- to support the small and medium entrepreneurs meet their goals countrywide," he said.

He urged SMEs to take advantage of the support from the government by establishing their industries and stimulating the growth of the economy.

According to him, once established the industries would raise employment opportunities for locals and the government will collect taxes to enable it to provide various services to the citizens.

Speaking on behalf of others, entrepreneurs identified as Abdallah Shedafa and Elizabeth Lema thanked the organisation for supporting them and controlling importation of sub-standard goods.

They said the quality certificates they were given would enable them to produce goods which can compete at any market hence increasing their livelihood and state coffers.

Sensitise residents on tapping opportunities on Indian Ocean coast, Ulega calls on officials

By Guardian Reporter, Lindi

DEPUTY Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega has called upon government officials in Mtwara and Lindi to sensitise residents to tap opportunities and invest in the Indian Ocean coast.

Ulega named some of the investment areas such as sea worm, crabs and sea weed farming to maximize their capitals.

Ulega made the call yesterday during a meeting for a campaign to strategize on the farming of sea creatures for specialists in the region.

"Blue economy was one of the priorities for President Samia Suluhu Hassan saying the issue was how to tap opportunities in the sector to improve economy of the majority of farmers," he said.

He said the specialists from land offices, development officers, fisheries officers and trade officers must understand that blue economy was one of the key areas that the government was seeking investors adding that it was a must for specialist to inform citizens of how to tap opportunities.

On the strategies the government had devised to improve fisheries sector Ulega said the government has constructed a big fishing port at Kilwa so that residents in the area can be able to add value to their produce.

"For starters the government must formulate groups which will consist of people who are ready to form ventures and receive support from government through loans," he said.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

OPEN POSITIONS

T-MARC Tanzania is a non-profit Tanzanian organization working to improve public health and promote social development. Our socially marketed products and behaviour change communication initiatives address pertinent health issues in family planning and reproductive health, child survival, water and sanitation, nutrition and communicable/non-communicable infections like malaria, HIV/AIDS and cervical cancer.

T-MARC Tanzania is seeking for competent candidates for positions below, for an anticipated USAID/Tanzania Youth Empowerment and Skills (YES) Activity.

This is an integrated cross-sectoral youth activity which aims to increase the empowerment, productivity and community engagement of youth age 15-25 in Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam and up to two regions from the Southern Agricultural growth corridor of Tanzania and the Lake zone. It intends to create and support an array of interventions, differentiated, and tailored to specific needs of targeted youth, that are youth-owned, youth-led and youth managed, focused particularly on out of school youth who have had limited opportunities to engage in the formal education sector. The three main objectives of the activity are to enable youth to: (1) access basic educational, life, and entrepreneurial skills resources; (2) participate in activities that foster physical and mental well-being; and (3) build or strengthen existing networks that support youth development and community engagement. The expected results of this program are that youth participants are more productive, engaged, and active members in their communities.

Position : Chief of Party (COP)
Activity Reports to : Managing Director
Location : Dar es Salaam

Broad Function: Provide technical and administrative leadership and expertise to the YES Activity and will be the primary liaison with USAID/Tanzania, relevant ministries of the Government of Tanzania. The COP is responsible for strategic direction and will manage all aspects of program implementation to meet project objectives; guiding senior technical staff to ensure quality of work, efficient use of resources and achievement of results.

Preferred Qualifications and Experience

Master's Degree (minimum), or a Doctorate Degree (desirable) in Education, Education policy, Youth programming, Public Health, or another related field. At least 10 years of relevant professional experience with 5 years of experience in a leadership position preferably on a youth and skills development project involving nonformal education, workforce development, and capacity development. Knowledge or understanding of social, economic, and political context governing education and youth issues in Tanzania

Position : Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP)(Operations)
Reports to : Chief of Party
Location : Dar es Salaam

Broad Function: Ensure implementation of budget, reporting, and other administrative aspects of the project and will oversee F&A activities with partners across program clusters. Assist the COP in overseeing financial and administrative activities and must ensure overall compliance with USAID rules and regulations, financial management, personnel recruitment and management, subcontractor and grants management, and activity start-up and close-out.

Preferred Qualifications and Experience

Master's Degree in Public or Business Administration, Finance, or a related field. Minimum of 8 years of experience in financial and administrative management for donor-funded projects, and management of grants, other local sub-contracts/subawards, including five years of progressive experience in a supervisory role. Experience working on USAID-funded projects including management of grants, other local sub-contracts and subawards.

Position : Monitoring and Evaluation Director
Reports to : Chief of Party (COP)
Location : Dar es Salaam

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Oh, these 'small self-defence tools' we commonly see sold so publicly!

SOME five years ago some members of one of the pastoralist communities in our country expressed unease over a reported plan by the government to criminalise and outlaw the sale, purchase or carrying of machetes, knives and other weapons in public.

In fact, this paper soon later ran a news story in which some of those opposed to the idea suggested that the planned action would curtail their cultural freedom and hurt the national economy in the long run.

The arguments came against the backdrop of an announcement by the then Home Affairs minister to the effect that a law would be enacted to curtail the prevalence of weapons such as spears and machetes.

This followed an incident in which a pastoralist reportedly speared a farmer in Morogoro Region. Sources warned that the idea of enacting such a piece of legislation was bad because it would ultimately jeopardise an ages-old "culture" which included the carrying of weapons such as swords, bludgeons and knives in public, and was a fundamental part of the country's cultural tourism portfolio.

They argued that, in some communities, men freely walked around with swords dangling from their waists as part of their cultural leanings, without any intention of turning the items on anyone.

It was further argued that, used well, a sword dangling from the waist could be readily used in slaying a wild animal - and so there was no cause for alarm.

Indeed, the respondents quoted in the news report made a strong case against legislation to control traditional weapons. But it was as important for the interests of the millions of people not subscribing

to the argument to be accorded due consideration.

To begin with, we must carefully explore the events that prompted the government to consider having such legislation in place: the interaction between weapons-carrying communities and the larger public.

While it is generally agreed that the weapons-carrying communities live largely in harmony with other people, there have been isolated cases in which those other communities felt understandably threatened.

Another party that holds middle ground is the government, whose foremost duty is to protect all citizens from all communities. That is why, while it is duty-bound to the most it can to protect and preserve cultural values and practices but without reneging on its obligation to ensure public security, peace and harmony.

Also, ultimately, the whole idea was for the government to minimise the misuse of weapons public places, knowing that Tanzania is a country of a wide range of cultures.

Incidentally, reports just emerging from Uganda talk of police having banned the public sale of hoes, machetes, knives and such like "sharp-pointed potential weapons" - blaming the items for a recent rise in the prevalence of violence and crime in the neighbouring crime.

While this may not necessarily be cause for anyone to celebrate as sure-fire deterrent in combating big-time crime, prevention as ever remains lots better than cure.

Even a five-minute late evening or early night stroll along most Dar es Salaam street will witness a "small trader" busy hunting for customers for these "small and harmless self-defence tools". We need to take utmost care.

World export worries justified with Ukraine, Russia at war: What next?

THERE are worries among horticulture export agencies over potential losses of revenue due to the Russia-Ukraine war. The zone is heavily integrated in world trade, so much of the world will evidently be affected.

UN officials have cautioned that, with around 30 per cent of global wheat exports sourced from Ukraine and Russia, cutting off these supplies owing to war on the one hand and sanctions on the other hand will disrupt global wheat prices.

Initial indications are that prices are indeed rising but that, in that there is substantial wheat farming and flour packaging globally on average, this limitation might not lead to crippling shocks generally.

But the UN agency for refugees (UNHCR) and a number of Middle East states are heavily dependent on Ukraine wheat sourcing in particular - and these may have to pay higher for alternative supplies.

If such shortages start really biting hard, a certain amount of food preference restructuring at an individual and collective level will follow, for instance the way public authorities insist that people should not 'choose food' at times of maize shortages.

Tubers like cassava, yams and sweet potatoes take a higher profile at that time, or more hardy grains like sorghum which are more resilient to drought.

When wheat is especially scarce, different communities would have to adapt differently, say with millet, barley or rice.

For Tanzania, there is a distinct possibility that given the seasonal character of wheat farming, public authorities ought to be in a position to initiate some large-scale wheat farming to take up some of the market in need of the crop.

This will apply even as producers elsewhere seek to increase their production levels to cover the gap. It is noteworthy that part of the zone that needs wheat exports includes our participants in some newly approved pacts for investments, whether it is from North Africa or the Gulf.

Negative events in the global economy often open up opportunities of various sorts of a short-term or longer term character. Even if the hostilities were eventually to subside and the market come back to normal, newly created links will survive and possible cost differentials will play a part in how these new markets are maintained.

For export markets, how to maintain cheaper sources of the grain compared to traditional suppliers will assume centre-stage.

It is therefore a moment of partial restructuring of global trade in a particular massive demand crop across a wide range of countries around the world, and a challenge for us to re-organise and fight to overcome the challenges ahead.

Already, horticultural agencies have been taking stock of potential losses. Well and good. But they ought to glance at potential opportunities as well.

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Empowering women linked to expanded access to assets, economic opportunities

By Mara Warwick

I am delighted to announce today the launch of the seventeenth edition of the Tanzania Economic Update, entitled "Empowering Women: Expanding Access to Assets and Economic Opportunities".

As you are aware, the World Bank produces economic updates in many of our member countries around the world, including Tanzania.

Launched twice a year, each edition of the Tanzania Economic Update presents the World Bank's independent assessment of the current economic performance and outlook, accompanied by a special topic chapter which focuses on a contemporary issue important to realizing Tanzania's development aspirations.

The special theme of the Sixteenth Economic Update released in July last year focused on transforming tourism in Tanzania towards a sustainable, resilient and inclusive sector following the major negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Today, in line with Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan's forward-looking strategic vision on empowering the women of Tanzania to reach their full potential, the Seventeenth Edition shows that gender equality remains essential to guaranteeing economic opportunities and an inclusive economy recovery, while also ensuring Tanzania's successful transition to middle-income status.

A key purpose of our Tanzania Economic Updates is to stimulate public debate on the economy and on the featured development themes. As on previous occasions, we are honoured today to have a panel of eminent practitioners and thought leaders to participate in the discussion. And I would personally like to thank the Chief Guest and panel for their presence here today.

Let me take a few minutes to highlight some of the key messages and recommendations from this report. First comes the recent economic performance and outlook.

Following a decline in new Covid-19 cases from their mid-2021 peak, new waves of infections have swept across Sub-Saharan Africa since December 2021 as the Omicron variant became the dominant strain in most countries.

Fewer than 6 per cent of people in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19, and both the threat of recurrent outbreaks and the possibility of new restrictions remain elevated.

In August 2021 Tanzania launched a nationwide Covid-19 vaccination programme, but its progress has been slower than anticipated - with only 3.2 million vaccine doses administered.

Accelerating the pace of the vaccination programme is crucial for underpinning a stable recovery of international travel and tourism, which together account for more than one-quarter of the country's total exports.

High-frequency data suggest that economic activity in Tanzania is gradually recovering. The accommodation and restaurants, mining and electricity sectors drove a sharp rebound in quarterly GDP during the third Quarter of 2021.

Moreover, leading indicators such as cement production, electricity generation, private-sector credit, goods and services exports, non-fuel goods imports, telecommunications, mobility and tourist arrivals all improved in 2021, though activity in most sectors remains below pre-pandemic levels.

Nevertheless, the preliminary findings from a recent telephone survey suggest that employment among heads of household returned to its January 2020 level in mid-2021.

Because of these positive developments, the World Bank estimates a real GDP growth rate of 4.3 per cent and a GDP per capita growth rate of 1.3 per cent in 2021, following a contraction of per capita GDP by 1.0 per cent in 2020.

Meanwhile, the national poverty rate is estimated to have declined marginally from 27.1 per cent in 2020 to 27.0 per cent in 2021.

The risks to Tanzania's economic outlook have moderated, but the recovery continues to hinge on external developments and domestic health policies as well as continued support to the private sector.

Real GDP is expected to grow by between 4.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent in 2022, below its long-run potential growth rate of about 6 per cent.

An accelerated domestic vaccination programme, increased regional trade and cooperation as well as policy reforms designed to improve the business environment and support the growth of the private sector have somewhat mitigated downside risks.

However, the emergence of new coronavirus variants, reduced capital flows, elevated debt levels, persistent inflationary pressures, and supply bottlenecks continue to threaten the projected recovery.

Tanzania needs to strengthen its pandemic response in the short term while laying the groundwork for a recovery led by the private sector over the medium-to-long term.

Priority policy actions should focus on saving lives, protecting poor and vulnerable households, attracting new foreign and domestic investment, supporting an employment-intensive and resilient recovery, and expanding the available fiscal space while maintaining debt sustainability.

In line with the conclusions of previous editions of the Tanzania Economic Update, achieving the country's development vision will require the government to revise, strengthen and expand its existing efforts to support struggling firms while implementing structural reforms to address longstanding constraints on private investment and women's access to economic opportunities.

The authorities have established a track record of sound macroeconomic management, but further reforms to revenue policy and administration, public expenditures, and debt management will be necessary to create adequate space to increase priority social spending

and productive investment without jeopardising fiscal sustainability.

This brings me to the issue of empowering Tanzania's women. The special section of the Seventeenth Tanzania Economic Update focusing on economically empowering women and increasing their access to productive assets.

We believe this is important now more than ever, as women's empowerment will play a pivotal role in achieving a strong, inclusive and resilient post-Covid-19 crisis recovery.

Now is the time for Tanzania to act. Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan has set out a forward-looking strategic vision for empowering Tanzania's women.

The Tanzania Development Vision 2025 also emphasizes gender equality in its social, economic and political dimensions. And already, progress has been made.

Over the past two decades, Tanzania has greatly expanded women's economic opportunities and this in turn has contributed to the country's sustained economic growth and poverty reduction, helping the country move to lower-middle-income (LMIC) status in 2020.

A growing share of women have entered salaried employment, and the female labour-force participation rate rose from 67 per cent in 2000 to 80 per cent in 2019 - well above the average of 63 per cent for SSA. Likewise, the share of women engaged in unpaid agricultural work fell from 78 per cent to 64 per cent between 2004 and 2015.

And yet, despite impressive gains, several factors continue to hold women back from full participation in the workforce and from achieving their full economic potential.

Tanzanian women continue to face serious constraints in access to land and productive assets, which affect their economic productivity; 25 per cent of Tanzanian men are sole owners of land, compared to 8 per cent of women.

Likewise, an estimated 42 per cent of women in Tanzania have access to a bank account, compared to 52 per cent of men. And an estimated 22 per cent of Tanzanian women are engaged in wage employment, compared to 48 per cent of men. Female wage workers meanwhile earn only 88 cents for every dollar earned by men.

Most of the Tanzanian workforce is engaged in agriculture, and yet the gender gap in agricultural productivity is between 20 and 30 per cent because women lack access to male family labour and to agricultural implements and pesticides.

Women's ability to participate in the workforce is further constrained by inadequate access to childcare services and low levels of enrolment in upper-secondary edu-

cation.

Estimates suggest that closing the conditional gender gap in agricultural productivity could lift approximately 80,000 Tanzanians out of poverty every year while increasing annual agricultural output by 2.7 per cent and boosting annual GDP by 0.86 per cent.

A recent study also found that closing the difference between male and female employment rates in Tanzania could increase long-term per-capita GDP by 4.8 per cent.

Moving forward, and with eyes set on continuing the country's sustained growth trajectory, there are best practices the government can adopt to promote women's economic participation, strengthen their ownership over productive assets and contribute to broad and lasting gains in overall household welfare.

These practices include improving women's skills through expanded opportunities for apprenticeships and training programmes; and strengthening women's land rights by offering land-titling subsidies to lower-income households and by providing incentives to encourage spouses to co-title.

Another is expanding women's access to male household labour, increasing their use of agricultural inputs, and encouraging uptake of digital technologies - all designed to improve women's agricultural productivity.

There is also the need to promote financial inclusion among women, including strengthening their capacity to manage both their personal and business finances; strengthening efforts to end child-marriage, lower school dropout rates, and provide childcare support to allow and encourage greater participation by women in the workforce; as well as enforcing laws that protect women against violence.

In these Covid-19 pandemic times, women's economic empowerment is of utmost urgency, as recent evidence from Tanzania and across SSA has shown that the impact of the pandemic has been particularly pronounced among females and businesses owned by women.

We therefore urge policymakers to place renewed focus on levelling the economic opportunities between men and women to achieve more robust, more shared, and more resilient economic prosperity. And we look forward to supporting this urgent and important mission in Tanzania.

Dr Mara Warwick, World Bank Country Director for Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, made these remarks at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of the 17th Tanzania Economic Update.

Future of open government is with young people, local governments

IN September 2017, Tanzania withdrew from the Open Government Partnership (OGP) an anti-corruption initiative and a community of reformers who work to promote accountable, responsive and inclusive governance.

Champions of open government described the move as a backward in enhancing basic democratic principles. But it wasn't surprising at all considering the political environment in the country at the time.

When Tanzania, under President Jakaya Kikwete, joined the partnership in September 2011 and become one of the first African countries to embrace the initiative, President Kikwete imagined it as a perfect platform to enhance domestic accountability and the country's international reputation, as well his own, as a leading open government reformer.

Last year, Aidan Eyakuze, the Executive Director of Twaweza and the government of Italy became co-chairs of the OGP Steering Committee, laying out a joint agenda to tackle the challenges in the year ahead. In the following question and answer, he shares some of the work he and his counterparts in Italy hope to achieve this year and his hopes for the future of the open government community.

Q. You have been a member of the OGP Steering Committee for six years now and know the needs and challenges facing the Partnership well. What does leading this group of reformers in government and civil society mean to you and what role do you think the Steering Committee can play in enhancing the work of reformers everywhere?

A. For me it means a fantastic opportunity to work with a group of people who are on a great quest of reforming and improving how governments work with and for citizens. These are brave, intelligent, passionate people who want to change how governments work domestically, sub-nationally and globally.

In realising this ambition, I think there are a few roles that the Steering Committee can play to ensure this. Firstly, it's crucial to highlight the challenge that we are facing in the world. But it's not enough to just highlight it, but also frame it as a critical moment, almost an existential moment. Sometimes I sound like I'm overstating it, but it is an existential moment for democracy and the idea of democracy because of lack of transparency and opacity, not just in governments but also in the private firms, which are an important part of democracies.

The committee could also propose a framework to address these challenges collectively and inclusively rather than leaving it to financial or intellectual elites to try and deal with what are very complicated problems.

Another important role that the Steering Committee could play is to make the case for democracy, for liberalism to be broader than just the government level to the citizens. This is going to be a tough challenge, but I think we ought to start to appeal directly to citizens and help them understand what role they can play to make government work better for us. We need to find coalitions of reformers within countries, between countries to actualize a much more effective democratic vision that delivers and improves people's lives.



Aidan Eyakuze (right), Executive Director of Twaweza, participates in an Open Government Partnership meeting. Photo courtesy of Aidan Eyakuze

Let's frame the challenge, let's frame part of the solution and let's engage citizens to drive this agenda forward.

Q. What are some areas that require more work and attention from the open government community and what do you hope to achieve in your year as co-chairs to move the needle towards more open and accountable governments?

A. I've been very fortunate to work with the government of Italy because our focus areas align. For instance, we both share a conviction to improve the environment for civic action and activity, and improve civic space. We want to encourage, advise, and persuade countries in the partnership to create more ambitious commitments to open up civic space and make it more conducive and encouraging for citizens to

engage. Their participation in policy review, implementation and formulation is important. We want more and better opportunities, space, and environments for civil society and citizens to engage in the process of government. To do that, I'll be co-chairing an OGP Civic Space Learning Network to help push this forward

We would also like to promote the open government principles and framework as a great way to improve public service delivery. This is what matters to most people.

Not the niceties of an ideological or a governance framework, but the reality that such a government's framework can deliver better schools, hospital roads. And with the government of Italy focusing on its fifth action plan and its plans to use the European Next Generation Funds for its plan of national resilience and recovery, it's an excellent opportunity to showcase the relationship

between open government and public service delivery.

And as we think of the future of the OGP, we would like to begin a dialogue with the partnership as to "what's next for the next decade?" We've had a decade to prove that the OGP model works but our focus for the next decade should be to shift it from a mechanism and a framework to a movement. So we need to reach out to more constituencies such as young people, the private sector and business, especially in those entities that are at the forefront of digital governance and digital economy.

And at the heart of all of this, I think, I OGP Local. I'm firmly convinced this is the future of the Partnership. Subnational entities like counties, cities, regions, that's where things like an open civic space can happen, where public service delivery can be improved in tangible ways.

and where citizens can effectively hold their governments to account. This year, 50 new local government authorities will join the Partnership, which comes to show the vibrancy of the movement.

Last year, OGP marked its ten-year anniversary, taking stock of its successes, lessons learned, and challenges ahead. What do you hope to see from the OGP community in the next decade? What can it be done to get there?

We need to bring new constituencies into the Partnership. We need young people, and I hope that more college age-students are galvanized by the ideas underlying open government.

We also need business. That's a hard nut to crack but we need to be creative about the value proposition that we make to business to join OGP.

And of course, local government associations. If we were to come up with a memorandum of understanding or an agreement whereby we can give the movement the energy and room to grow.

What can we do to get there? A huge part of it is to communicate OGP's value proposition. Part of it is to look at how people are benefiting, look at the innovations happening in local communities, look at the energy released after inviting everyday citizens or civil society groups into policy shaping, into monitoring, into execution of these policies.

We need to expand the tent, expand the umbrella into new constituencies to turn open government into an energized movement for much improved democratic governance around the world.

To enhance cooperation on vaccines, jointly build immune barrier

By He Yin

DEPUTIES called on the globe to unite closer for accelerated COVID-19 vaccination around the world at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) High-level Meeting on COVID-19 Vaccines held on Feb. 25.

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is at a critical moment when unfair distribution of vaccines is severely hindering the global fight against the virus.

Just as UN General Assembly President Abdulla Shahid said, "Our strength lies in solidarity," mankind must unite together and strive to reach the goal of global vaccination as early as possible, so as to put the pandemic to an end soon.

Enhancing unity to fight COVID-19 is the first of the three major issues that deserve much thought and attention at present and over the coming period globally, told by Chinese President Xi Jinping to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres when the two met recently.

To achieve fair distribution of vaccines and fill the immunization gap is an urgent task. So far, over 10 billion doses of vaccines have been administered globally. However, only around 17 percent of the people in Africa have received at least one shot, and vaccination rate is lower than 10 percent in 27 countries.

As a provider of global public products, China is striving to build a global community of health for all. It has made important contribution to the global fight against the virus and won international acclaim.

China actively advocates and practices solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. As a staunch supporter of global solidarity against the virus, China is the first country to make and practice the commitment to taking COVID-19 vaccines as a global public product.

Last year, Xi proposed the Global Vaccine Cooperation Action Initiative, aiming to enhance vaccine equity and ac-



On Jan. 26, 2022, 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines donated by China to Mali arrive in Bamako, capital of the African country. File photo

cessibility in developing countries, so that the immune barrier would be built at an early date.

He stressed at the 2022 World Economic Forum Virtual Session that of particular importance is to fully leverage vaccines as a powerful weapon, ensure their equitable distribution, quicken vaccination and close the global immunization gap, so as to truly safeguard people's lives, health and livelihoods. Guterres expressed his thanks to China for the country's contribution to improving vaccine accessibility in developing countries.

China is the largest contributor to fair distribution of vaccines. As a country that delivers on its promises, China fully supports the UN target of administering vaccines to over 70 percent of the global population by mid-2022.

So far, China has provided over 2.1 billion doses of vaccines for more than 120 countries and international organizations, becoming the biggest provider of outbound vaccines among all countries. Half of the vaccine doses administered around the world were made in China. Most

of the vaccines received by many countries, especially developing countries, came from China.

The vaccines provided by China have enhanced the capability, confidence and resolution of developing countries in the fight against the pandemic. Chief Executive of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization Seth Berkeley called China's efforts an important contribution to the global fight against the virus.

China is a devoted practitioner of joint vaccine production. It is among the earliest to support the waiver of COVID-19 vaccine intellectual property rights and to transfer technologies to developing countries. It has launched joint vaccine production with 20 countries, with an annual production capacity of one billion doses.

On Feb. 20, China and Egypt jointly donated 500,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Palestine. It marked the first time for Egypt to send its locally produced COVID-19 vaccines abroad. Egypt's acting Health Minister Khaled Abdel-Ghaffar introduced that Egypt has so far produced

more than 30 million doses of the vaccine, and their safety and efficiency are guaranteed. Through concrete actions, China has enhanced the vaccine production capacity of developing countries, setting a exemplary model of solidarity in the fight against the pandemic.

China is an active participant in multilateral cooperation on vaccines. It supports the World Health Organization in playing a central and coordinating role, and gives priority to the procurement needs of the COVAX Facility, to which China has supplied over 200 million doses of vaccines. China has also donated \$100 million to the facility for the distribution of vaccines in developing countries.

At the UNGA High-level Meeting on COVID-19 Vaccines, China proposed to build a "safety net" for immunity, build up anti-pandemic "arsenals," improve the "governance shield" for health and strengthen the "anchor of stability" for development, which demonstrated the country's firm support for multilateral cooperation. *People's daily*

France's exit from the Sahel gives Mozambique food for thought on military coordination and cooperation

BY LIESL LOUW-VAUDRAN

FRENCH president Emmanuel Macron's recent decision to withdraw troops from Mali nine years after first intervening in the conflict against jihadi separatists sparked debate across Africa.

The failure of Operations Barkhane and Takuba to stem the spread of violent extremism begs the question: can big multinational troop interventions against the type of terror groups in the Sahel and northern Mozambique, for example, ensure lasting peace and security?

In Mozambique, around 1,000 troops of the Southern African Development Community Mission in Mozambique (Samim) were deployed in mid-2021. Together with Mozambican security forces, they initially succeeded in driving terror groups from their bases, reopening key roads and protecting some villages in the hinterland of Cabo Delgado province. Another 2,000 Rwandan troops are securing areas around Palma and the Afungi Peninsula – the base of activities for liquid natural gas (LNG) projects in Cabo Delgado's Rovuma basin.

The province is far from secure, however, and few internally displaced people have returned to their homes. Attacks have also spread westward from Cabo Delgado to neighbouring Niassa province.

Following President Cyril Ramaphosa's visit to Mozambique last month, Samim's South African contingent, deployed alongside soldiers from Botswana, Tanzania and Lesotho, is being beefed up. Zambia has also apparently promised air support, along with Angola. This up-scaling could increase the military intervention to 3,000 troops, as SADC intended in April 2021. Funding is being sought from the European Union and the African Union Peace Fund, among others.

With this mission, SADC got at least one thing right. Instead of opting for non-African interventions, Mozambique's neighbours dug into their already heavily constrained defence budgets to fund the initial deployment.

Still, while SADC provided a prompt regional solution once it got the green light from Maputo, the strategy is insufficient. It needs more focus on intelligence-led operations, developing northern Mozambique and tackling the roots of the crisis.

Poverty and unemployment are high, access to land and resources is contested, and there is political infighting among the ruling elite over lucrative deals in Cabo Delgado. Also, dialogue between local officials, business leaders, and extremist groups could be an option when the time is right.

More infantry and heavy military equipment are unlikely to



French athletes take a selfie with Bing Dwen Dwen, mascot of Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games, at Zhangjiakou Medals Plaza of the Winter Olympics in Zhangjiakou, north China's Hebei Province, Feb. 14, 2022. File photo

solve the problem in the long term. Surrounding the Afungi peninsula with security forces so that LNG activities can proceed – while community frustrations remain and fester – is not the solution. New ISS research shows that Cabo Delgado locals regard the discovery and management of resources such as gas and rubies as among the most important causes of the insurgency.

Good governance and more equitable access to the province's natural resource wealth are vital for any development and peacebuilding strategies. The answer lies with Mozambique's political elites and their commitment to stabilising the north and preventing the insurgency from spreading. Without this, hundreds of millions of dollars spent on these initiatives will go to waste. Illicit activities in Cabo Delgado and the involvement of political and business net-

works – while highly sensitive – must also be curbed.

Better cooperation between the multiple external actors on the ground in northern Mozambique is also crucial. SADC, for example, deployed its military mission, which is a part of the African Standby Force, without first tabling it for discussion at the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council. It is only now that SADC is approaching the AU for access to the Peace Fund and assistance with mobilising resources.

Various United Nations (UN) agencies are involved in a myriad of initiatives and humanitarian projects in Cabo Delgado, but there is – at least publicly – little evidence of cooperation between SADC, the AU and the UN.

Few, if any discussions at the heads of state level have happened between SADC leaders

and Rwanda to coordinate the foreign military intervention in Cabo Delgado. Rwanda's president Paul Kagame has not been invited to any of the many SADC summits devoted to the Mozambique deployment over the past year. The question of how Rwanda is funding its troop presence has also not been resolved.

Many of the challenges emerging in Mozambique have also confronted Mali and the wider Sahel region. These include the complexity of different and poorly coordinated foreign interventions, the lack of synergy among humanitarian, military and peacebuilding actors, and a focus on military deployments instead of root causes. The need for holistic approaches

that recognise the link between security, governance and development has been highlighted for both the Sahel and Mozambique.

Southern Africa must do everything possible to prevent violent extremism from taking root in the region. The attacks have shattered lives and livelihoods in Cabo Delgado and pose a real threat to adjacent provinces and neighbouring countries such as Malawi and Tanzania.

Cabo Delgado desperately needs all the economic upliftment it can get, but its image as a safe investment destination has been shattered. A crisis like the one facing the Sahel would be devastating for Mozambique and the Southern African region. **DM**

Partisan battles brewing over Senate confirmation of Biden's Supreme Court pick

WASHINGTON

PARTISAN battles are brewing on U.S. Capitol following President Joe Biden's announcement of his pick for the first African American woman on the nation's Supreme Court.

Republicans have immediately gone after Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, who currently sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, over things like her support from progressive and left-wing groups and her elite educational background.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell underlined in a statement on Friday that he voted against confirming Jackson to the D.C. Circuit last year. McConnell alleged "Jackson was the favored choice of far-left dark-money groups" and vowed to carefully review the nomination "during the vigorous and thorough Senate process."

Biden announced his nomination of Jackson to the Supreme Court from the White House on Friday and introduced her

as "a daughter of former public school teachers, a proven consensus builder, an accomplished lawyer, a distinguished jurist."

He stressed that the U.S. government and courts "haven't looked like America" for too long, while expressing hope that elevating Jackson to the Supreme Court could "inspire all young people to believe that they can one day serve their country at the highest level." Since the Supreme Court was established in the United States in 1789, 115 justices have served on the bench. Of them, 108 were white men.

Jackson, 51, has been viewed as a potential candidate for the Supreme Court after being confirmed by the Senate last year with bipartisan support to the D.C. Circuit, often referred to as the second most powerful court in the United States.

Born in D.C. but raised in Miami, Jackson received her law degree from Harvard University and graduated cum laude in 1996. Earlier in her legal career, she worked as an assistant

federal public defender in D.C. and served as vice chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission for four years. Senator Lindsey Graham, one of the three Republicans siding with Democrats to approve Jackson to serve on the D.C. Circuit, appeared to be displeased by Biden's decision not to nominate Judge J. Michelle Childs of the U.S. District Court in South Carolina.

"If media reports are accurate, and Judge Jackson has been chosen as the Supreme Court nominee to replace Justice Breyer, it means the radical Left has won President Biden over yet again," Graham, a veteran lawmaker from South Carolina, tweeted on Friday. "I expect a respectful but interesting hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee," he suggested. "The Harvard-Yale train to the Supreme Court continues to run unabated."

Biden's promise to select an African American woman for the Supreme Court went back to early races of the Democratic Party presidential primaries in 2020. During a debate day be-



fore voting began in South Carolina, where six in 10 Democratic voters were African American, Biden said he's "looking forward to making sure there's a black woman on the Supreme Court" to ensure various representation.

The former U.S. vice president eventually won a commanding victory in the Palmetto State's primary, which turned his campaign around and arguably set him on a path to win the White House race.

Congressman James Clyburn, who reportedly suggested Biden pledge to put the first African American woman on

the Supreme Court before the critical primary, had advocated Childs, who attended public schools rather than Ivy League institutions, to get the nomination.

"I am very, very concerned that we take on this elitist kind of atmosphere when we pretend that the only way you can demonstrate leadership qualifications is to go to certain schools... I don't think that's right," Clyburn said last month, who is the third-highest ranking House Democrat and an influential African American legislator.

Nevertheless, Clyburn praised Biden's Supreme Court choice in a statement on Friday and said Childs "continues to make all South Carolinians proud."

The progress to vet Jackson in the Senate has begun, according to Senate Judiciary Committee Chair and Democrat Dick Durbin, with the hope of hearings held in the coming weeks and a confirmation vote "as soon as possible." Justice Sonia Sotomayor has recently delivered a warning about intensifying par-

tisanship that she says puts the Supreme Court's independence on the brink of crisis.

"As norms of the nomination process are broken, more senators, congressional representatives, governors, mayors, local politicians, and the media question the legitimacy of the court," Sotomayor said in a virtual appearance for New York University Law School earlier this month. "The threat is greater and unprecedented than any time in our history."

"The more partisan the voting becomes, the less belief that the public is likely to have that Congress is making a merit-based or qualifications-based assessment of judicial nominees," the liberal justice said on the Senate confirmation process. Biden's nomination of Jackson for the Supreme Court came about a month after Justice Stephen Breyer, a longtime liberal, said that he is set to retire this summer after nearly three decades on the bench. Jackson clerked for Breyer in the 1999-2000 term. Court watchers have argued Jackson is expected to

vote very similarly to Breyer. Her ascension won't change the Supreme Court's ideological balance, in which conservatives have a 6-3 majority over liberals.

This year, the Supreme Court will rule on cases involving a series of major issues, including abortion, affirmative action and gun control. It requires a simple majority of votes in the 100-seat Senate to confirm Jackson to be the next Supreme Court justice. The Senate is evenly split between the two parties.

Democrats can approve the nomination without Republican support, with Vice President Kamala Harris casting a tie-breaking vote.

The Supreme Court is the final appellate court of the U.S. judicial system, with the power to review and overturn lower court decisions, and is also generally the final interpreter of federal law, including the country's constitution.

The justices have life tenure and can serve until they die, resign, retire or are impeached and removed from office.

Xinhua

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Climate shocks forcing African communities to change course

By Kevin O'Sullivan

In adapting to a merciless climate emergency, a large community in rural Kenya has radically changed its way of life and food production in less than two years.

The plains of Tana River County have been a workplace for generations of East Africans, stretching back to a time when there were no nations and no borders. Pastoralism - grazing of camel, goats, and sheep across pastureland - is in the lifeline of nearly everyone who lives there. But it has become extremely problematic.

Cyclical drought is a persistent feature of the weather here, yet pastoralists have learned to adapt during recent lean times. The problem now is weather patterns have been changing rapidly and often combining to worsen impacts, as highlighted by the latest report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This comes with disastrous consequences.

In some places in Africa, there has been no appreciable rainfall for four years.

"We were pastoralists since our forefathers time," says Salah Bare Ogle, "but our livestock became totally depleted due to drought. People were facing starvation, and the few livestock we had left were stolen."

Losing the herd is the equivalent of a business going bankrupt, and there are no government safety nets. Many families had no choice but to migrate and take their chances in the slums of Nairobi. Those who stayed saw child malnutrition rates rise above emergency levels with communities heavily reliant on food aid to survive.

Then everything changed. Tana River County had a secret weapon; an

untapped resource indicated in the name. "The river flows right across the whole county, so the potential is there, the land is there ... and the people are there," according to local official Mwanajuma Hiribae. "If the water can be made available to this arable land, it can dramatically change this into a food producing county."

Yet agriculture has only ever been practised here on an ad-hoc basis; most communities have little or no experience of growing crops at scale. Salah's home village of Matagala was a case in point. "We literally never planted anything in our lives before," he laughs.

As it happens, Concern Worldwide Kenya had been investigating ways to tackle rising child malnutrition - beyond obvious short-term solutions of nutrition clinics and therapeutic food. "I think we came along at just the right time," says its programme director Hassan Olow.

Hassan's team brought 20 communities together for consultations and they worked up a plan with the local government, involving irrigation, machinery, training, tools, seeds, and all the other inputs that go into clearing and preparing land for growing crops. Funding was secured from one of the world's biggest food ingredients firms, ADM, based 10,000 km away in the American midwest.

"There was a real mixture of people involved," Olow adds, "from small scale farmers with some experience of agriculture to people who had never sowed a single seed. We were hopeful, but we weren't really sure what to expect."

In their first two seasons, communities produced over 850 tonnes of combined produce, worth about



Irrigation under way on newly cleared land at Husingo, Tana River, Kenya.

€200,000. "On my farm we grow mung beans, tomatoes, maize, collard greens, spinach, cow peas, and watermelon," says Mariam Billow Samur. Elsewhere there is kale, banana, okra, onions, groundnuts, and red pepper.

Some produce is for home consumption; the rest is brought to market. The pastoralists have not entirely turned their back on their herding heritage, but moving to agriculture has been a gamechanger. "We still keep livestock, but now we have both options," Salma Juma notes.

As the recent prolonged drought has worsened across Kenya, these communities have been insulated from its worst effects. Incomes have risen, malnutrition rates have fallen, prices have stabilised, and many groups are using their profits to clear and prepare even bigger tracts of

land, without any additional support from Concern. For the first time in 30 years, there was no need for emergency food distributions last year in this area.

Hope amid hunger crisis

Baby Mohamed lies in an incubator in the Dollow Referral Hospital in Dollow District, Gedo Region in southern Somalia. He was born recently at 28 weeks, weighing just 1.5 kilograms and clinging to life.

His mother gave birth to him in the Kabasa Camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) but was rushed to hospital and died of complications from her labour. The family moved from their home to the camp three months ago due to drought fuelled by climate change.

Mohamed has been monitored in an incubator in the hospital under the

care of Trócaire's nursing co-ordinator Habiba Ali Maalim. Within a week of his birth his weight had increased to 1.95kgs. The incubator provides warmth, while the care team are doing feeds with formula milk using a cup and spoon every three hours.

Trócaire Nursing Co-ordinator in Dollow Referral Hospital in Gedo Region in southern Somalia, Habiba Ali Maalim, tends to premature infant Mohammad born in a refugee camp at just 28 weeks weighing 1.5 kgs.

They use the Kangaroo Mother Care Method with Mohamed, a body-to-body contact procedure performed once a day for one to two hour to help premature babies bond with parents. His father does likewise when he is able to get to the hospital from the IDP camp. He is caring for his other son, 18-months-old Hamza.

It is one success story amid a devastating hunger crisis driven by climate change taking hold in the Horn of Africa. Currently 7.7 million people in Somalia - half the population - are in dire need of humanitarian assistance given one the worst droughts in the past 40 years. Over 554,000 people have fled their homes, moving to already overcrowded IDP camps.

Trócaire Somalia country manager Paul Healy says it is devastating to witness what is happening on the ground. "Severe hunger has taken hold and it will get much worse in the coming months unless urgent action is taken."

Maternal and child health is a huge challenge, compounded by the growing hunger crisis, he adds.

Trócaire's team of doctors and healthcare workers has been the main healthcare provider in the Gedo region for over 30 years, providing services to 19,000 people every month and educating 4,000 children. At Dollow referral health centre, they deliver an average of 110 babies a month. Typically, they are discharged within 24 hours unless they are ill or premature.

There are thousands of children like Mohamed in Somalia. "These are times of great hunger. Children are the most vulnerable. There is limited access to food, and food prices are rising, predisposing families and their children to severe malnutrition," Healy adds.

"Climate change is wreaking havoc. Severe water shortages have heightened the risk of disease outbreaks, with people and animals now competing for untreated water from hand-dug shallow wells and dwindling rivers," he says. The climate factor is increasingly obvious.

"Cases of acute watery diarrhoea/ cholera and outbreaks of measles are on the rise. There are witnessed accounts of IDP populations feeding on animal carcasses at night, creating a further severe risk of disease."

GGML becomes the best mining company 2021

By Guardian Correspondent

GEITA Gold Mining Company (GGML) has been awarded a trophy for the best performing mining company of the year 2021.

The mining firm was announced during the 4th International Minerals and Mining Investment Conference 2022 in Dar es Salaam recently.

Addressing delegates at the International Minerals and Mining Investment Conference, AngloGold Ashanti's President (Sustainability) responsible for Tanzania and Ghana, Simon Shayo said: "As long as this company exists in Tanzania, we will not only partner with the government in development, as we have shown the commitment in supporting the communities around our mine, where we spend at least 9bn/- every year."

He said GGML, which has been in Tanzania since 2000, has been operating as a beacon for those key areas especially in the contribution of government revenue.

"Many times including the last financial year we were recognized as the largest taxpayer in the mining sector, but the second largest taxpayer in all sectors," he said.

The company, which provided more than 90m/- to fund the conference, employs more than 5,600 employees and 97 percent of them are Tanzanians and 80 percent of all GGML management are Tan-

zanians.

"Also 85 percent of the money we spend on procurement remains here in Tanzania, it's our opportunity to work hard and produce more Tanzanian products but in any case of anything we cannot give up because we are in a good place," he said, adding: "I continue to be grateful to our company for being given the opportunity to participate but also one of the major sponsors of this exhibition."

In addition to the award, GGML also received the following trophies for 2021: Winner: Local Content Performance Award, winner: Outstanding Performance Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Projects Award, winner: Award for Environmental and Safety Issues Compliance as per Applicable Laws in 2021 and runner-up: Contribution to Government Revenues in the Mining Sector Award.

The Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango opened the conference themed; "Enabling Environment for the Development of Tanzania's Mining Industry" and the event was launched in 2019 to mobilize and interact with potential investors from around the world, renowned speakers, mining sector exhibitors, mining technology exhibitions, business matchmaking organizations, mineral value addition and an exhibition.

The conference was attended by more than 1200 guests from within and outside the country.



AngloGold Ashanti's Vice President (Sustainability) Ghana & Tanzania, Simon Shayo (C) accepts one of the many awards on behalf of GGML from former President Jakaya Kikwete (L) and Minister for Minerals Dr Doto Biteko (R) at the International Minerals and Mining Investment Conference 2022 in Dar es Salaam recently.

WFP helps Kenyan pastoralists adapt to changing weather

By Martin Karimi

SIMON is the face of adaptation, resilience, and triumph. Once a farm labourer earning meagre wages, he is now the proud owner of an oasis of nutrient-rich foods in arid and drought-ravaged northern Kenya.

Drought caused by three consecutive failed rainy seasons has left 31 million people food insecure in Kenya, affecting the food security of 13 million people across the Horn of Africa region.

Simon's family were once livestock keepers, but persistent drought often cost them their animals - their only source of wealth - forcing them to abandon a traditional way of life and to seek alternative sources of income.

"I worked as a farmhand doing everything from cultivating, planting and harvesting," says Simon.



Simon enjoyed farming. It was a new way of life - away from the unpredictability of keeping livestock. But growing food for someone else troubled him. In 2019, he established a 'forest

of food' by converting scrubland into an oasis of fruit trees and vegetables in Turkana County - one of Kenya's most drought-prone regions.

Simon honed his farming skills further by undertaking training courses from the World Food Programme (WFP) on conservation agriculture; planting techniques that involve minimal disturbance of the soil; marketing and educating himself online.

"I am growing many things," he says. "I have guava, pawpaw, bananas, and sugarcane and over there - avocados, mangoes and many other fruits too."

On his farm, you will also find lemongrass, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, kale, watermelons, cowpeas, spinach, onion, chilies, oranges, and cassava.

"As a parent, I have a responsibility to make sure there is food at

home," says Simon. "When I have a full stomach, I feel able to go and look for money."

Simon is constantly looking for ways to increase efficiency on the farm which is a source of both nourishment and income for his family of five.

At the top on his mind is lowering the cost of pumping water from the nearby Turkwell River. Currently, he uses a petrol-powered pump which costs around US\$5 to irrigate the 100 x 70-metre farm.

By planting crops in sunken pits and using mulching - leaving all plant matter on the farm's floor to retain moisture in the soil - he has reduced the number of times he waters the crop from thrice to once a week.

However, with the ongoing drought and temperatures rising to 53°C, he is forced to pump

water for longer to satisfy the parched soil and compensate for high evaporation rates.

"The drought has significantly increased irrigation costs, but it has also helped because the demand for vegetables is now very high," he says.

Pawpaw is Simon's cash crop earning him the equivalent of US\$62 per week, while banana is the family's staple choice.

"WFP has provided us with seeds and linked us to buyers which mean we can grow more food because we are already connected to customers," he explains.

In the near future, WFP plans to install a solar-powered irrigation system for Simon and other farmers in the area, introducing clean energy and saving on the cost of fuel.

Will Russia follow USSR expelled from League of Nations for invading Finland in a bygone era?

UNITED NATIONS

THE Russian Federation, condemned worldwide for invading a founding member of the United Nations...

The emergency meeting, for the first time in 40 years, took place on a request by the UN Security Council (UNSC).

Having survived a critical resolution in the UNSC last week because of its veto, Russia remained politically isolated once again as criticisms poured in from over 100 speakers...

The meetings in the Security Council and the General Assembly, however, left two questions unanswered: Would civilian killings in Ukraine lead to an investigation of war crimes?

Harking back to history, the League of Nations, the predecessor to the United Nations, formed at the end of World War I, expelled the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) in December 1939...

Louis Charbonneau, United Nations Director at Human Rights Watch, told IPS Russia may have vetoed a resolution in the UN Security Council last week...

and abstained.

But if Russia's goal was to silence UN member states, it has failed miserably, as evidenced by the historic Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly, he said.

"And we hope either the General Assembly or Human Rights Council will quickly establish a commission of inquiry to investigate war crimes, atrocities and other violations by parties to the conflict.

The last Emergency Special Session, requested by the Security Council, was in 1982 on the crisis on Golan Heights.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on February 28 that fighting in Ukraine has pushed roughly half a million people across the country's borders...

There were also reports of over 350 civilians killed, including women and children, triggering a humanitarian crisis.

In 1974, South Africa was suspended from the General Assembly, following a 1973 resolution which labeled apartheid a "crime against humanity".

But it is unlikely the current General Assembly will go in that direction because the Russian Federation, a successor state to the USSR, is a veto-wielding permanent member of the Security Council.

Meanwhile, even as the emergency special session was continuing, the United States informed both the United Nations and the Russian Permanent Mission to the United Nations that it was in the process of expelling



Diving for abalone is a source of income for coastal communities but it does not seem to lead to sustainable wealth.

12 "intelligence operatives from the Russian Mission who have abused their privileges of residency in the United States by engaging in espionage activities adverse to our national security".

"We are taking this action in accordance with the UN Headquarters Agreement. This action has been in development for several months," the US State Department said February 28.

Thomas G. Weiss, Distinguished Fellow, Global Governance, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, told IPS while the nuclear-sabre-rattling Russia is as much a pariah as apartheid South Africa, there is no chance that Russia will be suspended.

"There are different rules, as we all know, for the major-power ganders that do not apply to most member-state geese," he pointed out.

The "Special" Session of the Gen-

eral Assembly is, well, "special" and has been used only a handful of times in three-quarters of a century of UN history.

Perhaps there is hope that the usual chorus of voices that see sovereignty as sacrosanct-think China and India-will begin to be willing to say "nyet" to Russian irredentist imperialism?

Told about the expulsion of Russia from the League of Nations in a bygone era, he remarked: "The League was on its last legs. Let's hope the UN is not!"

Barbara Crossette, a former UN Bureau Chief for the New York Times and

currently contributing editor at Pass-Blue.com, told IPS Russia's position in the global community has been very much weakened, by the savage unprovoked assault, spurring huge pro-Ukrainian protests around the world...

"My own Eastern European family - or what remains of it - did not get this kind of attention with the invasion of Hungary or Czechoslovakia," she said pointing out the images now of well-dressed refugees fleeing their homeland - as well as the Brandenburg Gate and the Empire State Building (among so many places) illuminated in Ukrainian colors...

Jens Martens, Director, Global Policy Forum, based in Bonn, told IPS the inability to respond to Putin's flagrant violation of international law once again proved the ineffectiveness of the Security Council and its anachronistic composition and veto rules.

The veto power of the P5 - namely the US, UK, France, China and Russia - have always been a major obstacle to resolve global conflicts, he said, pointing out the emergency special session of the General Assembly under the Uniting for Peace resolution is the only way for the UN members to condemn Russia's violation of the UN Charter.

"It demonstrates that the vision of the UN remains highly relevant. It will probably not change Putin's mind but it can give moral support to Russia's civil society and the opposition groups, which reject the war and fight for peace and democracy.

In view of the paralysis of the Security Council, the General Assembly, as the only global body with universal membership, must play a much more important role. In this respect, the emergency special session of the General Assembly can have an important signaling function and set a precedent for the future, said Martens.

Addressing delegates, the President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid said the ongoing military offensive is an affront to the founders of this Organization and everything it

stands for.

"The violence must stop, humanitarian law and international humanitarian law must be respected. And diplomacy and dialogue must prevail."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told delegates that although Russian strikes are reportedly largely targeting Ukrainian military facilities, "we have credible accounts of residential buildings, critical civilian infrastructure and other non-military targets sustaining heavy damage."

Civilians, including children, have been killed in the violence. "Enough is enough," he said. "Soldiers need to move back to their barracks. Leaders need to move to peace. Civilians must be protected. International humanitarian and human rights law must be upheld."

The world is facing what is a tragedy for Ukraine, he added, but also a major regional crisis with potentially disastrous implications for all.

Guterres also said Russian nuclear forces have been put on high alert. "This is a chilling development. The mere idea of a nuclear conflict is simply unacceptable. Nothing can justify the use of nuclear weapons," he said.

Some 352 Ukrainians, including 16 children have been killed to date, he reported, while more than 2,000 were injured. He said now is the time to help his country.

Ukraine's Ambassador, Sergiy Kyslytsya, said that for the first time since the UN was established, a full-fledged war was unfolding in the centre of Europe.

"If Ukraine does not survive, international peace will not survive. If Ukraine does not survive, the United Nations will not survive, have no illusions. And if Ukraine does not survive, we cannot be surprised if democracy fails next," he warned.

Should the United Nations fail to respond to the crisis, it will face much more than criticism - it will face oblivion, he said.

He also pointed out that while the Russian Federation has done everything possible to legitimize its presence at the United Nations, its membership is not legitimate, as the General Assembly never voted on its admission to the Organization following the fall of the Soviet Union in December 1991.

Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia of the Russian Federation said the root of the conflict lies at the feet of the Ukraine authorities and Western countries supporting them. Right now, lies are being spread across media outlets, including that the Russian Federation is shelling civilians.

"Nationalists, however, are deploying heavy equipment and operating in civilian areas - tactics used by terrorists that must be condemned".

For eight years, he said, a human rights body has reported how the neo-Nazis were born and are being maintained in Ukraine, with condemned criminals and convicts carrying out grave crimes, 25,000 machine guns being distributed without documentation, and with parties being tasked with slaughtering communities.

The Russian Federation did not begin these hostilities, which were unleashed by Ukraine, he said, adding that "Russia is seeking to end this war." IPS UN Bureau Report

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 236 00--

Word fit puzzle grid with clues for 3 letters, 4 letters, 5 letters, 6 letters, 7 letters, 8 letters, and 10 letters.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares.

3 LETTERS: SEE, LIT, GET. 4 LETTERS: BACK, UEFA, CAFE, RAGE, EBON SOON, IDEM. 5 LETTERS: ABODE, AGAIN, LASSO, ELECT, NDAMA. 6 LETTERS: ELITES, ADHERE, STAGER, PLUNGE TABOOS. 7 LETTERS: ALLOWED. 8 LETTERS: LEGALESE. 10 LETTERS: BOUNDARIES.

Crossword clues: Across: 1 a native of the south, 5 a large perching bird with mostly black plumage, 7 bear native to bamboo forests in China, 8 Kathmandu is the Capital city, 10 the ship built by Noah, 11 Latin from Greek Khoreaia, 13 break with a sharp cracking sound, 15 accept, 17 movements of hands when you talk, 19 a person who uses something, 20 feel doubt. Down: 1 ill, 2 formal term for on, 3 not imagined or supposed, 4 tolerate, 6 put on clothes, 7 canal connects the pacific ocean and Atlantic ocean, 9 medium for communications, 12 stoat, 14 stone in Greek, 16 a diving waterbird with a long neck, 17 a weapon with bullets, 18 join fasten.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Program schedule for Monday through Sunday with time slots and program names.

BUSINESS



Russian central bank governor Elvira Nabiullina

Russia's Putin seeks to even the score through tight measures on forex

MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin has banned all Russian residents from transferring foreign currency abroad, hardening capital controls as part of a package of retaliatory measures for U.S. and European sanctions over his invasion of Ukraine.

The steps, which take effect today, include a ban on payments of hard currency made to foreigners "in connection with loan agreements," according to the text of the decree published yesterday.

The central bank later issued a clarification, saying the ban "only covers new loans and not servicing of existing debt." Some investors and economists had said the phrasing could amount to a default.

The text of Putin's decree "isn't formulated clearly enough and could be interpreted in different ways,"



The US and its allies have imposed sweeping sanctions on Russia's biggest banks, including the central bank, and limits on billionaires and top officials including Putin himself for the invasion of Ukraine. The moves triggered a sharp drop in the ruble and forced the central bank to take emergency steps to stabilize the market.

Dmitry Polevoy of Locko-Invest wrote in a note.

Interfax quoted a source it didn't name as saying the central bank had ordered depositories to temporarily suspend coupon and dividend payments to foreigners. That couldn't immediately be confirmed.

Anton Tabakh, chief economist at Moscow-based credit assessor Expert RA, called the Kremlin's new moves "capital controls of moderate harshness," similar to those seen in the early 2000s in Russia.

According to the decree, from today, the following transactions will be among those banned: Foreign-exchange operations related to the provision by residents of foreign currency under loan agreements with non-residents and crediting by residents of foreign currency to their deposit accounts opened with banks and other financial organizations located outside Russia as well as making money transfers without opening a bank account using electronic means of payment provided by foreign payment service providers.

The steps are part of a package of retaliatory measures for U.S. and European sanctions over his invasion of Ukraine. They also include restrictions on companies buying back their own stock, as well as some transfers to foreign accounts.

The US and its allies have imposed sweeping sanctions on Russia's biggest banks, including the central bank, and limits on billionaires and top officials including Putin himself for the invasion of Ukraine. The moves triggered a sharp drop in the ruble and forced the central bank to take emergency steps to stabilize the market.

Kigoma port upgrading to bolster handling capacity to 1.6m tonnes

By Adela Madyane, KIGOMA

KIGOMA port is expected to increase its handling capacity to 1.6 million tons from currently 600,000 tons, thanks to the port upgrading project to be financed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The project, which will go hand in hand with upgrading of Bujumbura port in Burundi, expected to start in July this year, as part of strengthening regional integration and boost trade movement.

According to Manga Gasaya, the acting Manager for Lake Tanganyika ports in Tanzania, the projects grant agreement signed in January this year.

He said the ports customers should be prepared to be served as they deserve, in accordance with their expectations.

"Currently JICA is conducting official data verification on water levels and possible increase in Lake Tanganyika to see if it can affect the project," he said.

The construction project will include harbour yard, key repairs, warehouse, passenger terminal and passenger lounge.

The improvements are aiming to cater for passengers and freights.

The two countries will benefit from improved cross border transport and networking the ports of Dar-es-Salaam to regional markets of Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and Democrat-



Cargo ship docked at Kigoma Port

ic Republic of Congo (DRC). Speaking during his study tour in Tanzania, the Burundi Marine, Ports and Railway Authority director general Jacques Bigirimana said, his learning expectations have been met and the knowledge acquired will help them implement the project with equal standards.

He said Burundi will continue to collaborate with Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to make sure the project is completed on time.

"I real appreciate how the ports of Dar-es-Salaam, because it is constructed with international standards. I therefore hope that our twin sister ports of Bujumbura and

Kigoma will also meet international standards to attract more business people into using it" said Bigirimana.

The Burundi ambassador in Tanzania Dr. Tilly Maleko said the visit not only help Burundians to cover its gap in ports upgrading project, but also increase economic ties and boost the economies of both countries.

"Travelling and transporting goods through the lake is easier than surface, the presence of ports will reduce freight charges to the level of affordability among users. The railways will also help because we will be able to transport cargo from Dar es Salaam ports to Kigoma port

then be moved to Burundi and other six neighboring countries," she said.

An ambassador said Burundi and Tanzania trade relations have grown by 50% over the last five years, and Tanzanian is trading more in Burundi than Burundi exports to Tanzania.

"In this sense, Burundians need to be motivated and start looking business opportunities in Tanzania's well," she said.

According to provisional data by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Tanzania exports to Burundi amounted 412bn/- in 2021 from 112bn/- in 2016, while Burundi exports to Tanzania amounted

1.4bn/- in 2021 from 1.6bn/- in 2016 and 636m/- in 2020.

Tanzania exports to Burundi included cement, salt, cereal flour, rice, corn, packing bags, cassava, groundnuts, gypsum and petroleum jelly while Burundi exports to Tanzania included cars, tropical fruits, medical instruments, soil preparation machinery, textiles, soap, women garments and palm oil.

On his part Robert Soko, a marketing director from ports headquarters in Dar-es-Salaam said Improving port will help increase in business and that the ports should be operated efficiently to bring success and increase business.

National agriculture insurance scheme policy just about done

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

THE Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) has finalized the first draft of the National Agriculture and Livestock Insurance Scheme policy guidelines designed to address challenges facing farmers, fishermen and pastoralists in terms of shocks, such as droughts and floods.

With an agricultural insurance scheme, the insured party (the farmer) pays a premium to an insurer to guarantee against losses (of crops, assets, property, livestock or income) over a defined period of time initially agreed upon by both parties.

Speaking to this paper, the TIRA Acting Director Planning, Research and Marketing Development Zakaria Muyengi said the modalities to rollout the scheme are being finalized.

He said the regulator has been working with the Ministry of Finance and Planning with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

Without giving the specific timeline on when the policy guidelines would be ready, Muyengi said once completed, the guidelines likely to be endorsed by the cabinet or parliament.

"When fully implemented, the guidelines will improve farmers' financial resilience to shocks and will enable them break the poverty cycle while contributing to economic growth," He said.

Muyengi noted that TIRA has already embarked on a fact-



Maize affected by drought

finding mission across the country to get smallholder farmers inputs for the proposed National Agriculture and Livestock Insurance Scheme.

"We are working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to determine the agricultural ecological zones for the pilot study that will go along with a dry run," he said.

The new scheme is expected to cover the country's strategic cash crops that include coffee, cotton, cashew nuts, tobacco, tea and sisal.

TIRA has already sent its team of experts to Uganda to familiarize with the Uganda Agricultural Insurance Scheme (UAIS).

Muyengi said the new scheme will allow banks to expand their lending portfolio to the agriculture sector without increasing default risk.

"The insurance covers could be used by the small holders to secure loans from financial institutions and boost their production capacity," Muyengi added.

According to Audax Rukonge, the Executive Director at Agricultural Non State Actors' Forum (ANSAF), it's inevitable for Tanzania to come up with a national agriculture insurance scheme, in order to address the financial shocks and challenges faced by smallholder that are beyond their control.

He noted the losses caused by perils such as extreme weather events such as drought and floods have a drastic impact on smallholder farmers' incomes and livelihood but surprisingly, many insurance providers have largely overlooked them.

"By bad luck we have car insurance, motorcycle insurance and house insurance but there is no insurance scheme for agricultural products to date. TIRA should come up with a scheme to address the needs of agriculturalists," he said.

Rukonge noted that the agricultural scheme will help restore confidence in farmers as they have a guarantee that they will be compensated in case anything happens during the farming season.

Agriculture remains central to Tanzania's industrialization and a source of livelihood for approximately 65 per cent of Tanzania's workforce.

According to the National Five-Year Development Plan 2021/22-2025/26, the Government will continue to develop strong forward and backward linkages between agriculture sector and other economic sectors while creating a favourable environment for the private sector to engage profitably in production and export of agricultural products.

DSE turnover jumps by 300pc on week's opening

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) daily turnover rose by 297 per cent to 282.8mn/- during the first day of the week from 71.15mn/- recorded last Friday.

The four-fold increase in turnover was mainly driven by soaring appetite from local investors.

According to the data from the DSE, 445,972 shares were traded in 54 deals during the opening of the week.

CRDB dominated the market after transacting 352,711 shares traded at weighted average price of 350/- per share in 29 deals accounting for 43.6% of the total turnover.

Other active trading counters in-

cluded TCCCL whose counter had 39,830 shares traded at weighted average price of 1,300/- per share in 5 deal, TPCC counter which had 12,350 shares traded at weighted average price 3,920/- per share in 4 deals and NMB whose counter had 20,000 shares traded at weighted average price of 2,700/- per share in 6 deals.

THE VODA counter on the other hand had 1,120 shares traded at weighted average price of 740/- per share in 1 deal while JATU counter had 7,010 shares traded at weighted average price of 320/- per share in 4 deals.

All the benchmark indices closed on the green as the All-share index (DSEI) gained 5.14 index points closing

at 1,949.22 while the Tanzania Share Index (TSI) gained 12.66 points, closing at 3799.02 points as TPCC and TCCLs share prices closed 4.26% and 4.84%, higher. According to the Orbit Securities Daily Market Report, local investors dominated the market, accounting for 52.84% of buy-side activities worth 149m/- and 81.52% of sell-side activities

230m/- Meanwhile, the secondary bond market generated a total of 8.08bn/- face value turnover, following the trading of the 20 and 25-years maturity bonds.

The bonds traded at prices ranging between 130.4177% and 143.9363% on the lowest and highest sides respectively.

Inventors of grain storage facilities shown how to serve farmers better

By Beatrice Philemon

GRAIN storage manufacturers and inventors from academic institutions have been advised to conduct research and come up with new low-cost storage facilities that will help small and medium farmers to store their crops and reduce food losses.

Centre for Climate Change Studies (CCCS)'s Coordinator at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) Dr Edmund Mabhuye made the call over the weekend when speaking at the just-ended one-day training for members of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on climate change related issues.

The training was organized by Women Action towards Entrepreneurship Development (WATED) in collaboration with Gender and Climate Change Tanzania Coalition (GCCTC) with funding from Netherlands-based organisation—Both ENDS.

Farmers should be empowered to access high quality storage facilities in accordance with their needs because there are increased shortages of the facilities in Tanzania.

"Just look, as Earth's temperature continues to rise rapidly in various areas across the country, grains and other crops will be affected by aflatoxins and fungus that is unsafe for human consumption due to high temperature," he said.

He urged the government to direct more effort in research, to ensure farmers access storage facilities in accordance with the crops they grow and geographical positions.

"It's very important to take action on it because farmers are still using traditional gallon, drum storage facilities that are not good to store crops they have," he said.



Harvested maize

According to him, grain is still the main source food for most families and sometimes used as animal feed in Tanzania.

"If the government and other stakeholders will not take action on it the on-going effects of climate change will affect grain especially during storage," he said.

"As you know food loss occurs during the post-harvest stage and storage. In response to climate change stress, there is an urgent need

to share the knowledge they have and develop efficient and sustainable methods to maintain post-harvest quality," he added.

Investing in post-harvest technologies to reduce food losses could significantly increase the food supply in Tanzania.

Right now communities across the country are already experiencing impacts of climate change.

In an interview last year with the National Food Reserve Agency

(NFRA)'s Chief Executive Officer, Milton Lupa said that NFRA is set to construct 65 new storage facilities worth USD 55 million in eight regions with the capacity to store 250,000 MT of grains.

The new storage facilities will be constructed in Songwe, Katavi, Ruvuma, Njombe, Manyara, Shinyanga, Dodoma and Rukwa Regions.

Among those, 65 storage facilities are silos and the remained nine are

warehouses.

The construction of new storage will increase the storage capacity from the current 251,000 MT to 501,000 MT of grains; improve the working environment of the agency, governance and accountability.

NFRA is now building new facilities through a five year project 'dubbed' Storage Capacity Expansion Project on Construction of silos, warehouses and other infrastructures with the support from Poland government.

Oil shipping costs soar for vital routes on Russian invasion

WASHINGTON

FREIGHT rates for hauling crude from Russia are surging as sanctions imposed on the country push up the risks of carrying cargoes on those routes, while a scramble for alternative supplies boosts the rates for other passages.

Shipowners are offering at least double the last transacted rate to carry so-called ESPO crude from Kozmino, which loads oil from Russia's Far East, to ports in China, according to traders and a shipbroker who asked not to be identified.

Rates from Russia's Baltic and Black Sea regions in Europe have both added more than \$100,000 a day, reaching the highest since 2008, according to data from the Baltic Exchange in London.

Meanwhile, vessel owners are charging far higher prices to send giant super-tankers with 2 million barrels of oil from the US to the Far East after doing deals at nearly double the levels earlier in February, according to people familiar with the matter.

Commodity markets have been thrown into turmoil by the Russian invasion, with merchant vessels hit in the Black Sea.

Brent crude has topped \$100 a barrel, and prices surged again Monday after a fresh raft of sanctions was directed against the Russian central bank and other entities.

That's raising the risk of handling the nation's raw materials, while boosting interest for alternatives to Russian oil such as American and Persian Gulf crudes.

Although American oil is considered pricey versus comparable crude from the Middle East, grades from the US Gulf Coast such as Mars Blend are alternatives to Russia's flagship Urals crude, traders said.

Other replacements are Iraq's Basrah Medium and Saudi Arabia's Arab Light, while those for ESPO and Sokol include Murban, Arab Extra Light and West Texas Intermediate.

In addition to avoiding Russian crude, buyers are also looking to transport their oil cargoes aboard non-Russian vessels, adding premiums for other tankers, according to people familiar with the matter. Adding to this is the rising cost of ship fuels, also known as bunkers.

In the US, bunker fuel has skyrocketed to a seven-year high.

Furthermore, ship staffing may be starting to become an issue as Ukrainian citizens have been asked to go back home to help with the war effort, the people said.



Although American oil is considered pricey versus comparable crude from the Middle East, grades from the US Gulf Coast such as Mars Blend are alternatives to Russia's flagship Urals crude

NICOL seeks to hire CFO, investments committee

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

WITH a few months after posting strong financial performance last year, the National Investment Company Limited (NICOL) is now seeking to hire a Chief Finance Officer (CFO) and an investments committee to spearhead the company's operations to greater heights.

According to an advert published in the media on Monday, the Dar es Salaam Exchange (DSE) listed company seeks to unlock its long-term value to ensure that it manages its investments in a professional way in line with international best practices.

The CFO will report directly to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and will provide both technical and administrative support in terms of investments analysis, budget management, forecasting needs and the securing of new funding.

"The CFO will provide an advisory role and assist the CEO regarding overall financial management of the company," the advert said.

The investment committee will on the other hand provide technical advice to the Board of Directors to ensure the shareholders' funds are invested wisely in high returns generating projects.

The NICOL Acting Chief Executive Officer, Erasto Ngamilaga during the



Nicol shareholders register for the AGM 2021

company's Annual General Meeting last year said the once troubled company had started recording profit from its various investments portfolio.

The value of the NICOL share on the bourse has increased in recent months with DSE data indicating share price increased by 1.47 per

cent to close at 345/- per during last Friday's trading session.

NICOL has an authorized share capital of 200bn/- divided into 1.6 billion shares of 125/- each; 37,841,218 shares of 125/- each have been issued and fully paid.

Its current market capitalization at

the DSE is 23.87bn/- as of the end of February. NICOL was established as a private initiative on 25th June 2003 by a few individuals who raised equity to inaugurate its incorporation and registration.

It was initially registered under the acronym NICO, which was later

changed (in 2007) to separate itself from other entities that used the same acronym.

It currently has two active subsidiaries: Tanzania Fisheries Development Company Limited (TFDC) and Tanzania Meat Company Limited (TMCL).

BP quits Russia in up to \$25 billion hit after Ukraine invasion

LONDON

BP is abandoning its stake in Russian oil giant Rosneft in an abrupt and costly end to three decades of operating in the energy-rich country, marking the most significant move yet by a Western company in response to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Rosneft accounts for around half of BP's oil and gas reserves and a third of its production and divesting the 19.75% stake will result in charges of up to \$25 billion, the British company said, without saying how it plans to extricate it-

self.

"I have been deeply shocked and saddened by the situation unfolding in Ukraine and my heart goes out to everyone affected. It has caused us to fundamentally rethink bp's position with Rosneft," BP Chief Executive Bernard Looney said.

The rapid retreat represents a dramatic exit for BP, the biggest foreign investor in Russia, and puts the spotlight on other Western companies with operations in the country including France's TotalEnergies and Britain's

Shell, amid an escalating crisis between the West and Moscow.

It also underscores growing pressure from Western governments on their companies to curtail operations in Russia as they widen a net of economic sanctions against Moscow.

British Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng, who on Friday had expressed "concern" over BP's Rosneft, welcomed the decision.

"Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine must be a wake up call for British businesses with commercial in-

terests in (President Vladimir) Putin's Russia," Kwarteng said on Twitter.

Rosneft blamed BP's decision on "unprecedented political pressure", Russian news agencies reported, saying 30 years of successful cooperation had been ruined.

Susannah Streeter, senior investment analyst at British retail stock broker Hargreaves Lansdown, said it will be "highly difficult" for BP "to recover anywhere near what was considered to be the full value" of Rosneft.

Last week, Looney said that BP was

sticking to its Russian business and would comply with any Western sanctions on Moscow.

Earlier, Putin put Russia's nuclear deterrent on high alert in the face of Western reprisals for his invasion of Ukraine, which included blocking access to the SWIFT international payment system for some Russian banks.

And Norway's \$1.3 trillion sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest, will divest its Russian assets after the Ukraine invasion, its prime minister said.

BP said its move and financial hit

will not impact its short and long term financial targets within its strategy to shift away from oil and gas to low-carbon fuels and renewables energy.

But Hargreaves Lansdown's Streeter said a write down of this magnitude is "likely to limit the extent to which BP can continue to accelerate its transition towards renewables."

Looney and his predecessor as CEO Bob Dudley will both step down from the board of Rosneft, which BP acquired a shareholding in as part of its \$12.5 billion TNK-BP stake sale in 2013.

WORLD

UN imposes arms embargo on Houthis in Yemen

UNITED NATIONS

THE Security Council on Monday adopted a resolution that imposes an arms embargo on the Houthi militia in Yemen as an entity.

Resolution 2624, which was adopted with 11 votes in favor and four abstentions, decides that the Houthis as an entity shall be subject to the arms embargo contained in its previous Resolution 2216 of 2015.

Resolution 2216 and later resolutions targeted individuals from the Houthi group for arms embargo, not the Houthi group as an entity.

Resolution 2624 reaffirms the open-ended arms embargo in Resolution 2216, and decides to renew the asset freeze and travel ban measures till Feb 28, 2023.

Resolution 2624 decides to extend till March 28, 2023, the mandate of the Panel of Experts that assists the Sanctions Committee. The Security Council

expresses its intention to review the panel's mandate and take appropriate action regarding the further extension no later than Feb 28, 2023.

It requests the Panel of Experts to provide a midterm update to the Sanctions Committee no later than July 28, 2022, and a final report no later than Jan 28, 2023, to the Security Council.

The resolution condemns the continued supply of weapons and components to Yemen in violation of the targeted arms embargo established in Resolution 2216, as a serious threat to peace and stability in Yemen and the region.

It strongly condemns the cross-border attacks by the Houthis, including attacks on Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and demands the immediate cessation of such attacks.

It emphasizes that there is no military solution to the current conflict and that the only viable path forward is dialogue and reconciliation among the multiple and varied parties, including but not



Newly recruited Houthi fighters chant slogans as they ride a military vehicle during a gathering in the capital Sanaa to mobilize more fighters to battlefronts in several Yemeni cities, on Jan 3, 2017. File photo

limited to the government of Yemen and the Houthi, Yemen's major political and regional parties, and women, youth and civil society.

The resolution emphasizes the importance of facilitating humanitarian assistance and facilitating commercial imports, noting that the sanctions are not intended to have adverse humanitarian consequences for the civilian population of Yemen, nor civilian access to humanitarian assistance, commercial imports or remittances.

It reaffirms the Security Council's decision that the Sanctions Committee may, on a case-by-case basis, exempt any activity from the sanctions measures if the committee determines that such an exemption is necessary to facilitate the work of the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations in Yemen or for any other purpose consistent with the objectives of these resolutions.

IPCC report sounds alarm on climate change for next 20 years

GENEVA

THE planet is facing multiple unavoidable climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius, and even temporarily exceeding this warming level could result in additional severe irreversible impacts, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned in its latest report on Monday.

The IPCC publishes comprehensive scientific reports on the impact of climate change every six to seven years. These integrate reports by three separate working groups of experts.

In the latest report by Working Group II, "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability," IPCC highlights that climate change caused by human beings is affecting the lives of billions of people around the world, despite efforts to reduce risks. Those people and ecosystems least able to cope are being hardest hit.

"One of the most urgent areas for action is the world's coastal cities," said IPCC Working Group II Co-Chair Debra Roberts, in an exclusive interview with Xinhua. "They are at the forefront of experiencing some of the most immediate climate change impacts."

She holds the view that though growing urbanization and climate change create complex risks for cities already experiencing poorly-planned urban growth, cities also provide opportunities for climate action, with green buildings, reliable supplies of clean water and renewable energy, and sustainable transport systems that lead to a more inclusive, fairer society.

The loss of ecosystems is another crucial

impact of climate change to address, said Hans-Otto Poertner, another co-chair of the report.

"We are seeing a progressive loss of biodiversity, which is the foundation for healthy ecosystems that are providing humans with services like clean water," he told Xinhua.

By restoring degraded ecosystems and conserving 30 to 50 percent of Earth's land, freshwater and ocean habitats, society can benefit from nature's capacity to absorb and store carbon, Poertner said. This would assist in sustainable development.

He also called for international collaboration on climate action, especially from large resource countries that are causing the largest percentage of climate change. "We are all in the same boat," he said. "There's no area of the planet that is safe from the impacts of climate change."

Governments, the private sector and civil society should come together to tackle climate change, says the report, by prioritizing risk reduction as well as equity and justice in decision-making and investment.

"In this way, different interests, values and world views can be reconciled," said Roberts. "Failure to achieve cli-



In this undated photo, houses lay between the Senegal River and the Atlantic Ocean beach that has been affected by erosion in Saint Louis, Senegal, Nov 3, 2021. File photo

mate resilience and sustainable development will result in a sub-optimal future for people and nature."

Warning of a narrowing window for climate action, the report underlines that climate resilient development is already challenging at current warming levels, and will become more limited if global warming exceeds 1.5 de-

grees Celsius, even impossible in some regions if global warming exceeds 2 degrees Celsius.

"The scientific evidence is unequivocal: Climate change is a threat to human wellbeing and the health of the planet. Any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a livable future," said Poertner.

Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC, also sounded the alarm, saying this latest report "shows that climate change is a grave and mounting threat to our wellbeing and a healthy planet. Our actions today will shape how people and nature respond to increasing climate risks." Xinhua

International research links Aussie bushfires to ozone depletion

SYDNEY

New international research has shown that smoke from Australia's devastating 2019-20 summer bushfires may be linked to a significant period of ozone depletion.

The study, published in the Proceedings of the Na-

tional Academy of Sciences (PNAS) journal on Tuesday, found that smoke from the fires blown into the earth's high atmosphere may have resulted in a 1 percent depletion in the ozone layer -- an amount that would take a decade to naturally recover.

The 2019-20 Black Sum-

mer bushfires burnt through over 17 million hectares of land across eastern Australia according to the Australian and New Zealand National Council for Fire and Emergency Services (AFAC). It is estimated they released 270 million tons of carbon dioxide over just four

months.

Director of the Center for Atmospheric Chemistry at the University of Wollongong, Associate Professor Clare Murphy, who was not involved in the study, said this was the first time smoke's impact on the ozone layer had been quantified.

"Given that these really intense fires that are predicted to increase in the next couple of decades, because of climate change, it could be slowing down the recovery of the ozone layer."

She added that while people tend to think of ozone depletion in terms

of the Antarctic ozone hole, the smoke from fires could damage the ozone layer closer to home.

"(This) will increase the overall exposure to UV-radiation for Australians and hence may impact the occurrence of skin cancers in future," said Murphy.

Xinhua

Agencies

US states to end school mask mandates after March 11

LOS ANGELES / PARIS / ZAGREB

CALIFORNIA, Oregon and Washington will cease to require face coverings in schools after March 11 as the latest COVID-19 surge ebbs, but mask mandates will remain for higher-risk settings such as hospitals and prisons, governors of the three states said on Monday.

The joint action, following similar moves announced recently by several East Coast states, including New York and New Jersey, comes after the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday eased indoor masking guidelines for most of the nation.

The rollback of compulsory masking also highlights a growing inclination by political leaders in those states, all led by Democrats, to shift a pandemic-weary public from a health-crisis mode to policies that manage the virus as part of every day life.

Local governments and school districts will be free to keep their own mask mandates in place even after state-wide requirements are lifted, the West Coast governors said. The CDC's latest school guidance recommends masking only in communities with a "high" level of COVID-19 as the surge in infections and hospitalizations driven by the extremely contagious Omicron variant declines sharply. Its earlier recommendation advised masking in schools no matter the level of COVID transmission.

Governor Gavin Newsom of California, the most populous US state with some 6 million school children and 40 million residents overall, said masks will no longer be required in schools and child care facilities after March 11, but "will be strongly recommended."

Oregon and Washington are following suit. All three states said mask requirements would stay in effect for healthcare facilities, prisons, public transit, nursing homes and other settings where the risk of transmission remains particularly high.

California ended mask mandates in most other indoor public spaces as of Feb 16 for vaccinated individuals, and as part of Monday's action the unvaccinated will be free of mask requirements beginning on Tuesday.



Students walk to class amid the COVID-19 pandemic at Washington Elementary School on Jan 12, 2022 in Lynwood, California. File photo

Iran FM: Vienna talks not over, US must make tough decisions

TEHRAN

THE Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Monday that the talks in Vienna on the restoration of a 2015 nuclear deal have not come to an end, adding that the United States has yet to make tough political decisions.

Amir Abdollahian made the remarks in Monday's meeting with members of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

According to the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee's official report, as part of its supervisory role, the committee held a meeting with the foreign minister to assess the progress of the talks between Iran and the remaining parties to the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, in the Austrian capital.

The meeting was also aimed at following up on the Iranian negotiating team's efforts to achieve the targets set by the Parliament with a law it passed in December 2020 to counter US sanctions and safeguard Iranians' interests.

During the meeting, the report added, Amir Abdollahian laid out the efforts by the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi and the Iranian negotiating team to reach an agreement in Vienna.

Iran signed JCPOA with world powers in July 2015. However, former US President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the agreement in May 2018 and reimposed unilateral sanctions on Iran, which prompted the latter to drop some of its nuclear commitments one year later and advance its halted nuclear programs.

How Xi Jinping's economic thought reshapes China

BEIJING

CHINA has seen a phenomenal transformation in its economic landscape since the end of 2012 with the strength, scale and span all recording unprecedented changes.

China's GDP is around 53.858 trillion yuan in 2012, accounting for about 11.5 percent of the global total. Almost a decade later, the country's GDP surpassed 110 trillion yuan in 2021, contributing over 30 percent to world economic growth.

China's economic miracle did not happen by chance. It testifies to the vitality and effectiveness of China's socialist

economy under the guidance of Xi Jinping's economic thought.

Xi Jinping Thought on Socialist Economy with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era unveiled at the Central Economic Work Conference in December 2017 is mainly based on the new development philosophy put forward by Xi in 2015 and features innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development.

When Xi took office as general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee in 2012, China's economic strength significantly stood out after more than 30 years of reform

and opening up. Yet, challenges, including downward pressure on the economy, wealth disparities and environmental damages, cannot be ignored. A more scientific top-level approach was needed.

In 2015, Xi put forward a new development philosophy featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, which set a fundamental guideline for China's economic devel-



opment as the core of Xi's economic thought. Two years later, at the 19th CPC National Congress, Xi made an important judgment that the country's economy was transitioning from a phase of rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development.

Since then, high-quality development has been taken as the fundamental requirement for authorities to make economic policies and exercise macroeconomic control.

Xi's economic thought reflects the leadership's growing understanding of the laws of economic and social development and is regarded as a Chinese

model of modernization characterized by an innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development path.

Xi's economic thought comprises a series of principles. One of the principles is to remain committed to a people-centered philosophy of development, in line with which reforms have been advanced in all areas of public concern, including education, healthcare and social security. A monumental anti-poverty campaign was launched on a scale unseen anywhere in the world. Back in 2012, there were nearly 100 million Chinese living under the poverty line. In February 2021, China declared the elimination

of absolute poverty, lifting the final 98.99 million rural poor out of poverty.

In 2021, China's per capita disposable income hit 35,128 yuan, more than double the level in 2010. The country has developed the world's largest social security system and boasts the world's biggest middle-income group.

As for the principle of the relationship between government and market, the thought underlines the need to ensure that the market plays a decisive role in the allocation of resources, with the government better playing its role, and to resolutely remove institutional obstacles to economic development. Xinhua

From bourses to dinner tables, Ukraine crisis affecting prices in Europe

LONDON

A FLARE-up of the Ukraine crisis jolted global markets last week, and uncertainty lingered about its development. Though it seemed far away from many people's daily lives, the economic fallout was expected to ripple and be felt by global investors and consumers sooner or later.

Many held that Europe would take the brunt of the spill-over for its proximity to the crisis and its reliance on Russian energy. A knock-on effect was visible. At first, stocks tumbled as investors struck a cautious note, prompting a sell-off of risky assets. At the end, the cost of living for everyone would jump. Whatever comes next, analysts said the uptrend of prices is unlikely to stop any time soon.

RISK-OFF MODE CONTINUES

Amid uncertainty set off by the crisis, risk aversion ran higher, striking at the heart of risky assets, such as stocks. "Unless the situation in Ukraine improves, the global de-risking now underway will probably continue," the London-based consultancy Capital Economics said, noting that another 10 to 20 percent fall of major stock indices from current levels is quite plausible. Dependency on Russia's natural resources has sent equity markets in the Netherlands, Germany, and Italy to new lows. Over the past month, the German benchmark DAX index, falling by 5.84 percent, fared the worst among major European markets. In contrast, shored up by oil and commodity giants, Britain's FTSE 100, with one-month rise of 0.34 percent, showed some resilience.

For equities, among the worst performers were those with exposure to either Russia or Ukraine. "There will be pressure on banking stocks, particularly banks in France and Austria as they have the largest exposure to Russian loans," said Susannah Streeter, analyst from the financial services company Hargreaves Lansdown. Funds, trusts, and ETFs with exposure to Russia also suffered steep losses. Further selling pressure on tech stocks came as Ukraine supplied 70 percent of the global demand for neon, an essential material used in semiconductor manufacturing, said Jessica Amir, a market strategist from the Danish investment bank Saxo Bank.

Airlines grappled as well, because of the soaring oil prices and a decreasing willingness of tourists to travel. While volatility rose, investors sought shelter in safe havens like gold. Last week, gold was pushed to its highest level since January 2021. Silver also reached a fresh high. Due to the stability of the Swiss financial system, the Swiss franc was considered as another safe haven. Matthew Ryan, senior market analyst from the financial services company Ebury, said a key determinant of the franc's behavior in the short term is the security crisis in Europe and a significant escalation could push the value of the Euro against the franc to its lowest level since 2015. On top of all these factors, money usually flowed into government bond markets, but analysts from Saxo Bank cautioned that bonds were struggling to provide the usual safe haven as the conflict comes with even higher inflation as a product.

PRICE HIKES ACROSS BOARD

Energy prices shot up on fear of a further supply disruption. Last week, Brent oil, a global benchmark, surged above 100 U.S. dollars a barrel, a level not seen since 2014, with Europe's TTF gas price increasing by more than 30 percent in one day. If the crisis escalates, Capital Economics expected oil trade to be around 120 to 140 dollars per barrel and European gas to rise close to its mid-December high. Russia accounts for about 40 percent of imports of natural gas to the European Union and about 30 percent of its crude imports, according to Eurostat.

Ukraine is a key transit hub for Russian oil and gas. Though only a small portion of Britain's gas needs were met by Russia, the increased demand for alternative sources would still send the gas price sky-high, said Charles Archer, a freelance writer for the trading provider IG. The future of energy supply is stuck in limbo. Western sanctions have bypassed Russian oil to date. The Western countries have decided to remove some Russian banks from SWIFT, the payment system used for most international financial transactions. It remained unclear whether energy would be affected, but "early indications are we are still in the not-touching-the-gas phase of sanctions," said Stanley Pignal, Brussels bureau chief for The Economist. Prices were expected to plateau, if not rally further. "Whatever happens next, one thing is clear: Energy prices are unlikely to come back down in a hurry," said Fawad Razaqada, an analyst from the broker ThinkMarkets. It had a domino effect. Amir noted that much of European fertilizer production relies on Russian natural gas. One thing led to another, and food prices were likely to climb.

Other factors contributed too. Russia and Ukraine were big food suppliers, especially in grains. Together they accounted for 25 to 30 percent of global wheat exports, and around 80 percent of global sunflower seeds, said Capital Economics. Following the tensions, the European price of wheat, according to the IG, has hit a 10-year high. While uncertainty in the Black Sea region remained, it would affect the grain exports. Also, Russia was a key producer of platinum group metals, like palladium, mainly used in catalytic converters, said Shaun Murison, a senior market analyst from IG. Meanwhile, aluminum and nickel rocketed to new highs last week. Mining giant Rio Tinto has warned that possible U.S. sanctions on Moscow may disrupt the aluminum supply.

COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

"The surge in the oil price is terrible news for businesses and consumers," said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell, a provider of online investment platforms. Mould said the Russia-Ukraine conflict will further stoke inflation. "Not only will energy bills keep going up, but food prices look set to jump even higher," he said.

In Britain, the surge in energy prices, if sustained, will boost the consumer price index by an extra 1.5 percentage points, and households' real disposable incomes are set to fall by about 2.2 percent this year, the most since World War II, said Samuel Tombs, chief British economist from the consultancy Pantheon Macroeconomics. It would aggravate the already worsening cost-of-living crisis facing households. *Xinhua*

Fear for civilians as huge Russian column bears down on Kyiv

KYIV/MOSCOW

A huge Russian armored column bore down on Kyiv on Tuesday, after the deadly shelling of civilian areas in Ukraine's second largest metropolis raised fears that pissed off Russian commanders might resort to extra devastating techniques. Practically every week since after Moscow launched battle on its neighbor it has didn't seize a single main Ukrainian metropolis after working into unexpectedly fierce resistance.

Western nations concern that Russian commanders might now unleash the techniques they employed in Syria and Chechnya in latest a long time, after they pulverized civilian areas, killing 1000's, as they despatched of their tanks.

Oil firm Shell grew to become the newest Western agency to announce it was pulling out of Russia. Worldwide sanctions and world monetary isolation have had a sudden and devastating influence on Russia's economic system, with the rouble in freefall and queues exterior banks as Russians rush to salvage their financial savings.

U.S. satellite tv for pc firm Maxar launched footage displaying tanks and gas vans snaking alongside a freeway from the north, bearing down on Kyiv alongside 40 miles (60 km) of freeway.

"For the enemy, Kyiv is the key



A Russian column heading to Kyiv as pictured by Maxar, a private US satellite image company.

target," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has remained within the capital rallying Ukrainians with common video updates, stated in his newest message in a single day. "We did not let them break the defense of the capital, and they send saboteurs to us ... We will neutralize them all."

Ukrainian authorities additionally reported 70 troopers killed in a rocket assault in a city between Kyiv and Kharkiv.

"The Russian advance on Kyiv has made little progress over the past 24 hours probably as a result of continuing logistical difficulties," the British protection ministry stated in a army intelligence replace on Tuesday.

However it additionally warned of a shift in Russian techniques placing civilians in better peril: "The use of heavy artillery in densely populated urban areas greatly increases the risk of civilian casualties."

The town that bore the brunt of the assault on Monday was Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest metropolis, with 1.5 million individuals, posi-

tioned close to the Russian border in Japanese Ukraine. Officers say dozens of individuals have been killed and injured on Monday by missile strikes that hit civilian areas.

"Barbaric rocket attacks and MLRS (multiple launch rocket systems) of peaceful cities are evidence that they are no longer able to fight armed Ukrainians," Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov stated on Feb.

Human rights teams and Ukraine's ambassador to the US accused Russia of utilizing cluster bombs and vacuum bombs, weapons usually banned in civilian areas. The USA stated it had no affirmation of their use.

Russia has not given a full account of its battlefield losses, however footage from Ukraine have proven burnt-out Russian tanks and our bodies on the street the place they've been attacked by Ukrainian defenders.

Ukraine's normal employees stated Russian losses included 5,710 personnel, 29 destroyed and broken plane and 198 tanks, all figures that might

not be verified.

Ceasefire talks held on Monday on the Belarus border failed to achieve a breakthrough. Negotiators haven't stated when a brand new spherical would happen.

Putin's Russia faces close to complete worldwide isolation over his determination to launch what he known as a "special military operation" to disarm Ukraine and seize "neo-Nazis and drug addicts" that lead it.

Most devastating for Russia have been sanctions on its central financial institution that stop it from utilizing its \$630 billion international reserve battle chest to prop up the rouble.

TURKEY SHUTS STRAITS TO WARSHIPS

NATO ally Turkey delivered one other blow to Moscow on Monday by warning warring nations to not ship warships by way of its Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits that separate the Black Sea from the Mediterranean, successfully bottling up Russia's Black Sea Fleet.

Public well being specialists say Ukraine is working low on vital medical provides and fears of a wider public well being disaster are rising as individuals flee their houses and well being companies and provides are interrupted.

Greater than 500,000 individuals have fled Ukraine, in response to the United Nations refugee company, setting off a refugee disaster as 1000's await passage at European border crossings.

Oil firms Shell, BP and Norway's Equinor have stated they might exit positions in Russia, which depends on oil and gasoline for export earnings.

Canada stated it might ban imports of Russian crude oil, and U.S. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham urged the Biden administration to focus on the Russian vitality sector with sanctions.

China welcomes beginning of talks between Russia, Ukraine, Foreign Ministry says

BEIJING

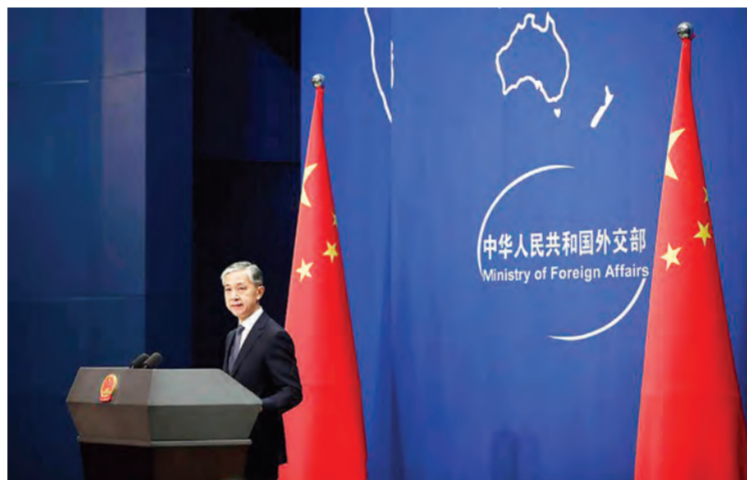
CHINA welcomes the beginning of talks between Russia and Ukraine and hopes that this process will continue, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a briefing yesterday.

"China has always supported and encouraged diplomatic efforts that facilitate the peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian crisis, it welcomes the beginning of peaceful talks between Russia and Ukraine," he said. "We noted that the sides had agreed upon holding a new round of talks in the near future. We hope that the sides will continue to maintain the process of dialogue and negotiations," the diplomat noted.

He also said that China hoped for Russia and Ukraine to aspire for a political solution that will take into consideration legitimate concerns in the security sphere of both sides and will facilitate long-term order and stability in Europe.

The Russian-Ukrainian talks were held on Monday, the meeting lasted five hours. The Russian delegation was led by Russian Presidential Aide Vladimir Medinsky.

Earlier, he stated that the Russian delegation was ready to negotiate with



Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin

the Ukrainian side for as long as it would be necessary to reach an agreement. Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei said that he hoped that the two delegations would meet for another round of talks at the Belarusian-Polish border in a couple of days.

On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised address that in response to a request by the heads of the Donbass republics he had made a decision to carry out a special mili-

tary operation in order to protect people "who have been suffering from abuse and genocide by the Kiev regime for eight years."

The Russian leader stressed that Moscow had no plans of occupying Ukrainian territories.

Russia's Defense Ministry reported later on Thursday that Russian troops were not delivering strikes against Ukrainian cities. It emphasized that Ukrainian military infrastructure was being destroyed by precision weapons.

UN chief says fighting in Ukraine must stop

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for an immediate end to the military operations in Ukraine.

"The fighting in Ukraine must stop. It is raging across the country, from air, land and sea. It must stop now," he told an emergency special session of the UN General Assembly on Ukraine.

"Enough is enough. Soldiers need to move back to their barracks. Leaders need to move to peace. Civilians must be protected. International humanitarian and human rights law must be upheld. The sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders, must be respected," said Guterres.

"We are facing a tragedy for Ukraine, but also a major regional crisis with potentially disastrous implications for us all," he warned. "Yesterday, Russian nuclear forces were put on high alert. This is a chilling development. The mere idea of a nuclear conflict is simply inconceivable.



Nothing can justify the use of nuclear weapons."

"The only true solution is peace, said Guterres. "The guns are talking now, but the path of dialogue must always remain open. It is never too late to engage in good-faith negotiations and to address all issues peacefully."

He expressed the hope that the direct talks now taking place between Ukrainian and Russian delegations will produce not only an immediate halt to the fighting, but also a path to-

ward a diplomatic solution.

"I welcome and encourage all peaceful efforts to end the bloodshed and halt this conflict. I thank the countries who have offered to host and facilitate negotiations. The United Nations is ready to support such efforts," he said.

"War is not the answer. It is death, human suffering, senseless destruction and an immense distraction from the real challenges facing humanity," he said. *Xinhua*

Russia, Ukraine conclude first-round talks without clear breakthrough

MOSCOW

RUSSIA and Ukraine concluded on Monday their first round of negotiations in Belarus with no clear breakthrough. The talks are certainly a positive signal, observed analysts, but the negotiation process would be rather complicated.

NO BREAKTHROUGH

The long-awaited negotiations between delegations from Russia and Ukraine was held in the Gomel region in Belarus and lasted for five hours. Headed by presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky, Moscow's delegation was formed by representatives from the defense and foreign ministries, among others.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov and the deputy head of the ministry of foreign affairs were among the participants from the Ukrainian side.

Before the negotiations, representatives from the Russian side said a key aim would be to achieve peace. Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei welcomed the participants and assured safety during the negotiation process. After the consultations, Medinsky, head of the Russian delegation, said that the next round of peace talks would take place on the Belarusian-Polish border in the coming days.

Medinsky also said that each one of the delegations would now head back to their capitals to further discuss all negotiation positions to prepare for the next round of negotiations.

"We have found some issues on which we can predict there would be common positions," the official said, adding that all negotiation positions were discussed in detail during the talks.

HEIGHTENED TENSIONS

While the talks were going on, Russian President Vladimir Putin held a telephone call with French President Emmanuel Macron, reiterating that a settlement would only be possible if Russia's security concerns were taken into account.

Putin said it was important to recognize "Russia's sovereignty over Crimea," as well as the country's commitment to solving the tasks of Ukraine's "demilitarization" and "denazification", and the issue of Ukraine's neutral status.

As for developments of Russia's military operation, the country's armed forces have hit 1,114 Ukrainian military infrastructure objects, ac-

ording to Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu informed Putin earlier on Monday that the country's nuclear deterrence forces have begun combat duty with reinforced staff.

Meanwhile, Moscow has taken more retaliatory measures in response to recent restrictions imposed by the West. As a response to the ban of European states on Russian air carriers, a restriction has been introduced on the operation of flights by air carriers from 36 countries, according to aviation authorities.

The country's economy has also been impacted. Russia's Central Bank said Monday that "external conditions for the Russian economy have drastically changed," announcing the decision to increase the key rate to 20 percent per annum from Feb. 28.

COMPLICATED NEGOTIATION

The world is closely following developments with regards to the peace talks. "The talks are certainly a positive signal," Bogdan Bezpalko, a member of the Council for Interethnic Relations under the President of the Russian Federation, said in an interview with Xinhua on Monday. According to the expert, Russia has shown that it is ready to solve problems through diplomacy.

Alexander Gusev, director of Russia's Institute for Strategic Planning and Forecasting, considered the current negotiation process to be rather complicated. "The situation that is currently developing in Ukraine is quite complicated, so it's simply impossible to set ambitious goals when it comes to the negotiation process," Gusev told Xinhua. "On the other hand, the talks have shown that both sides are ready for dialogue, they have found common ground... and I am convinced that the negotiation process will continue, this is just the beginning," he said. *Xinhua*

The talks are certainly a positive signal, Bogdan Bezpalko, a member of the Council for Interethnic Relations under the President of the Russian Federation

The Guardian

SPORT



Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa (L), hands over the prize money to the 2022 Kilimanjaro Marathon's men's winner, Alloyce Simbu, after the showdown which took place in Moshi last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Government praises Tanzanians for taking part in 2022 K'njaro Marathon

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MINISTER for Culture, Arts and Sports, Mohamed Mchengherwa, has congratulated Tanzanians for appearing in large numbers in the 2022 Kilimanjaro Marathon and leading in the race, unlike previous years where other nations had been dominating the event.

Mchengherwa explained that the great response was due to the good work done by President Samia Suluhu Hassan whereby she led the promotion of athletics and the establishment of jogging clubs in every region.

He also said that the ambitious strategies put in place by the current government in the sports sector are going to bring about a major revolution including providing more jobs for the people.

Tanzanian athlete, Alloyce Simbu, emerged victorious in the men's 42km showdown, clocking 02:16:30, while the 21km witnessed Tanzania's runners dominate the top three spots.

Emmanuel Ginniki (01:00:34) emerged

victorious in the event, followed by Gabriel Geay (01:02:04) and the third place was taken by Grass Sulley (01:04:10).

Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, said the Sixth Phase government led by President Samia will continue to make various efforts to ensure the sports industry in the country moves forward as sports are more than just entertainment.

He recommended that the race should be called the Kilimanjaro International Marathon as it involves many nations from various parts of the world.

He also instructed the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to work with the organizers of the Kilimanjaro Marathon to see how to use the festival to further promote tourism opportunities and various attractions.

Athletics Tanzania's president, Silas Lucas, thanked the government for prioritizing athletics.

Lucas disclosed the association will ensure that athletics continues to grow and contribute to the economy of the country.

Simba fan wins 176.5m/- from sports betting firm

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIAN soccer follower, Swalehe Enzi, has pocketed 176, 470, 910/- after predicting precisely 12 league matches through the 'Perfect 12' betting platform of a sports betting firm, M-Bet Tanzania.

Mtwara-based Enzi, who is also a keen fan of Tanzania's Simba SC and England's Arsenal, received his prize money from the firm's Marketing Manager, Allen Mushi, in a brief ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The winner used only 1,000/- to predict and win such a huge amount of money.

Speaking yesterday, Enzi said that he had been placing bets for three years while winning a small amount of cash that did not discourage him.

He said the fact that he is a fan of Simba SC and Arsenal made him experience many obstacles in his predictions due to the current status of the two teams in their respective ongoing leagues.

The fan pointed out: "I am a carpenter and I have been placing bets using notebooks or 'counter books'. I have done this for three years while winning

little cash prizes."

"I could not despair as I have witnessed several people win millions of cash through M-BET's 'Perfect 12'."

"I knew there was a day I would win because there is no manipulation, I call on young people from the age of 18 to place bets through M-BET," Enzi added.

He said he did not believe the phone call informing him that he had won a significant amount of money and now has plans to develop his business and start another, as well as studying and building a house.

The M-BET Tanzania Company's Marketing Manager, Mushi, said they feel extremely proud to change the lives of Tanzanians through their game.

Mushi said that many Tanzanians have been predicting and winning through his firm's betting platforms and succeeding in making great strides in development.

"This is the beginning of the year and the winners have already been found. We will continue to be the home of the winners and change the lives of Tanzanians," Mushi disclosed.

Music chroniclers yet to assess the impact of Dr. Remmy's innovations

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

WHAT individuals contribute in the way a country changes in one field or another is something that takes time to assess, despite some preliminary and seemingly adequate assessments for instance when a person dies, or on an anniversary.

Certain spheres of impact are harder to discern when they are indirect, arising from the work of those working with that individual when they develop their talents, especially in a succeeding generation.

It is less what we see with the impact of the legendary musician, 'Dr. Remmy'.

The youthful Ramadhani Mtoro Ongala arrived in Tanzania in the early 1970s along with several other Congolese musicians, influenced in large measure by the leading Congolese band TP OK Jazz.

One of its members, Moses Fanfan, enabled a distinctive presence of the mode of playing either solo or rhythm as if it was indeed the Congolese band that was on stage, despite that his colleagues were equally gifted in their art.

The legend affirms that Ongala was a bit of an outsider to the group but then had a more intense impact.

What brings to mind this epoch of Tanzanian music is the work of a colleague of Dr. Remmy, Joshua Makondeko, who later shifted to Gospel songs.

An online entry of January 2011 says that "Ongala and his band toured Africa, Europe, and the United States.

A stroke partly paralyzed Mr. Ongala in 2001 but he continued to perform as a singer from his wheelchair," underlining similarly that in



The late Remmy Ongala

his last years he turned to Gospel music.

This was to be the sphere his influence outlives his rugged foul-mouthed rapping.

There was a time a strident call was being issued to 'Dr. Remmy' for his forthright play with obscenities, in the guise of advising the youth against unprotected sex given the rampaging HIV/AIDS pandemic, that he tones down his music as shouting obscenities was no 'deal.'

It was in the aftermath of misguiding the youth, which may have laid down the behaviour pattern for big names later specializing in provocative allusions and often explicit images, that he then suffered that adversity. He was gaining in age, though.

Some of his throbbing music era associates followed him into Gospel music, the best known being Joshua Makondeko, who then came up with typical Dr. Remmy performance singing, where there is more of poetry than actual singing, approaching plain-speak rather than melody.

Without needing to cite any specific song, he made name for himself in that area, and in subsequent years - that is a few years ago - shifted to preaching and miracle healing.

It is a role next to unimaginable for an earlier throbbing rocker.

There is another sphere in which the legacy of the Sinza-based legend is also being keenly felt, and in ways that are closer to the traditional Dr. Remmy, in the career of platform praise singer, now virtual

ambassador Mrisho Mpoto. He lately signed a three-year contract engaged with the public authorities to inform the general citizenry as to what the government was doing in which area, which means that he will be combining his singing and speech model in one. He is already a well-known and attractive performer.

Even if not so many people are in a position to notice some elements of Mpoto's style, better known as 'Uncle', is the mixed or unpredictable dressing, essentially unisex and irreverent.

That also reminds one of Ongala's style, at a time when musicians often prided themselves with sharp-eyed attire, as he steered clear of this orientation, preferring baggy attire and

outmoded collarless tops. The range of modes that Mpoto uses needs some observation to take note of its balance or rationale unless one is a real stylist.

These individual artists notwithstanding, it is in the wider impact of this performance style in Gospel music where the Remmy legacy is being anchored.

Scores of new churches feel incapable of using traditional songbooks as their mixed bag of worshippers and 'fortune seekers' angling healing from diseases or making it in life, are unfamiliar with those songs. Performance singing covers the deficit.

Singers like Rose Mhando have upstaged older 'rhythm and blues' from Bahati Bukuku and others to adopt combative faith singing tuned to triumphal tones of preaching in exorcist (demon casting) services at places like Tanganyika Packers grounds at Kawe to the north of the city of Dar es Salaam, and partly at Kimara Temboni 'fortress' run by Kuhani Mussa, who has a household music group improvising from tunes he calls from the pulpit.

That is quite different from actually creating a song and getting people (the band, worshippers) to learn it, as that is likely to be somewhat laborious than just following.

Surprisingly there is much less singing in Makondeko's platform in the Ubungo Riverside zone cast with a series of prophetic performers, and in all these areas performance singing activates the crowds.



Warwick in Africa community's lead teacher, Magdalena Mtewele (standing, 3rd R), instructs Morogoro municipal teachers how to play the building tower game as means of imparting speaking skills to pupils. Warwick in Africa community conducted a two-day workshop for the region's teachers recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Schools urged to value extracurricular activities

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

ENGLISH language experts working with Warwick in Africa community, Tanzania, have insisted that over 100 public school teachers from over 25 primary schools in Morogoro municipality ought to use classroom games to provide pupils with an enhanced learning experience.

The experts issued the comments at a workshop, sponsored by Warwick in Africa community, targeting to enabling teachers to use minimal learning resources to overcome the shortage of teaching and learning materials in public schools.

The workshop, which took

place in the region recently, further sought to bridge the gap of understanding between primary school pupils and secondary school students.

The classroom games include board games, charades, two truths one lies, and tower building.

Warwick in Africa community's Magdalena Mtewele, an instructor at the two-day workshop, disclosed board games are an effective method to improve speaking skills.

Magdalena pointed out: "Games stimulate competition and those who struggle to score have to be given their task due to their level of understanding same to those slow in learning."

"A teacher is tasked with correcting pronunciation and

sentence construction while students explain what lies behind the dies," she disclosed.

Language expert from Teachers' Resources Center (TRC), Jimmy Joseph Kataruki, stressed there should be creativity and competence in language as game method techniques because syllabus and textbooks are written technically.

Kataruki noted the situation hinders less competent teachers from offering meaningful teaching and learning methods.

"Besides the use of game which most pupils are interested with, teachers should better look for another source, they should not concentrate in textbooks."

"Due to advancement of

technology, learning materials are available on audio and visual forms, they should better search for them," he added.

Mary Charles, a teacher from Mazoezi Primary School that participated in the workshop, thanked Warwick in Africa community's movement towards improving teaching and learning the English language in both primary schools and secondary schools.

Mary said the situation will encourage teachers to prepare stable English language foundations from elementary schools.

She pointed out: "We need government support in teaching and learning materials and such workshops."

FIFA suspends Russia from competing at WC

LONDON

RUSSIA have been kicked out of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar by FIFA after the world governing body and the European association, UEFA, issued a joint statement to confirm that all Russian national teams and clubs have been suspended until further notice following the invasion of Ukraine.

Amid growing pressure from European nations and the International Olympic Committee, FIFA and UEFA confirmed Monday that Russia would have no involvement in the upcoming World Cup playoffs -- Russia were due to play Poland in a semifinal ahead of a potential final against Sweden or the Czech Republic in March -- and that the Russia women's team would be removed from the European Championships due to be staged in England in July.

Spartak Moscow have also been removed from the Europa League, meaning round of 16 opponent RB Leipzig will be handed a bye to the quarterfinals of the competition.

In a further move, UEFA confirmed that it was canceling its deal with sponsor Gazprom -- the Russian energy company -- which is worth €40 million a year to the organisation.

UEFA's decision comes after Saint Petersburg was stripped of the hosting rights to this season's Champions League final, with Paris stepping in following the move to take the showpiece fixture away from the Russian city.

In a statement, FIFA and UEFA said: "Following the initial decisions adopted by the FIFA Council and the UEFA Executive Committee, which envisaged the adoption of additional measures, FIFA and UEFA have today decided together that all Russian teams, whether national representative teams or club teams, shall be suspended from participation in both FIFA and UEFA competitions until further notice.

"These decisions were adopted today by the Bureau of the FIFA Council and the Executive Committee of UEFA, respectively the highest decision-making bodies of both institutions on such urgent matters.

"Football is fully united here and in full solidarity with all the people affected in Ukraine. Both Presidents hope that the situation in Ukraine will improve significantly and rapidly so that football can again be a vector for unity and peace amongst people."

Decisions by FIFA and UEFA can typically be challenged on appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne. The Football Union of Russia said in a statement that it would "reserve the right to challenge" the decision.

"I feel sorry for my boys," said Russia coach Valery Karpin. "They were dreaming about playing at the World Cup. Now their hope is gone."

Commenting on the decision to cut ties with Gazprom, UEFA said: "UEFA has today decided to end its partnership with Gazprom across all competitions.

U.S. Soccer issued a statement on Monday to join other soccer federations in refusing to play Russia.

"The U.S. Soccer Federation stands united with the people of Ukraine and is unequivocal in our denunciation of the heinous and inhumane invasion by Russia. We will neither tarnish our global game, nor dishonor Ukraine, by taking the same field as Russia, no matter the level of competition or circumstance, until freedom and peace have been restored. #WeStandWithUkraine".

(Agencies)

Song to be appointed Cameroon coach on orders of nation's president

YAOUNDE

FORMER star player Rigobert Song is set to be named as head coach of the Cameroon national team, replacing Toni Conceicao, on the orders of the country's president, the sports minister said on Monday.

Portugal's Conceicao has led Cameroon into the play-offs of World Cup qualifying and took them to a third-placed finish at the Africa Cup of Nations on home soil last month.

Sports minister Narcisse Mouelle Kombi said Cameroonian President Paul Biya has ordered the national football federation to give the job to ex-Liverpool defender Song.

"On very high instructions from the President of the Republic, the coach of the men's national football team, Mr Antonio Conceicao, has been replaced by Rigobert Song," Kombi said in a statement.

"The Cameroonian Football Federation (Fecafoot) is invited to take the necessary measures for a rapid and harmonious implementation of these very high directives."

Fecafoot has confirmed "the end of the contract" of Conceicao.

Cameroon face 2019 African champions Algeria in a two-legged play-off for a place at the World Cup in Qatar later this year on March 25 and 29.

Song, who played in England, France, Italy, Germany and Turkey during his club career, is the Indomitable Lions' all-time leading appearance maker with 137.

He played in four World Cups and won the 2000 and 2002 Africa Cup of Nations titles.

Song was also the coach of the Cameroon Under-21 side.

Bielsa's firing by Leeds is proof that romance is dead in the Premier League

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

IN the end, reality caught up with Marcelo Bielsa and Leeds United. You can play fantasy football for so long, but when a devotion to style over substance begins to threaten your existence as a Premier League team, time and patience start to evaporate for even the most celebrated of coaches.

When Bielsa was fired by Leeds on Sunday in the wake of a 4-0 defeat against Tottenham at Elland Road, nobody could say that they hadn't seen it coming, but it was conclusive proof that romance really is dead when it comes to football.

Leeds have conceded 20 goals in their last five Premier League matches, and three defeats in six days against Manchester United, Liverpool and Spurs saw Bielsa's team concede 14 goals and score just twice in reply.

Two wins in their last 12 league games means that Leeds, promoted back to the Premier League after a 16-year absence under Bielsa's guidance in 2020, have dropped to 16th in the table. They sit just two points above third-bottom Burnley having played two more games than Sean Dyche's team.

So the alarm bells had been ringing inside Elland Road for long enough to realise that Bielsa's remarkable four-year spell as manager was coming to an end. Yet, when the inevitable happened at the weekend, there was more sadness than relief among



Marcelo Bielsa

the club's players and supporters who have come to regard the 66-year-old Argentine as a Leeds legend and, to some, the man who brought the club back to life.

Leeds players Liam Cooper, Kalvin Phillips and Patrick Bamford all posted thanks to Bielsa on social media, but they were not the kind of PR-scripted messages that often greet a squad's reaction to a manager's dismissal. These were heartfelt notes of regret and gratitude to a man for

his impact on both their professional and personal development. Club chairman Andrea Radrizzani said that firing Bielsa was the "toughest decision" he has had to make in his role at the club, while the Leeds United Supporters Trust published a farewell message to Bielsa that was more a love letter than statement, thanking him for "1,353 incredible days" during which time he became a "club icon" who "changed lives."

But as Leeds conceded four against United, six

against Liverpool and then another four at home to Spurs, there was a real sense that the club were going to allow their love affair with Bielsa to end in relegation until pragmatism finally shook the Leeds hierarchy into action.

The tale of Bielsa's time at Leeds is ultimately a harsh lesson that coaches who are so stubbornly wedded to their tactical philosophy, sometimes with an evangelical zeal, will always fail if they refuse to compromise their

beliefs when their Plan A stops working. Bielsa joins a list that includes the likes of Louis van Gaal, Jorge Sampaoli, Maurizio Sarri and Arsene Wenger during his final years at Arsenal as a coach who simply wouldn't change his ways while the game changed around him.

That is why the true greats are the likes of Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp -- coaches who will play with style, but also with substance, when they need to win. Jose Mourinho, for all of his critics, always put winning before style because trophies count for more than plaudits to all but a small minority of purists whose perspective will never change.

Leeds have at least woken up from their romantic dream while they have time to stop it from becoming a relegation nightmare. The club's fans have adored Bielsa for his high-energy, pressing, fluid style of football, but even during two seasons in the Championship, its weaknesses were exposed by well-organised opponents. But in the Premier League, having benefited from the surprise element of being a newcomer to the top flight last season, Leeds have now been found out and beaten heavily on countless occasions because Bielsa has refused to make allowances.

His hand has undoubtedly been weakened by long-term injuries to Cooper, Phillips and Bamford.

Those three players provided the spine of Bielsa's team last season, but having lost them, he carried on regardless -- same tactics, same cavalier-attacking and same gaping holes at the back. As a consequence, Leeds have the worst defence in the Premier League this season, conceding 60 goals -- five more than bottom team Norwich City -- in 26 games.

But for all of his faults, Bielsa has brought joy and optimism back to Leeds United. He has been the same transformative figure that Kevin Keegan was at Newcastle United in the 1990s -- a coach who has re-energised a city as well as a club. Keegan's Newcastle team became known as "The Entertainers" because they were so good to watch, but guess what? They didn't win anything because Sir Alex Ferguson and Manchester United knew that toughness and pragmatism are as important as eye-catching football, and they won the Premier League, and everything else, instead of Keegan's team.

Bielsa and his team will still be remembered by Leeds fans in 25 years, just as Keegan and his side are idolised in Newcastle, but nobody wants to be remembered as the most exciting team ever to be relegated, and that's where Leeds were heading under the coach they love more than any other.

Brazil coach Tite aims to step down after the World Cup -- who could replace him?

By Tim Vickery, South America correspondent

BRAZIL men's national team coach Tite made it clear last week that he will be leaving his post after the 2022 World Cup. This was hardly a bombshell. He had made similar remarks on the same Brazilian TV show back in November 2018. But his latest statements will only spur the imminent search to find his successor.

Much can happen between now and Qatar. There is still time for reputations to be made or broken before the World Cup. But what is striking is that at this moment there is no clear Brazilian candidate to step into Tite's shoes. Might Brazil be a few months away from having a non-Brazilian in charge of a symbol as important as the national football team?

This would certainly seem to be the direction of things. A few months back an offer was made to Xavi Hernandez to join the Brazil coaching staff as an assistant, with the idea that he would take over the top job after the World Cup. The call of Barcelona proved more seductive.

But at that point Brazil had made it clear that they were willing to break the taboo and appoint a non-Brazilian. This is in part down to a lack of domestic options. There is clearly no prejudice against South American coaches in top class European football. But Brazilians specifically have not been able to make impressions in the Old Continent.

Indeed, it is even hard to find Brazilian coaches elsewhere in South America. Former international centre back Antonio Carlos Zago is in charge at Bolivar -- but his



Tite

hold on his job will be weakened if the Bolivian side are knocked out of the qualifying rounds of the Copa Libertadores this week. And if Brazilian coaches can make little headway abroad, they are losing space at home.

Almost half of the country's first division clubs are now coached by a non-Brazilian, with Portuguese and Argentines leading the way, and space also for coaches from Uruguay and Paraguay.

Some of these are new and will not last. Others have already made their mark. Argentina's Juan Pablo Vojvoda did a sensational job last year with Fortaleza, taking them to fourth place in the league and qualifying them for the Copa Libertadores for the first time.

He could now be a victim of his own success, with expectations much higher and the club facing a gruelling schedule of matches and travel. But if he can keep

up the good work then he might become an outside candidate for the Brazil job.

A Portuguese coach is more likely. The name of Abel Ferreira is frequently floated. The Palmeiras boss has two consecu-

tive Libertadores titles to his name, and took Chelsea close to a shoot-out in the recent Club World Cup.

And if his style of football is not sufficiently crowd pleasing there is always his compatriot Jorge Jesus, who took Flamengo to

paradise in 2019 -- and who also has the benefit of being out of work following his recent sacking by Benfica.

The arrival of Jorge Jesus to Flamengo nearly three years ago was a turning point. His Flamengo side broke the mould by playing a high defensive line and being set up to attack. The side were not only victorious, they were a joy to watch -- and it left the "safety first" Brazilian coaches looking poor by comparison.

The Brazilian coaching fraternity have complained that their qualifications have not been accepted by UEFA. But this is a red herring. It hardly explains why European clubs have not been running across the Atlantic to make them offers.

Their historical contribution has often been overlooked, harshly obfuscated by the individual brilliance of the players. The back four began in Brazil, and Mario Zagallo's 1970 team

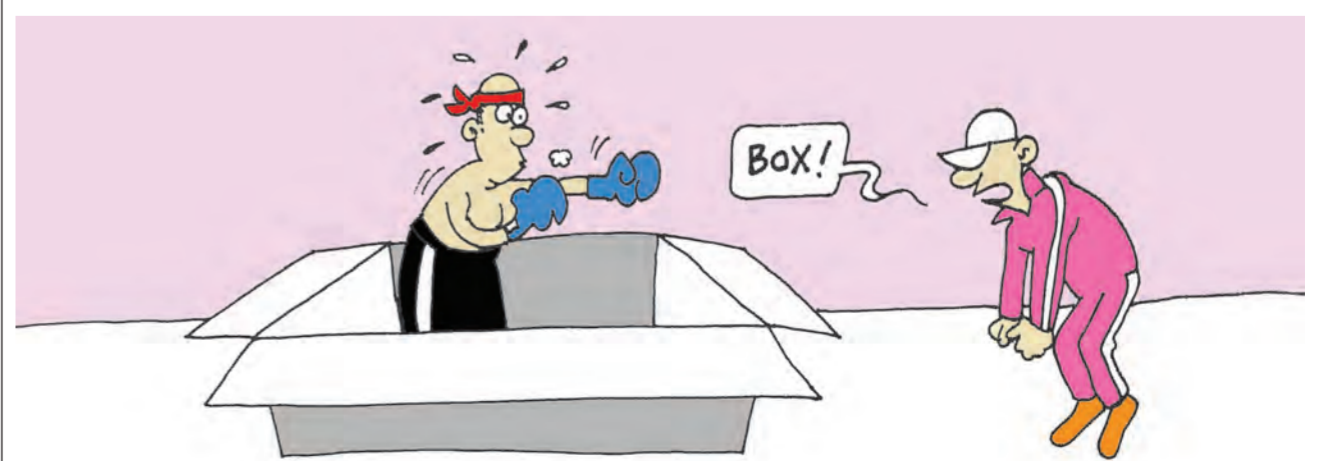
were fascinating pioneers of 4-2-3-1.

But more recently they have accepted too readily the problems of the domestic Brazilian game -- too many matches, poor pitches, too much pressure not to lose. It has put them in a straight jacket of mediocre pragmatism -- shown up by the swagger of the Jorge Jesus' Flamengo, or with much more modest resources, by the dynamism of Vojvoda's Fortaleza.

The stakes are high, then, for all the Brazilian coaches in this year's first division -- which kicks off in little more than a month's time. If one of them can come up with an impressive piece of work in the next few months, then he could be chosen to lead O Seleção.

Failing that, the once unthinkable will become the probable, and the five-time World Cup champions will seriously consider handing over its football team to a coach born outside its borders.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Bielsa's firing by Leeds is proof that romance is dead in the Premier League

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AT lauds Dar athletes' performance in 2022 Kilimanjaro Marathon



Tanzania's athlete, Alloyce Simbu, completes the men's 2022 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon which took place at Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) ground in Moshi last Sunday. Simbu won the 42km race. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph

Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has attributed the good performance showcased by the country's athletes in the just ended Kilimanjaro Marathon to good preparations and seriousness by the runners' clubs.

Michael Washa, AT Technical Director, said unlike in 2020's edition of the showdown, this year local athletic clubs had good preparations for their athletes ahead of the Kilimanjaro Marathon.

The official revealed: "Last year Kenya athletes did not

come for the marathon due to the Coronavirus epidemic, they have participated this year and they did not perform well."

"Local athletes performed well in this year's edition mainly due to good preparations which the clubs had for the runners, the preparations were very serious."

"Local athletes performed well in all categories, in a race where we were not on the first

position, we came second, this year we have done well."

"In 42km race, national team athlete Alloyce Simbu was the winner, and in 21km race, all the top three finishers are national team athletes," he said.

He asked local athletics clubs to take marathon races seriously, saying the performance by local athletes at this year's edition of Kilimanjaro Marathon has brought pride

to the nation.

"AT's main job is policy implementation, while clubs are tasked with training and taking care of the athletes, this year the clubs did us proud, they prepared the local athletes well, we ask them to continue with that spirit," he said.

The AT leader pointed out he is confident that local athletes' performance in the Kilimanjaro Marathon will motivate them to work hard ahead

of the coming Commonwealth Games.

This year's edition of the Kilimanjaro Marathon was the 20th and more than 12, 000 runners took part in the marathon.

They included Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Pauline Gekul, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Mary Masanja, and other top government and private sectors officials.

National team athlete, Simbu, emerged top in the men's 42km race after clocking 02.16.31, Kenyan Arnold Klptaai was second with 02.17.05.

Kenyan Shelmith Muriuki was the winner in the women's 42km race, she clocked 02.41.06, and her compatriot, Flavius Kwamboka, came second with 02.57.22.

In the men's 21km race, all top three spots were won by national team athletes, Emmanuel Giniki, was the winner in the race.

He clocked 01.00.35, Gabriel Geay was second by clocking 01.02.05 and Inyasi Sulley was third with 01.04.11.

Kenyan Agness Mgomo won the women's 21km race, she clocked 01.12.17, whereas local athletes Jackeline Sakilu and Natalia Elisante ended second and third, clocking 01.14.50 and 01.15.07 respectively.

Djuma optimistic of enjoying success at Dodoma Jiji FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DODOMA Jiji FC's leadership has handed Burundian coach, Masoud Djuma, a six-month contract.

The tactician will be tasked with seeing to it the NBC Premier League outfit is not relegated to the Championship.

If Djuma manages to keep the team in the NBC Premier League next season and stay in the league's top six, his contract will be extended for one year as they keep on trusting him.

In Djuma's contract, there is a clause stating Dodoma Jiji FC should be given a chance to negotiate with him before joining another side.

Djuma has already led Dodoma Jiji FC in an NBC Premier League match against Ruvo Shooting in Coast Region on February 27, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

At the end of 2018, Djuma left Simba SC after his contract with the club was terminated due to several issues including misunderstanding with the head coach, French Patrick Aussems.

Djuma disclosed that at Simba SC he worked with the first two head coaches, Joseph Omog and Pierre Lechantre, and there were no problems within the team.

"There were times I could not even travel with the team outside Dar es Salaam, Aussems did not want to travel with me and there was no underlying reason for it," Djuma noted.

"After seeing the atmosphere between us was no longer peaceful, I followed Aussems and wanted to know the problem, he did not want to respond and, at the end of the day, I was called to the office to be told my contract had been terminated."

"I asked what was the matter and I was just told it was the decision of



Dodoma Jiji FC's Chief Executive Officer, Fortunatus Johnson (L), hands over the club's jersey to new head coach, Masoud Djuma, when the latter was introduced in Dodoma recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DODOMA JIJI FC

the head coach so I decided to leave just after Simba SC settled my dues."

Djuma revealed that before moving to Simba SC, he was a favourite of many football fans in Rwanda due to his commitment, as well as living with them well.

He disclosed after coming to Tanzania he had the same culture off the field, he lived well with Simba SC fans including being present in social activities.

"When I was on the pitch I was preparing a squad that I believe will make Simba SC fans happy," Djuma said.

Djuma stated he did not leave Simba SC cordially as he was not happy at the time due to having failed to meet some of his expectations.

He stated there are many goals he set for himself at the outfit, some of which were not met due to the head coach's reasons so he was not on good terms with the latter.

"I returned home to rest because, by the time I was at Simba SC, my life had largely changed," Djuma noted.

"After resting for six months I went to DR Congo... there is a team I coached there, I worked for six months and I opted out because they failed to pay my dues," he said.

"I went back to Burundi and decided to go and study and improve my coaching skills and professionalism in football which is changing every day."

"After that, I worked in Burundi, and I served as a coach at Rayon Sports

of Rwanda before coming here, I failed to continue coaching the club due to some personal issues."

Djuma added before deciding to join Dodoma Jiji FC he received calls from various domestic outfits including Polisi Tanzania and Coastal Union who expressed an interest in him.

He stated he initially spoke to Polisi Tanzania's officials but they failed to reach an agreement due to certain interests and he, therefore, failed to come to Tanzania to join them.

"A few days before sealing the deal with Dodoma Jiji FC, Coastal Union had contacted me to see how they could find me as I feel they were in the process of parting ways with their coach," Djuma revealed.

Djuma noted after various team trials in Tanzania and other countries he agreed with Dodoma Jiji FC based on the plans they told him.

He noted top leaders at Dodoma Jiji FC spoke well of basic issues such as interests, team goals, squad improvement, cooperation, and more.

"After seeing a lot of basics from them we agreed and I just decided to join them, while rejecting other offers from four different teams from Kenya and Uganda," the tactician revealed.

"Before making this decision to coach Dodoma Jiji FC, I contacted my close

people in Tanzania and they told me it is one of the squads with the best players and I can achieve success at the squad."

Djuma disclosed before deciding to join Dodoma he asked the team leaders to mention the squad's goals.

He was told the team wants to stay in the league next season and if he does better he will be handed a one-year contract.

He stated before giving them answers he contacted his closest people who have expertise in Tanzanian football and they all gave him good answers.

"I believed that the side can do well and stay in top-flight football so I agreed with them," Djuma pointed out.

"When my working permit was complete I went to practice before starting work. I told the players what was in front of us and everyone had to fight to fulfill their responsibilities," he said.

"I want every player to play wholeheartedly in every match and change some technical issues as this team has a lot of good players who can play the way I want."

"I have also told the leaders that I need a lot of cooperation from them in all basics, again promptly, and soon the Dodoma team will showcase improvement in playing style and get good results in this second round of the league."

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kaili Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibishara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

TFF's Kigamboni Technical Center set for completion

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) says the first phase of Kigamboni Technical Center will be ready by June this year.

Wallace Karia, TFF president, disclosed the information on Monday during a tour to the site by the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports, Said Yakubu.

He said currently one hostel can accommodate 75 juniors, there is a pitch with artificial turf, and TFF expects that planting of natural grass at another pitch will start soon.

"We are going on as planned and we expect the first phase of center will be ready in June, the hostel and one pitch are ready, planting of natural grass at the other pitch will start soon," he said.

Karia said TFF is committed to seeing that it has its infrastructure, describing them as important to the football development of any nation.

He said Kigamboni Technical Center will have four hostels, each of which can accommodate 75 juniors, eight pitches, and other important amenities to the development of football.

Karia said infrastructure development is a critical part of football.

The TFF official said the construction of the center is a result of diligent planning.

Karia also thanked various stakeholders for their role in ensuring that the projects succeed.

"We have good support from the government and other stakeholders, we thank them," he said.

Yakubu said it is pleasing that the project is going on very well. He said one of the challenges he faced when he was appointed as Deputy in the ministry was a lack of infrastructure.

"Our role in developing football cannot be successful if we don't have infrastructures. I am happy that this project is going on."

"Once completed it will help in the development of football in the country," he said.

The Kigamboni Technical Center is being built by Group Six International, the first phase is implemented in Tanga and the Kigamboni's will cost \$4 million.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

