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The Guardian, ITV named superbrands in EA awards

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Guardian Limited and ITV-Independent Television have once again recognized as among Tanzania's leading brands, with spectacular performance in service delivery. The Guardian has previously been named a 'superbrand' in the East African region eight times, from its first award in 2005, and then in 2011, 2012-2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2022. At an award ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Superbrands East Africa director Jawad Jaffer said the awards are tied with surveys that show the companies' performance during the preceding year. Companies which have demonstrated high performances are the ones being recognized and awarded," he said. Companies not making it in the current awards have to increase efforts and invest in issuance of quality services. Jaffer said though there are many challenges of running

Samia warns on repeated ministerial disagreements



Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission chairman Abdumajid Nsekela addresses an open meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday called primarily to enable stakeholders to brainstorm on the modalities and strategies to deploy in strengthening cooperatives. The commission is mandated with the regulation and promotion of cooperative sector development across the country. It is meant to grow into a leading organisation in Africa fostering the development of modern commercial cooperative societies meeting global standards and the demands of the cooperative movement. Story on Page 15. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday mentioned disagreements between ministers, deputies and with permanent secretaries had contributed to the need for reshuffles in a wide range of positions in the government. She made this observation in brief remarks after swearing in the newly appointed ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and their deputies, along with regional commissioners. The president cautioned that this is the last time she uses disagreements to make changes, and next time she will simply relieve both disputants of their responsibilities. "I do not like to talk about disagreements between top govern-

ment officials, but the scenario keeps being repeated. I will not use this as a reason to make changes next time, what I will do is to sack both of you," she affirmed. Disagreements between ministers and their deputies and similarly with their permanent secretaries derail service delivery, she stated, noting that failing to understand one another among ministers implies that they had both failed to fit in the given tasks, she stated. Another reason for the changes among permanent secretaries was to improve efficiency and service delivery by having people with more ability in the specific sector, she said. The president directed newly appointed Live-

Companies which have demonstrated high performances are the ones being recognized and awarded

firms, companies should put more efforts in improving their products and brands locally and international level. The Guardian Ltd feature editor Alex Songa, upon receiving the super brands award, expressed satisfaction with the gesture of recognition, saying that the award reflects the hard work and quality products the newspaper groups seeks to give out on a daily basis.



The Guardian features editor Alex Songa (R) and ITV programmes director Pius Paul hold Super Brand awards after the newspaper (a publication of The Guardian Limited) and the TV station, both IPP media outlets, yet again emerged winners following research conducted across last year by Super Brand East Africa. This was at a prize-presentation ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Superbrands EA identifies and pays tribute to exceptional brands by recognising, rewarding and reinforcing leading brands across the East Africa region. Photo: Correspondent Shifaa Lyimo

BRT III's completion slated for March 2024

By Guardian Reporter

THE work pace for Phase III of Bus Rapid Transport (BRT-III) project along Nyerere Road in Dar es Salaam is satisfactory, the government has stated. Prof Makame Mbarawa, the Works and Transport minister, expressed this feeling when inspecting work by the contractor, Sinohydro Construction Corp. of China in the city yesterday, asking it to ensure that the work is completed by March next year. He urged city residents in the city centre to Gongo la Mboto suburb, beyond the international airport, to exercise patience as construction proceeds. Road congestion will be eased along the road leading to the outer reaches of the Julius Nyerere International Airport

...building the road goes in tandem with beautifying the city, by creating a friendly environment for road users. It has to be attractive in line with improvements available with currently available applications

(JNIA), he said, urging that the project proceeds rapidly. Motorists along the road have to follow contractors' setting of space to enable construction work along with ensuring the safety of passengers, he said. He said the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TanRoads) has to ensure that vehicles are well directed in the morning and evening rush hours during the project period, to avoid traffic jams or accidents. He similarly urged TanRoads to prioritise people in the vicinity in recruiting casual labour for the project. Those em-

Key US firm to buy 17,000t of graphite yearly from 2025



By Guardian Reporter

TESLA Inc., a leading electric car manufacturer, has signed an accord with an Australian firm mining graphite in Tanzania, to buy 17,000 tonnes annually from early 2025. Tesla is a firm headed by US billionaire Elon Musk, holding vast manufacturing interests in China. It signed an agreement with Australian firm Magnis Energy Technologies for the purchase, linking it with Magnis subsidiaries Uranex (T) Ltd and Magnis Technologies (T) Ltd (MTT) for the supply of graphite. The accord targets purchasing graphite and any anode active materials, on the basis of a media statement availed to the media. Under the agreement, Tesla

The long term aspirations of Magnis is to turn Tanzania into a pivotal center for the production of graphite but also to improve lives and living conditions ...

will purchase a minimum of 17,500 tonnes per annum of the material starting from February 2025, envisaging a maximum of 35,000 tonnes yearly for a three-year period at a fixed price, it said. The deal arrives at a critical juncture for both companies. More importantly Tanzania is set for unprecedented benefits from the deal. Uranex is a subsidiary company operating under the Australian miner Magnis Energy Technologies and its Nachu graphite project in Lindi Region is among leading graphite deposits globally, it said. Uranex holds a special mining license No. 550/2015 under the Minerals ministry with Magnis Technologies

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Key US firm to buy 17,000t of graphite yearly beginning 2025

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(T) Ltd granted a license to operate within a special export zone for a 10-year period, renewed in May 2021.

Tesla is recognized as a US automotive and clean energy company known for its leading role in accelerating the world's transition to sustainable energy with electric cars, solar panels and integrated renewable energy solutions. Tesla will buy graphite and processed anode material based on the graphite for its batteries, the statement noted, affirming that Uranex will oversee the Nachu mining project to yield high quality natural flake graphite concentrate.

The project based in Ruangwa district provides graphite with a unique crystal structure and low impurity, hence not requiring expensive and environmentally toxic chemicals for purification.

For the government, the strategic partnership provides an opportunity to reap first hand environmental, economic and strategic rewards from a leading brand.

The Nachu project is ex-

pected to make Tanzania a leading participant in the global push for greener and sustainable renewable energy storage.

The world class facilities and infrastructure set out in the special economic zone will capture leading industrial technologies matching the ever growing ambition and demand of the global market, it said.

Magnis will add to improving the livelihoods of Tanzanians by job opportunities, pushing economic growth and social uplift via social corporate responsibility programs, the statement indicated.

"The long term aspirations of Magnis is to turn Tanzania into a pivotal center for the production of graphite but also to improve lives and living conditions of Tanzanians through giving jobs, building roads, electrification of homes in the community and improving social services as well as complying with rules of the country," it asserted.

Magnis Energy Technologies Ltd is a vertically integrated lithium-ion battery technology and materials company in the Lithium-ion battery supply chain. The firm's US subsidiary Imperium3 New York, Inc. (IM3NY) operates a gigawatt scale Lithium-ion battery manufacturing plant in Endicott, New York.

Samia warns on repeated ministerial disagreements

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stock and Fisheries minister Abdallah Ulega to work on complaints being directed at the ministry.

"You should now go and work on these issues because at first I know you will say that you failed to implement them because you were under someone," she said.

The president said she has been appointing people from the private sector to get different perspectives, noting that their experience was helpful to improve service delivery.

During the ceremony, the president also confirmed appointing Yahya Samamba to the Mining Commission as executive secretary. "I thought the team I had was enough to take me to the Promised Land but in life changes happen,"

she added. Earlier, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa underlined accountability among the newly appointed ministers and officials to ensure quality service delivery. In the recent changes, President Samia dropped Mashimba Ndaki as Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, replacing him with Abdallah Ulega.

She also appointed Ramadhani Kailima, who directed the general elections in 2015, and may now likely manage the 2025 general election. He replaces Dr Wilson Mahera, appointed by fifth phase president Dr John Magufuli to head the directorate in 2019. He becomes deputy permanent secretary in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments).



The Vatican's Ambassador to Tanzania, Bishop Angelo Accattino, presents his letters of credence to President Samia Suluhu Hassan at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

BRT III's completion slated for March 2024

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ployed need to exercise patriotism and shun acts of sabotage, he emphasised.

BRT project manager Barakaeli Mmari said the 231.3bn/- project will have 32 bus stops and two terminals, along with a pedestrian crossover.

TanRoads is well mobilized

to supervise the contractor to enable the completion of the project in time, at the required standards, he stated.

Harun Senkuku, the TanRoads regional manager, said that building the road goes in tandem with beautifying the city, by creating a friendly environment for road users. It has to be attractive in line with improvements available with cur-

rently available applications, he said.

Phase III of the BRT project is 23.6km long basically linking the Nyerere Road from the outer reaches of the city centre to Gongolamboto, while a section of the project branches via Uhuru Road by a stretch to Tazara that is extended to the Kariakoo-Gerezani BRT terminal, he stated.

He further noted that phase 4 of the project takes up a 16.1-kilometre stretch along Bagamoyo Road up to Tegeta, with the central business district terminal at Bibi Titi Road, via Sam Nujoma Road.

DART is a mass transit bus system linking major suburbs of Dar es Salaam to the central business district, to cut the number of commuter buses

plying routes to the city centre, with its operations taking off May 2016.

Construction of the \$154m first phase was completed late 2015, financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank, in part.

Phase I took up 21 kilometres road stretches from Kimara via Ubungo to Kivukoni, Morocco and Gerezani terminals.



Danieli Amuliye (R), director of the Kigoma-based Trolle Messle factory, pictured in Kigoma-Ujiji municipality yesterday showing Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa samples of palm oil as one of the products produced there. The PM was on a visit to the facility. Photo: PMO

EAC secures funds for feasibility study on the northern corridor

By Special Correspondent

THE East African Community (EAC) has secured over 1.5 billion/- (\$1.4 million) for a feasibility study on a key section of the northern transport corridor linking Kenya and Uganda.

EAC Planning and Infrastructure deputy Secretary General Steven Mlote said the funding - from the African Development Bank - is for conducting a feasibility study on the 256km multinational Kisumu-Kisian-Busia/Kakira - Malaba-Busitema-Busia expressway project.

Mlote said that part of the funding would also be for the feasibility studies for upgrading the Malaba, Busia and Lwakhakha border posts along the Kenya-Uganda border.

He stated that the Secretariat

had also secured a commitment of €10 million (1.3 billion/-) from Germany in December 2022 for purposes of financing feasibility studies towards upgrading trade infrastructure in the region.

Mlote spoke during the opening session of the EAC Sectoral Council on Transport, Communications and Meteorology (SCTCM) in Bujumbura, Burundi.

Speaking during the opening session, the chairperson of the meeting, who is also Burundi's Minister for Infrastructure Dieudonne Dukundane, emphasised the importance of introducing performance indicators in the TCM report in future as a way of assessing progress in the implementation of the directives of the sectoral council.

The SCTCM directed Tanza-

nia and Burundi to implement the EAC Roaming Framework by August 30, 2023, and provide the status of implementation to the next Summit of the EAC Heads of State.

The meeting also further directed Tanzania to make the necessary amendments towards the implementation of the 16th Summit directives (issued on July 15, 2015), with respect to roaming and surcharges on traffic from partner states.

In addition, the ministers directed Tanzania to ensure that the amendments are done in the wholesale tariff like the inter-operator tariff, to be capped at \$0.07/Min for traffic originating and terminating within EAC and retail tariff which shall be capped at \$ 0.10/Min inclusive of taxes,

for traffic originating and terminating within EAC.

There will also be no charges for receiving roaming calls originating within the EAC, in addition to the removal of surcharges for international traffic originating and terminating within the EAC.

The EAC roaming framework or one network area was meant to harmonise mobile and data roaming charges across the region, and make affordable calls starting from and ending within the region, in addition to enhancing intra-regional trade.

The framework-imposed price caps on roaming charges and called for the removal of surcharges on cross-border telecommunications traffic originating and terminating within the EAC.

The Guardian, ITV named superbrands in EA awards

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"This award will stimulate our efficiency drive in enabling us to maintain the quality level we seek to attain each day," he said.

Pius Paul, the programmes director at ITV, meanwhile made an assurance that the station was striving to improve its programs to meet expectations of its audience and clients. "This is the sixth time we are receiving this award. We thank Super Brand (East Africa) Co. and the client base for recognizing our work and trusting us," he stated.

ASAS representative Jimmy KIWELU said that the award encourages greater innovation to produce quality products affordable to everyone.

Red Gold, Petro Group, Whitedent and Azam TV were other companies cited for the superbrands nomination and award, organisers said.

Super Brands is a marketing firm playing a key role as an independent arbiter of branding and recognition of competitive brands.

It identifies and pays tribute to exceptional brands by recognising, rewarding and reinforcing leading brands from all over the world, since 1995.

"What started as an industry award has become a globally recognised barometer of the region's strongest brands," the regional director intoned.

Dr Mwinyi hails commitment by AfDB to support Isles' government projects

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has hailed the African Development Bank (AfDB) for its commitment to support the Isles government in implementing projects in health, infrastructure and transport sectors.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks when he met and held talks with a high level delegation of the bank which was led by its President Dr Akinwumi Adesina, at the State House in Zanzibar.

President Mwinyi used the opportunity to explain to the bank's delegation of the achievements that his government has made in administering sectors under the blue economy saying the tourism sector contributed 30-per cent to the national economy.

Another sector under the blue economy policy was the fisheries sector where he said needed a revamp as fishermen still use the old systems of fishing.

The president also said another sector which needed a boost was sea-

weed farming saying there is need to support women who are mostly involved in the cultivation of the crop with necessary equipment to maximize their produce.

Dr Adesina said the bank will support Zanzibar in construction of roads and the whole infrastructure sector adding that currently the bank was also supporting construction of Bububu-Mahonda road, Mkokotoni, Tunguu-Makunduchi to Chakechake.

He said the bank will also support construction of Pemba airport and other projects including water markets adding that the bank has also set aside \$15 million to support sectors under the blue economy policy.

Zanzibar archipelago will upgrade Pemba Airport to an international one so as to boost tourism.

Pemba Island is less visited than Zanzibar Island, but is popular for having exotic and pristine white sandy beaches and tourist sites such as Jozan Forest Reserve, home of flying fox.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience at Zanzibar State House yesterday with a Tanzania Ithnashariya Community delegation led by Maulana Sheikh Hemed Jalala Mwakindenge. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Majaliwa rallies for oil palm cultivation in Kigoma region

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called on regional commissioners, district Commissioners and leaders of political parties to use their platforms to mobilise for oil palm cultivation in order to increase its production.

Majaliwa made the call on Sunday as he was addressing stakeholders of oil palm cultivation in Kigoma.

The stakeholders included oil palm farmers, seedlings producers, palm oil extractors, and village executives, officials from financial institutions and regional, and local government officials.

He convened the meeting to discuss challenges facing the oil palm sector and look for ways to develop

the crop aimed at freeing the country from palm oil imports.

He called on RC and DC with areas fit for the crop's cultivation to address the challenges as apart from earning money to farmers, the sector can create employment opportunities for the youth.

In regard to the country's edible oil consumption, Majaliwa said:

"As for now the country's edible oil demand stands at more than 650,000 tonnes a year while production is estimated at 290,000 tonnes only. Hence about 360,000 tonnes or 55.4 per cent of the demand is imported costing the country 470bn/- of its foreign reserves every year."



In order to address the challenge, Majaliwa said the government vows to solve the edible oil demand in the

country by initiating huge transformation in the edible oil production sector including palm oil.

"The transformation will go in tandem with planting new improved seedlings. Hence Kigoma residents should take steps to plant oil palm seedlings in earnest," he stressed.

The government took a deliberate step to include oil palm crop in its list of the strategic crops, others are cotton, tobacco, coffee, cashew nuts, tea, sisal, grapes and sunflower.

Earlier, welcoming the PM, Deputy Agriculture Minister Anthony Mavunde said the efforts continue with the production of quality Tera seeds that produces three times the amount of oil than the Dura type that is grown by about 90 per cent of farmers.

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES)**

**MULTINATIONAL TANZANIA – BURUNDI – DRC CONGO SGR
PROJECT PHASE I**

**THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TANZANIA/BURUNDI (UVINZA – MUSONGATI –
GITEGA) SGR SECTION]**

**TENDER NO.: PA/154/HQ/AFDB/202-23/C/01
FOR**

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR REVIEW OF DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF
WORKS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A ELECTRIFIED STANDARD GAUGE
RAILWAY (SGR) UNDER DESIGN AND BUILD ARRANGEMENT**

1. The Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Burundi have applied for financing from the African Development Bank toward the cost of The Construction of the Tanzania/Burundi (Uvinza – Musongati – Gitega) SGR Section which is the Phase I of the Tanzania – Burundi – DR Congo SGR project and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this loan to make payments under the contract for Consultancy Services for Review of Design and Supervision of Works for Construction of a Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) under Design and Build Arrangement.
2. The Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Burundi have entered into a bilateral agreement and appointed the Tanzania Railways Corporation as the implementing agency for this multinational project.
3. The services for which this EOI applies and included under this project are Consultancy Services for Review of Design and Supervision of Works for Construction of a Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) under Design and Build Arrangement.
4. The scope of works will be the design and construction of about 282 km of an electrified Standard Gauge Railway line from Uvinza in Tanzania (off the Tabora – Kigoma SGR line), across the international border along Malagarasi river to Musongati and onwards to Gitega (both in Burundi).
5. The two Governments of Tanzania and Burundi have entered into a bilateral agreement to implement this multinational project as a single project within Tanzania to Burundi territories. There will be a single works contractor and a single supervising consultant for the whole project. However, for purposes of administration, the project is divided into two (2) lots: Lot 1 consist of the 156KM Tanzania Section to be implemented in one package, and Lot 2 consists of the 126 KM Burundi section to be implemented in 2 packages as described below.
6. The project is divided as follows:
 - a) Lot 1: Tanzania section from Uvinza to Malagarasi border (156 KM) to be implemented as one package.
 - b) Lot 2: Burundi section from Malagarasi to Musongati and Gitega (126 KM) to be implemented in two packages
 - a. Lot 2- Package A: Malagarasi – Musongati (80KM) Section.
 - b. Lot 2- Package B: Musongati – Gitega (46KM) Section.
7. On behalf of two Governments of Tanzania and Burundi, TRC a government entity formed under Railways Act No. 10 of 2017 and incorporated in the United Republic of Tanzania under the Companies Act No.10 of 2017 will facilitate all procurement on behalf of parties. TRC is wholly owned by the Government of United Republic of Tanzania and is under the Ministry of Works and Transport. The major responsibilities of TRC as provided in the Act are principally, to develop, promote and manage the railway infrastructure assets in Tanzania Mainland. TRC in collaboration with ARTF (Burundi Corporation in charge of Railways) intends to Construct an approximately 282 route-kilometre Railway line between Uvinza and Gitega via Musongati in Burundi and other railway facilities enroute to Standard Gauge, based on American Railway Engineering Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA) and UIC standards. The project will be implemented for period of five (5) years.
8. The Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) as Implementing Agency now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services.
9. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services such as (i) Company profile, Registration and Incorporation certificates, (ii) Proven technical capability and experience to carry out supervision of an Electrified UIC standards Railway Construction Works with ERTMS Level II systems, and review of contractor's designs of at least 1,000 km, at least five (5) years' experience and having worked in more than two (2) projects with similar nature and scope, (iii) Present detailed description of similar successfully completed assignments/projects, include track record demonstrating experience in similar conditions, (iv) Availability of appropriate skills among staff/team, (v) Brief methodology towards implementation of the project. Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.
10. Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's **Procurement Policy Framework dated October 2015**, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>. Borrowers are under no obligation to shortlist any consultant who expresses interest.
11. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 900 to 1630 hours.
12. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by **24th March, 2023 at 1030 hours** and mention "Tender No. PA/154/HQ/AFDB/202-23/C/01 for CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR REVIEW OF DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF WORKS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY (SGR) UNDER DESIGN AND BUILD ARRANGEMENT".
13. EOI will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of EOI's representative who choose to attend the opening ceremony at **TRC Headquarter Conference Room**.
14. Electronic, telegraphic, telefax will NOT be accepted. Late submission of EOI shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances and will be returned to sender unopened.

For any further information, kindly contact:

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Li Mingxiang (3rd-R), deputy minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee, briefs high-level CCM cadres led by Vice Chairman (Mainland) Abdulrahman Kinana (3rd-L) in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the 20th National Congress of the Chinese party (Beijing: Oct 16-22, 2022). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Chinese govt encourages Tanzanians to produce avocados and soya to benefit from stable market

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Chinese government has encouraged Tanzanians to produce various crops saying that the Asian country has huge market demand for avocados and soya beans.

This was said during the weekend by the Chinese Ambassador, Chen Mingjian, when she met the Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade, Dr Ashatu Kijaji, at the Ministry offices in Dar es Salaam.

She said her government has always been a good friend to the government of Tanzania and the commercial relationship between the two countries continues to strengthen and is getting stronger day to day.

"Currently, China receives avocados from Tanzania and is ready to receive other products, especially soybeans in its market. Tanzanians are welcomed to bring these products to China because there is a guaranteed market," said the Ambassador.

Meanwhile, Minister Kijaji said the Tanzanian and Chinese governments have promised to develop business relations between them based on the principles of friendly relations and cooperation.

She said that the friendship between the two countries began in 1961 and that they will continue to honour the good foundation laid by the founders of the two countries who established the relationship.

Dr Kijaji said that Tanzania is willing to enable an enabling environment from both sides to cooperate and do their business in order to increase employment and promote the economy of the people and the nation as a whole.

Minister Kijaji together with the Ambassador discussed how to honour the Tanzania and Zambia Railways Authority (TAZARA) and revive the friendship factory of Urafiki which is the fruit of the relationship between the countries as well as various strategies to develop business.

ACT-Wazalendo issues caution over privatisation of Z'bar ports services

By Guardian Correspondent, Unguja

ACT-Wazalendo has said plans by the Zanzibar government to privatise port services to a foreign firm should be carefully looked into as it can adversely affect the economy.

The observation was given by Zitto Kabwe, the party's leader, when addressing a public rally in Nungwi in Unguja North region.

Zitto (pictured) said Zanzibar's economy depends on services from the international airport and ports services in regard to the development of the transport sector as the main pillar of its economy.

"Zanzibar Ports Board should be careful because the pillar of the Zanzibar's economy is tourism and

the transport sectors," he said.

He said the solution to sluggish port services is not to privatise the services but the government is supposed to look for able and qualified officials to operate the services with achievements.

He said due to the sluggish port services, the cost for cargo clearance has risen to USD 7,000 per 40-ft container instead of USD 2,000 charged at the port of Dar es Salaam.

He said Zanzibar port services fees are higher compared to other countries in east Africa that charge between USD 1,600 to 1,700, the issue that contributes to Zanzibar continued inflation.

"The aim of ACT-Wazalendo is to see Zanzibar becoming a commer-



cial hub for East Africa and central Africa and that this will be attained after the party is elected to power," he added.

Regarding loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to assist countries impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, he said there has emerged large scale bureaucracy in assessing the funds amounting to 33bn/- that aimed to benefit Zanzibar small entrepreneurs.

He noted that the government, despite having its own People's Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) had the funds remitted to the CRDB bank with the aim of providing loans to entrepreneurs before the emergence of monopoly that saw the money benefiting entrepreneurs' groups of the ruling CCM.

He called upon his party House of Representatives members to question the government on how well it has spent the IMF funds as

many of those targeted have not benefited.

Zitto said services at Zanzibar's Abeid Karume International Airport Terminal III have been privatised to a Dubai firm in violation of the laws on competitive bidding passed by the House of Representatives.

He further said the Zanzibar Airports Authority (ZAA) has stealthily privatised the services in violation of the foundations of rule of law and good governance.

He added that the party has called upon the Zanzibar's Controller and Auditor General (CAG) to audit all investment projects implemented by Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF) over claims of corruption.



TENDER NOTICE

SURVEY & INSPECTION SERVICES OF FOOD FOR EDUCATION COMMODITIES AT DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA AND RUYIGI, BURUNDI

TENDER №: CRS-BIGEBOSE-FY23-1st-01-SI

Catholic Relief Services - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (CRS) is a nonprofit non-governmental international relief and development organization working with local partners and serving people on the base of need, not creed, race, or nationality in more than 100 countries in five continents.

CRS Burundi invites eligible bidders to submit sealed bids for survey and inspection services of USDA donated Commodities at Port of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and at CRS warehouses in Ruyigi, Burundi.

The tender documents are available **via e-mail** from February 28th, 2023, till March 28th, 2023 (period), Monday to Friday during office hours. Requests for tender documents should be submitted on a company letterhead signed by Director/Manager of the company, scanned and emailed to Bujumburaprourement@crs.org with **"Request for Tender Documents: CRS-BIGEBOSE -FY23 1st-01-SI" in the subject line**. Each company should submit the request once only, and CRS will send the tender documents within 24 hours. No phone calls and no visits please.

The Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope **via DHL addressed to "Tender Committee, Tender No: CRS-BIGEBOSE-FY23-1st-01-SI, Catholic Relief Services, Avenue Muyinga # 9, BP 665, Bujumbura, Burundi, or the signed, stamped and scanned copies via email** (Send only scanned copies of the following sections: *Tender Receipt, Qualifications Summary, Declaration of Eligibility and Bid Form with the requested credentials such as ownership certificate of laboratory facility, licenses for the services, recommendation letters for previous experiences*) to Bujumburaprourement@crs.org with **"Tender Submission CRS-BIGEBOSE-FY23-1st-01-SI" in the subject line**.

The bids should be submitted until 3:00 pm Burundi time on **28th of March 2023. Bids received after 3:00pm Burundi time on March 28th, 2023**, will not be considered during bid opening.

For more information about the tender, please read the tender document very carefully.

Huawei joins UNESCO Global Alliance for Literacy to step up talent cultivation

By Guardian Reporter, Barcelona

HUAWEI has joined the UNESCO Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL) as part of the company's lead up to the Mobile World Congress 2023. The announcement was made over the weekend in Barcelona, Spain at a Digital Talent Summit co-hosted by Huawei and the Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) which serves as the Secretariat of the GAL.

At the Summit, Huawei and the UIL agreed to jointly promote the use of technology to raise literacy. The two parties also signed a cooperation agreement under which Huawei will fund an expansion of the UIL's current initiatives to enhance educators' use of technology in de-

veloping countries. Currently, the UIL initiative operates in Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Huawei is the first private company to become an associate member of the GAL and the company is excited as its own goals align with the GAL's vision of eradicating digital illiteracy in young people.

UIL Director David Atchoarena explained: "Our rapidly changing world calls for concerted efforts and strong partnerships to achieve quality education and lifelong learning for all."

"Huawei's expertise in the area of innovation in learning will be a great asset to the Global Alliance for Literacy. Collaborative projects such as ours will ensure that no one is left behind

on this journey," Atchoarena said.

Vicky Zhang, Huawei's Vice President of Corporate Communications stated: "Getting the right education is often the key to success in life. As a major player in the technology sector, Huawei feels it has a responsibility to provide technology skills in all parts of the world, trying our best to include as many people as possible."

"We are proud to join forces with UNESCO to better deliver on this responsibility," Zhang added.

According to him, Huawei believes digital talent is a key driver in achieving digital transformation, solid economic growth, and better quality of life.

Since 2008, the official said Huawei has offered a wide and expanding range of talent programmes. Under its Seeds for the Future umbrella, Huawei provides tens of thousands of people every year with scholarships and digital training courses targeting all age groups.



Call for Request of Applications

TANZANIA MAJI NA USAFI WA MAZINGIRA (MUM) ACTIVITY - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS MUM-RFA-004

The Tanzania Maji na Usafi wa Mazingira (MUM) Activity is a five-year activity (August 2021 - August 2026) funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission to Tanzania.

MUM is seeking Concept Notes detailing products and services from registered micro-enterprises, sole proprietors, and entrepreneurs to address pro-poor needs in the sanitation and hygiene value chain through supporting innovations to deliver appropriate products and/or services that can facilitate "do it yourself" by the low income customers of the MUM targeted communities. Please see <https://tetratech.force.com/ard> for full details and to download the Request for Applications MUM-RFA-004.

All interested applicants may either reach out to MUM grants unit by email at: tanzaniamum.grants@tetratech.com to request the full grant application document, or download it directly from the Tetra Tech grants portal (<https://tetratech.force.com/ard>). The application due date is **March 28, 2023**.

This call does not legally obligate Maji na Usafi wa Mazingira (MUM) Activity in partnership with any micro-enterprises, sole proprietor, or entrepreneur. No commitment is made, either expressed or implied, to compensate applicant for cost incurred in the preparation or submission of their applications.

Climate change turns Tanzania's Maasai livestock keepers into hairdressers

By Special Correspondent

FOR Ray Lipasho Kimeshwa, a Maasai man who hails from the Kiteto district in Tanzania's northern region of Manyara, climate change has left an indelible mark on his life.

Kimeshwa, 39, was the proud owner of 100 cattle in the 1990s through the early 2000s when drought caused by climate change started to kill some of his animals.

"Climate change forced me to migrate to the port city of Dar es Salaam to engage in the business of hairdressing in 2001," Kimeshwa, the chairperson of a community of about 80 Maasais at Ilala-Amama in Dar es Salaam, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Kimeshwa, who was busy organizing a group of young Maasai hairdressers at their hairdressing salon called Skuvi-Msusi Express at Ilala-Boma, said he is one of the casualties of climate change after the prolonged dry spells in his Kiteto home village killed 16 of his cattle for lack of water and pasture.

"In fact, drought has forced tens of hundreds of Maasais to migrate to urban centers to do businesses like hairdressing, guarding houses and other property using traditional weapons such as clubs and machetes, and selling Maasai traditional artifacts, including leather beaded necklaces, beaded sandals, and ethnic jewelry," said Kimeshwa, who has three wives with seven children.

According to him, his three wives and seven children are in Kiteto keep-

ing their livestock and doing other house chores.

The Maasai are a Nilotic ethnic group inhabiting northern Tanzania and central and southern Kenya.

They are among the best-known local populations internationally due to their residence near the many game parks of the African Great Lakes and their distinctive customs and dress.

"Our hairdressing takes one hour to three hours depending on a style that our customer wants," said Kimeshwa, adding that prices for hairdressing range from 8,000 Tanzanian shillings (about 3.4 U.S. dollars) to 70,000 Tanzanian shillings (about 30 U.S. dollars) per person. He said the money they were getting from hairdressing was helping to look after their families back home.

Kimeshwa said their customers are women from all walks of life, including foreign tourists. "Some of the tourists take us to Zanzibar on fully paid trips to do the hairdressing there after they have been impressed by our styles," said the Maasai man, wearing a broad smile. Kimeshwa spoke to Xinhua as he was arranging the hair for Mwanahamisi Shaaban, a businesswoman. He teamed up with two other Maasais who identified themselves as Peter Mbayo, 26, from Simanjiro in the Manyara region, and Michael Kilanga, 25, from Longido in the Arusha region.

Like Kimeshwa, Mbayo said he had 40 cattle but 10 were killed by drought, and Kilanga said he had 30 cattle and lost more than 10 of the animals to drought. They both arrived in Dar es



Maasai people weave hair for a customer in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. (Photo by Herman Emmanuel/Xinhua)

Salaam in 2016 to do the hairdressing business. Mwanahamisi described the Maasai hairdressers as very humble and kind. "During the hairdressing, the Maasai tell us stories about their tradition, including their pastoral lives.

They also tell us about how they kill wild animals that attack their livestock," said Mwanahamisi, who be-

lieved their hairdressing styles are very impressive. In February 2022, the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Mashimba Ndaki said 306,358 animals, including cattle, goats, sheep, and donkeys had been killed by drought in Tanzania between September 2021 and January 2022 for lack of water and pasture.

The animals were killed in Manyara and Arusha where Kimeshwa and his colleagues came from, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Tanga and Coast, the six regions that were most hit by the long dry spells caused by erratic seasonal rains, according to Ndaki. Ndaki said the government has taken several measures to save the animals, including digging dams and boreholes in selected areas to provide water to the animals.

Xinhua

Spiralling govt spending and bloated ministerial costs set poor precedent for debt-laden Ghana

By Enoch Randy Aikins

GHANA signed a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in December 2022 in an attempt to control rampant debt and restore financial stability. Now the government must tighten its own purse strings in solidarity with citizens as it embarks on domestic debt restructuring and painful haircuts to corporate and individual bondholders, reducing the value of their investments.

Several groups – including the Catholic Bishops' Conference, Ghana Pentecostal and Charismatic Council, and prominent Ghanaians – have called on the state to cut spending to show its commitment to addressing the economic crisis.

Government expenditure has ballooned over the years. For 2023, proposed government spending is GHe205,431-million (25.6% of GDP), 53.5% more than the previous year.

Total revenue including grants is projected at GHe143,956-million (18% of GDP), leading to a budget deficit of GHe61,475-million, equivalent to 7.6% of GDP. Although this deficit is relatively low compared to the 14.7% in 2020 and 11.4% in 2021, it's still high considering the poor state of the country's economy.

Persistent calls from the public have not seen expenditure reduced to acceptable levels. Modest attempts have been made, such as 30% cuts to government salaries, reducing coupon vouchers for government officials by 50%, and freezing new vehicle imports.

But these are seen as inadequate considering that allocations to the offices of the president and vice-president, and other government agencies, shot up by almost 938% in just five years. In 2022, the total allocation to the office was about GHe3.1-billion.

Government can do a lot to regain citizens' trust and confidence, starting with deliberate austerity measures and expenditure rationalisation strategies.

First, the number of ministers, including deputies, could be slashed from the current 86 to a maximum of 50. To achieve this, ministries with overlapping mandates must be combined or scrapped.

The Roads and Highways, Transport and Railway Development ministries could be merged. National Security could be joined with Defence. Lands and Natural Resources could combine with Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

Similarly, the Information Ministry could fall under Communication and Digitisation, and Fisheries and Aquaculture could join Food and Agriculture. Sanitation could be combined with Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, while Religious Affairs and Chieftaincy could merge with Tourism, Arts and Culture.

The number of government appointees could also be reduced. Some ministries have four ministers each, including deputies. The national purse is drained not just by ministerial salaries but accompanying costs for personal assistants, drivers, security and domestic help. In these times of economic stress, all these ministries could be effectively run by a single minister and deputy each, with chief directors and staff.

Aside from ministers, the number of presidential staff can be cut. For a small country like Ghana to have about 995 staffers in the presidency including 337 political appointments – apparently the largest in West Africa – is unconscionable. Many of these are redundant in their duties.

For instance, over 20 people are paid to run the



Accra, Ghana. Persistent calls from the public to curb Ghana's government spending have not seen expenditure reduced to acceptable levels. Modest attempts have been made, such as 30% cuts to government salaries, reducing coupon vouchers for government officials by 50%, and freezing new vehicle imports. (Photo: Public Domain / Gallo Images)

Presidency's communication, separate from Information Ministry staff and those handling social media. Presidential staff salaries grew by 508.4% from 2020 to 2021.

Also, the secretariats under the Presidency for implementing flagship programmes could be placed under their sector ministries.

Examples include the Agenda III Secretariat, Free SHS (Senior High School) Secretariat, One District One Factory Secretariat, Ghana Enterprises Agency, and National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme.

The cost of running the government can also come down. The state should suspend or reduce sitting allowances, bonuses and per diems, suspend foreign travel and fuel coupons, and ban importing new vehicles for government staff. Furthermore, government appointees could use a bus for national tours instead of long convoys of cars. This

would save on fuel, driver and operational costs.

When a nation is in crisis, its leaders should surely sacrifice the most. It was commendable when Vice-President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia joined 40 Members of Parliament (MPs) in a commercial bus to attend a funeral this month.

Expenditure relating to state-owned enterprises (SOEs) could also be cut by reducing the number of appointees to boards and management. Most SOEs in Ghana have ridiculously high numbers of political appointees. Some have as many as three deputy chief executives or managing directors alongside numerous directors. Yet most SOEs consistently make losses and are heavily indebted. Despite this, their salaries, bonuses and allowances are higher than those of MPs.

Expenditure on some flagship pro-

grammes should be reviewed, and cuts made to non-essential projects. Programmes like the Free Senior High School should ensure that those who can afford to pay fees, do. Students from private junior high schools could be charged, while senior high schools remain free for those coming up from public junior high. Alternatively, parents could pay feeding fees while government pays other costs.

Beyond these measures, the government must abolish or at least suspend the four yearly payments of gratuities to the governing elite listed in Article 71 of the 1992 constitution. A total of GHe207,845 120 was paid as end-of-service benefits to Article 71 holders who served from 2017-20.

Corruption must of course also be addressed. The 2022 Auditor General's report shows that irregularities in the public sector in 2021 amounted to about GHe17.5-billion.

Similarly, the Auditor General's Covid-19 expenditure report shows that \$81-million worth of vaccines paid for by the state were never delivered, among other infractions.

These measures would not only plug the holes in the public purse but show that government is ready to share the burden of the nation's suffering. By helping to reduce the fiscal deficit, savings from these cuts could fund infrastructure projects in vital sectors such as education, health and roads.

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Global Security Initiative: A new conceptual framework to understand global security

By Sun Wenzhu

ON April 21, 2022, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Security Initiative (GSI), to construct a global security community with a shared future for humanity. 10 months later, Beijing issued the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper, to explain it in detail. The GSI report highlights 20 priorities of cooperation and five major platforms and mechanisms of cooperation. The Chinese approach targets prominent problems, namely deficits in peace, development, security and governance. The GSI has been welcomed by the international community. More than 80 countries and international organizations have voiced their support.

The GSI states that security is a common right equally owned by every sovereign country, regardless of their size, richness and military strength.

The principles rests on a foundation of morality and justice, which stands in sharp contrast with previous security theories that are based on certain structure of capability distribution among great powers, such as the theories of "hegemonic stability" or "bi-polar stability."

The idea of security is no longer a privilege owned by certain few countries in monopoly, only bestowing to their client states in exchange for the latter's obedience.

The security of one country should not come at the expense of others.

The zero-sum or Cold War mentality is a source of insecurity, and exposes the hypocrisy of unilateralism in security affairs, as well as the paradox of "collective security," which enhances the absolute security within a certain faction or group, treating national security as a kind of "club membership," to achieve security by enlarging their superiority of military capabilities so that any "hostile" move might be "deterred," yet ignores the security of those outside the group gets undermined, thus deteriorated the security environment.

The whole history of the 20th century has demonstrated that such power rivalry would only bring antago-



China issued the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper in Beijing on February 21, 2023. (Photo/Global Times)

nism, division and confrontation, becoming recipe for global instability, and damage global peace.

Global security should be protected by a real multilateral approach, which remains open and inclusive, instead of "mini-lateralism" based on political ideologies.

The GSI upholds the authority of the UN as the main platform for global security governance, and

calls for global effort to enhance the UN capacity for international peacekeeping, fighting against terrorism and transnational organized crime, as well as drawing blueprints for future global security cooperation. Meanwhile, the GSI argues that major countries should take their responsibilities for global stability by adhering to peaceful coexistence, especially in the area of inter-

national nuclear strategic stability.

The GSI also emphasizes the constructive role of regional organizations, such as the African Union, ASEAN, and League of Arab States in dealing with regional hotspot security issues and maintaining regional stability. The GSI takes a holistic approach for security in both traditional and non-traditional domains. The meaning of security has

already gone far beyond the domain of international relations.

In order to achieve comprehensive and sustainable security, every country needs to deal with challenges proposed by non-state factors, such as terrorism, climate change, food and energy shortage, the disruption of international supply chains, cybersecurity and biosecurity problems.

These problems can't be solved without concerted efforts of all relevant countries. Countries need to explore specific security solutions and to cooperate with each other to update international laws for sustainable solutions. Additionally, the GSI believes Chinese wisdom can help to overcome disputes between countries by peacefully resolving such concerns through dialogue and negotiation.

There's no winner out of war. To avoid the sufferings of civilians and the damages to their lives and properties, the international community should promote the political settlement of hot-spot issues including the Ukraine crisis, keeping in mind that no simple solutions can be found for a complicated problem, and only a fair and practical attitude based on the merits of the specific issue and respects the legitimate security concerns of all parties may lead to common security and lasting peace. China stays firm on the side of peaceful dialogue for the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis. The attempt of the U.S. and some of its allies to protract the Ukraine crisis so that it may serve as a leverage of geopolitical confrontation is unproductive for peace and security.

As the one and only country who writes "peaceful development" into its constitution, China is going to stick to its role as a guardian of world peace. With the GSI as a flag of direction, more countries should join China to maintain real and lasting security and peace for the whole world.

Sun Wenzhu, Associate Research Fellow of the Department for Asia-Pacific Studies at China Institute of International Studies. CGTN

Women and girls in Niger's Tillabéri bear the brunt of child marriages and gender-based violence

By Ornella Moderan and Fahri-man Rodrigue Koné

THE security crisis in Niger's southwestern Tillabéri region is taking a heavy toll on local communities. The Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (Acled) project has documented over 2,500 deaths in the area since 2017. This is 52.8% of the national count over that time – making Tillabéri the epicentre of violence in Niger.

Nearly 100,000 people in the Tillabéri region had been displaced by the beginning of 2022, and the figure is growing. Women and girls make up 51% of those in need of humanitarian assistance, according to the United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Basic social services are lacking for everyone, but displacement makes it difficult for women needing health-care, especially maternal care – a major concern in a country with the highest fertility rate in the world.

This is only one of the many ways the security crisis affects women and girls based on their gender. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and the Niger chapter of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (Wanep-Niger) recently teamed up with 10 women from conflict-affected localities to shed light on the experience of girls and women in the Tillabéri region.

Through 52 testimonies, the

research found that the security crisis not only threatened lives, physical integrity and livelihoods but significantly aggravated various forms of gender-based violence common during peacetime.

Child marriage is a telling example. Niger has the highest prevalence rate in the world, with 76% of girls married before the age of 18, and 28% before 15, according to the UN Children's Fund. Yet the ISS-Wanep study's empirical data, 70% of which was collected by local female teachers, suggests even more concerning levels in areas affected by conflict and displacement. This perception has been corroborated by other surveys.

Marrying off their young daughters is a way for impoverished families to cope with increased economic pressure and uncertainty by reducing the number of dependants or establishing protective alliances with the groom's families. Interviews suggest an increase in girls being married off before the minimum legal age of 15.

Girls are disproportionately affected because of both gender and age norms. But the problem can only be identified and addressed if gender-disaggregated data is available. Without it, remedies will fail to deal appropriately with the gender-specific needs of conflict victims.

In August 2022 alone, 817 schools in the Tillabéri region



A displaced family walks through the Warlam refugee camp in Niger. (Photo: UN Photo/ Eskinder Debebe)

were closed due to violence and insecurity. This impedes the right of all children to education and raises the risk of child marriage for girls, and recruitment into armed groups for boys.

Cases of conflict-related sexual violence have also been reported, although the few figures available represent only the tip of the ice-

berg. The social stigma surrounding these acts often discourages survivors from reporting them.

While most of these crimes are committed by members of non-state armed groups, incidents such as those in Téra in March 2021 are a reminder that security forces can also be involved. Chadian soldiers stationed in the

region as part of the G5 Sahel Joint Force were accused of raping at least three people, including an 11-year-old girl and a 32-year-old pregnant woman.

ISS and Wanep-Niger's consultative study also notes the worrying situation faced by widows and orphaned children of civilian victims of the conflict, who largely

have to fend for themselves. As the family economy is traditionally male-dominated, the sudden death of a husband can expose his wife or wives – polygyny remains prevalent – and their children to acute economic distress. For widowed older women, losing adult sons can mean isolation and poverty.

As the crisis constrains economic activity and disperses extended families, the support mechanisms on which widows traditionally rely are proving less accessible. Although wives of soldiers killed in combat benefit from national programmes, these aren't available to civilians' widows. Systems to identify and support these women should be a public policy priority.

Beyond securing territory, the response to violence in Tillabéri must support human security broadly to mitigate the negative effects on men and women, girls and boys. This will only be possible if the experiences and concerns of those directly affected are addressed, including women living in rural areas.

Establishing mechanisms for community consultation, as tried by the ISS and Wanep-Niger in their study, could enable the government to identify local concerns and maintain constructive dialogue regarding responses.

The lack of gender-disaggregated data hinders the analysis of gender-specific impacts of insecurity and the formulation of responses. State and non-state organisations that produce data on the security, humanitarian, social and economic situation in conflict-affected areas should systematically disaggregate the data in order to inform public policy.

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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 KADOGGO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMUJAWYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVVUMA 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 ANBELE 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



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Readying for new cycle in opposition politics

By Guardian Correspondent

NEWS or rather information that the so-called COVID-19 group now sidelined by the leading opposition party are eyeing a 'call up' with ACT-Wazalendo was a softly talked about event of perhaps momentous significance. It may provide another institutional input to the growth of the party, now a partner in the Zanzibar government, and as it is essentially a Mainland-based group, have far reaching repercussions on the Mainland as well. It could change recent trends in shifting of party loyalties, from Chadema back to CCM for Chadema to ACT Wazalendo.

That appears to be the next curve in opposition politics, from the rise of NCCR-Mageuzi in the 1995 general election, to the rise of the Civic United Front (CUF) in the 2000 election first with 16.3 per cent of the vote, after NCCR-Mageuzi tore itself apart by internal conflict. This rise could have been sustained in the 2005 polls had the mainland poll and the Zanzibar poll been held together, but as the Zanzibar poll came earlier, the loss of the CUF in Zanzibar led to a high rate of abstention on the Mainland, where the loser due to this abstention was CUF presidential candidate Prof. Ibrahim Lipumba. He had 12.9 per cent of the vote.

The 2005 polls were thus deceptive in terms of the growth of opposition strength, by force majeure of postponing the vote on the Mainland to remove the photo of the Chadema running mate, Jumbe Rajab Jumbe, who died less than two weeks before the poll. As the Zanzibar authorities declared that Chadema was virtually absent on the Isles electoral turf and Jumbe was an unknown quantity there, his photo would not be a distraction so they proceeded with the voting. That wasn't the case on the Mainland, where



Chadema was well known but not a strong party yet.

There was a curious wind of rapid growth of Chadema after the 2005 polls, as a new technique of growing opposition politics formed a symbiosis with intra-ruling party infighting. While this was the political core of parliamentary events of that period, its socioeconomic kernel was systemic, organised bureaucratic resistance to economic reform, thus finding a niche to discredit key sections of authority for well-founded executive directives. The crucial element in this usage of political pluralism for games designed to stem rivals for succession was confi-

dentiality, as if one is attacked or suspected of lacking in propriety he leaves, not spill the beans.

Those who designed this crafty game of politics scarcely knew that it would alter in a quasi-permanent way the face of multipartism in the country, for decades.

It removed old-fashioned solidarity in ruling party ranks, and swelling opposition with a new ethos. As the opposition rallied around this new opportunity to electrify portions of the electorate on the need to sweep from office what was painted as a thoroughly corrupt state, this apparent success of conveying the message on the

need for change also worked to its detriment. After the 26 per cent show of success by Chadema candidate Willibrood Slaa, improved to slightly below a third as CCM troubled bigwig Edward Lowassa skipped to opposition, just as Augustine Mrema earlier, the die was cast. The victorious CCM candidate set out to sweep the house,

This event now sets the stage for the changing atmosphere in opposition politics, as then ACT-Wazalendo was still a budding party despite being awash with cash and putting up candidates in all election niches in 2015. Its major institutional opening was the fall out of the Mainland-Zanzibar factional leaderships,

where the Zanzibar faction around ex-chief minister Seif Sharif Hamad shifted to ACT-Wazalendo, a situation well prepared for by party leader Zitto Kabwe's moderately leveraged opposition. He isn't questioning the legitimacy of the state or the ruling party, but seeks reforms in what his Chadema critics, bemused, say that it is an NGO outlook.

Chances are that this pole will be more attractive as fewer people, in the current situation, wish for the sort of militant politics the erstwhile leading opposition party espoused in the 2007-2015 period.

The die was cast with the clean-up drive by fifth phase

leader JPM who destabilized the opposition's tactical weaponry of fighting corruption in the corridors of power. From that time onwards they altered their motto to constitutional reforms as a singular pre-occupation, to obtain a softer presidency that ostensibly will not curb political rights, humiliate citizens or shoot.

What will determine the outcome in opposition politics in the next general election, a sort of return to 2010 as it will be lacking the frenzy of split in CCM that hugely coloured the 2015 and 1995 polls earlier, is who wins in the crossover or party shift tendency. As shifters usually seek the next best party for one's ambitions, it will be a contest of electability between Chadema and ACT-Wazalendo. Shifts of the intervening years were mainly from Chadema to CCM as the fifth phase leader demonstrated his daring and ultimately heroic aura, with uncharted initiatives like demolishing the citadels of economic misconduct in public organisations. He went a bit far with civic misconduct of forged certificates, and disciplined higher levels of the bureaucracy to sit in office and live on their salaries.

He boosted development expenditure by cutting waste (travels, bloated meetings, conferences, etc.) and thus was able to put up solid finances for major projects before seeking loans. As the sixth phase has largely kept to this outlook, oppositions have to seek a solid agenda.

Policy trap: Violent youths, dignity and self-employment

By Guardian Correspondent

TALES of how a youth stormed with an accomplice into his father's house where he stays with the young man's stepmother, and the two slashed the middle aged woman to death sent shock waves around the country at the weekend.

The issue at hand was a claim by the young man that his father had given some property to his second wife (the stepmother) but not to him, and thus resorted to killing the lady. In ordinary discourse it would appear as if he was also vying for attention, to wit.

Otherwise what is noticed is a crude fight for property where the sense of family doesn't exist, the youth sin-

gularly doesn't recognize his step mother as a parent, and instead saw her as a rival for the older man's property.

As the father wasn't as yet dead or dying, issues of inheritance didn't strictly speaking arise but a bit of it had already started, in which case the younger wife was given a house (possibly the one they were occupying) to be hers in case of anything. The younger man thought differently - usually, that she gets nothing but the sons of the father, etc.

The standard line of reaction has largely been secular, that often parentage is a problem, giving children what they want and spoiling them, incapable of looking for their own fending later.

Another line, equally strident, has intimated a failure

of parentage in a different direction, in its lack of 'a sense of God,' which without doubt hides a poignant cultural reality, of precipitated decline or decomposition of family ties. A household becomes a waiting place for youths to inherit, and if need be done so violently; stories about impatient youths waiting for their fathers to die!

The societal wisdom about failure to bring up youths of this or that character has gaps in its assertions, as finally all upbringing is a matter of environment, and youths in the past had appointed tasks that were duly fulfilled as they grew up.

In tribal custom the youth, when old enough, his age mates go into the bush, cut thin trees and build a mud house in a short time, after which he is given a wife and a new family.

Current male youths are often a burden to a family, finish school at whatever level and have no sense of direction, and often start craving to inherit.

Current policy thrust is to provide a range of skills for youths to raise usable activities where they can fend for themselves, and this scarcely distinguishes what level of education they have, or their expectations in life.

It is a denial of the function of education as a ladder to social mobility, to make it a slim advantage in the course of initiating occupational activities of whatever kind.

This orientation hurts the pride of youths who need regular income and predictable patterns of expenditure to feel they are dignified in the eyes of others. If not, they can explode. The

point here is that policy makers ought not to sink their strategic outlook in the singularly deceptive concept of self-employment, as even in terms of syntax or etymology it is a faulty idea.

It simply means that someone has some capital to start a business and is then looking for people to employ, and the first is him, while others follow later. The reality is that the youth starts a trade of sorts, to employ himself as even in that activity he will still be bidding for time if a job turns up.

This problem of a listless population of youths who lack the sense of dignity and inner satisfaction is a powder keg in each African society, and depending on the circumstances, it explodes from time to time.

The manner of explosion depends on the political agenda in

each country, when a political entrepreneur needs their energies for this or that purpose, whether it is demonstrations or guerrilla wars. And if the cultural environment is right, an alliance is created to spread terrorism.

Africa's ruling elites and their global liberal (in the sense of radical) allies have formed an impregnable fortress of values based on the \European experience, and African elites adopt it at their own peril. In the recent wave of strikes in Britain, one reason was that the National Health Service is overextended, thousands of positions are unfilled, not because there is no cash firstly but it is hard to recruit doctors and nurses. Here the crisis is different. We have no money to recruit teachers and we adopt the same policy

options as Europe, worsening lack of jobs.

African leaders need to grasp the need for creating conditions for regular income for youths, not through self-engagement (as self-employment is a faulty idea).

It means trading off more than 300 state companies that are supposed to send annual dividends to the Treasury, to seek strategic investors for them so that hundreds of companies are started all over the country from regional and district activities of all those firms.

This way most youths finishing school will have a reliable chance of clinching a job, others get absorbed into a vast services sector, and a portion obtain unemployment allowances. We shall return to stability, not stabbing stepmothers.

SMEs, freelancers and digital nomads deserve financial relief amid post era

By Guardian Reporter

THE global COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the pace of change, causing significant disruption across labour markets and forever changing how people work. While some companies have reviewed their working policies to accommodate hybrid approaches to work, others have shed millions of permanent full-time jobs.

Reports show that many African countries are facing extremely high unemployment rates. The continent also has the world's largest and youngest workforce (almost 60 per cent of its population is under 25 years of age, and 250 million of its youth are unemployed). With millions of permanent full-time jobs being made redundant, the continent is experiencing a dramatic increase in freelancers, contractors, digital nomads, and other gig workers. Currently, Africa has 10.1 per cent of the world's freelancers, with 42 per cent of workers working remotely at least once a day a week - and these figures could increase.

While some people choose to freelance because of its flexibility and variety, others are freelancing because it is a means of survival.

Traditionally, freelancing is seen as an unstable way to make money reserved only for the brave. On the one hand, you could land a great gig only to lose another at any minute, making the perpetual need to find new work very overwhelming. It's essential, however, that you do not

let these challenges cloud your perspective of freelancing. Freelance work can be rewarding and lucrative if you are responsible and plan correctly financially.

Grey, a Nigeria-founded start-up that provides access to foreign accounts for African freelancers and digital nomads, has reaffirmed its dedication to providing cutting-edge and secure global banking solutions to the continent.

As the digital economy continues to grow, Grey is at the forefront of providing safe and convenient banking solutions to meet the needs of customers and businesses. With a focus on Africa, the start-up has developed a range of services that allow individuals and businesses to easily access and manage their foreign accounts, including currency exchange and access to virtual cards.

Idorenyin Obong, CEO of Grey, Africa says that the firm has been providing financial planning tips and support that help empower African freelancers and digital nomads.

He says that as freelancers and contractors carry the burden of uncertain income, they must formulate a concrete financial plan. The tips and strategies shared below can assist freelancers and contractors in building a solid financial plan with variable income.

"Freelancers and contractors must plan a budget that allows them to pay for their expenses while saving for the future. Financial experts usually recommend the 50/30/20 rule as a monthly budgeting formu-

la for freelancers and gig workers. You can manage your income more efficiently if you regularly balance your expenses across these three main spending areas," he says.

However, one of the more challenging tasks for freelancers and gig workers who work with international clients is how to get paid. Billing and being paid in foreign currencies can be complicated, especially when bank charges and exchange rates differ. "Today, freelancers can choose from a host of fintech platforms, like Grey, that caters to the demands and needs of African freelancers and gig workers by providing sophisticated yet affordable digital banking solutions, such as virtual banking accounts," he notes

These virtual accounts are essential for freelancers, particularly those who frequently travel to different locations. These accounts help them manage cash flow, protect against identity theft and fraud, and keep track of their financial records.

He wants every freelancer and self-employed person to consider separating their business and personal finances. Freelancers should use their business accounts only for business expenses. Once they have a budget, they can determine how much money should be allocated to personal expenses.

"Usually, when freelancers and digital nomads start, they usually undercharge because they fail to consider all the things their former employer used to cover. Freelancers will need to set their rates high



enough and secure enough work to pay for the benefits they need to provide. These hidden costs include medical and disability insurance, retirement savings, and taxes," he says. He further says freelancers and gig workers should try to diversify their income streams from different clients so that if they lose revenue, they have other clients to rely on. We suggest broadening your skill set and engaging in business networking to acquire more clients.

"A financial plan is crucial in decision-making, where uninformed decisions can cost you significantly. Working as a freelancer and gig worker entails extra responsibilities. A solid financial plan will allow you to continue your business without worries," he adds.

Furthermore, the user-friendly interface of their platforms provides customers with a seamless experience, while also empowering them to gain control of their financial future and participate in the global economy.

In addition to its core services, Grey is said to be constantly exploring new technologies and partnerships to further enhance its product offerings. This includes the integration of advanced technology to improve fraud protection, data security and increase efficiency.

Grey, formerly known as Aboki Africa, said its rebrand

in February 2022 marked a new chapter for the company and further reiterated the company's mission to make it easier for digital nomads to live and work in the modern world.

Obong says: "At Grey, we remain committed to providing innovative digital payment solutions that empower our users to achieve their financial goals. Furthermore, we believe that by providing access to foreign accounts, we are not just helping our users but also contributing to the development of the African economy."

The start-up's dedication to providing exceptional service and innovative solutions has made it a trusted brand among its customers, and the company looks forward to continuing to serve the African market in the years to come. Fionah Umulisa, Grey Regional Director, East Africa, she leads Grey's East African operations, responsible for businesses in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. She also oversees the company's ongoing expansion efforts into other emerging markets. As a passionate technology enthusiast, Fionah believes that fintech can solve many problems facing emerging markets. Her experience building, growing, and stabilizing fintech startups, including at a leading African agritech company, has made her an effective leader.

World's largest oil corporation to lead climate change talks in 2023

QUITO, Ecuador / LA PAZ, Bolivia

THE Chief Executive of the twelfth largest oil producer – Sultan Al Jaber of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) – has been appointed as president of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) COP28, the biggest climate change conference that will take place in November, 2023 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In brief, the leadership of a Climate Conference that should deliver on ways to create a fossil-free future is in the hands of the representative of one of the top 15 corporations most responsible for carbon emissions globally.

Like any other oil company, ADNOC's very reason for existence is to profit off of the very product that has sent global greenhouse gas emissions soaring and spurred a global climate emergency.

In fact, ADNOC Drilling under ADNOC Groups reported a rise of 33 percent in 2022 net profit with a projection of record net profit in 2023 fueled by further oil and gas expansion plans. And now at least 12 employees of ADNOC have been given organizing roles for COP28. That means this year the global climate negotiations will literally be run by the fossil fuel industry.

Fierce criticism has arisen from all over the world and in particular from climate activists that have been long fighting for a fossil fuel free climate COP.

In reaction to this appointment, more than 450 climate and human rights organizations wrote a letter to UN Secretary General António Guterres and Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC condemning the appointment of Al Jaber as COP28 President.

The thin argument presented for the appointment of Al Jaber is his involvement in renewables as chairman of Masdar, a "clean-energy innova-

tor" investing in renewables. But that alone does not compare to the evidence on the negative role and powerful influence of the fossil fuel industry in the climate talks.

The fossil fuel industry has completely co-opted climate policy from the inside out. The most offensive illustration of this co-option and corporate capture of climate talks is the current reality that someone like Al Jaber will preside over a crucial session of climate negotiations at such a time when complete and equitable phase out of fossil fuels is a critical and immediate action needed to protect the planet.

And this is not happening for the first time! More than 630 fossil fuel industry lobbyists participated in COP27 last year at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt and 18 out of 20 COP27 sponsors were either directly partnered with or are linked to the fossil fuel industry.

This ongoing 30-year experiment of allowing the largest polluters, their financiers, and polluter governments to undermine a meaningful global response to climate change has delivered predictably poor and unacceptable results. Several reports last year including this report by the UN Environmental Programme showed that the world will miss the target set in the Paris Agreement by world leaders to limit global warming below 1.5.

So, what's the solution?

It's time for international climate policy to finally be protected from polluting interests, and this is the reason many are proposing a concrete drawing from other UN precedents to systematically weed out this undue interference. The UN Secretary General has recently equated the fossil fuel industry's modus operandi as "inconsistent with human survival," also agreeing that "those responsible [for climate deceit] must be held to ac-

The graphic features the United Nations Climate Change logo on the left. To the right, the text "Capacity-building Portal" is displayed above three icons: a gear for "Tool", a document with a magnifying glass for "Case Study", and a network of people for "Project". Below these are two more icons: a microphone for "Podcast" and a person at a computer for "Webinar".

Tunisian President Kais Saied casts his vote in the referendum on the new constitution in Tunis on July 25, 2022. File photo

count.' A concrete Accountability Framework should be implemented by the UNFCCC drawing from other UN precedents to systematically weed out this undue interference.

Parties to the UNFCCC have to change the course of how climate talks are moving and provide immediate and clear signs of deep structural changes that can lead to just transition. Governments across the world should be actively protecting climate action from being written, bankrolled, and weakened by polluting interests.

Rather, it's (past) time to implement real,

proven, and people-centered solutions and hold polluting corporations liable for their decades-long deception and deceit. These are not new ideas. These are not even radical ideas. They are necessary ones.

The indigenous peoples, peasants, women and frontline communities who face and suffer the serious consequences of the impacts of climate change, together with the social groups of the world that have a real interest in curbing the emissions of greenhouse gasses, demand that the decision makers implement the necessary changes in order to ensure that appro-

propriate measures are adopted by the world and governments at COP28 to prevent the collapse of the planet.

If these necessary measures are not rectified and implemented immediately, it is world leaders and the decision makers who would be mainly responsible for the collapse of our planet. For us it is clear, Sultan Al Jaber does not have the moral or ethical rectitude to lead and deliver on a COP28 that is for the peoples.

IPS

Türkiye debates whether to postpone elections after catastrophic quakes

By ISS Enact Project

BELGIUM and the Netherlands have overtaken Spain as Europe's main entry points for cocaine coming from Latin America. The 65.6 tonnes of the drug intercepted at Antwerp port in 2020 nearly doubled in 2022. And Morocco is a crucial link in the chain.

When the Netherlands opened its cannabis market in the 1970s, Dutch and Belgian nationals of Moroccan descent drew on their families to cannabis growers in the northern mountains of Morocco's Rif region. What started as hashish trafficking slowly extended to cocaine, a more lucrative drug. The powerful Mocro Mafia drug cartel emerged from this trade in the 1990s. Working mainly from Belgium and the Netherlands, it controls a third of Europe's cocaine market.

Latin American drug traffickers have increasingly used Morocco and other Maghreb countries, and dealers with a foothold in Morocco and Europe, like the Mocro Mafia, for their transnational cocaine trade. Colombian and Mexican cartels used the group to facilitate the drug route into Europe via Spain's southern city of Algeciras.

But since Spanish and Italian authorities tightened their border control and search

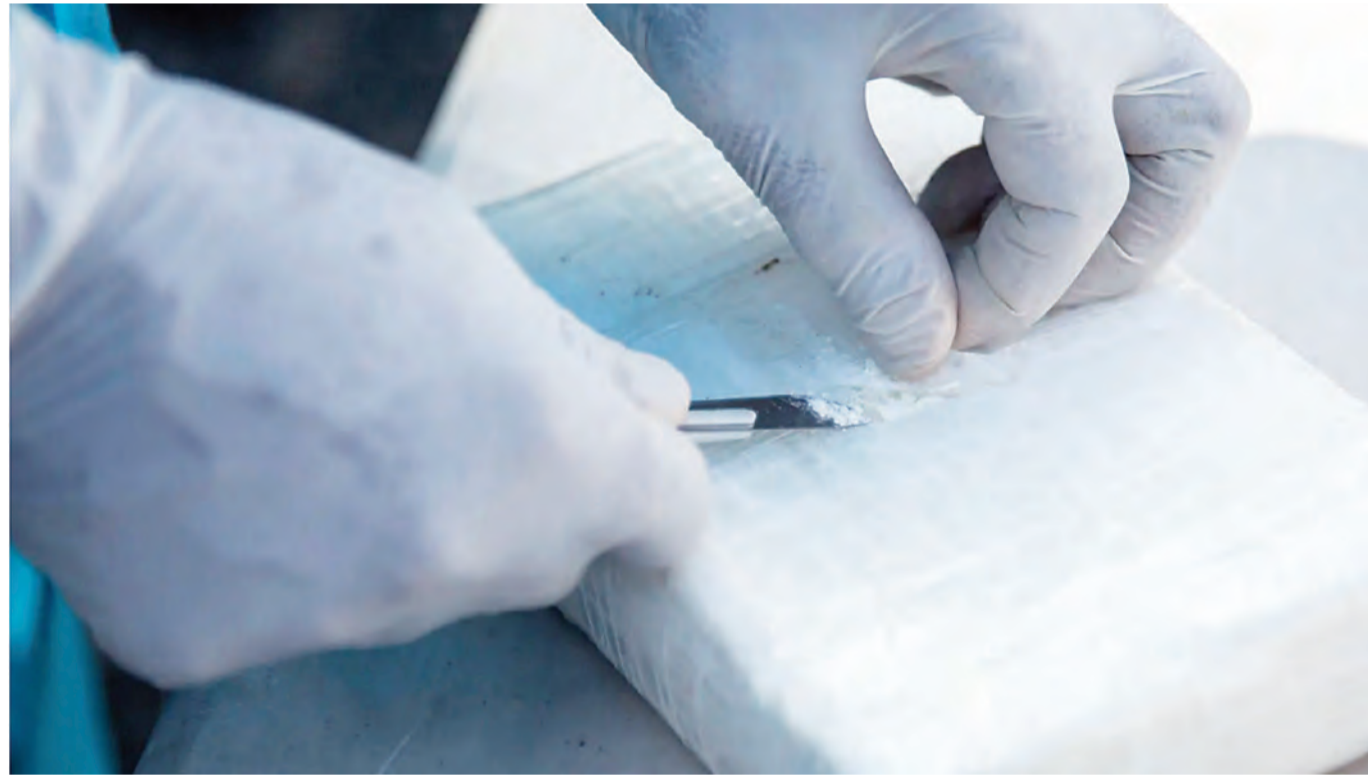
operations, that route has become risky says criminologist and co-founder of Crim'Halt, Fabrice Rizzoli. Preferred entry points now are ports in Belgium and the Netherlands, where massive volumes of container traffic make it difficult for authorities to address the problem. In its 2021 report, Rotterdam's port authority said it was "working with various agencies in the port to maintain security and combat drug-related crime."

Corruption is the key enabler of cocaine trafficking from Latin America to Rotterdam and Antwerp via Africa. For Latin American drug cartels, the Mocro Mafia's ability to corrupt government officials makes it a strategic ally.

Audio exchanges intercepted through the Sky ECC app reveal how Mocro Mafia members boasted about bribing customs officers in the Port of Dakar, which is used as a transit point. Likewise, dockers in Antwerp and Rotterdam are paid up to €100,000 to relocate containers to avoid police and customs control.

Rizzoli says Belgium and the Netherlands are also both money laundering centres. Antwerp, the world diamond processing capital, is a destination for cleaning drug proceeds (sometimes paid in diamonds). Belgium's real estate sector is a primary money laundering route.

The Netherlands is an



Working mainly from Belgium and the Netherlands, the 'Mocro Mafia' controls a third of Europe's cocaine market. (Photo: Erika Santelices/AFP)

ideal place for drug traffickers seeking to reinvest their money. A reported €16-billion is laundered annually due to the country's large, internationally oriented highly digitised financial sector and open, trade-oriented economy. The creation of shell companies is a crucial conduit for money laundering in the Netherlands.

The Mocro Mafia uses violence to expand its reach into the cocaine market. In the past decade, over 100 people have died in violence be-

tween the Mocro Mafia and Belgian drug traffickers. The group is also suspected of involvement in the murder of a Moroccan judge's son.

Derk Wiersum, an Amsterdam lawyer specialising in organised crime and drug trafficking networks, and Peter R de Vries, a journalist reporting on drug trafficking, were assassinated in 2019 and 2021, allegedly by the Mocro Mafia. And recently, a Belgian girl of Moroccan origin was killed when her parents' home was shot at – allegedly by the group.

In September 2021, an alert was raised by Dutch security services, who believed that Prime Minister Mark Rutte was under threat from the Mocro Mafia. Likewise, Dutch Crown Princess Catharina-Amalia is protected by heavy security following kidnapping threats linked to the group. The Mocro Mafia thrives in the Netherlands partly because disorganised public authorities are faced with organised criminality, says Hans Werdmölder, author of Nederland Narcostaat.

The government and law

enforcement must raise their game to counter the threat. Adequate modern surveillance equipment such as drones, mobile scanners and robots are lacking in the Netherlands, Belgium and Morocco (and North Africa). Installing or modernising such equipment – and training law enforcement to use it – could enable better detection at drug transit hubs in Morocco and the Rotterdam and Antwerp ports. better

Graft must also be ad-

ressed. Rizzoli suggests a different approach, saying authorities should change their mindset about drugs. Rather than focusing on stopping the trade, he says, the associated violence must be curbed. In Italy for example, drastic legislation and judicial measures in the 1980s have ended almost all violence related to drug trafficking.

Italian authorities punish drug traffickers financially, targeting their assets. Rizzoli says around \$6-billion in assets are confiscated from drug traffickers yearly in Italy, of which 60% is eventually permanently seized. These resources are redistributed to non-governmental organisations, showing citizens the concrete results of government action against drug dealers and the mafia.

In a short time, the Mocro Mafia has become a major trafficking group in Europe. Its links with organised criminal groups in Morocco and Latin America make it a persistent and growing threat to Europe, North African states and their populations.

Operations such as that which led to the arrest of 49 members of organised crime groups in November 2022 and asset-linked approaches by the European Union and North African authorities must be stepped up. Without this, the Mocro Mafia will have an open road to increasing its trafficking web between the two continents. **DM**

The advertisement features the Radio One logo in red and yellow. The main headline reads "RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI". Below this is a detailed schedule for Monday through Sunday, listing various programs and their start times. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, along with the slogan "Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One" and the Radio One logo.



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Stakeholder intensifies the use of LPG in cooking

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

The United Nations Sustainable Energy for All Initiative launched the Global Liquefied Petroleum Gas Partnership (GLPGP) under the premise that liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was the preferred cooking solution for the next 15 to 20 years.

In 2015, Tanzania also announced a goal to increase the population with access to modern cooking fuels to more than 75 percent by 2030.

To start with, in 2008, Tanzania removed the import duties and value added tax (VAT) on LPG, but does not offer subsidy.

Despite these initiatives, according to the 2017-2018 Tanzanian Household Budget Survey, only few percent of the urban and rural populations respectively in Tanzania use LPG as a primary cooking fuel.

This low rate of LPG use is not unique to Tanzania as LPG programs face common barriers.

Henceforth the Tanzania Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) fuels, LPG and lubricants distributor, Oryx Gas Tanzania brand expressed its commitment to embark on promoting uses of Liquefied Petroleum Gas as safe, cleaner cooking energy through its launched campaign dubbed "Liquefied Petroleum Gas Oryx Gas Tanzania".

The campaign is also targeting to call for communities to embark into environmental conservation by mitigating industrial and human activities

carbon emissions.

Oryx Gas Tanzania managing director Araman Benoite stated that charcoal production is often perceived to have devastating ecological and environmental effects.

He said the company has volunteered front line to promote liquefied petroleum gas by supplying free of charge gas cylinders in Tanga region which is one among the region with high charcoal consumption.

He said the campaign that will go alongside with distributing gas cylinders will be implemented to other regions where there is high charcoal consumption.

He made such statement here in Tanga, during official opening the Oryx Gas shop, the event that went parallel with distributing 600 gas cylinders and its gas cookers to Tanga women entrepreneurs.

He explained that traditional charcoal production has growing concern due to its threat of deforestation and climate change impacts leading to semi-desert by elaborating that Tanga is one among the region with deforestation records.

"The use of charcoal has the ability to cause adverse health effects such as the respiratory illness to women and children and indoor air pollution at a significant level," he said.

"Oryx gas Tanzania has heavenly stepped into investing on giving awareness on the importance of LPG uses as well as implementing various projects by supplying gas cylinders and gas cookers in some regions with high charcoal uses and promoting the gas by selling into discount



Health minister Umyy Mwalimu and Oryx Gas Tanzania managing director Araman Benoite (R) cut a ribbon to mark official opening of Tanga Oryx Gas shop in Tanga. Photo by Cheji Bakari

our products".

Most environmentalists agreed and feel that the traditional method of charcoal production should be stopped because of its destructive nature as presently practiced, LPG uses is safety because is a low-carbon fuel as it emits less carbon dioxide than most conventional fossil fuels.

"Our efforts reflect with Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan by making sure encouraging low-income household to use cleaner and more efficient gas cookers reaching 2030 at least 80 percent of Tanzanians using liquefied petroleum gas as cooking energy," he said.

He further stated that Oryx Gas Tanzania responded positively world's summit for mitigating industrial and human activities carbon emission through its promotion dubbed "Liquefied Petro-

leum Gas Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited" with aims to reduce carbon emission as well as to improve Tanzanians lives standard.

In the event, Oryx Gas Tanzania distributed 600 gas cylinders and its gas cookers to 600 women from various organized groups including entrepreneurs as part of its plan to promote uses of cleaner and efficient energy and avoiding from charcoal uses that pollute the environments.

For her part, health minister Umyy Mwalimu who doubles as Tanga Constituency Member of Parliament thanked that company, noting that the donation came at right time while the country is in campaign to minimize charcoal uses.

"Opening Oryx Gas shop in Tanga is another development for both residents of Tanga, Oryx Gas Tanzania and Tanga City Council

as they have got another tax payer," stated minister Umyy.

She further stated: "Your free distribution of these gas cylinders you assured to have reliable customers who will come to exchange empty cylinder to filled gas cylinder here or anywhere your agents available, I would like to thank you very much for this because you boosted their incomes and securing their health".

Tanga district commissioner, Hashim Mgandilwa said the distribution of cylinders will going to contribute to climate change mitigation through reduction of green-house gas emissions resulting from LPG uses and to stop deforestation that destruct the environment.

"LPG uses in the country still going sluggish through this promotion campaign will going to brainstorm and giving awareness

as well as high promotion to ensure the Tanzania's communities using the gas as cooking energy with aims to conserve the environment and eradicating pollution".

For her side, Tanga's CCM Women Wing (UWT) chairwoman, Al Shaymaa Kweygir hailed the gas cylinders distribution by noting will heating and empowering those entrepreneurs women economically because have substantial contribution to development activities.

"These gas cylinders will help take them short time in preparing of food and saving time for their customers who spent much time waiting for food rather than charcoal burners that spend much time," stated Kweygir.

Commenting the campaign by Oryx Gas to preserve environment from pollution and carbon emission, Tanga City mayor Abdulrahman Shiloo stated as climate change constitutes a problem of unprecedented scope, complexity and importance of humanity in general and for policy community in particular.

Achieving a global consensus on how and when to act while balancing competing environmental, social, political and economic imperatives is a challenge but it is a challenge that must be met.

"As citizens and representatives of a clean and a low carbon gaseous fuel, Oryx Gas strongly supports the emergency of an ambitious Tanzania climate strategy and is committed to optimising LPG's role in the transition towards a more climate friendly energy model"

Govt fighting hard to ensure inflation remains tolerable

By Correspondent-Emmanuel Onyango

Tanzania government is fighting hard to curb the increased inflation rates, as a means of protecting the economy in order to bring a relief to citizens in the low purchasing power bracket.

It is clear that, the general business trend and the country's economy is not on the right track for the last eight months causing endless debates among the people following high increase on food prices which have doubled at local markets an aspect that the majority of citizens cannot afford.

The persisting situation has compelled people to dig deeper into their pockets in order to purchase much needed consumable goods sold at an exorbitant price rates amid shocks exerted by the on-going war between Russia and Ukraine.

The on-going debate about the rising inflation in Tanzania is like how the situation is elsewhere in Africa and beyond. Being part of the global economy, Tanzania is not an island and therefore whatever affects the world is bound to affect the country even more.

From a rise in demand amid a tightened supply that emanated from the global Covid-19 pandemic to the war in Ukraine, Tanzania and other developing economies cannot expect any mercy from what is happening to the

global economy.

The Economic indicators show that "Tanzania has experienced increasing food prices due to the prevailing climatic weather conditions that has adversely affected farmers' agricultural production levels".

In order to curb with the incurring situation, the government is taking bold steps with the right policy approach so as to absorb pressures from the global economic shocks.

However, the nation has allayed fear to its citizens at this time around when the country is taking major steps aimed at attracting among other things more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in order to lower down prices on various consumable commodities.

The move among others is the only sole means to stir up economic growth despite the fact that Tanzania is a net importer of various goods from the developed countries which are also hit hard by the global economic shocks.

From strategic agriculture development plans to tax and monetary policy adjustments the government believes that in the coming few months Tanzanians will start to feel a huge relief on the cost of living.

Some of the monetary policy measures taken by the government through the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) in order to cushion the economy against



effects of imported inflation include the gradual reduction of monetary policy accommodation.

The BoT adopted this during the second half of 2022 in an effort to tame inflationary pressures from the demand side. The government has also been injecting 100bn/-monthly subsidy for fuel in order to protect consumers from the effect of the international energy crisis.

Describing about high inflation rate in the country, the Director of Research, Economy and Policy who is an economist with the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Suleiman Missango says that, Tanzania has been affected economically due to high rise of fuel at International market.

"It is obvious that once fuel prices are high at global market, it affects economic activities as the scarcity speeds up operation in every sector of economy including transportation, hence stakeholders and traders in general make use of the opportunity to increase the costs of their commodities as well as passengers", he asserted.

The start of the Russia-Ukraine war at the end of February last year exacerbated the rising costs of energy and food. But that notwithstanding, the government has shown optimism about the potential to curb inflation through long-term economic plans and has already taken several measures to ensure that the country remains un-

scathed.

It is clear that, Russia and Ukraine are the biggest producers of wheat which produces home baking flour which is depended by about 80 percent of countries in the world, a factor that its price quotations has also affected consumers in Tanzania.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning (Economic Management and Policies), Mr Lawrence Mafuru, said recently during an online Twitter Spaces that, the steps that the government was taking to curb inflation need the world more than it needs us.

With rising inflation in Europe and America, major global economies were adopting tight monetary policies, making it difficult for Tanzania to acquire its development financing at affordable interest rates, he noted.

He reiterated that the rebounding demand for goods and services after the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions in 2021 amidst a sluggish supply surged up energy and food costs globally, not just in Tanzania.

The subsidy arrangement had a significant impact on relieving Tanzanians from high global fuel prices, and as a result, Tanzania being a small economy remained a country with the cheapest fuel prices in the East African region.

But according to Mr Mafuru, the measures were only taken as temporary solutions to address the existing problems.

The only permanent measures are the long-term strategies whose results cannot be seen early. It is a process that takes a long time which includes influencing productivity in key sectors to boost the domestic economy," he insisted.

Mr Mafuru's views align with that of the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Dr Mwigulu Nchemba who also highlighted the strategic plans that the government was implementing to tackle the rising cost of living.

The fast-tracking of strategic projects has led to a surge in the capital goods' import bill but as they come to completion they would contribute to the productivity in the local economy," he said.

However, he added that, the government's focus has been on reducing production costs, for instance in agriculture sector the distribution of subsidized fertilizer is highly maintained and that the nation believes prices of food commodities will fall in the coming months.

He said the current rise of food commodities is partly based on the fact that most crops were produced in the 2021/22 season when prices of inputs like fertilizers were high, but things have also been made worse by drought in some parts of the country, says Dr Nchemba.

In East African Community (EAC) states, Tanzania is at a better situation with the lowest inflation rate compared to other countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi whereby the sale of cereal crops commonly consumed as a main staple food, have plummeted even higher.

Current National Bureau of Statistics of Tanzania (NBS) reveals that the Annual Headline Inflation Rate for the month of January 2023 has increased to 4.9 percent from 4.8 percent which was recorded in December 2022.

Govt to scrap fee on small, fast cashless transactions

KIGALI

THE government is considering ways to reduce fees charged on cashless transactions, and remove them in case the amount does not exceed Rwf10,000, with a view to lower costs for users and boost digital payments.

For Jean-Claude Inyamibwa, a resident of Gasabo District and taxi-moto rider, reducing mobile money charges on small transactions is a good idea for low-income earners.

He said yesterday that one of the main reasons why people still use cash in transactions is the associated cost.

"Construction workers, motorcycle taxi drivers, and bicycle taxi riders get small wages to help them live. If one sends Rwf2,000 for a family meal at home, and they are charged Rwf100 for sending, and then Rwf200 for withdrawal, it is Rwf300 in total, which is a lot of money considering that transacted amount," he said.

Currently, cashless transaction charges are still high, especially on small amounts, as mentioned by MP Albert Ruhakana.

This was during a session held early this month, when the Minister of ICT and Innovation, Paula Ingabire, was explaining some of the issues affecting the ICT sector in the country.

For instance, citing fees charged by MobiCash, a cashless mobile financial and payment service provider in Rwanda, Ruhakana said that a Rwf160 transfer fee is charged when the amount in question ranges from Rwf1 to Rwf1,000.

Given this situation, he pointed out, "there is where it is not possible to pay" using digital means since the cost would be excessive.

Yet, from Rwf300,000 to Rwf500,000 transactions, Ruhakana said, the fee is Rwf3,000; while for Rwf500,000 to Rwf1 million, you pay Rwf4,000; and a fee of Rwf5,000 for over Rwf1 million transaction.

He added that such fees are also imposed when a person is paying taxes to the Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA).

"Considering these charges, you wonder how the [country]'s good cashless [economy] policy will be possible," Ruhakana said, asking the Minister what must be done so that such fees are lowered.

Minister Ingabire said that the study they (the ministry) carried out in partnership with MasterCard, an American payment innovation and technology firm, for 18 months, showed that most people transact money between Rwf1



and Rwf10,000.

"Though the value is small, they are very many. It is a person who pays for a product worth Rwf3,000, Rwf4,000, or Rwf8,000; that is where there is a very big volume," she explained.

"The big impact would not be achieved on people transacting between Rwf300,000 and Rwf500,000, when a Rwf3,000 is charged to them. But, a person who has to pay Rwf160 on Rwf1,000 that they transact, she/he feels the pain of that transaction. If it is removed, we see that we can have many people who can make cashless transactions," she said, referring to fee abolition.

Talking about merchants, she said that currently, the fee is 0.5 percent of the payment made for the case of MTN (MoMo Pay), and about one percent for Airtel Money.

Going forward, she said they will look at the incentives that the government should provide for those service providers, including banks and telecommunication companies, so that there is a threshold where the cost is scrapped, but at the same time increase the number who can transact, and get many people in that bracket.

According to the National Bank of Rwanda's Annual Report for the year 2021/2022, the number of funds transfers through mobile payment channels, rose by 58 per cent from 196 million to 310 million transactions, and the value increased by 41 per cent from Rwf4, 707 billion to Rwf6, 616 billion.

Transfers through internet banking increased by 42 per cent from more than 1.5 million to more than 2.2 million transactions, and the value of transactions increased by 57 per cent from Rwf2,672 billion to Rwf4,200 billion.

"There is need to increase digital literacy and rollout digital technologies among the population so as to increase digital payments to 80 percent within the next three years in Rwanda," said Alice Higirow the Project Director

at the Ministry of ICT and Innovation.

Slightly above 30 per cent of the population is currently using digital payments or electronic payments according to available statistics.

Higirow was sharing Rwanda's vision in ICT at the opening of a three-day meeting on digital practices which brought together 11 African cities to foster the exchange of experiences among cities and identify good practices in digital technologies.

The cities include Kigali in Rwanda, Bamako in Mali, Kampala in Uganda, Matola in Mozambique, Lagos in Nigeria, Niamey in Niger, Sèmè-Podji in Benin, Kumasi in Ghana, Benguerir in Morocco, Bizerte in Tunisia and Nouakchott in Mauritania.

These are part of the African Smart Towns Network- a flagship programme financed by the French Development Agency (AFD).

The programme seeks to accelerate the cooperation among them by creating digital activities together and to build more sustainable and inclusive communities in transition to digital technology.

Higirow said that currently, internet penetration in Rwanda is at 62.3 percent as 4G network penetration is at 96.5 percent while mobile penetration is at 84 percent adding that 100 most demanded services are accessed online of which 50 percent are fully digitized and others semi-digitized.

"In terms of digital financial inclusion, the goal is to reach at least 80 percent digitization. That means promoting a cashless economy and also strengthening e-commerce ecosystem," she said.

Digital financial inclusion involves the deployment of the cost-saving digital means to reach currently financially excluded and underserved populations with a range of formal financial services suited to their needs that are responsibly delivered at a cost affordable to customers and sustainable for providers.

Civil society lobbies Uganda government to reduce internet taxes

KAMPALA

PRESSURE is mounting on the Ugandan government to reduce taxes on internet and internet-enabled devices, including smartphones, ahead of the proposed 2023/2024 national budget.

Uganda's proposed national budget for the 2023/2024 financial year comes into effect in July this year.

But a consortium of ten civil society organisations, acting under the auspices of The East African Budget Network, wants internet levies and taxes to be reviewed and levelled with that of neighbouring countries.

Consortium coordinator Julius Kapwepwe said the internet is an enabler and amplifier of business transactions, communication and e-government services in the digital world and that the country cannot stifle an enabler in the name of taxes.

Kapwepwe said with the current taxes applied to the internet and devices, it will be difficult for Uganda to achieve its 2040 vision to achieve universal inclusion, sustainable development, economic progress and poverty eradication through digital innovation.

In 2021, the Uganda government imposed a 12% tax on the internet and has

maintained other taxes, including the 18% value added tax (VAT) and 10% duty on imported devices.

Kapwepwe said, "Taxes on the internet and smartphones translates into rolling back financial deepening, agency banking prospects and access to information and other services. We can avoid the temptation of rolling back the impressive digitalisation gains the country has made."

Jane Nalunga, executive director at the Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiation Institute (SEATIN) said it is time for the government to repeal the tax on the internet as well as reduce or rescind tax on internet-enabled devices to hasten the realisation of digital economy.

Nalunga was quoted by the local Independent newspaper as saying, "Imposing taxes on internet and internet-enabled devices such as smartphones contradicts the government's initiative of digitalising the economy. If more people can access smartphones and use them to boost communication and access to information, the government can still be able to recoup those taxes via numerous taxes such as VAT."



CURRENT NEWS

Investors' optimism over election drives stock market to 16-yr high

LAGOS

NIGERIA's major financial markets, specifically, the foreign exchange, forex, and the stock markets, dramatically turned positive on the heels of the barely concluded major national election.

In the official end of the forex market, the Investors and Exporters Window (I&E), the local currency strengthened against the US Dollar trading at ₦461.17/\$1.00 compared to ₦462.19/\$1.00 previous week just as it gain significantly in the parallel market at ₦765.00/\$1.00 as against ₦780.00/\$1.00 previous week.

Also the Nigerian stock market traded at its 16-year high performance in both market capitalization and index despite the electioneering tension across the nation, a development investment analysts have attributed to optimism over the likely outcome of the Presidential and National Assembly elections in Nigeria last weekend.

While the All Share Index, ASI, close on Friday at 54,949.21 points from 51,251.06 points, the market capitalization hit ₦29.9trillion representing a year to date return of 7.2% or ₦2.018 trillion from ₦27.915 trillion.

Many analysts had predicted that the market may follow the usual election year downward pressures, and some weeks between December 2022 and January 2023 actually recorded some significant bearish trading.

However, buying pressure ahead of 2022 full-year audited corporate financial results in the midst of the uptick no-



ticed in the fixed income market rates and yields kept the market in a mixed performance since begin of this month.

Despite the cautious trading and volatility with market players digesting the latest 2022Q4 Gross Domestic Product, GDP, data, and the current cash crunch, the market closed positively last week just before the tension socked presidential and National Assembly elections at the weekend.

Stock dealers said that the Nigerian Exchange Limited, NGX remaining upbeat on the eve of a major election season is a complete change of pattern in the history of Nigeria's stock market.

Some market analysts attributed the situation to the change in market's holding structure, post covid 19 impressive

corporate performance, impact of newly listed companies among others.

Market trend and performance this time was also a departure from mixed sentiment in the past election years and seasons, especially on the 2015 and 2019 elections.

The improved local participation of Nigerians, especially institutional investors, high net worth players and savvy retail investors that understand the whole system and perception of politics in Nigeria made the market to remain strong.

Experts' insight

Giving insight on the change in market behaviour Tajudeen Olayinka, CEO,

Wyoming Capital and Partners, an investment banking house and major stock market dealer, told Financial Vanguard that the investors are seeing a new dawn in the political leadership of the country tilting in favour of private sector.

He stated: "what is happening in the across markets in Nigeria at this time are indications of investors bullish sentiments on the possible transition from a government that has consistently pursued public sector domineering focus over the last eight years to a new government that is expected to pursue private sector dominance, because of the fact that the three leading presidential candidates are private sector centric. So, markets are bullish on transition."

Also talking to Financial Vanguard, the Head of Research and Investment at Fidelity Securities Limited, Victor Chiazor, said: "All of the positives being experienced from the gains in the equities market to the Naira appreciation in the official and parallel market are all as a result of investors optimism about the outcome of

the elections.

"However, if Nigeria elects a leader that is not pro-market, we will see a significant reversal of the gains recorded so far as most positions taken by investors will be quickly liquidated."

Also speaking, Managing Director/CEO, APT Securities and Funds Limited, Mallam Garba Kurfi, said: "Generally when the election is conducted peacefully it triggers the market and it goes up for a while especially if the expected person win the Election. But to sustain the momentum needs more to do with the statements of the incoming President about the economy."

Commenting, analysts at InvestData Consulting stated: "We expect a mixed and positive sentiments to continue as market players digest Q4 GDP figure of 3.52% ahead of the general election and uptick in fixed income market rates at the end of the latest Treasury Bill, TB auction in the midst of corporate earnings expectation, portfolio rebalancing, falling rates and anxiety over the election uncertainty. Any

pullback at this point may add more strength to upside potential. As such, investors should take advantage of price correction. Also looking at the trends and events across the globe."

Similarly, analysts at Cordros Research said: "We believe investors will be focused on the outcome of the highly anticipated 2023 Presidential elections. Thus, we see more of a "choppy theme" as cautious trading dominates the trading activities.

"Overall, we advise investors to seek trading opportunities in only fundamentally sound stocks as the weak macro story remains a significant headwind for corporate earnings."

Analysts at Afrinvest West Africa gave their expectations thus, "we expect that the incoming administration would begin to implement market friendly reforms and deepen the fight against insecurity and oil theft.

"However, given the time lag required for the impact of reforms to manifest, we are less optimistic of any positive GDP surprises in the short term."

Experts compile booklet to guide farming in flood-prone areas

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, recently in Manyara

AGRICULTURAL experts from various local and international sides have bridged efforts and experience to produce a special booklet to provide guidelines on proper building of terraces on sloping grounds and flood prone areas.

The handout publication is a brainchild of the Dodoma-based Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Makutupora Centre, and it also involves major inputs from other likeminded institutions including the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Basically, the potential booklet has been tailored to guide farmers, extension workers and other practitioners on best procedures to create different forms of terraces.

Terraces are the best agroecology way for containing soil erosion, and the biological technique has so far proved successful in various farmlands of the country.

In recent days, soil erosion which principally drives soil infertility has become a giant setback that derails crops production and productivity among farmers across the country, the challenge which pushed agricultural experts to develop friendly ways to counter the situation, including creation of terraces.

It is expected, the at least 37page booklet will play a meaningful role in helping guide present and future farmers as well as extension officers on how to create the useful terraces on their farms, especially on proper measurements.

"It's our high hope that this guide, apart from assisting farmers and extension workers, will largely impart diverse stakeholders with insight knowledge on proper manner on creation of numerous terraces in order to negate challenges of soil erosion and infertility, especially areas with moderate and steep slopes," expressed Elirehema Swai, the Coordinator for Research and Innovation at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Makutupora Centre during the recent workshop over validation on terraces layout procedures.

Held recently in Babati district of Manyara region by attracting experts across the relevant disciplines, the round table forum, among others was part to achieve the set objectives stipulated under the Africa RISING Project which is being implemented by TARI Makutupora centre.

"Convening of this workshop is the active implementation of one of the research themes under TARI Act of 2016-land use and water management," Swai expounded.

During the three-day forum, the experts carefully dwelled on professional sessions to peruse and improve each and every step of terraces layout to finally draft a clean handout over validation terraces layout procedures.

Among others, the handout in question incorporates various detailed information on terraces layout procedures, including among others, how to prevent soil erosion on farms through use of terraces, advantage of using terraces, types of terraces as well as requirements (tools) in creating terraces.

Others in the booklet's list include stages in creating terraces on the field, strengthening edges of the terrace, and preservation of terraces.

So far, most of the farmers in



Farmers receiving practical knowledge on how to create terraces. Photo by Valentine Oforo

the regions of Dodoma, Manyara, Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya and Songwe have benefited from the 'Enabling a Resilient and Prosperous Community through Participatory Agro-ecological Practices in Semi-Arid regions of Central zone Project.

The timely initiative under the financial auspices from the Biovision Foundation is being implemented

counter soil erosion after being imparted with best agroecological practices to overcome negative impacts of climate change, including creation of terraces, mostly of the type of the Fanya Juu/Fanya Chini (FJ/FC) Terraces (for containing soil erosion), farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR) for land restoration as well as tree planting management.

The farmers, from at least eight villages of the Kongwa district have benefited from the 'Enabling a Resilient and Prosperous Community through Participatory Agro-ecological Practices in Semi-Arid regions of Central zone Project.

The timely initiative under the financial auspices from the Biovision Foundation is being implemented

by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), LEAD Foundation and The International Crops Research Institute of the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). The three-Biovision

Watershed Agroecological Project (BVWSP) is benefiting smallholder farmers in the eight villages of Sagara 'A', Sagara 'B', Laikala 'A', Laikala 'B', Mlali, Nghumbi, Lengaji and Moleti.

Supportive policies unlocking potential in Zanzibar's property market, says expert

By Guardian Correspondent

Zanzibar property developer CPS has said supportive housing policy is unlocking the real estate sector's enormous potential in Zanzibar and offers the rapidly growing population a good home.

This was said by CPS Zanzibar chief operating officer Katrin Dietzold, when sharing her insights on the opportunities and potentials of a conducive housing policy and pioneering work in the industry at a panel discussion of the EUBG Tanzania, which took place last week, at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Center in Dar es Salaam.

She stressed that with the right policies and framework in place, the real estate industry in Zanzibar can significantly impact the economy and society.

Katrin also shared her experiences with pioneering areas of the real estate industry in Zanzibar, stressing that the government and the market need innovative developers ready to meet the challenges posed by new construction technologies.

She encouraged other industry players to approach Zanzibar with a clear goal but flexibility along the



Chief Operations Officer of CPS, Katrin Dietzold (second right) speaking during panel session at EU Tanzania business forum 2023 on the agenda "Invest in Zanzibar" which has to provide opportunities and potentials of a conducive housing policy. Others from the left are the Director of Research and Planning - Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA), Ahmed H. Saadat, and the Executive Director of ZIPA, Shariff Ali Shariff and the Manager of the island of Chumbe coral park, Benjamin Taylor. Photo By Guardian Correspondent

way, noting that patience, resilience and humility are required for success.

Katrin highlighted the benefits of working in Zanzibar, noting that the government is approachable and the environment more manageable than much of Tanzania.

She encouraged other developers to look to

Zanzibar as fertile ground for growth and expansion, with endless opportunities for those up to the challenge.

CPS Zanzibar's participation in the EUBG Tanzania panel discussion demonstrates the company's commitment to promoting sustainable development in the real estate sector in Tanzania.

The company's innovative development approach, exemplified by its Fumba Town project, has set a new benchmark for sustainability and community impact in the industry.

Fumba Town, a project developed by CPS, is Tanzania's fastest-selling real estate development and has sold over 1000 homes.

Fumba Town offers discerning homeowners worldwide the space to live, work and develops in a safe, sustainable, multinational, multicultural and intergenerational environment.

The iconic city already hosts shoppers from over 50 countries, underscoring its strong global appeal.

Commission for cooperatives strives to promote digital business

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) has started to implement a strategy targeting to enable cooperative unions to operate through digital platforms.

The chairman of TCDC Abdulmajid Nsekela said this during the opening of stakeholders meeting to discuss the development of as well as formulating strategies to strengthening cooperatives.

Nsekela said investment in modern technological platform will increase administrative efficiencies of cooperative unions, including the sector's regulatory authority.

"The recommendation from the meeting will help us to improve cooperatives systems by becoming modern to enable members to fully participate in their own prosperity as well as the national economy," he said.

"It is my hope that the recommendations of this meeting must be implemented by each stakeholder and will be discussed regularly."

The cooperatives registrar Dr Benson Ndiege said the main purpose of the meeting is to discuss the development of cooperatives in Tanzania to formulate strategies that would enable the sector to grow.

"This meeting is important to discuss different issues concerning the development of cooperatives in Tanzania, but we have also met with all stakeholders to come up with common recommendations that will enable us to stimulate economic development," he said.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

China's recovery still uneven with industrial sector lagging

BEIJING

China's economy rebounded in February after the long holiday, although early indicators point to an uneven recovery with strong consumption following the scrapping of Covid rules but lagging industrial activity.

That's according to Bloomberg's aggregate index of eight early indicators, which showed growth momentum this month maintained the pace seen in January, with the overall gauge staying unchanged at 4.

The economy slowed at the end of 2022 as the Covid spread around the

country, before beginning to pick up last month.

Private activity looked to be strengthening in February as many residents returned to work after an extended Lunar New Year break, clogging roads in major cities and spending more at restaurants and shops. Meanwhile, the government has removed all movement curbs and declared the pandemic basically over, providing a spur to consumption and travel.

The People's Bank of China also painted a more optimistic picture of the economy in its latest quarterly monetary policy report, which said the overall economy is likely to

rebound this year as production and peoples' daily lives are normalizing rapidly. The central bank also said that it will guide market rates to move around policy rates.

That provides early hints of a shift toward a neutral monetary policy later this year from the current easing stance, Citigroup Inc economists wrote in a note on Sunday. The improved economic outlook and continued caution about inflation risks also prompted some analysts to lower their expectations for major easing steps such as interest rate cuts in the short term.

Congestion in major cities last

week slowed slightly from the previous week but was still well above the same period last year, according to data compiled by BloombergNEF and Baidu, while the number of people riding the subway in Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and other major cities was back to or above pre-pandemic levels. A recent UBS Group AG survey on China consumption showed an increase in dining out, shopping in stores and off-line entertainment.

Small business confidence rose in February to the highest since mid-2022, ending four straight months of contraction, according to Standard Chartered Plc's survey of more than

500 smaller firms. Expectations picked up broadly and bank credit and liquidity conditions also improved significantly, the firm's economists Hunter Chan and Ding Shuang wrote in a report.

The improvement was led by an acceleration in services activities, as both performance and expectations sub-indices picked up after a four-month decline. However, manufacturing performance weakened from January, with soft demand, falling profitability and tight labor supply weighing on companies' confidence, according to the report.

The recovery speed was different

for export-oriented small businesses and domestically-focused ones, with strong local demand suggesting "a solid domestic recovery momentum" while exports were weak, they wrote.

Early trade data from South Korea showed the recent decline in global demand continued, as average daily shipments declined by a bigger magnitude in the first 20 days of February compared to the same period of January. Russia's war in Ukraine, central bank tightening and sliding semiconductor demand all added to the cloudy outlook for the global economy.

WORLD

Nigeria's EC starts announcing state-wide results

ABUJA

NIGERIA'S electoral commission began announcing state-by-state results from national elections on Sunday, amid complaints of irregularities, though it is not expected to name a victor in the race to succeed President Muhammadu Buhari for several days.

The presidential vote is expected to be the closest in Nigeria's history, with candidates from two parties that have alternated power since the end of army rule in 1999 facing an unusually strong challenge from a minor party nominee popular among young voters.

Votes in presidential and parliamentary elections are collated in each of Nigeria's 36 states before the count is transmitted to the electoral commission's central tallying centre in the capital Abuja.

The first results, from Ekiti state, showed a majority of votes for president cast in favour of Bola Tinubu of the governing All Progressives Congress.

Tinubu pulled in more than 200,000 votes in the state, against less than half that total for Atiku Abubakar of the main opposition PDP and just over 11,000 for Peter Obi of the Labor Party.

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) chairman Mahmood Yakubu adjourned the session following the first results and said the release of tallies would resume at 11 am (10:00 GMT) on Monday.

However all three parties complained of irregularities. Obi's Labour party lambasted the electoral commission for failing to upload results directly from each polling unit to its website, as it had promised to do to guarantee transparency.

More than 24 hours after polls were meant to close, many polling stations have yet to upload their results. Nigerian Civil society organisations decried the error and the failure of several polling stations to open on time in a news conference.

INEC apologised for these glitches in a statement.

"The Commission is aware of challenges with the INEC Results Viewing Portal... (which) has been relatively slow and unsteady," it said, blaming "technical hitches."

Both the PDP and APC complained of local INEC officials being pressured to alter results before submitting them.

There were also incidents of violence



Nigerian police sit in the back of a truck as they protect a collation center which was engaged in collating results manually, in Lagos, Nigeria, on Sunday. AP

and intimidation, but seemingly not on the scale of previous elections.

Soldiers were forced to intervene on Sunday after 15 men pretending to be INEC officials stormed a voting collation centre in the Alimosho neighbourhood of Lagos, attacking party agents with knives and sticks, footage obtained by Reuters TV showed.

"Hoodlum boys ... just came and started coming out with daggers and hitting everybody that are Labour Party agents," the party's ward secretary Jacob Sulemain said, a masked soldier behind him. The footage showed some of the gang kneeling after being detained.

"Change"

Voting had to be extended into Sunday in a few parts of the country after glitches on Saturday, but counting has been underway since polls closed with the final tally expected within five days.

In one polling station in Yenagoa on Sunday, voters stood on sandy, weed-choked ground checking for their names plastered on a half-built concrete house. Voting also continued on Sunday in some parts of northeastern Borno state after voting machines failed to work.

It was not clear how many of Nigeria's 93 million registered voters were unable to cast a ballot on Saturday.

In most parts of the country of 200 million people, voting went smoothly.

There were reports of violence in the northern state of Kano on Sunday, where an armed group attacked a collation centre in the town of Takai before security forces arrived, said Rakiya Muhammad, an election observer who witnessed the incident.

Outgoing President Buhari, a retired army general who was also once a military ruler in the 1980s, is stepping down after winning two previous elections and serving the maximum eight years permitted by the constitution.

His successor will face a litany of crises gripping Africa's top oil producer and the continent's most populous nation.

Nigeria is struggling with Islamist insurgencies in the northeast; an epidemic of kidnappings for ransom; conflict between herders and farmers; shortages of cash, fuel and power; and deep-rooted corruption and poverty.

"I witnessed the worst experience of my life under this administration. Recently I spent two days without eating anything," said Ahmad Sulaiman, 49, who sells handbags in a market, as he stood in the baking sun in a dusty alleyway in Kano city.

"I voted because I wanted change," he added. He declined to say who he had voted for.

Agencies

Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev arrives in Algeria

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev arrived in Algeria on a visit yesterday.

He is set to "hold a number of meetings on the issues of Russia-Algerian security cooperation," the Security Council said.

The Russian Security Council secretary maintains regular communication with counterparts from other countries regarding security issues. That includes regular talks with the representatives of Algeria.

For example, Russia and Algeria held security consultations in March 2022 in Moscow, and Patrushev met with that country's Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra in the Russian capital in April. The Russian Security Council secretary last visited Algeria in January 2018.

Russia and Algeria established diplomatic relations in March 1962 and have maintained them for almost 61 years. The two countries started a strategic dialogue in 2016, which allows them to regularly exchange opinions on the most pressing issues of international security.



Huawei launches smart PV solutions for all scenarios of African residential market

CAPE TOWN

HUAWEI has launched smart photovoltaic (PV) solutions for all scenarios of the African residential market at the Solar Power Africa Conference 2023 held in Cape Town, South Africa.

At the press conference announcing the launch, Xia Hesheng, President of Huawei Digital Power Sub-Saharan Africa Region, said that Huawei was releasing three residential solutions: Power-M, LUNA, and the high-end luxury solution.

Xia said, "The three residential solutions will help users cope with daily challenges such as load-shedding, which are prevalent across the region. Meanwhile, the residential market faces some challenges such as user experiences, mixing manufacturers, quality, service, efficiency and aesthetics."

Xia noted that "Huawei is focusing on '4T' Technologies (Watt/Heat/Battery/Bit), this will drive the residential PV scenarios with high quality products that are not only aesthetically pleasing but products that offer high quality system level solutions that integrate digitalisation and intelligence into the PV industry."

Over its 25 years of operating in Sub-Saharan Africa, Huawei has built a deep understanding of the region's energy and technology requirements. "We supply smart photovoltaic (PV) solutions for all scenarios in the African residential market, committed to bringing clean energy to every home."

Nick Lusson, VP of Huawei Smart PV Sub-Saharan Africa Region, gave an overview of the features and advantages of the three residential solutions at the launch.

Power-M is a high-quality power supply system for multi-scenario applications, flexible for use in apartments, houses or large villas. "Huawei has demonstrated its aesthetic design skills as always, by bringing to consumers a sleek design energy system with the ultimate aesthetics. Thanks to the all-in-one and modular design, the inverter and battery are perfectly integrated, consumers can flexibly choose the number of battery modules to expand the capacity from 5kWh to maxim 45kWh whenever they want."

The Power-M supports seamless switchover between multiple energy inputs, such as solar, grid, and generator. In order to provide a better home usage experience, Power-M has a fan-less construction with sleep-grade noise, the operation sound level is less than 29dbm. The unique plug and play design makes for an easy and quick installation in around two hours," he said.

LUNA is an intelligent power system integrating smart power generation, smart power storage and smart power consumption. With the Huawei smart module controller, the homeowner can maximise the roof installation capacity, resulting in between 10-30% more panels installed. The smart module controller can also significantly increase solar power generation by improving efficiency by 5-30%. "To ensure the safety of installers and roof usage, the module-level shutdown function provides a safer roof voltage. The intelligent battery storage, ESS, can provide 10% more usable energy with the built-in optimiser in each battery module," Lusson explained.

Agencies



The Power-M supports seamless switchover between multiple energy inputs, such as solar, grid, and generator

Israelis, Palestinians pledge to curb violence at Jordan meeting

AMMAN

ISRAELI and Palestinian officials pledged to de-escalate surging violence after meeting on Sunday, issuing a joint statement in which Israel said it would halt discussions about new settlement units in the occupied West Bank for four months.

Attended by senior US, Jordanian and Egyptian officials in addition to the Israeli and Palestinian delegations, the meeting in Aqaba, Jordan was the first of its kind in years.

The Israeli and Palestinian sides said in their statement that they would work closely to prevent "further violence" and "reaffirmed the necessity of committing to de-escalation on the ground". They affirmed their commitment to previous agreements.

Jordan, along with its allies Egypt and the United States, said the understandings were "major progress towards re-establishing and deepening relations between the two sides".

But underlining the challenges, Palestinian militant group Hamas, which governs the Gaza Strip, called the meeting "worthless", and condemned the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority for taking part.

The meeting was held as anxiety mounts of an escalation in violence in the run-up to the holy Muslim month of Ramadan that begins in late March.

Israel and the Palestinian Authority "confirmed their joint



Israeli security forces deploy in the West Bank town of Huwara on Sunday following the death of two Israelis in a shooting attack. AFP

readiness and commitment to immediately work to end unilateral measures for a period of 3-6 months", according to the statement.

"This includes an Israeli commitment to stop discussion of any new settlement units for four months and to stop authorisation of any outposts for six months."

That could cause trouble in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government, one of the most right wing in Israeli history.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who also has responsibilities over Jewish settlements in the West Bank, quickly said he would not abide by any such agreement.

"I have no idea what they spoke about or not in Jordan," Smotrich wrote on Twitter. "But one thing I do know: there will not be a freeze on the building and development in settlements, not even for one day (it is under my authority)."

The Palestinians aim to establish an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital - territories Israel captured in a 1967 war.

But peace talks have been stalled since 2014 and Palestinians say Jewish settlement expansion has undermined the chances of a viable state being established.

Israel on Feb 12 granted retroactive authorisation to nine Jewish settler outposts in the West Bank and announced mass-construc-

tion of new homes within established settlements.

A senior Israeli official said there would be no change to the previous decision regarding authorization of those outposts and 9,500 housing units. Netanyahu seemed to downplay any commitment, saying Israel would continue settlement building along previous plans, and saying there "will not be any freeze".

The UN Security Council issued a formal statement on Feb 20 denouncing Israel's plan to expand settlements on occupied Palestinian territory, the first action the United States has allowed the body to take against its ally Israel in six years.

'Historic gathering'

US President Joe Biden thanked Jordan's King Abdullah for "convening this historic gathering", US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said in a statement.

"We recognize that this meeting was a starting point and that there is much work to do over the coming weeks and months to build a stable and prosperous future for Israelis and Palestinians alike. Implementation will be critical," he said.

The participants will meet again in March in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. They agreed to "maintain positive momentum and expand this agreement towards wider political process leading to a just and lasting peace", their statement said.

Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said the meeting would "not change anything". "It will not succeed to prevent our people from defending themselves and confronting the crimes conducted by the government of the occupation", he told Reuters.

In the latest violence, a Palestinian gunman killed two Jewish settlers in their car in the West Bank on Sunday, Israeli officials said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Hamas said it was "a natural response to crimes conducted by the occupation, the last of which was the massacre in Nablus", where 11 Palestinians were killed - six gunmen and five civilians - in an Israeli raid on Feb 23.

Agencies

"I had the honor to listen to the important speech delivered by general secretary Xi Jinping of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee. His deep thoughts, open vision and broad mind impressed me very much," said Raed Fahmi, secretary of the Central Committee of the Iraqi Communist Party (ICP), recalling his meeting with Xi during a visit to China in 2017.

The CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting was hosted by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee from Nov. 30 and Dec. 3, 2017. Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote speech.

'China brings opportunities for the world with its own development'

The meeting was joined by over 600 representatives from nearly 300 political parties in more than 120 countries.

"It was a world event of historic significance. General secretary Xi's keynote speech charted the course for future development with a global vision," said Fahmi.

What impressed him the most was Xi's remarks that the CPC will continue to uphold global peace and tranquility, promote common development for all and promote mutual enrichment among civilizations.

"The CPC has made friends all over the world and continues to contribute to human progress," Fahmi noted.

Inspired by the fruitful results

achieved at the high-level meeting, Fahmi shared his experience of participation in an article published in Iraqi media.

He said the equal and friendly dialogue between the CPC and world political parties was definitely of important significance. The CPC upholds openness and inclusiveness, shares governance experiences and promotes inter-civilization exchanges and mutual learning with political parties of other countries, which vividly mirrors the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, Fahmi said in the article.

The ICP leader has visited China twice. Following the development

of China for a long time, Fahmi had a more profound understanding of China's achievements and the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics when he walked on the streets of Chinese cities.

"China's huge achievements are reflected in its rapid urban and rural development, in its beautiful ecology and in the confidence of the Chinese people," he said.

The successful development path indicates the obvious institutional advantages of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and China's exploration and practice for socialist construction is attracting worldwide attention, Fahmi added.

Today, Iraq sees urgent tasks to maintain security and stability, accelerate development reconstruction, as well as improve people's livelihood.

Living a happy life is the primary human right. Fahmi noticed that the CPC has followed a people-centered development philosophy, and implemented a series of major policies and measures to safeguard and improve people's livelihood and resolve difficulties of them.

"As a result, the Chinese people have gained a strong sense of fulfillment, happiness, and security," Fahmi told People's Daily.

He spoke highly of China's success in eradicating absolute poverty and

building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

"China has achieved the poverty alleviation goal set on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. It is actively launching international cooperation on poverty alleviation, fulfilling its international responsibility in this regard and providing assistance to other developing countries to the full extent of its ability. It is an active promoter of global poverty alleviation," Fahmi said.

He added that relevant countries should learn from China's poverty alleviation experience especially when the number of global impoverished people is constantly growing due to COVID-19, the climate crisis and regional conflicts. **People's Daily**



Tanzanian visual artist, Athuman Hamisi, popularly known as 'Ochu'.

Dar visual artist set to take part in arts exhibition in Germany

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIAN realistic painter, Athuman Hamisi, says he is happy that his three artworks are being exhibited at the ongoing Indien Tanzania-Deutschland at Kurtur Kirche OST in Cologne, Germany.

The exhibition which has artworks created by artists from Germany, Tanzania, and India, got underway last Saturday and is expected to end mid-next month.

Hamisi, who is popularly known as 'Ochu' in art circles, mentioned Anna Nkyalu, Gertrude Malizeni, and Photographer CK as Tanzania's exhibitors, and other exhibitors, Goshi from India, and German Seona Sommer, who is also the host.

The Tanzanian artist, who mostly uses acrylic on canvases, mentioned his works which are exhibited as Expectations (40x60cm), The Truth (50x40cm), and Lazarus Syndrome (40x60cm).

"I'm really happy that my three works are being exhibited in Germany, that is an honour not only to me but also to all artists and all art lovers and stakeholders in the country," he said.

This is the fourth time that Ochu has exhibited in Germany.

Simbu finishes third in 2023 Osaka Marathon

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIAN athlete, Felix Simbu, has finished third in this year's Osaka Marathon which took place in Japan last weekend.

Simbu clocked 2.06.19, which is his best time, to trail the showdown's winner, Ethiopian Hailemery Kiros who recorded 2.06.01, and second-place finisher, Ugandan Victor Kiplagat who clocked 2.06.03.

Commenting on Simbu's performance, one of Athletics Tanzania's (AT) media officers, Tullo Chambo, said the athlete has done his country proud.

Chambo noted: "We are very happy for him, he has done the country proud and more importantly he has improved his personal best time."

The official disclosed: "We congratulate him for the achievement, and we hope he will continue carrying the nation's flag high."

The Osaka Marathon started in

2011 with over 30, 000 participants and it is one of the largest city marathon events in Japan.

To date, the race has provided the excitement of running through Midosuji, the main street of Osaka, and completing a full marathon to more than 300,000 runners.

In Japanese, the word 'Omotenashi' means hospitality and the people of 'Naniwa' (Osaka) are some of the most hospitable and warmhearted in Japan with a crowd of more than 1.3 million people gathering along the road to enthusiastically cheer on the runners.

Other features of the race are the many water stations and aid stations set up all along the course, including the 'Maido Aid Station' that awaits runners during the latter half of the race.

This aid station symbolizes the city of 'kuidaore' (eat till you drop) and offers many Osaka specialties and confectionaries from the stores in the local shopping district.

Bracing up for the third part of archrivals' continental 'derbies'

By Correspondent John Kimbute

AS the weekend dawned, the city archrivals were reading for the third part of their grueling showdown centered on whether either of them can proceed to the knockout stages of their respective tournaments.

The first round was a muted outcome for Simba SC as it ended its match against Horoya Athletic Club with a 1-0 deficit and, thus, showing potential to make a comeback in the return match.

Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, ended their first match on a more slippery note as their deficit was wider, losing 2-0 to Union Sportive Monastirienne, thus having a less appealing impression to the fans as to an eventual comeback to win.

The second round of derbies worked in the opposite direction and in a tremendous way, as the higher profile side, Simba SC, lost 3-0 to Raja Casablanca and clouded their ability to move forward, as this sharply diminished chances of finishing among the top two in the group.

The second-tier tournament participants, Yanga, put up a regal show to hammer the point home that it is a good side, in shaving off famed opponents, Tout Puisse Mazembe, by the same score line as the loss by their next-street rivals.

The previous day's loss by a steep margin fortified confidence in their rivals' camp, to end the show for the moment, thus pushing the previous encounters to a back quarter, to retain a memorable win and a steep loss.

As is often the case, nearly everyone was the loser in the Simba SC loss to Raja Casablanca in a routine but the hugely unexpected manner, as local pundits, in the spirit of what is known these days



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Said Ntibazonkiza (C), negotiates his way past Uganda's Vipers SC players when the clubs took on each other in this season's CAF Champions League Group C match held in Kampala on Saturday. Simba SC beat Vipers SC 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

as 'best odds,' substituted wishful thinking for actual projection of the game.

The 'best odds' for two full days were 'draw or Simba SC wins' as even talk show givers sympathetic to Yanga were worried about sounding a negative note.

As there was no actual survey of talk show contents outside random listening during the morning to midday shows, there is still an outside chance that some pundits predicted a Raja Casablanca win whether in either a forthright manner or shamefacedly.

In that case, an old rule of clear thinking was displayed, that clear thinking is hard as it is always mixed with desire, and let it be said, the more one is on a public podium where pleasing those listening is vital, the less capable is such a person likely to display clear thinking.

Chances are that pundits would find ample reasons for bending their intuitions to suit the wishes of the fans, and thus of advertisers in this or that ra-

dio channel when they know it has a lot of listeners for its sports shows.

Such a situation is not especially convivial for upright analysis, as the fans are unlikely to make a valid distinction between prediction, projection, and prognostication.

In that case, the collapse of these predictions was a belated freeing of pundits to make valid predictions or at least let their projections emerge more freely, not constantly checked and impelled to play to the gallery.

Still, it cannot be said that there was a massive difference between projecting the derbies played in the city arena and those to be played on foreign soil the following week, and predictably more of the same will be noticed in the ultimate city derbies in continental tournaments. When they play three away ties and three home games, it will be over.

What has been noticed for the derby encounter for a Kampala suburb where Simba SC tackled Vipers SC, the other conquerors

of TP Mazembe, the crucial issue being heard was that the tie would be difficult.

There was a clear appreciation of Vipers SC's qualities, as they obtained a point against Horoya Athletic Club, unlike the visiting side, and, in that context, ought to be confident in facing Simba SC on home turf.

The well-known fans' antipathetic cry for the visiting sides tackling either of the city rivals or indeed 'upstarts' to continental tournaments, if it is applied to Kampala, could have been a negative prediction for Simba SC, as Vipers SC's fans also expected never visitors' win on their turf.

It is rather unclear how much time has been spent discussing the Jangwani Street outfit foreign encounter, partly because there was no confidence in that sphere and far less anxiety than with Msimbazi Street outfit fans.

By a dint of repetition, the error in talks shows of the previous week was being repeated in a silent and unforced manner, by nearly taking it for granted that Yanga stands to win its foreign encounter with AS Real Bamako, firstly a little-known contender for continental titles - perhaps like Yanga or Rivers United of Nigeria, etc.

There was some profiling of the side and a clear admission that by making it to the Group Stage they are a good side, admittedly.

It was going to take more than this matter-of-fact admission that AS Real Bamako might be a good side, at least for those who have watched past elimination stage encounters in CAF inter-club competitions.

Horoya Athletic Club was once playing a Malian side (cannot recall which club it was) and there was entertaining football, with the ball being spread around the wide pitch, nothing like the sort of performance one encounter in our modicum Premier League pitches.

In that case, Yanga might make the mistake of carrying the baggage of pride to Bamako, seemingly.

Some of Barrick North Mara Mine's workers are pictured after finishing this year's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon held in Moshi on Sunday. The company, located in Tarime District, has a program allowing its employees to exercise and participate in sports. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT



Chaneta to organize netball umpiring course

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Netball Association (Chaneta) has stated it will organize a netball umpiring course that will enable the local officials to officiate prestigious international tournaments.

Chaneta's president, Devotha Marwa, disclosed recently the course will be held next month at dates and venue which will be announced later.

Devotha said Chaneta has been organizing umpiring courses but the results have not been good as many participants

perform well in practicals but fail in theory.

She said so after Tanzania's umpires had missed out on the list of 23 officials appointed by the world Netball to officiate this year's Netball World Cup to be held in Cape Town, South Africa from July 28-August 8.

Devotha said Tanzania has no umpire with either a license or qualification recognized by the World Netball.

According to Devotha, Tanzania's umpires have, as a result, never been considered for either Netball World Cup or any other prestigious tournament,

except for East Africa Netball Championships.

The Chaneta boss revealed: "Next month, we will have a course for umpires, we don't have an umpire who is recognized by the world netball governing body."

"That is one of the challenges we have, we want to have our umpires who can officiate international events," she disclosed.

Last year, Chaneta organized the netball coaching and umpiring course at Filbert Bayi Schools in Kibaha, Coast Region. The 10-day course attracted 53

participants (25 in coaching and 28 in umpiring) from more than 15 regions of the country and instructors were Malawians, Mary Waya and Rebecca Dulanya.

Mary is a former head coach for Tanzania's senior national netball team, Taifa Queens, and had also taken charge of Coast Region's Filbert Bayi Schools' netball team.

The course was recognized by the International Netball Federation (INF), now known as World Netball, and those who performed well got Gold (Africa Level A), Silver, and Bronze certificates.

SPORT

From axing Ronaldo to key signings, how Ten Hag transformed Man United

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Dar midfielder satisfied with first season in Europe despite facing relegation woes



Belgium's Zulte Waregem defensive midfielder, Tanzanian Novatus Dismas.



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Competitions Manager, Baraka Kizuguto.

TANZANIAN midfielder, Novatus Dismas, is adamant he has enjoyed his first season in Belgium's Jupiler Pro League despite fighting to move out of the top-flight relegation zone with his club Zulte Waregem.

Zulte Waregem is now sitting 16th out of 18 teams in the Belgian top-tier tournament without a win in the last five games.

Dismas, the 20-year-old midfielder, is optimistic his outfit will survive relegation and possibly clinch silver-

ware as it is still in the Belgian Cup showdown.

It is also fortunate that Dismas has become a regular midfielder on the left

side of the three-man defense of Zulte Waregem.

During his first season in Europe, the 20-year-old Tanzanian manifested himself as a versatile performer.

Acquired as an offensive midfielder from Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv, Dismas, who now totals 18 base places and four appearances, is mostly assigned to defend these days.

The midfielder said: "But that was not completely strange to me, with Tanzania's U-17 team I was more often a central defender than I was in midfield."

Dismas pointed out: "In Azam FC's academy, I even started as a goalkeeper, should it be necessary, I would like to take up a position between the posts."

"I'm very happy with how my first season in Europe has gone so far. At Zulte Waregem I ended up in an environment where I can develop very well. The fact

that I was at the kick-off in almost every game motivates me enormously," the footballer noted.

The midfielder noted: "I was shown a red card early in the season at Antwerp, that was a hard lesson because I may have played a little too rambunctious, that is already much better."

Before he placed his scribe under a three-year commitment to the club, based at Gaverbeek, last summer, Dismas was extensively informed about the Belgian competition by his compatriot Mbwana Samatta.

"The Racing Genk striker also helped me a lot when I had to find my way in Belgium in the first few weeks," a somewhat withdrawn Dismas stated in a subdued tone.

The performer noted: "So, I knew that at Zulte Waregem I would mainly have to learn to fight

against relegation. That doesn't scare me."

Dismas stressed: "I am glad that we gained a lot of experience and quality with the recruitment of Ruud and Christian (Vormer and Br uls), playing football a lot more is already possible with them."

Without a win in the last five games is not immediately the ideal stepping stone to the first of three vital confrontations with relegation competitors.

"Against Oud-Heverlee Leuven it will now really be either do or die for us," Dismas stated.

The midfielder pointed out: "After that, we still have six games to save us, but we want to give ourselves some breathing space right away, we are not looking beyond that match yet."

Zulte Waregem has a Belgian Cup semi-final second leg to play for today against Mechelen away after losing at home 2-1 in the first leg.

TFF officials appointed for 2022/23 CAF Champions League duties

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has appointed three officials from Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) for the 2022/23 CAF Champions League's upcoming fixtures.

Round four of the CAF Champions League will be played next week, with the premier continental club competition's matches scheduled to be played on March 7, 11, and 18, while the CAF Confederation Cup matches have been scheduled to be played on March 8.

Information from CAF confirmed the appointment of the TFF Competitions Manager, Baraka Kizuguto, as the General Coordinator of the CAF Champions League Group B game between South African champions, Mamelodi Sundowns, and Egypt's Al Ahly SC which will be played at Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria on March 11.

Kizuguto, who had previously served as Yanga's media officer when the outfit was financed by renowned businessman Yusuph Manji, will be the General Coordinator of the clash bringing together the clubs that previously met in Egypt on Saturday and settled for a 2-2 draw.

Tanzania Premier League Board's Manager, Jonathan Kassano, has been appointed by CAF to serve as General Coordinator for the CAF Champions League Group B duel pitting Al Hilal SC (Sudan) against Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa) to be played at Al Hilal Stadium, Omdurman on March 18, 2023.

The previous game that brought the teams together at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria ended with Mamelodi Sundowns garnering a 1-0 victory, with midfielder Cassius Mailula scoring the goal in the 25th minute.

Another officer from TFF appointed by CAF is a member of the TFF Executive Committee Khalid Abdallah, who will be the Commissioner of the CAF Champions League Group D game between Zamalek SC (Egypt) and Esp rance Sportive de Tunis (Tunisia) to be played at Borg El Arab Stadium, Alexandria on March 7, 2023.

The last game of round three saw Zamalek SC succumb to a 2-0 away loss to Esp rance Sportive de Tunis in a tie that took place at the Hamadi Agrebi Stadium in Tunis.

Attending and learning various courses under CAF is exclusive to the trio's appointment for having the knowledge to officiate games under their roles.

Zone 5 Judo Championships postponed

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Zone 5 East Africa Judo Championships that were to be held in Tanzania next month have been postponed.

The championships had been scheduled for March 22-26 but Judo Association of Tanzania (JATA) Secretary-General, Innocent Mallya, said they will now be held in Dar es Salaam from April 26-May 4.

He said the postponement is a result of a request from member states who said most of their athletes will be with their teams participating in the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) Games which have been slated to get underway on 21 March in Rwanda.

Mallya described the postponement as a blessing in disguise as his association will have ample time to prepare the national judo team and also find a sponsor.

The JATA boss noted: "All member states asked that the Zone 5 Championships should be postponed, the reason is that many of the national teams' players are police officers who will be representing their respective countries in the coming Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) Games in Rwanda."

Mallya stated: "To Tanzania, it's good as we will have enough time to prepare well, our athletes are ready after taking part in the Military Games (BAMATA) played in Mtwara but the postponement will ensure many of them are well prepared."

"We will also have enough time to look for the 25m/- that we need to successfully host the championships," Mallya said.

Zone 5 member states are Kenya, Zanzibar, Burundi, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, the Democratic Re-

public of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and the host Tanzania.

In the previous interview, Mallya explained that the maximum number of athletes in any team, depending on its financial ability is 42 judo players, but due to the prevailing financial status of JATA, the association settled for 15 athletes for each team.

The association revealed 15 athletes selected for the national team have been undergoing intensive training at

Ukonga in Dar es Salaam under the tutelage of Omari Mgowo.

The judokas are Vicent Joseph, Ahmed Magogo, Bakari Kapa, Abu Mcheteka, Thomas Mwenda, Oscar Ponsin, Raphael Daud, Andrew Thomas, Philemon Kabelege, Lawrence Mpachi, Hamisi Mrtutu, George Grant, Yohana Jiji, Adam Makoloma, and the only female judo player in the team, Asiyatu Juma.

Last year, Tanzania's judo players

finished third in the Zone Five Championships in Uganda, grabbing three gold medals, two silver medals, and three bronze medals.

Tanzania was represented by Vicent Joseph, Thomas Mwenda, Philemon Kaberege, Raphael Daudi, Bakari Ngapa, Nyasha Emmanuel, Hagai Mwandambo, Gervas Chilipweli, Adam Mwakisoma, Andrew Mlungu, Jeremia Makeme in the Zone Five Championships.



Tigo's Chief Financial Officer, Innocent Rwetabura (4th R), hands over a dummy check to this year's Tigo Kili International Half Marathon's men's category champion, Emmanuel Giniki, after the race's climax in Moshi on Sunday. Others are Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Mary Masanja (2nd L), Athletics Tanzania (AT) president Silas Isangi (4th L), and officials from Tigo and their counterparts from the government. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Flexibles

by David Chikoko

