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EU reaffirms its commitment to support EAC in curbing transnational crimes

By Guardian Reporter

THE European Union (EU) has reaffirmed willingness to support East African Community (EAC) partner states to curb cross-border security threats in the region.

Head of the EU Delegation to Tanzania and the EAC, Ambassador Manfred Fanti (pictured) has said that the EU was implementing various regional peace and security initiatives in the EAC partner states and the Horn of Africa.

Ambassador Fanti was speaking during the opening session of the 1st Steering Committee of the EAC 'Joint Response to Regional and Cross-Border Security Threats' project in Dar es Salaam.

The project, which is being implemented by EAC and Interpol with funding to the tune of €10 million from the EU, seeks to build the capacity of partner states to fight cross border crimes such as money laundering, terrorism, trafficking of arms,



The consequences of these crimes have been very serious and resulted to deaths, injury, disruption of social and economic activities and promotion of fear and despondency among citizens

trafficking of humans, drug trafficking and cyber-crime.

Fanti said the project was crucial as it forms part of the on-going efforts by the EU to support regional peace and security initiatives such as trans-national organised crimes terrorism, which pose a threat to the stability of the East African region.

"Similar EU-funded programmes include anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism in the greater Horn of Africa, in order to stop criminal networks and illicit finances," said the EU envoy.

Fanti urged the EAC to endeavour to fully utilise the funds before the expiry of the project in 2024.

EAC deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Steven Mlote, who represented the Secretary

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Samia warns over judicial corruption

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has said that corruption in the courts deprives the poor of justice.

Speaking in Dodoma yesterday, the President said there has been a rise in the number of complaints from people regarding delay of justice, especially for issues of inheritance for widows and land disputes.

Accordingly, she called upon judiciary officials to dispense justice without discrimination.

President Samia made the remarks at the climax of Law Week celebrations in the country under the slogan: "Time for Fourth Industrial Revolution: Journey to Improve Towards Online Judiciary."

She said bribery still exists in the courts at various levels, depriving people justice.

"Still, money exchanges hands, not necessarily at the higher levels, but even at lower levels, she stressed.

She added that the Judiciary has been empowered by law to dispense justice and called upon officials to dispense justice without any conditions.

"When a person files his case in the court, he expects to get a lawyer. But he does not have money to engage a lawyer. the government has the responsibility of providing him with a lawyer. But but the respondent has a lawyer, and such



President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister George Simbachawene (R) moments after arriving at Chinangali grounds in Dodoma to attend the climax of Law Day celebrations yesterday. Photo: State House



This system and other issues will not permit the filing of cases in the normal manner and will be capable of creating a court file electronically

technicalities deny justice to the one who is supposed to get that justice," she said.

She said the dispenser of justice should listen to his inner-self as well as applying humanity.

She praised the establishment of virtual courts, saying the move will assist costs of hearing cases.

President Samia congratulated the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) on its transformation by going in tandem with the goals of its establishment, noting that the government was ready to work with it.

She also instructed ministers for Information, Communications and Technology and Education, Science and Technology to make sure students get new expertise to go in tandem with the fourth industrial revolution.

She also said the government will make big investment in Information Communication Technology (ICT) to enable the completion of online court hearing and promised that she will work on the issue.

In regard to a request by TLS to merge public and private advocates cadres, President Samia directed the two sides to work together and the minister to see whether the issue was feasible.

Earlier, Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma said court hearings via video conferencing have been established in some court centres and some prisons whereby 17,979

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Small traders resume business at Mchikichini Karume market

By Mary Kadoko

ONLY 30 per cent of small traders have resumed businesses at the popular Mchikichini-Karume market in Ilala, Dar es Salaam Region over lack of capital associated with a recent fire which burned down 98 per cent of the entire facility.

A week ago, during her meeting with leaders of petty traders to discuss ways to address challenges facing the petty trading community, at the State House in Dar es Salaam, President Samia Suluhu Hassan allowed petty traders at Karume to resume their businesses.



A lot of money has been released to fund the construction of Kariakoo market. Up next, we intend to construct Jangwani area

"Almost 70 per cent of the traders here do not have capital to continue running their businesses; they cannot apply for loans because they had already borrowed money from banks and other financial institutions," chairman of the Mchikichini-Karume market, Jumanne Kongogo told the Guardian yesterday.

Kongogo said that talks are on-going between leaders of the petty traders, bank officials and authorities in Ilala District on the possibilities of the banks and financial institutions to come up with a new loan re-

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Government to address social determinants of mental health

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

FOLLOWING a rise of mental and psychiatric illnesses in the country, the government will integrate treatment of the same with other health services, the National Assembly heard



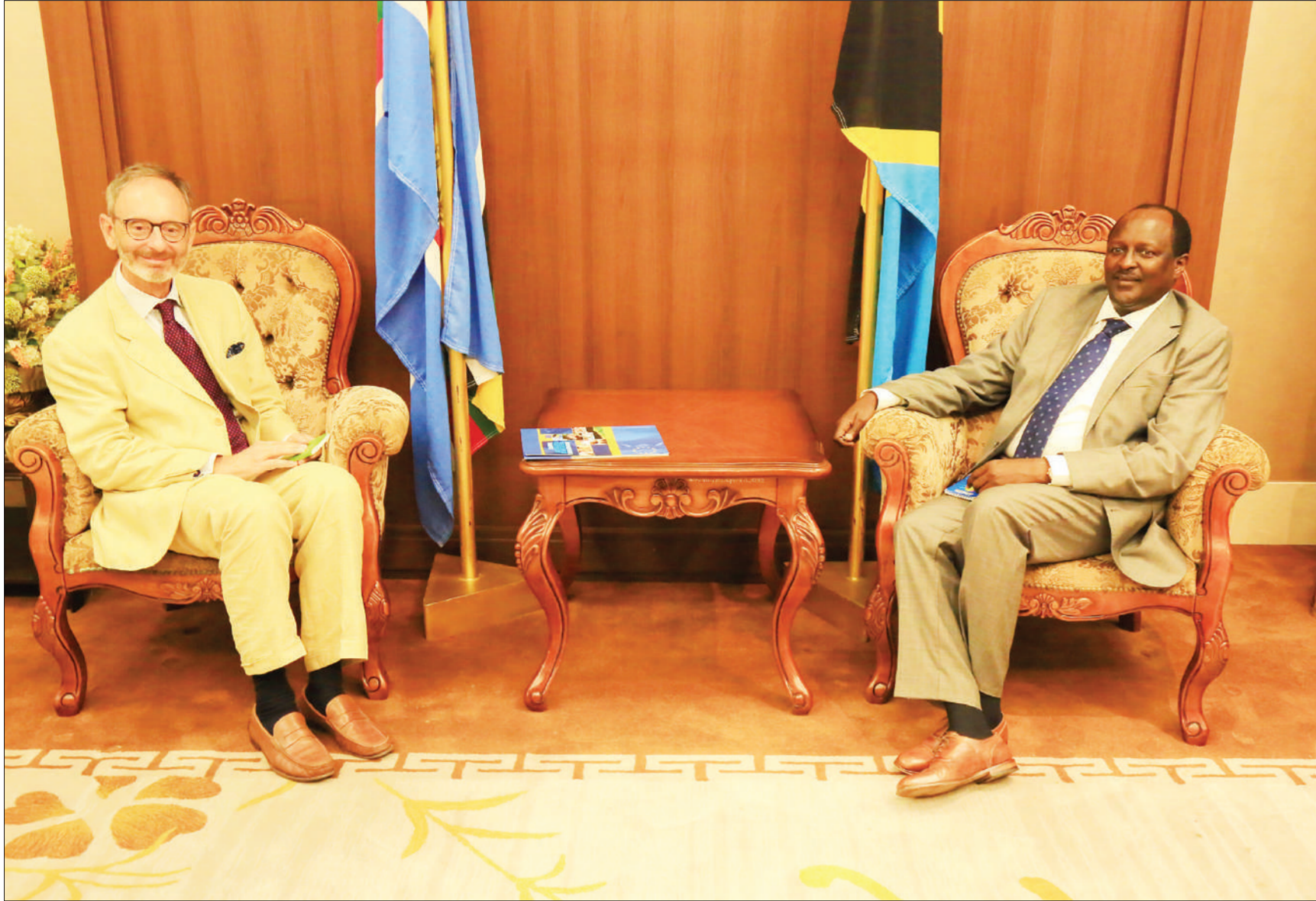
yesterday.

Deputy minister for Health, Dr Godwin Mollé (pictured), said that mental disorder cases have been on sharp increase in the recent past, prompting the government to

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Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry Permanent Secretary Joseph Sokoine (R) has an audience with European Union Ambassador to Tanzania, Manfred Fanti, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

EU reaffirms commitment to support EAC in curbing trans-national crimes

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General, thanked the EU for its consistent and continued support to the EAC peace and security sector over the years.

Eng Mlote assured the EU head of delegation that the EAC Secretariat will strive to ensure that EU support is well administered and managed in line with the guidelines applicable for the good of the people of East Africa and the wider integration efforts.

Head of the Interpol regional bureau in Nairobi, Gideon Kimilu, said that INTERPOL was looking forward to working closely with all EAC partner states, the EAC Secretariat and the EU in achieving peace and security in the East African region.

Kimilu said that policing had significantly evolved in today's globalised environment and gone beyond the traditional methods of law enforcement as these have to be complemented with modern technology including reliance on forensic science, intelligence gathering, processing and sharing, and international law enforcement cooperation.

Ambassador Fatuma Ndagiza, a member of the East African Legislative Assembly, said that the unveiling of the project coincides with the re-opening of the Gatuna-Katuna border post on the borders of Rwanda and Uganda.

and international peace, security and stability," said the Interpol chief.

Kimilu said that terrorism chiefly perpetrated in East Africa by the Salafi-jihadist terrorist organisation Al-Shabaab poses a major threat to regional peace and stability through continued terrorist acts targeting EAC partner states and other neighbouring countries in the East and Horn of Africa.

"The consequences of these crimes have been very serious and resulted to deaths, injury, disruption of social and economic activities and promotion of fear and despondency among citizens," he added.

Kimilu said that in order to keep abreast with the challenges of contemporary policing, law enforcement agencies require modern tools and technological capacity to acquire, analyze, store and share criminal data.

Ndagiza hailed Rwandan President Paul Kagame and his Ugandan counterpart President Yoweri Museveni for the bold step taken and the ongoing efforts to resolve the remaining challenges.

Government to address social determinants of mental health

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come up with the plan meant to detect such cases for ease of treatment.

He said this when responding to a question posed by Mariam Kisangi (Special Seat-CCM) who wanted to know the government's plans to construct mental health wards in Temeke, Amana and Mwananyamala hospitals in Dar es Salaam region.

He however said, medical treatment and drugs for the mental health and psychiatric patients are issued free

of charge and no one should pay to access the services.

Responding further, Dr Mollel said the solution to the increasing mental health and psychiatric sickness is not construction of new mental wards but rather to address the root cause of the increasing trend.

The Deputy Minister said youth aged between 15 and 36 years are mostly affected by mental health issues.

He further said that the newly formed ministry of community development, gender and special groups will come

up with the best strategies to address the situation.

He said the new ministry will soon come up with the best strategies on how they are going to handle the situation.

He said the government is integrating mental health treatment with other health services so that they bring the services closer to the communities.

Dr Mollel gave an example of the integration of the mental health services in Temeke hospital where they are completing renovation of

the diabetic ward in Temeke Regional Referral hospital so that it can be used for mental health patients.

"The government set aside 200m/- in the 2021/22 fiscal year for the construction of a mental health ward, saying Amana hospital is in line for the construction of the mental health ward for the 2022/23 budget," he said.

Most of the MPs while debating insisted on the need for having in place the psycho-social services whereas patients should undergo psychological treatment.

Samia warns over judicial corruption

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cases were heard saving a total of 2.75bn/- per year for the Prisons Department, advocates, the Judiciary and other stakeholders.

She also said as for now the Judiciary was making improvements in its management of cases to go in tandem with technological advancements.

"This system and other issues will not permit the filing of cases in the normal manner and will be capable of creating a court file electronically," he said.

He added that the new system will later go to primary courts and will remove paperwork and that it had worked well at Kigamboni District Court.

Small traders resume business at Mchikichini Karume market

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payment system for the affected traders.

He said the discussion on possibilities of lowering interest rates involved officials from CRDB, NMB and ACCESS banks. He said the new loan re-payment plan would allow debtors to save money for renovation of their destroyed structures.

"These people need to be assisted to raise funds for renovation of their structures as well as servicing their bank loans. Reducing interest rates would help them recover in few months," he asserted.

One of the traders, Hamisa Ally who used to sell Batiki clothes said she has yet resumed business over lack of money to purchase construction materials.

She said: "We have our own association with a total of 75 Batiki sellers. We are still collecting funds to enable us re-build the damaged structure."

Another trader, Ally Hamisi said: "Fire burned all his shoes worth 8m/-; I am now struggling to raise money to order for another batch."

About 3, 500 petty traders were left counting losses after a major section of Karume market was burnt down by an inferno that broke out last month.

The incident came six months after

Dar's iconic Kariakoo market was ravaged by hungry flames that broke out on July 10, 2021.

The government has announced plans to come up with a holistic approach in an effort to streamline operations of petty traders who are popularly known as Machinga.

During a meeting with the traders, President Samia revealed the government's intentions to build more modern markets in Dar es Salaam Region, where a huge amount of money has been set aside for execution of mega project at Jangwani.

She said plans are still underway to turn the area into a modern business centre.

"A lot of money has been released to fund the construction of Kariakoo market. Up next, we intend to construct Jangwani area," said the President.



We have our own association with a total of 75 Batiki sellers. We are still collecting funds to enable us re-build the damaged structure



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in talks with the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), Dr Pindi Chana, in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

Govt embarks on special project to revamp, expand four airports

IN efforts aimed to boost local air transport and stimulate economic growth, the government is implementing a special project to revamp and expand four airports of Kigoma, Tabora, Shinyanga and Sumbawanga, the Parliament was told yesterday.

The project worth over 100bn/- is funded by a soft loan from the European Investment Bank - EIB and the government.

Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Eng Godfrey Kasekenya

said that contractors for three airports of Tabora, Shinyanga and Sumbawanga had already been picked and except one for Kigoma airport.

Kasekenya was responding to a question by Kavejuru Eliadory Felix (Buhigwe, CCM) who thought to know

when the government will commence expansion and revamp of the Kigoma airport in Kigoma Region.

In his basic question, the lawmaker queried on the government's strategy to expand the Kigoma airport so as to allow it to accommodate big planes so as to stimulate economic growth.

"We are just waiting for the no objection letter from the creditor, EIB, regarding the contractor of the Kigoma airport and things will go well," he added.

He said the rehabilitation of the airports will enable them to receive bigger planes such as Airbus and

Boeing 787 Dreamliner; this will bolster trading activities between the countries and open room for more businesses to happen thus promoting economic growth.

Kasekenya said apart from bolstering trade and other economic activities, the projects will also strengthen domestic

air transport and attract more tourists in the country.

According to him, the government's zeal is to ensure that the country has steady transport services including air travel so as to promote and stimulate economic growth.

"The project will involve construction of modern passenger lounges, airplane parking lots, control tower, run-ways and airstrips, we will also construct security fences, plane runway lights, set electrical systems, fire rescue equipment and construct roads entering the airports at tarmac level," he explained.



Kisesa MP Luhaga Mpina submits a question in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday about the delay of Julius Nyerere hydropower project. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Govt: No severe power rationing

By Getrude Mbagu

THE government has assured citizens that there will be no severe power rationing in the country following immediate measures that are currently taken to improve capacity of natural gas power plants.

Deputy Minister for Energy, Stephen Byabato made the statement in the National Assembly yesterday that in the next one week the power rationing is going to end since the gas power plants would have more capacity to produce and meet demand.

He explained that the severe power rationing will drastically go down due to three major reasons which include increase of water level in dams due to the ongoing rains across the country and renovations done in various power supply centres in the country.

"We have sat down with experts after directives from President Samia Suluhu Hassan and we have agreed to use the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) plants to transport gas in the meantime when the other plants are under renovations, with this power supply will improve and the rationing will decrease," said Byabato.

The deputy minister was responding to a question by Luhaga Mpina (CCM-Kisesa) who wanted to know on immediate measures taken by the government to reduce the ongoing aching power cuts.

Mpina raised concern over the current situation of power cuts, saying it has been affecting industrial production and many other economic activities, thus wanted to hear what the government was doing to address the challenge.

The deputy minister Byabato responded saying that the power cuts were a result of low capacity of power plants, which tend to automatically switch off when overwhelmed as a result of usage increase especially when

industries switch on big machines. "Since we are now increasing the capacity of gas power plants, this problem is going to end," Byabato assured, adding that even hydropower plants would effectively produce electricity since the dams now have good water level.

In his basic question, the MP also wanted to know why the completion of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHP) has been delayed and why the contractor failed to fill up water in the dam by November last year as per the agreement.

Byabato responded that the project is expected to be completed on June 14 this year, as per the contract, calling for patience from the lawmaker and the public at large.

He went on explaining that for the dam to be filled with water it has to be constructed up to the level of 95 metres above the sea level whereby the work has now already been completed.

He however, said the exercise to fill the water into the dam was delayed due to delay to importation of machinery for the work caused by Covid-19 challenges which forced industries to close down.

"The machines have arrived and the process to install them may be completed in March this year," he noted.

The deputy minister assured that the ministry will continue supervising the contractor so as to ensure that the project is completed for the public to start enjoying steady power supply.



Since we are now increasing the capacity of gas power plants, this problem is going to end

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

65 advocates have died since eruption of COVID-19 - TLS

TANGANYIKA Law Society (TLS) in Njombe Region has said a total of 65 advocates had died nationwide since COVID-19 was reported in the country in March 2020.

This was disclosed here by Njombe TLS coordinator Innocent Kibadu at the event to mark Law week held at the court grounds, adding that the Covid-19 effects not only ended in taking the lives of the loved ones, but also extensively impacted on economic wellbeing of the private advocates and their families saying that 65 lawyers

died. Speaking on behalf of Njombe Regional Commissioner, Njombe District Commissioner Kissa Kasongwa said the community is supposed to come up for Covid-19 vaccination because it was safe for human beings. "The vaccines are available at all

vaccination centres, it is safe, go to get vaccinated to be safe," he said.

Senior magistrate from Njombe Resident Magistrate Court, Liadi Chamshamaa said the introduction of online court will assist to reduce the backlogs of court cases.

"In addition, the system will ensure achievement as it will reduce the

number of many cases filed in the court according to the law," he added.

The first Covid-19 patient was reported in the country on March 16, 2020 whereas the government imposed a range of prevention and containment measures including closure of schools, colleges and universities.

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TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
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PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCES UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received applications for Licences under the converged Licensing Framework from the following applicant:-

APPLICANT NAME	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS/NATIONALITY	SHARES
Bradda Company Limited	Application Services Licence	Baraka Julius Ituwe (tanzanian)	60.000000000
		Jules Nelson Ituwe (tanzanian)	40.000000000

Pursuant to section 8 of Electronic and Postal Communication Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of the licences to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration.

Comments should be submitted to: Director General

Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
P.O.Box 474
14414 DAR ES SALAAM Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2
Fax: +255 22 241 2009
Email: dg@tcra.go.tz

166881



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME FOR VULNERABLE ETHNIC GROUPS FOR EACOP REFERENCE NO. 0010007446

TotalEnergies East Africa Midstream B.V. (Company) Tanzania, an Oil and Gas company, invites experienced and reputable organizations (Companies or NGOs) to express their interest in designing and implementing social investment programme for vulnerable ethnic groups that are impacted by the Project.

The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

EACOP is seeking the services of a suitably experienced organization (Companies or NGOs may respond to this EO) to design and implement social investment and capacity building programmes for selected communities of vulnerable ethnic groups residing in Tabora, Manyara, Dodoma and Tanga regions.

Programme design will focus on support to the traditional livelihoods (pastoralist or hunter gatherer) of these groups including but not limited to land management, livestock health and management, women's specific needs and should be designed in a manner that takes consideration of conservation requirements and sustainability.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Organizations expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Proof of experience in supporting vulnerable ethnic groups in Tanzania including in the design and delivery of community development programmes with those communities.
- Proof of registration and current business license for companies or NGO registration for NGOs.
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tax (TRA) Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- Application for registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Petroleum Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.

Organizations which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to eacop-tz.eoi.1000001@totalenergies.com (max. email size 20Mb) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 16th February 2022. Email subject should be 0010007446.

Note: The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified organizations (Companies or NGOs). Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.

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Cashew trees drying for unknown reasons

By Correspondent Abdallah Bakari,

Mtwara

CONCERNS are growing among farmers in Mtwara after about 6000 cashew trees drying for unknown reasons.

Information made available to this paper said about 900 cashew trees have dried with another 3000 in fading stages posing a threat to thousands of farmers who depend on the crop for their living.

Msimbati Ward councillor Rashid Linkoni said residents have started to associate the move with gas exploration exercises currently ongoing in the area.

Speaking during a transparency meeting which was organised by Mtwara Regional Non-Governmental Organization (MRENGO), Linkoni said that all is not well in the area.

"As I speak today, about 900 coconut trees have already dried and another 2,100 are wilting, making a total of 3000 trees...the same situation applied to cashew trees in the area" said Linkoni.

He added that "Residents of Msimbati for years had never witnessed such a situation, it only started five years after exploration of natural gas started.

The official alleged that the move might have been caused by vibration from bombs during gas exploration which disturbed ecological system of the area hence resulting to decay of the land making it infertile.

According to him the area is no longer fertile even to annual crop as result of land changing from texture to sand soil.

"We have reported this case to those companies dealing with natural gas exploration in the area, but yet they have responded nothing."

Acting Southern Zone National Environmental Council (NEMC) Manger Obasanjo Niwako said that it was a new reported case to him, as more time needed to have joint

research to establish the cause of the disaster.

"We had no information about this incident, it's very early to say what happened there is direct effect of gas exploration, we need to team up with agricultural experts to research the matter," He said.

"If the case is gas exploration why not to other places where such exploration took place...I still insist that we need a time to clarify this," he commented.

Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) spokesperson Marie Mselem revealed that the issue was fresh to her as more time was required to confirm.

"Why directly has associated the issue with gas exploration...natural gas exploration has been done so many areas in the country, why Msimbati and no other places." She questioned.



We had no information about this incident, it's very early to say what happened there is direct effect of gas exploration, we need to team up with agricultural experts to research the matter



Vodacom Tanzania Foundation director Rosalynn Mworia (L) exchanges documents with African Child Project director Catherine Kimambo in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after signing a Memorandum of Understanding for running the online education sector through the 'School Connectivity Project' which will help to increase students passes in the country by five per cent. Looking on (C) is Tanzania Commission for Information, Communications and Technology director general Eng Samson Mwela. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt dishes out 58.25bn/- to facilitate construction of 207 new health centres

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has dishd out 58.25bn/- to facilitate construction of 207 new health centres in the divisions and strategic wards which do not have the facilities so as to improve and bring closer to the people quality health services in the country.

Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional

Administration and Local Governments), Dr Festo Ndugange made the statement in the House yesterday that the government's zeal was to see its people accessing quality and affordable health services.

He was responding to a question by Seif Gulamali, (Manonga-CCM) who wanted to know when the government would fulfil its promise to construct a health centre at Ziba ward in Igunga

District, Tabora Region.

According to him, the government is well committed to ensure that health services are improved and it will continue investing in improving services for the country's development.

The deputy minister said the government has sent 250m/- to Igunga district council for the construction of a health centre at Ziba ward.

He further added the construction

of the new health centres will also contribute to the growth of the local economy by keeping people healthy enough to engage in various economic activities. "The government will also continue issuing funds to councils to facilitate implementation of various promises issued by national leaders which include construction and rehabilitation of dispensaries, health centres and hospitals," he asserted.

Dodoma residents urged to reveal names of GBV perpetrators

By Polycarp Machira, Kondoa

KONDOA District Commissioner (DC), Khamis Mkanachi has appealed to residents of Dodoma Region to expose perpetrators of Gender Based Violence (GBV) because they live in their communities.

He said incidents of GBV were still on rise whereas statistics show that in every 10 people p, six are affected directly by GBV, saying that if the communities decide not to connive with suspects, the vice was likely to remain a history in the country.

The DC was speaking in Dodoma during a two-day seminar provided to women councillors drawn from four districts of Kongwa, Bahi, Mpwapwa and Kondoa.

The seminar was organised and coordinated by the Dodoma based Non-Governmental Organisation-- Women Wake Up (WOWAP).

Established in 1996, WOWAP is a voluntary, non-governmental organisation (NGO) which is fighting against female genital mutilation (FGM) in Tanzania. The organisation trains community-based leaders or change agents who encourage dialogue within communities and mobilise support from religious leaders, teachers, and ward and village government officials to fight for the elimination of FGM.

The NGO is also determined to be a catalyst of change toward women' full participation in decision making on social political and economic issues, and promoting a positive attitude toward women and children through cultural means and consciousness-raising.

At a two- day seminar, the Kondoa DC asked women to further put up a strategic plan if attaining a 50/50 gender threshold in political positions and other decision making organs.

"Those of you who are now special seats councillors should in the next election go for wards so that you allow more other women to get positions in special seats," said Mkanachi.

Speaking at the event WOWAP Executive Director, Fatma Tawfiq said her organisation had for many years providing training to different groups of women on GBV, leadership, as well as joint engagement of women in different issues.

"We want to see more women getting enough skills and ability to offer leadership in their communities and we believe that if they Bank on the skills provided, they will be the best professional leaders in the communities they represent," said Ms Tawfiq who doubles as Special Seats Member of Parliament.

WOWAP Coordinator Nasra Suleiman said apart from providing capacity building programme, the NGO in collaboration with other like-minded organisation including TAWILA was equally providing legal aid to women who go through GBVs.

She said for three years now, WOWAP was working closely with the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRGG).



We want to see more women getting enough skills and ability to offer leadership in their communities and we believe that if they Bank on the skills provided, they will be the best professional leaders in the communities they represent



Endiamtu Ward councillor in Simanjoro district, Manyara region, Lucas Zacharia (R) speaks with education stakeholders about programmes to feed school pupils and students on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

TANZANIA and Malawi governments have opened talks aimed at allowing passenger and cargo vessels in Lake Nyasa to anchor at ports of both countries to spur their economic development.

The remarks were made by Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera when launching, again, the sailings of MV Mbeya II that had suspended its services after it was struck with a storm nine months ago.

The vessel was hit by a storm at Matema Beach area with more than 80 passengers that damaged some of its functions including its right engine, which saw the government hiring Songoro Marine to make repairs

Tanzania, Malawi hold talks over transport services on Lake Nyasa

thereon.

He said there are goods in Tanzania that are in demand in Malawi but these are forced to be exported over land due to lack of Lake transport services between the two countries.

Homera added that there are vessels in Tanzania that have been built at high cost, but are not fully utilised and when the ongoing talks are completed, these vessels will be operating between the two neighbouring countries.

"What I ask for is ethical behaviour from our captains and other workers of

the ships, do your work professionally so that together we should realise the government's intention in building the ships," he said.

For his part, Kyela District Commissioner, Ismail Mlawa said since the time MV Mbeya II suspended services, residents in the district were very inconvenienced in regard to lake transport services and impacted on their economic activities.

He said the people were forced to travel in vessels whose safety could not be assured compared to the ship and

thanked the government for repairing MV Mbeya II.

Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary, Dr Angelina Lutambi said lake transport by ship is faster than other lake craft as well as being cheap and safer.

Acting Lake Nyasa Ports Manager, Abdallah Mohamed said the vessel after being struck by storm on May 3 last year was repaired and made trial runs after inspection by experts from Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC).



Absa Bank recovers strongly from the COVID - 19 effects to post astronomical after-tax profit rise

Absa Bank Tanzania has maintained outstanding operational viability in the aftermath of the COVID 19 pandemic, defying a year marked by turmoil in all sectors including the banking sector to register an after-tax profit rise of 1875 per cent in the financial year 2021, the bank's Managing Director (MD) Abdi Mohamed has revealed.

"The year 2021 has been a very good year from the financial performance perspective as the Bank was able to recover from a reported loss position of TZS 532million in 2020 to register a Tzs 9.4billion profit after tax (PAT) in 2021," said Abdi Mohamed yesterday.

"The 2020 reported loss was mainly contributed by the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that affected most of the sectors in the economy which impacted Bank's financial performance in terms of decreasing revenues and increased loan impairment losses."

According to the Bank's MD, profit before tax (PBT) also grew significantly by 210% year on year from Tzs 4billion last year to a Tzs 13billion in 2021, mainly contributed by

declining loan impairment charges by 30% and decreasing operating costs by 8% while the Bank was able to maintain stability in the revenue performance year on year.

Abdi Mohamed also said that the bank's Net Interest Income (NII) grew by 2% in 2021 despite decent growths in customer loans mainly due to timing of the customer loan growth during the year and declining margin as the bank continue to improve on customer pricing and make lending more affordable to its customers.

Absa Finance Director, Obedi Laiser said, "In 2021 most businesses recovered albeit not fully from the pandemic impact of 2020 and the Bank registered growths in customer loans and customers deposits of 17% and 2.1% respectively from previous year with a corresponding 30% decrease in loan impairment charges due to improvements in the financial performance of most borrowers in the year. Customer deposits would have grown by a decent 11% in the year but was impacted by a regulatory change during the year on mobile money trust account deposit holdings." The Bank recorded growths in customer loans across all its business customer

segments of Retail, Business Banking and Corporate Banking as it continues to drive and execute its Strategic plan to ensure it continues to improve its digital offerings, customer segment expansion and participate more broadly into the public sector support initiatives, according to Mr Laiser.

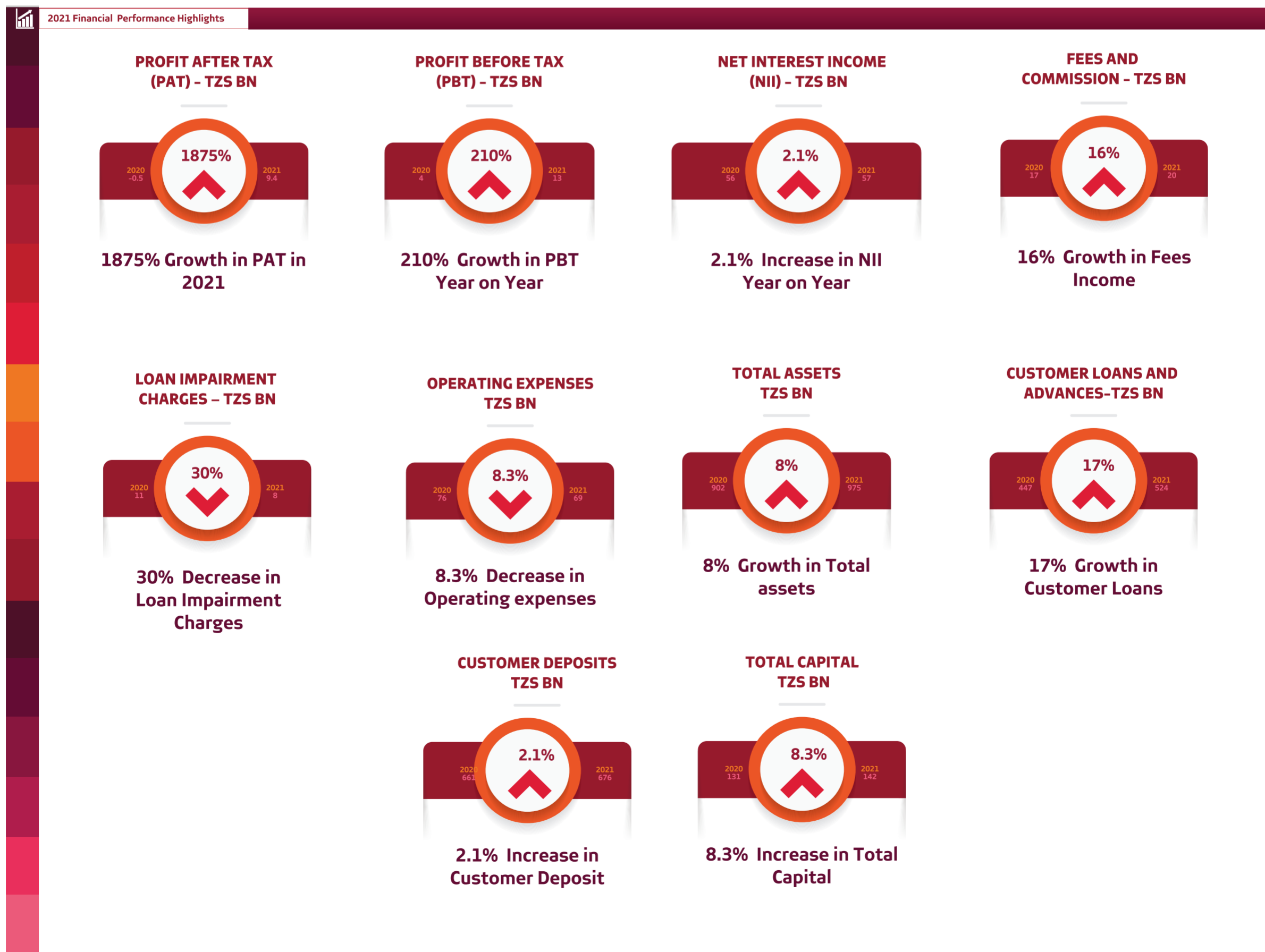
According to the Finance Director, during the year 2021, the bank launched a number of innovative product diversification, including launching a retail mobile lending product in partnership with Tigo Tanzania that has reached thousands of customers and enabled them to access financial services more conveniently and improve their lives and wellbeing.

Mr Laiser continued saying, during the year the bank also launched an SME lending product and improved its SME digital transactional banking channel as part of product and customer segments expansion and digital offering improvements. Public sector support participation improved significantly in 2021 as the Bank's role to contribute more positively to the socio-economic development of Tanzania continues to gather more pace. In terms of expansion, Absa total capital

position of the bank grew by a decent 8.3% year on year largely contributed by the profitability generated during the year 2021 which was reinvested into the capital of the bank. Total Capital of the bank increased by Tzs 11bn adding more capital resources which are deployed in expanding Bank's lending capabilities to serve our customers better.

The bank continues to have a strong capital position and operates well above the regulatory and internal capital requirements. The bank's digital capabilities continued to evolve and improve attracting more customers and increased usage from existing customers, said Finance Director, Mr Obedi Laiser.

In 2021 Absa Bank won several international and local Excellence Awards including, the Best Banking Cards Tanzania Award (by Global Brands Magazine), The Most Innovative Retail Bank, Tanzania Award (by Global Business Outlook) and Best Financial Institution in using ICT 2021 by Tanzania Commission of Information Communication and Technology (ICT).



Stakeholders raise concerns over exportation horticultural products

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

SATKEHOLDERS have raised concerns over the country's failure to tap the prestigious economic potential available through production and exportation horticultural products.

They said despite being endowed with suitable agro-climatic zones with enormous potential for farmers to produce numerous vegetable and spices crops for domestic and international markets, the country has not seriously invested into the key sub-sector.

Statistics from the Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA) shows low pace in the country's production trend for the two economic cash crops.

According to the statistics, during 2016/2017 the country produced a total of 1,298,388 Metric Tons (MT) of vegetable, whereby in 2017/2018 production slightly increased to 1,595,489MT, which was an increase of about 297,101MT.

During 2018/2019 vegetable production in the country developed to at least 1,926,927MT.

On the side of spices, the production rate stagnated at about 22,062MT between 2016/17 and 2017/2018, followed by 38,987MT in 2018/19, a slim increase of only 16,925MT.

Tanzania has so far managed to pocket at least 310,982,000 USD from exportation of vegetables in a period from 2001 to 2019.

In an interview with The Guardian, Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa for the World Vegetable Center, Dr Gabriel Rugalema, expressed the need for the government to tie up with stakeholders from the private sector in ramping up efforts to develop the performance of the sectors.

He observed that Tanzania was supposed to be at the helm of the continental's vegetable production if effective investments were put in place.

"The country has numerous potential for growing and benefiting from the crops, but we have yet to utilize the endowments, which are a grim situation," he said.

He added that all regions within the

country have potential for growing varied vegetables and spices, but saying currently the crops are being cultivated in few regions.

Dr Rugalema said vegetable, spices and fruits have remained among orphan crops in Tanzania due to unfriendly policy towards improvement of the sectors.

He spoke over the need to improve seed systems in the vegetable and spices sub-sectors, especially in ensuring there is more research, seed breeding programs as well as education among the farmers over relevant agronomic practices.

"There's a need to have the farmers accessing improved vegetable and spice varieties at affordable prices in order to help increase production," he insisted.

Among others, he mentioned unreliable availability of pesticides, and insecticide, poor market information and infrastructures among top challenges disrupting the local farmers involved in cultivation of the two crops.

He named the countries that are doing well in the vegetable sector as South Africa, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and neighbouring Kenya.

In an effort to improve the performance of the sector, according to him, the center, World Vegetable Center, has embarked on a special program to collect germplasm of vegetable varieties from Tanzania, Madagascar and Benin.

In Tanzania, he informed that the center has so far collected more than 800 new germplasm varieties from Singida and Tabora regions, saying the exercise will be extended in all regions of Tanzania mainland and isle.

"In further efforts, we're continuing conducting several researches through which we have successfully managed to make a major stride in research of African eggplants, whereby seed varieties for the most loved vegetable are now available in abundance within the country," he informed.

The vegetable sector in sub-Saharan Africa is severely underdeveloped and vegetable consumption is extremely low.



Nigerian prominent films actor Jim lyke (2nd R) in group photo with his hosts moments after arriving at Kilimanjaro International Airport for visiting tourism attractions aimed to produce films in the country's national parks . Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilimanjaro

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) says statistics shows that as for now more than 80 per cent of Tanzanians have access microfinance services in the country.

The remarks were made here yesterday by BoT Financial and Administration Manager for the Northern Zone, Saphy Mahmoud when addressing a training seminar for various stakeholders from Manyara Region including government officials, religious leaders and entrepreneurs.

"Following the statistics, the government decided to enact the 2018 Microfinance Services Act to enable many to access to financial services without obstacles," he said.

BoT: 80 pc of Tanzanians now access to microfinance services

According to the 2018 Microfinance Services Act, engaging in financial services business without a licence form BoT is in violation to the law and offenders thereof are liable to fine and/or imprisonment.

Saphy said the enactment of the law aimed to remove obstacles which stakeholders were facing and added that before the coming of the legislation, some people lost their property from swindling and fraud by financial services providers at the hands of unfaithful dealers.

To avoid these challenges, he called on the people to invest in Treasury Bills, and added that those investing in this way, it would be better for them to disclose to their close relatives.

"Don't make it a secret to ensure your money will not be lost when you die, the money stays for 15 years, and if you don't demand it, it goes to the Government Consolidated Fund," he said.

Opening the training seminar, Manyara Regional Commissioner, Makongoro Nyerere said any investor

investing in Treasury Bills will earn profit as there will be no fraud; no swindling of any kind and every this is conducted openly.

He added that many people have been swindled of their money including being charged high interest without following any financial procedures.

For his part, Manyara Region Assistant Registrar for Cooperative Societies, Venance Msafiri said the region has about 78 Saving and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS), but only 20 have been legally registered.



Kagera Regional Commissioner, Major Gen Charles Mbugu presents certificates to participants after sports bonanza organised by 'Jambo For Development' in Bukoba municipality recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government is set to carry out an evaluation of the number of workers in the public sector to identify areas with shortages and challenges.

The Permanent Secretary in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance (PO PSMGG) Dr Laurean Ndumbaro said yesterday when he opened a job preparation seminar in Morogoro.

He said the main reason for the exercise was to identify the real needs for municipal and district councils especially those with workers between 30 and 95-percent of their needs and

Government set to carry out an evaluation of the number of workers in the public sector

how to address them.

"After this exercise we will know the exact data on institutions with high shortages as well as those with medium shortfall," he said.

This will also take a look at institutions with large numbers of workers as well as those with shortages to find a way of distributing them before employing others.

According to Dr Ndumbaro the exercise will upon completion help the government to get the best information

which will facilitate the grading and increase of salaries depending on one's nature of job.

For his part, the assistant director for administration and Human Resource in President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance Marko Masaya said the training involved all the departments under the ministry which is a result of directives issued to ensure all sectors in the public sector listed down shortfalls in their respective

departments.

"The completion of the exercise will give a clear picture of the needs in the all the departments from ministry headquarters, regional and all district councils and institutions that fall under their dockets.

The Regional Administrative Secretary for Morogoro Mariam Mtunguja said the training will go a long way into addressing challenges faced by public sector including human capital.

Government finalising design work of Kisorya water project

By Getrude Mbugu, Dodoma

THE government is finalising the design work for Kisorya water project which will draw water from Lake Victoria to serve communities in 12 villages in Bunda District, Mara Region.

Minister for Water Jumaa Aweso told the Parliament yesterday here when responding to a question by Mwibara MP (CCM) who sought to know the government's plans to permanently address acute water shortage challenges facing residents in the constituency.

Aweso said the government was aware of the challenge and it is undertaking several measures and projects to improve water supply in Mwibara constituency and all other areas in the region

"We expect that within this financial year, the designing work will be completed ready to commence construction of the important water project which will source water from Lake Victoria," he said.

The minister named the beneficiary villages as Sunsi, Masahunga, Kisorya, Nambubi, Mwitende, Nansimo, Nambaza, Busambara, Mwibara, Kibara A, Kibara B, and Kasahunga.

The construction of the project is expected to be implemented through the budget of 2022/2023 fiscal year," he added.

He said the government's role is to ensure that access to clean and safe water to its people is secure and sustainable.

"Currently, water access in Bunda district where the Mwibara constituency is located is approximately 69 percent through 237 deep and normal wells, one spring and five pipeline network schemes.

Aweso said in the 2021/22 financial year, the government continues with a short-term plan to improve water services in Mwibara by implementing new projects in Buzimbwe, Bulendabufwe, Igundu, expansion of Iramba water project to Mugaru, Nyarugoma and Namuhura villages.



The implementations of these projects have reached 15 percent implementation and are expected to be completed by June, 2022. Completion of these projects will improve access to water services in Bunda District from the current 69 percent to 71 percent



Works and transport Permanent Secretary ambassador Aisha Amour speaks with Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Services Agency regional managers in Dodoma yesterday. Left is Temesa Chief Executive Officer Lazaro Kilahala and Deputy Permanent Secretary Ludovick Nduhiye. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government directs employers to fulfil their duties effectively

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has directed employers to fulfil their duties effectively by preparing lists of public servants who are about to retire as well as supervising to ensure that they are paid all their moving expenses (transport fares) soon after retiring.

Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Public Services Management and Good Governance, Deogratius Ndejemi told the House yesterday acknowledging that a number of retired public servants have been struggling to get the funds due to unnecessary deferral.

Ndejemi was responding to a question posed by Jesca Msambatavangu (CCM) who wanted to know when the government would restore the "Moving Expenses" section which was once removed.

In her question Msambatavangu said the government removed the section to paying servants transport fare after retiring but it was high time now to bring back the component so as to support the servants while they are waiting for other benefits.

However, the Deputy Minister responded that the section hasn't been removed, it is still there and public servants were still paid the transport expenses after retiring.

He wanted the employers to ensure that they adhere to the Public service regulations by making sure that the retirees are not disturbed.

He said as per the Public Service Regulations of 2003, Regulations J.6 (I) and J.8 of the Standing Orders in the Public Service of 2009 as well as

Circular Service No. 5 of 2008, the "Moving Expenses" component has not been removed.

Thus, the government has been paying for transportation (fares) to public servants in accordance with the procedures outlined in accordance with the Regulations.

"It is the right of every employee when he retires to be reimbursed for travel expenses to return to his place of residence after retirement, it is the responsibility of every employer to ensure that he allocates "Moving Expenses" in the budget. So, let me take this opportunity to remind and urge employers to allocate these funds and fulfill their responsibilities.

"Employers should compile a list of employees who are about to retire and thus make it easier to identify the actual costs that will be required to transport them and allocate them in the budget for that purpose," he added.

He assured the House that the government will continue to pay the cost of transporting public servants, their families and luggage to ensure them with smooth retirement.

“...So, let me take this opportunity to remind and urge employers to allocate these funds and fulfill their responsibilities.”

Z'bar: 1,161 crimes against humanity reported in 2021

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

A TOTAL of 1,161 cases, including those from gender based violence and child abuse, and murder were reported to the police in the Zanzibar in 2021, an increase of 204 in the previous year during which 957 such cases were reported.

This was revealed here yesterday by the Zanzibar Deputy Director of

Criminal Investigation (DDCI), Zuberi Chembela when addressing reporters in his office on the security situation and reported crimes.

He said the increase of the cases is due to the increasing awareness by the people in reporting them, different as it was in the past.

In regard to murders a total of 41 cases were reported in 2021, compared to 33 in the previous year (2020),

equivalent to an increase of eight cases.

He said last year there were 1,666 cases of robbery and theft that include armed robberies, burglaries, motorcycle theft, crops theft and livestock, currency counterfeit and others.

"The 1,666 cases are 410 less compared to those reported in 2020 which recorded 2,076 cases," said Chembela.

He explained that the main challenge facing the police force that many such crimes, especially on gender based violence and child abuse are committed by known people in the community and those close to the families.

He explained that the state of security as for now is peaceful and people were continuing with their various economic activities.

Govt forms panel to probe killings

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has established a committee that will come up with a national strategy to provide a permanent solution on incidents of killings taking place in various areas in the country.

This was revealed here on Monday by Home Affairs Minister Hamad Yusuf Masauni to reporters on the meeting involving the ministry's high officials and the Police Force that met to discuss on the ongoing incidents of killings in the country.

Masauni said he has given the panel 21 days to advise the government on national strategies to contain the killings.

He said in the last one month alone (January) a total of 179 incidents of killings were reported and more than 150 suspects thereof were arrested.

In the circumstances, he added, the meeting was compelled to form the committee on the issue.

He further said the panel will be made up of experts from various the Home affairs ministry, the Police Force, and the Office of the Attorney General, the Intelligence Service, and the Community Development Ministry.

Other experts will come from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), the Institute of Higher Education, the Information and Information Technology Ministry and the Office of the Regional Administration and Local Government (RALG).

"During the 21-day period, I would like the committee to start its work in regions that seem to be leading in these incidents, including Kagera, Dodoma, Tabora, Kigoma, and Songwe regions," stressed Masauni.

He also opened doors for any person who considers he/she can work together with the committee to come up with views that would help in controlling these killings.

Aside from the committee, Masauni instructed the Police Force to make sure all people who are suspected to have been involved in the killings to be arrested and legal action taken against them.

He said the task of arresting suspects of the killings is not wholly assigned to the police, but every citizen has the responsibility to cooperate so that the perpetrators are booked.

"Many incidents of killings are caused by conflicts in families such as issues of inheritance, land disputes, drunkenness, hatred and witchcraft, the causes that need permanent solutions," added masauni.

“During the 21-day period, I would like the committee to start its work in regions that seem to be leading in these incidents, including Kagera, Dodoma, Tabora, Kigoma, and Songwe regions”

By Guardian Correspondent

THE committee for the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (MTAKUWWA) in Dar es Salaam Region has appealed to stakeholders to continue working together with it in the war against gender based violence (GBV) including sexual and child abuse in the community.

The appeal was made Tuesday this week by the Committee's Chairman, Dr Rashid Mfaume who is also the Region's Medical Officer (RMO) at a meeting to introduce a trial project that aims to wrestle acts of GBV.

The introduction of the project was done by the Director of Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Advocate Anna Henga who explained how the fight against GBV was being waged in Kinondoni District and the achievements thereof.

"First of all, should congratulate for

MTAKUWWA appeals to stakeholders for support war against based violence

the good job you are doing, as acts of gender based violence and child abuse are committed in the community, starting in the family, hence it would be better for every official or leader in his/her area of jurisdiction, including 10-cell leaders to make follow ups and report," said Dr Mfaume.

He added: "We also appeal to stakeholders, including you LHRC, Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) and others to continue working with MTAKUWWA including contributing your sources to make the campaign a success."

The RMO said Dar es Salaam Region has the largest population in the country;

thus, the likelihood of having many acts of GBV is also high, hence the basic issue is cooperation among all stakeholders.

In regard to the project, the LHRC Director Anna Henga said research done by the Centre in 2019/2020 showed the increase of acts of sexual abuse in Kinondoni District

"There have been nearly 57,626 incidences of GBV including sexual abuse, hence the Centre entered into agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to implement this trial project," she said.

She added that the aim was to build capacity and mobilising various stakeholders against acts of gender based violence and sexual abuse.

"This project is being implemented at Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital and within the community surrounding it including Mwananyamala and Makumbusho wards," she added.

"There is a Police Gender and Children Desk, education officers, community development officers at Regional, Municipal and Ward levels, students from both primary and secondary schools within the project area," she said.

She mentioned other stakeholders in the campaign as including sports clubs, motorcycle (bodaboda) drivers, journalists, civil society organisations and other stakeholders with similar interests.

Haven of Peace Academy



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- High School English Teacher
- Curriculum Specialist / Teacher Trainer
- Geography/History Teacher-Middle School
- French Teacher
- Bible Teacher
- Library and Media Specialist
- P.E. Teacher
- ICT Teacher
- Psychology/Sociology Teacher
- Math Teacher - Middle School

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HOPAC offers a fair compensation package.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, CV and a letter of reference from their pastor; no later than 28th February, 2022.

Haven of Peace Academy
P.O. Box 70027
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Email: personnel@hopac.sc.tz

166878

Haven of Peace Academy



Cambridge A-Levels Merit Scholarship for entry in August 2022

Haven of Peace Academy is offering the opportunity for a small number of Tanzanian citizens to gain a merit scholarship worth up to 100% of the tuition fees for the school's AS and A level programme. Successful candidates will have genuine and proven financial need, as well as being outstanding academically and demonstrating great potential.

Applicants must be:

- Tanzanian Citizens
- At least 16 years of age and no older than 19 years of age by August 2022
- Through Form 4 or its equivalent

Applicants need to demonstrate outstanding academic success in one of the following ways:

- By achieving Division One (less than 10 points) in the O level National exams
- By achieving high academic results in Form 4 or the equivalent
- By achieving or being predicted to achieve top grades in International Examinations such as IGCSE

HOPAC is a Christian school but applicants may be from any religious background.

The award of a scholarship will be for a maximum of two years subject to the student maintaining appropriate standards of behavior and academic performance.

The HOPAC AS and A Level programme offers a choice of rigorous courses leading to well-recognised international qualifications. Typically, students choose 4 subjects in Grade 11 and continue with 3 of them to full A Level in Grade 12. In addition, students take other non-examined courses in Bible, Service Learning and Life Skills. The school encourages Leadership, Service and Stewardship in all areas of life.

Assessment of selected candidates will take place at Haven of Peace Academy and will include both a testing process and an interview.

For further details of the Grade 11 Merit Scholarship and the application process please contact:

Haven of Peace Academy,
PO Box 70027, Dar es Salaam
HOPAC Phone: 0786 845 135
email: admission@hopac.sc.tz

The deadline for applications is Monday, 28 February 2022.

166877

East Africa's credit slowdown threatens economic expansion

EAST Africa's three biggest economies are struggling to arrest a slowdown in the growth of loans to businesses and individuals that threatens to curb economic output in the continent's fastest-growing region.

Bank credit to the private sector in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda is growing at the slowest pace in well over a decade. And while the authorities have eased monetary policy and, in Kenya's case, capped commercial interest rates to encourage more lending, analysts including Standard Chartered Plc's Razia Khan aren't expecting a turnaround any time soon.

"Credit growth is slowing as businesses and consumers that borrowed more than they could otherwise afford now struggle to repay or refinance loans," said Chris Becker, frontier strategist at Johannesburg-based brokerage Investec Prime Services.

The International Monetary Fund in February cut its growth forecast for Kenya's economy to 5.3 per cent in 2017-18 from a prior estimate of 6.1 per cent, citing the credit slump and factors including a drought.

While the fund has kept its projection for Tanzania at seven per cent this year, the outlook is at risk if there's a "prolonged slowdown" in credit growth, it said in January. The virtual standstill in credit growth in Uganda, where the economy is expected to expand 5.5 per cent this year, is creating an "air of uneasiness and uncertainty," the lender said.

Tanzania's economy probably expanded by 6.9 per cent in 2016, compared with a government's estimate of 7.0 per cent, weighed down

by weaker credit growth and a slower pace of budget implementation, the World Bank said Tuesday.

Credit to the Kenyan private sector grew 4.9 per cent in December, the slowest pace since 2003 and compared with a record 35.9 per cent in 2011, according to central bank data compiled by Bloomberg. In Tanzania, the increase was 5.2 per cent in January, the lowest since 2000, while in Uganda it was 7.5 per cent in February, after growing less than 10 per cent most of last year and even contracting in two months.

While economies in the region have been boosted by an improved regulatory regime and more investment in railways, ports and telecommunications, growth will slow unless banks increase lending, said Jacques Nel, an economist at Paarl, South Africa-based NKC African Economics.

"If companies are unable to borrow, consumers are not accessing credit, it's a dampener on growth," he said.

The credit slowdown in Kenya was triggered by a cash crunch in 2015 that caused a spike in government bond yields, sparking demand for the securities by lenders. The collapse of three Kenyan banks in eight months heightened risk aversion that was further exacerbated by the central bank asking lenders to reclassify some loans and increase provisioning for bad debts.

As a result, non-performing loans surged.

In Tanzania, banks have an "elevated cautiousness" about lending as non-performing loans increased to 9.5 per cent of total advances in 2016 from 6.4 per cent previously

Our children's behaviour always a reflection of ourselves

GLOBAL Day of Parents is a United Nations observance. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 and has been celebrated annually ever since.

Most countries observe Mother's Day and Father's Day to celebrate all parents, and some countries have a combined Parents' Day. In order to support this tradition and honour parents throughout the world, the UN General Assembly proclaimed Global Day of Parents to appreciate all parents for their selfless commitment to children.

In every culture and society, parents are primary caregivers of children responsible for the nurturing and protection of their offspring. Development of a child's personality heavily depends on his or her parents' ability to create a safe and at the same time challenging environment. Global Day of Parents focuses on raising awareness of the important role parents play in bringing up children and therefore in the development of local communities and societies in general.

Interestingly, Global Day of Parents coincides with International Day for Protection of Children celebrated in some former and current communist and socialist states. However, Universal Children's Day established and promoted by the United Nations is held on November 20.

The origins of Parent's Day can be traced back to the 1930s. Starting in 1930, some Christian communities began to celebrate Mother's Day or Parents' Day.

On 20 November 1959 the United Nations adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November 1989.

In 2000, the Millennium Development Goals outlined by world leaders in order to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. Albeit this applies

to all people, the main objective is with regard to children. UNICEF is dedicated to meeting the six of eight goals that apply to the needs of children so that they are all entitled to basic rights written in the 1989 international human rights treaty. UNICEF delivers vaccines, works with policymakers for good health care and education and works exclusively to help children and protect their rights.

In September 2012, the former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations led the initiative for the education of children. He firstly wants every child to be able to attend school, a goal by 2015. Secondly, to improve the skills acquired in these schools.

Finally, implementing policies regarding education to promote peace, respect and environmental concern. Universal Children's Day is not just a day to celebrate children for who they are, but to bring awareness to children around the globe that have experienced violence in forms of abuse, exploitation and discrimination.

Children are used as labourers in some countries, immersed in armed conflict, living on the streets, suffering by differences be it religion, minority issues, or disabilities. Children feeling the effects of war can be displaced because of the armed conflict and/or suffer physical and psychological trauma.

The following violations are described in the term "children and armed conflict": recruitment and child soldiers, killing/maiming of children, abduction of children, attacks on schools/hospitals and not allowing humanitarian access to children. Currently there are about 153 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 who are forced into child labour.

The International Labour Organization in 1999 adopted the Prohibition and Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour including slavery, child prostitution and child pornography.

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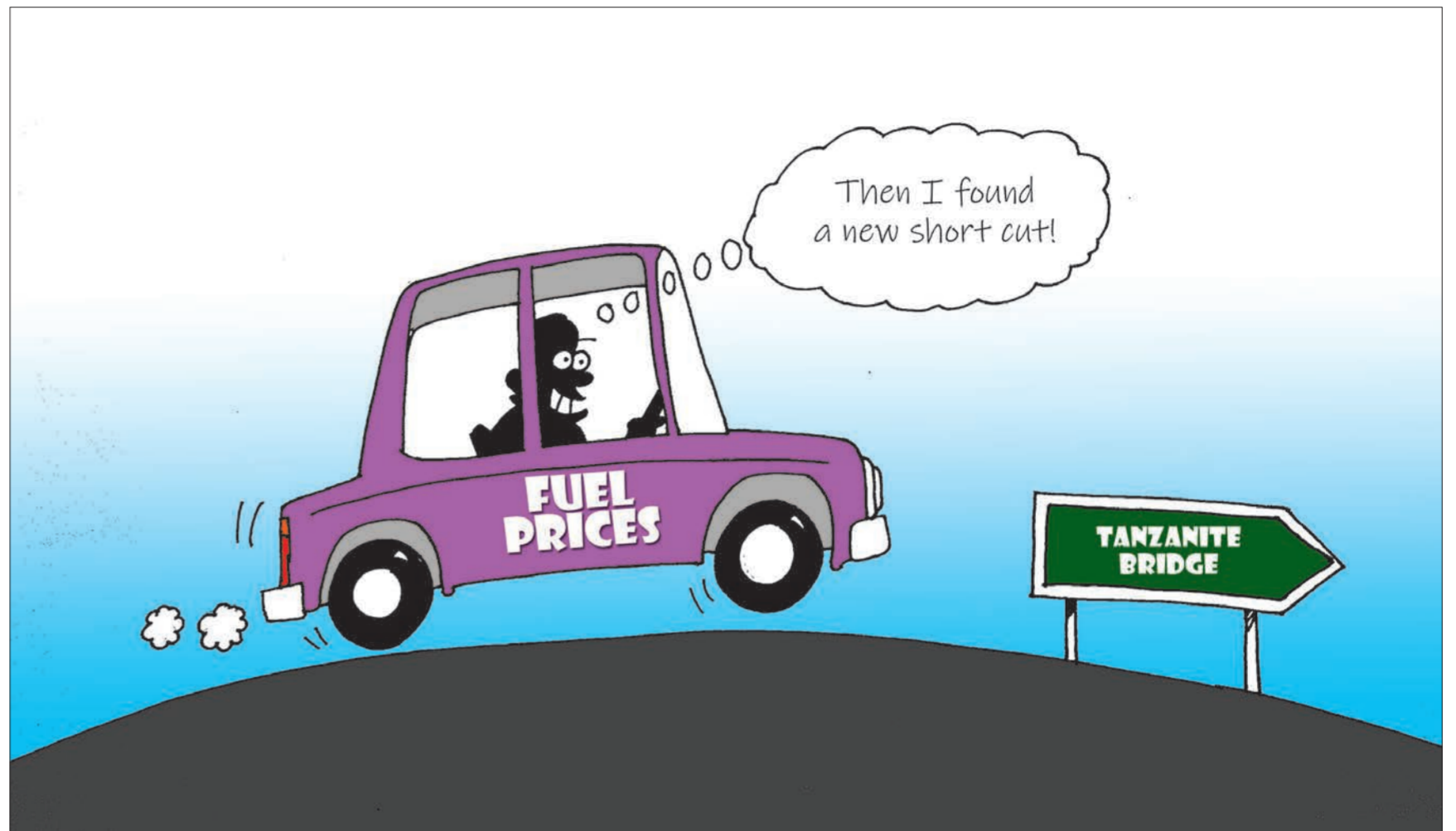
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By Imraan Buccus

PROGRESSIVE programmes that benefit the majority could radically change our society, but only if the kleptocrats and their attacks on democratic infrastructure are stopped.

Within days of the release of the first volume of the report from the Zondo Commission both the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the South African Federation of Trade Unions came out in support of the commission and demanded swift action against those named in the report for malfeasance. Abahlali base Mjondolo have not yet issued a statement but given its long-standing opposition to corruption and deep antipathy to Jacob Zuma and his allies, such as Zandile Gumede, the former eThekweni mayor, we can be sure that their position would be similar to that of the two trade union federations.

Lindiwe Sisulu soon entered the fray. Making the point that the ANC has failed to achieve meaningful land reform, she launched a crude attack on the judiciary, which she described as "these mentally colonised Africans who have settled with the worldview and mindset of those who have dispossessed their ancestors... only too happy to lick the spittle of those who falsely claim superiority".

As Dikgang Moseneke pointed out some years ago, the Constitution does offer the legal space for the state to pursue land reform. The failure in that regard is solely that of the ANC, and not the law or the judges who interpret it. Sisulu, now openly in support of the kleptocratic faction of the ANC, is, following the established line of that faction, blaming a key failure of the ANC on the judiciary with the cynical aim of undermining the rule of law in order to sustain impunity for the kleptocrats.

The next major figure to join the fray was Thabo Mbeki. He opined that "one of the unfortunate things, when you look at the Zondo Commission, is that it does not understand that this thing we call state capture is in many incidents a manifestation of counter-revolution".

We find ourselves in an unusual political position in global terms. We have a corrupt elite, so corrupt as to correctly be described as a criminal syndicate, using pseudo-radical language to legitimate itself while the progressive mass organisations of the working class and the impoverished are implacably opposed to that elite and its programme.

Real radical reform

This raises the question of what would count as a radical or even moderately progressive programme in South Africa. Some of the answers are obvious. Even a moderately progressive government would pursue a vigorous programme of land reform. On the

Mass democratic politics for a sustainable society

former white farms farm workers would be the primary beneficiaries. In the former Bantustans the despotic power of traditional authority would be broken, with the dissolution of the Ingonyama Trust as a priority.

The tax authority would be strengthened, and taxes raised on the rich and big corporates. There would be a particularly vigorous focus on stopping the illicit export of untaxed profits. This strengthening of the tax authority and reform of tax laws would be undertaken with the aim of generating more public wealth to be redistributed through social programmes in areas such as education, health, housing, job creation and peace building, with a particular focus on opposing violence against women.

The platinum industry would be nationalised and, following the example of the nationalisation of the hydro-carbon industries in Bolivia under the Movement for Socialism led by Evo Morales, the resulting profits channelled back to the people in terms of massive investment in social programmes.

Corruption would be understood as a crime against the people and prosecuted with the same vigour we see in China, and there would be measures to ensure that that prosecution isn't used to settle political scores with trumped up charges. Those found guilty of stealing from the people would be sentenced to undertake the mundane labour necessary to sustain social programmes, such as cleaning hospitals and schools.

Following the model of Cuba, a first-class health system would be built on a non-commodified basis and similar commitment would be made to education and other social programmes including, importantly, safe and reliable public transport. All of this would be undertaken with real vision rather than bureaucratic plodding.

Just as Fidel Castro brought in Gabriel García Márquez to design the school literature curriculum in Cuba, someone like Ngugi wa Thiong'o would be asked to select a hundred great books that should be in every school library in the country.

The system of participatory budgeting invented by the Workers' Party municipality in Porto Alegre in Brazil would be implemented across the board and participatory decision-making and oversight extended into more and more aspects of society as a permanent programme. Each police station would be overseen by an

elected community council, and there would be similar systems set in place to oversee schools, community clinics, housing developments and so on.

There would be a rapid movement to shut down the coal industry and, as first demanded by the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, replace polluting coal-fired power with a system of renewable energy projects owned and controlled by workers.

There would also be state support for a decentralised and democratically organised system of community-controlled media. There would be a system enabling the recall of ward councillors via democratic processes if their constituents felt this to be necessary.

The police would be reorganised as peace officers, and the most stringent possible action taken against officers engaged in corruption or violence against the general public. Prisons would be reorganised as places where broken people could be made whole again. Private firearm ownership would be steadily phased out as this became viable.

There is much more that could be said. These are just some of the elements of a progressive programme in South Africa.

Systematically undermining progress

But when we look at the Zuma years we see a state that deliberately destroyed the tax office, failed completely to advance land reform, presided over the looting of the already inadequate public transport system to the point that the rail system collapsed, failed to address the housing question and presided over the ongoing decline of the education and health systems, an increase in police violence, and escalating poverty and inequality. Instead of encouraging popular organisation from below, striking miners were massacred and grassroots activists assassinated, particularly in Durban, the seat of Zuma's power.

The Zuma government massively enriched a small politically connected elite while rapidly worsening the situation of the majority. In light of this reality, it is hardly surprising that the support for the kleptocrats, whom Sisulu now aims to lead, comes from elites and not the working class and the impoverished.

Indeed, it is clear, as many analysts have noted, that while the kleptocrats have significant support in the ANC and the state, along with politically connected "business" networks, some of which, like the Delangokubona

Business Forum, are straightforwardly mafia organisations, they do not have any significant support in society.

Electoral support for the ANC declined during Zuma's term of office. There has never been a march of tens of thousands of people in support of Zuma. The acts of disruption that have taken place, and that are continuing to take place, are carried out by very small groups of people. Contrary to the lazy assumptions in most of the media, it is crystal clear that the vast majority of the people that participated in the riots in July were not doing so in support of Zuma.

On the contrary, when the rule of law broke down, hungry people took the opportunity to seize food, after which a general orgy of looting developed. Certainly, small, well-organised pro-Zuma forces nestled in the ruling party and the state did exploit the general chaos to attack infrastructure, but this was not a mass phenomenon.

In light of all this, Mbeki's observation that the kleptocratic project in the ANC is a counter-revolution is an astute observation. However, what Mbeki does not say is that it is the second counter-revolution mobilised against the mass democratic movements of the 1980s.

The first was the capture of the transition process after 1990 by liberal forces at home and abroad, a process that included the massive corporate enrichment of key ANC-aligned figures such as Cyril Ramaphosa. The kleptocrats, and their attacks on democratic infrastructure, are the second counter-revolution.

Democracy would not survive another term in office by the kleptocrats, this time under Sisulu, and her noxious advisors, people like Siphosiphiso Mkhondo and Paul Ngobeni. With widespread popular opposition to corruption, the only way to sustain the hegemony of the rulers over the ruled would be to continue the attack on democratic institutions. This is widely understood by the chattering classes.

What is less well understood is that democracy will also be unable to survive the continuation of liberal hegemony. With millions suffering from hunger and youth unemployment at almost 75%, business-as-usual will lead to a social implosion. Youth unemployment is a massive social crisis, a bloodbath of the young, that deserves our most urgent attention.

If we are to build a sustainable society, both counter-revolutions must be opposed, and the political forces built from the ground up to restore the mass democratic politics of the 1980s.

Let's use preferential public procurement to empower youth

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

TANZANIA is a majority youth country. Over 60 per cent of the population is estimated to be under-25 and those aged between 15 and 35 account for over 30 per cent of the entire population of about 60 million people.

But when it comes to participation in the economy, young people are at the tail end with youth unemployment stubbornly remaining double-digit for decades despite impressive economic growth rate of 7 per cent before Covid-19 pandemic.

Development stakeholders now recommend that apart from private enterprise initiatives, preferential public procurement can be used to integrate youth into the job market, combat poverty and promote inclusive economic growth.

Presenting a paper last weekend in Dar es Salaam during a Policy Forum breakfast debate which explored challenges faced by youth-owned businesses, Werner Hillary from Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) said that investing in youth-owned businesses pays dividends in terms of job creation and development.

TYC is a consortium of more than 120 youth non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations (CBO), 249 youth enterprise groups (YEGs) and 100 youth individual members in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

She said that increasing youth participation in the procurement process will lead to stronger competition, better prices, increased quality and timely delivery of procured goods or services.

Public procurement refers to buying, purchasing, renting, leasing or otherwise acquiring any goods, works or services by public bodies and any other bodies, or units established and mandated by government to carry out public functions.

It includes all functions that pertain to obtaining of any goods, works or



A participant speaks on the importance of preferential public procurement for youth empowerment at a Policy Forum breakfast debate which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Photos/Daniel Semberya

services. That is, description of requirements, selection and invitation of tenders, preparation and award of contracts.

Public procurement stimulates the economy by providing opportunities to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) especially those owned by youth, Hillary said, arguing that MSMEs are at the center of job creation and economic growth in the world, accounting for nearly 80 per cent of jobs worldwide.

"Increasing MSMEs competitiveness increases their likelihood of success, expansion and job creation," she said.

Public procurement in Tanzania is governed by the Public Procurement Act of 2001 (PPA) which regulates all procurement financed by public funds except the local government procurement which is regulated by the Local Government Finance Act.

The PPA sets out a public procurement system for fairness, openness, transparency, accountability and competitiveness. It also provides for creation of a

sound economic climate in Tanzania and increasing participation by the private sector.

In 2016, PPA of 2011 was amended to cover participation of youth, women, elders and people with disabilities (PWDs) as special groups in public procurement since they were observed to have a great impact on the economy of the country.

Thus, all procuring entities are required to set aside 30 per cent of their annual procurement volume for the special groups whereby youth are supposed to get 10 per cent, PWDs (10 per cent), women (5 per cent and elders (5 per cent).

Gilbert Kamnde, Acting Manager in charge of Training and Advisory Services at Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) said the regulator in collaboration with the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) is working on capacity building and awareness raising programmes on all matters relating to public procurement to be relayed to the public through different platforms.

He said that the PPA offers opportunities to youth and other special groups to benefit in public procurement.

"These changes in the legislation have necessitated the authority to develop guidelines for participation of special groups in public procurement," he said.

"Honesty in public procurement has the potential to benefit the country immensely because overall, the government is the biggest single spender."

According to him, over 70 per cent of the government's national budget goes to procurement.

He however said that the major challenge for many Tanzanians is mistrust hence difficulty in working together and qualify for big government tenders.

"Many Tanzanians don't like to form joint ventures and that is a big hindrance to success in business," he said.

Kamnde has advised youth and other special groups to pool resources together, register legal business entities for them to be able to bid for and win gov-

ernment tenders.

Minael Kilimba, Empowerment Officer at NEEC, said there are lots of opportunities available for Tanzanians, especially for the youth and other special groups if they understand and properly utilize public procurement.

She said that a total of 769 tenders were offered to different bidders in the ongoing Standard Gauge Railway project between January and December 2020 out of which 708 tenders were exclusive for Tanzanian companies.

According to her, the tenders offered to Tanzanian companies during the said period were worth 349.020bn/- while those offered to foreign companies were worth 349.666bn/-.

According to a contractual agreement entered between the government and implementers of the project, the contractor is required to use local raw materials of high standards available in the country.

Some of the local companies which benefited from this arrangement include Kamal Steel Ltd, Lake Steel Ltd, Lodhia Plastic Industries Ltd, Nayan Enterprise, and Puma Energy Tanzania Ltd.

Kilimba said that lack of proper skills and experience in implementing major projects has remained a major challenge to some Tanzanians. Another challenge is lack of employable soft skills and proof of international standard capacity for some Tanzanian bidders and service providers.

Insufficient goods and services that meet the required standards and some policies that don't give priority for participation of Tanzanians in major projects in certain sectors are also a challenge, she said.

Thus, in different projects being implemented, the issue of local content is being coordinated by contracts only. And women participation in these major projects is still very low, she added.

Judith Sando, Independent Consultant on financial inclusion, gender and advocacy said more awareness on public procurement is needed for more youth and other special groups to benefit from public procurement.

"Most of the youth are unaware of public procurement guidelines. These guidelines must be made public and user-friendly for them to be understood and used," she said.

RIO DE JANEIRO

People living in Jardim Pantanal, a low-income neighborhood on the east side of the Brazilian megalopolis of São Paulo, suffer floods every southern hemisphere summer. Many residents remember the three months their streets and homes were under water in late 2009 and early 2010.

The community is an extreme case of irregular occupation of land on a low bank of the Tietê River, which crosses the southern city. But it is a "structured neighborhood, with brick houses, some of which are two stories tall" to enable residents to avoid the water, said Igor Pantoja, mobilization advisor of Rede Nossa São Paulo, a social organization working for "a just and sustainable city".

Flooding also occurs in other poor and not-so-poor neighborhoods in São Paulo and other Brazilian metropolises.

In January torrential rains hit the outskirts of Belo Horizonte, capital of the southern state of Minas Gerais, where multiple floods especially affected the cities in the upper reaches of the basin of the Das Velhas River, the source of the region's water.

In one of the most affected cities, Raposos, two-thirds of the 16,500 inhabitants had to leave their homes when the river rose more than 2.5 meters in the second week of January. At least 12 people died as a result of the rains in outlying neighborhoods.

"When the cities expanded the rivers and streams were ignored, and were only used as a place to dump waste and sewage. Flood-prone areas were occupied, settled by the poor, pressured by economic necessity, and the rich, (fleeing the city) because of their fears," said Ronald Guerra, a member of the Das Velhas River Basin Committee (CBH).

Guerra, a rural tourism entrepreneur in the town of São Bartolomeu, in the historic municipality of Ouro Preto, listed deforestation, unregulated urbanization and mining as the major factors in the degradation of the watershed and sedimentation of the rivers, which especially threaten the downstream population.

Mining tailings dams pose a particularly serious risk for the basin that sup-

Damaged natural infrastructure exacerbates urban flooding in Brazil



In Raposos, a Brazilian city of 16,500 inhabitants, two-thirds of the homes were flooded by the rising waters of the Das Velhas River. The city grew on both banks of the river, between hills, which led to recurrent flooding. CREDIT: Das Velhas River CBH

plies water to 60 percent of the six million inhabitants of neighborhoods on the outskirts of São Paulo.

Three years ago one of the dams burst in a neighboring municipality, Brumadinho, leaving 264 dead and six missing, as well as silting and poisoning another river, the Paraopebas.

"Floods and landslides are not the fault of the river itself. There was human action that resulted in the elimination of vegetation and the occupation of slopes," Guerra told IPS by telephone from São Bartolomeu.

Putting pressure on the government

"The State failed to play its role as regulator of land occupation, it let people occupy the banks of the rivers, without implementing a serious housing policy," said Marcus Vinicius Polignano, secretary of the Das Velhas River CBH. "Today we have a chaotic situation that is entrenched. The great challenge is how to rebuild the cities."

"We have to seek 21st century solutions that take the climate crisis into consideration, and we have to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past as we are doing," he said in a telephone interview with IPS from Belo Horizonte.

The Das Velhas River CBH and other social movements successfully pushed for inclusion in the new Belo Horizonte Master Plan, in force since February 2020, of the directive that watercourses will no longer be channeled and that the valley bottoms will be cared for, to avoid new "scheduled floods," the activist celebrated.

"Respecting natural infrastructure, seeking harmony with nature, allowing rivers to flow, not committing the stupidity of boxing them in could be a good

route to take," he said.

The Basin Committee mobilizes the local population, seeks to "change mentalities" and pressures decision-makers to adopt more adequate water policies. "We also propose better alternatives" to avoid new disasters, said Polignano, a physician with a master's degree in epidemiology and a doctorate in social pediatrics.

It did not rain an exceptional amount in January, according to the expert, who said the problem was that the rainfall of an entire month fell in just 10 days. However, the damage caused by repeated urban floods can be mitigated by "open-minded" management, he argued.

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Rescuing nature

"Multifunctional nature-based solutions" are proposed by urban landscaper Cecilia Polacow Herzog, a graduate professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.

Creating a "rain garden" with diversified plants in a limited area to retain and infiltrate water is one aspect of her proposal that has recently drawn attention.

However, "it's not only that, but everything that absorbs rain and promotes biodiversity, without which there is no soil to infiltrate and replenish the water table," Herzog said in an interview with IPS by telephone from Lisbon, where she is currently based.

"Renaturalize," or bring nature back to the cities, is her slogan. Parks of all sizes, small or large gardens; we must "turn gray infrastructure into green," she said.

This requires "a systemic view," understanding the city as a large complex system in which things have multiple effects and functions.

Diversified tree planting, for example, "makes the soil more alive, sequesters carbon and reduces pollution and noise, improves habitat for other species, produces fruit, attracts bees that pollinate, birds and fish that eat the fruit, and with more fish aquatic life expands," she explained.

"A park represents more water, less heat, more recreation and social cohesion, it encourages urban agriculture," Herzog added.

But she does not ignore the hurdles: "real estate interests, politicians keen on getting votes, the automobile industry that wants asphalt and waterproofing, together with the oil industry."

Endgame for polio in Pakistan

KARACHI

“It was like a heavy burden had been lifted, and I could breathe easier,” said Irum Khan, a polio worker, recalling the cloudy, gloomy, winter morning of January 28, 2022, when her supervisor announced Pakistan had not reported a single case of a child afflicted with polio since January 27, 2021, when the last time a polio case was reported from the province of Balochistan.

“There were 16 of us, and we all burst in applause. It was the best news we had heard in years,” said the 20-year-old Khan, working with the polio eradication programme since 2018, in Dera Ismail Khan (DI Khan), in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, once a hotbed of polio.

The day passed like a breeze as she went about her work, administering polio drops to children under five. On a daily basis, she visits between 30-50 households, and each home may have between three to five families living together.

“I was on some sort of a high; even those who refused and sent me away failed to dampen my mood,” she added.

“Without the unwavering support of the 380,000 polio workers, we would never have been able to reach this milestone,” said Dr Shahzad Baig, national coordinator for the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme, speaking to IPS over the phone from Islamabad.

The director-general for health at the ministry of national health services, Dr Rana Safdar, Baig’s predecessor, agreed. He gave all the credit to “hundreds of thousands of our frontline workers who demonstrated an unprecedented commitment to battle polio”.

In 2015, there were 54 cases, 20 in 2016 and only 8 in 2017. Pakistan thought it would be possible to eradicate polio, having reached single-digit cases, but then the country saw a surge with 12 cases in 2018. And in 2019, 147 cases were detected.

Safdar, who had left the polio programme in 2019 after working there for six years, returned when the surge began and was tasked with reorganising it so that work on polio eradication could be carried out in tandem with the routine childhood immunisation.

In 2020, like in the rest of the world, Pakistan was in the grip of Covid-19. Both the anti-polio campaigns and routine immunisation had to be suspended to ensure the safety of the workers and communities, explained Safdar. That year, up to 84 cases were reported.

“We enhanced our outreach to vaccinate eligible children against all vaccine-preventable diseases in an organised manner and were able to reach them in the remotest pockets where communities were finding it difficult to access our healthcare facilities, taking full Covid-19 precautions,” said the director-general.

But it is not the time for the government to sit on its laurels. Although the “finish line is visible”, for him “the job is far from over”, and Pakistan cannot let its guard down, Baig said.

The reason for caution, explained Irum Khan, was because the virus is still lurking around in the environ-



A young child being given polio drops in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Pakistan recently reported that it had been a year since the last case of polio was detected. Credit: OC KP

ment and her district. “The virus was found in some environmental samples,” she said, and therefore the “danger is not over yet”.

Baig said that in the last three months of the environmental samples collected from 64 sites, two were found to have the poliovirus in the

towns of Lakki Marwat and Tank, in DI Khan district.

Polio spreads quickly, and chances of an outbreak could become imminent.

“We need to kill the virus on its turf before it reaches other bigger cities of, say Quetta, Karachi or Islamabad,” he said.

His apprehension is palpable. DI Khan is the hub from where large swathes of the population move, both from bordering Afghanistan (the only other country where polio is endemic after Pakistan) and the tribal belt of the province and then inward to other provinces.

“Instead of fighting the polio battle across the country, if we can focus the fight in these districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), we can become polio-free in the next three years,” says the polio programme head.

Although the virus does not respect borders, be it Pakistan or Afghanistan, a much stricter border control since the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban on August 15, 2021, has meant the free and frequent movement of Afghan nationals has been contained to some extent.

In addition, the persistent refusals by anti-vaxxers could also lead to the spread of the virus. “I am worried the virus may reach the children who are kept hidden from polio workers,” said Baig.

“They tell us the child is not home, or he or she is sleeping and to come later, or that they are busy and to come later; some will hide their children,” said Bushra Khan, a polio worker from KP’s capital city, Peshawar. She said they have to make

as many as “four visits” just to administer two drops because the time is not convenient for the parents, or they don’t want to get their

children vaccinated.

This attitude of nonchalance, according to Irum Khan, is because the vaccine is free, and people do not value it because they are not paying for it.

“Put a price tag on this vaccine, and you will see parents bringing their kids to the health centres,” she said.

According to Baig, the two drops cost the government Rs 130 (74 cents)/per child, and over 40 million under-five children were administered these drops in the last nationwide campaign.

Providing security to the polio workers is another task. As many as 70 polio workers have been killed by militants since 2012, a majority in KP. But those providing them with the security are also on the radar of miscreants. In December 2021, two policemen accompanying polio vaccination teams were killed and two injured in separate incidents in Tank and Lakki Marwat. And last month, in January, one more police officer was killed in KP’s Kohat.

“This saps the morale of the team. The families get scared and are reluctant to send the workers out in the field. This means we have to organise the 2-member team all over again, train the ones who are new, some of whom may be new to the community they are serving,” said Baig. “And it’s not even that we are paying handsomely for it to be worth their life,” he added, referring to Rs 1,000/day (USD 5.67) wage.

Still, according to Dr Safdar, the biggest challenge is the burnout of polio workers and “keeping teams motivated on both sides of the borders (between Pakistan and Afghanistan) till we reach the finish line”



Polio health worker walking in snow in Quetta, Balochistan province. Credit: EOC Balochistan

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Zimbabwe schools to open on February 7

By Mukudzai Chingwere

Schools open for all classes in nine days time on February 7 as Covid-19 infection levels continue falling, with the curfew now starting at midnight and bars and restaurants able to stay open until 10pm, but only for vaccinated customers.

Acting President Constantino Chiwenga, while extending Level Two lockdown measures including public masking and social distancing, has also relaxed entry requirements.

Fully vaccinated returning residents and visitors no longer need to undergo quarantine when they enter Zimbabwe, but like all others entering the country, must have a valid negative PCR test less than 48 hours before entry.

The opening of schools is likely going to be seamless following declarations this week that they were ready for the resumption of face-to-face classes without risking a spike in Covid-19 infections.

The average daily infection rate was down to 200 and continuing to fall as the fourth wave of Covid-19 infection continued to recede.

The peak of average infections was on December 14 with 4 580, which fell rapidly until the final week of December when it plateaued for more than a week at around 1 500 a day and triggered the delay in opening schools in the second week of January.

This delay, including next week, was stretched to four weeks until risks were considered sufficiently low.

The easing of extra lockdown measures by the Acting President were announced in a statement yesterday by the Acting Minister of Health and Child Care Professor Amon Murwira.

"The general school calendar starts on 7 February 2022 following one week of finalising all



reopening preparations by both school administrators and parents.

"The business community to go back to working from their offices whilst continuing to observe Covid-19 prevention measures such

as social distancing and continuing to encourage their employees and patrons to get vaccinated."

Restaurants and hotels offering catering can now open from 8am to 10pm, but only the fully vaccinated can

sit and eat inside the restaurant.

Bars and nightclubs can be open from 8am to 10pm, but again only the fully vaccinated can enter and they have been encouraged to maintain social distancing when they sit without

masks to eat and drink.

Minister Murwira said over the past two weeks, the country had recorded a decline in new Covid-19 cases with the national epidemic curve indicating that the fourth wave is at its tail end and the wave appears to be being brought under control.

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He said in that regard, the Acting President reviewed the Covid-19 Level 2 National Lockdown measures.

"All persons entering Zimbabwe must undergo a valid Covid-19 PCR test not more than 48 hours from the time of their departure for Zimbabwe. Those who do not have a valid negative PCR test and a certificate to that effect shall be denied entry into Zimbabwe;

"Quarantine for locals, returning residents and visitors is lifted for those fully vaccinated. The wearing of

face masks in public places, especially public transport and closed space gatherings remain mandatory and must be enforced."

The eligible population has been encouraged to be vaccinated, while the provincial Covid-19 task-force teams are urged to increase their efforts in mobilising eligible members of the public to get vaccinated.

"Finally, the practice of WHO recommended Covid-19 preventive public health and social measures that include, washing of hands, sanitising, social distancing, avoiding crowds and gatherings is to continue.

"All of the above measures are subject to periodic review depending on the prevailing Covid-19 situation."

During the just-ended festive season, the Government praised Zimbabweans for their resilience in the face of Covid-19, urging everyone to remain vigilant and continue following expert advice to register total victory against the global pandemic.

South Sudan to host the fifth edition of East Africa energy conference in Juba

JUBA

ORGANIZED by Energy Capital & Power in partnership with the Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Energy and Dams, and Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning the conference will be held for two days from September 7 to 8, 2022.

The country is rapidly transforming, with energy at the vanguard of its economic recovery. The government and the organizer invite international technology, service and finance providers and energy firms to participate in the conference.

The two-day event will tackle the energy transition and application of new technologies, along with capacity building opportunities, across South Sudan's oil, gas, power and related industries.

The government and the organizer invite international technology, service and finance providers and energy firms to discover South Sudan's great promise.

South Sudan is East Africa's energy gateway, and visitors will be able to meet all relevant players in energy and related sector over two days.

South Sudan is now seeking to maximize the value of its natural resources, in line with the energy transition and its development goals.

The organizer and government actively encourage Asian, European and North American companies and delegations to join. Among Middle East and Africa regional players, the South Sudan Oil & Power (SSOP) will welcome ministerial and investor delegations from Kenya, Sudan, Egypt, Uganda, Ethiopia, Turkey, Israel, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, South Africa and more.

In 2022, SSOP celebrates its fifth anniversary as the premier international forum driving business and investment in East Africa's only major oil-producing market.

This year's event emphasizes the important role that energy companies play in ensuring the growth of the national economy, as well as the personal and professional growth of the citizens of South Sudan, with a view to facilitating a sustainable energy transition and fostering local capacity building.

"Having cemented its status as one of Africa's leading onshore energy

markets, South Sudan is now seeking to maximize the value of its natural resources, in line with the energy transition and its development goals," said Laila Bastati, Managing Director of ECP.

She added: "We are excited to develop a program that reflects these priorities, and that demonstrates the reality of South Sudan's position - as the dominant player in energy development in East Africa and as an increasingly competitive location to invest on the edge of the MENA region."

Following the ministry of petroleum's participation in the U.S.-Africa Energy Forum in Houston in December and engagement with U.S. energy firms in Houston and Washington D.C. last month, SSOP 2022 will target further work with international investors and energy professionals from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Asia, the U.S. and Europe.

The South Sudanese government has been proactive in forging partnerships between international firms and the local public and private sector, as well as signalling key investment priorities and focus areas for third party investors.

This conference was previously planned for July 2022 but has now moved to September 2022.

Having cemented its status as one of Africa's leading onshore energy markets, South Sudan is now seeking to maximize the value of its natural resources, in line with the energy transition and its development goals



Kijaji, UK envoy hold talks for boosting trade and investment

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade Dr Ashatu Kijaji, has held talks with the British High Commissioner to Tanzania David Concar aimed at strengthening trade and investment between the two countries.

Speaking at the ministry's head offices in Dodoma on Tuesday, Dr Kijaji said Tanzania will continue working together with the UK

government to implement the Government-to-Government (G2G) resolutions that aimed to strengthen trade and investment environment between Tanzania and UK.

For his part, UK High Commissioner Concar said that his government will continue implementing the resolutions in collaboration with Tanzania in regard to the inclusive plan.

He said that the plan aims to empower public and private institutions

involved in trade and investment to plan their implementable priorities taking into consideration any changes that would become necessary.

Tanzania-UK Trade and Investment Forum was held November 16 last year in Dar es Salaam and aimed to expand the scope of cooperation in areas of trade and investment especially in energy, minerals, infrastructures agriculture, blue economy and tourism sectors, to

mobilise business people from UK to come to invest in the country, with their Tanzania counterparts to sell their goods to UK.

Tanzania and the UK have close bilateral relations for a long time. According to the statistics of the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), the UK takes the second position of investing in the country with 945 projects worth \$5.42 billion (12.4trn/-) and employed at least 275, 384 people.

SADC to create conducive legal framework

GABORONE

JUSTICE Ministers and attorney generals in the region have committed to advance efforts towards the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional bloc's common agenda.

The agenda is a set of key principles and values that guide regional integration.

Ministers and attorney generals consider a number of drafts SADC legal instruments with the aim to create a conducive legal framework during a recent meeting held virtually.

The legal instruments included draft amendments to the SADC Treaty, the SADC Administrative Tribunal (SADCAT) Statute and the Protocol on the Development of Tourism in SADC.

Elias Magosi, Executive Secretary of SADC, as well as ministers and attorneys from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe participated.

Magosi commended SADC Member States for their continued support to the legal sector.

He highlighted the achievements and progress on activities aimed at the implementation of the Protocol on Legal Affairs which has ensured delivery of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020 -2030 and the overarching SADC Vision 2050.

Magosi nonetheless outlined the need to accelerate the SADC's integration agenda, adding that steadfast support on legal affairs would ensure prudent management of the justice system.

He further called for a continued collaboration between member states and the Secretariat and urged both parties to work efficiently in managing legal matters.

Thabo Chakaka Nyirenda, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General, underscored the role of the committee in providing legal guidance and coordination of legal issues for SADC.

Key functions of the committee include coordination and review of legal instruments prior to consideration by the SADC Council of Ministers and subsequent adoption by the SADC Summit of Heads of State and government.

Fighting corruption essential to reducing inequality in Pacific Islands

CANBERRA, Australia

Corruption continues to have a crippling effect on the lives of many people in southwest Pacific Island countries, exacerbating hardship and inequality and eroding human and national development.

Islanders speak of the mismanagement of public funds and assets by political elites at the national level, but also by organizations and individuals in communities, the loss of resource wealth and revenues as a result of corrupt deals between politicians and extractive companies, and the widespread practice of paying bribes for public services.

"High-level white collar corruption is still a big issue in the country. Kick-backs offered to government officials to facilitate payment is still rampant. Most big civil and building contracts tend to have very strong political connections and ties, which means that the procurement process is still weak," said Busa Jeremiah Wenogo, a development economist who works for the Centre for Excellence in Financial Inclusion in the capital of Papua New Guinea (PNG), Port Moresby.

"Bribes are offered to secure drivers' licenses and accident reports. There

are also cases of criminals who have been released from jail due to bribes, despite the severity of their criminal offences, without the knowledge of the court and the aggrieved party," Wenogo told IPS.

PNG's corruption ranking, as reported by Transparency International, has improved gradually in recent years. On a scale of 0-100, where 100 is 'clean', the Melanesian nation received a score of 25 in 2015, progressing to 27 in 2020 and 31 last year. But there is still a long way to go.

In the Solomon Islands, a rainforest-covered archipelago nation with a dominant logging industry, "the predominant forms of corruption we encounter in our work—that is the misuse and abuse of entrusted power for private gain—are conflict of interest and abuse of discretion, embezzlement, bribery, extortion and fraud," Ruth Liloqula, Chief Executive of Transparency Solomon Islands, told IPS from the capital, Honiara. She believes that the most corrupt individuals and institutions in the country are members of parliament and companies extracting natural resources.

The latest 2021 Global Corruption Barometer, published by Transparency International, reveals that 96 percent and



Logging on Kolombangara Island, Solomon Islands. Credit: CE Wilson.

97 percent of people in PNG and the Solomon Islands respectively believe corruption is a big problem in government, while 82 percent and 90 percent believe it is also a

serious issue in the business world.

"The main impacts of corruption are poor health, medical and education infrastructure and services, lack

of socioeconomic development throughout the country, benefits raised from the exploitation of natural resources leave the country to develop other countries and

not the Solomon Islands, lack of employment opportunity for Solomon Islands' rapidly growing population. And the rich get richer and the poor get poorer," Liloqula continued.

At the centre of many allegations of high-level fraud are the political elite and the extractive industry. PNG is endowed with substantial deposits of gold, copper, silver, nickel and cobalt, as well as oil and natural gas. Prior to the pandemic, the mining sector accounted for 60 percent of the country's total exports, while in the Solomon Islands, timber is the largest source of export earnings.

"Corruption risks in this sector are high. Across the region transnational criminal groups use corruption to exploit natural resources, such as forests, fish stocks and gold and manganese deposits. Common tactics include bribery and capture of environmental law enforcement bodies, often involving high level politicians, government officials and private sector leaders and intermediaries, who may act with impunity," Transparency International reports.

In 2015 alone, an estimated \$1.4 billion was lost from PNG's government revenues due to fraud. Meanwhile in the Solomon Islands, the Auditor General's report in 2019 claimed there were massive variances in the country's national accounts and millions of dollars in un-

explained payments and expenses. The cost of corruption is also high in the region's fisheries industry where, from 2010 to 2015, the total value of illegally harvested or transhipped tuna in the Pacific Islands was more than \$616 million, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

"Corruption is the single greatest obstacle to economic and social development around the world," claims the UN crime agency. And its most visible effects in countries such as PNG and the Solomon Islands is low human development, poor governance and national development outcomes, low standards and reach of public services, lack of employment growth and entrenched poverty. PNG is ranked 155 out of 189 countries for human development, while 56.6 percent of its people live in multi-dimensional poverty.

"Corruption has become so widespread that people have accepted it as part of the way we live in this country. Corruption by politicians and within government is bringing our country down when we are blessed with natural resources to provide for all our citizens," said Dorothy Tekwie, President of PNG's West Sepik Provincial Council of Women.

The told IPS that if corruption was effectively reduced, "development projects much needed by the people would be completed, so services can reach the people, especially in rural areas. It would mean more economic activities for rural people, more schools for children, thus an educated population, better health and the reduction of maternal and child mortality in rural and remote areas."

The extent to which citizens and the media demand clean governance and hold their leaders to account will go a long way in progressing anti-corruption efforts. The political will to strengthen laws against corrupt practices and zero tolerance of fraud by the private sector is also crucial.

The initiative of the present PNG Government, under Prime Minister James Marape, to establish an Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) is a significant public signal that the government is taking the issue seriously. The agency is expected to be fully operational by 2023. However, Wenogo believes that for it to be a success, the new ICAC must be independent with wide-ranging powers to investigate and prosecute wrongdoers at all levels of power, and its investigations and findings must be transparent and free from political influence.

Success in reducing corruption in PNG is even more urgent as the country continues to grapple with the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In January, PNG recorded 37,145 cases and 597 deaths. The pandemic could set the goal of eliminating poverty in the region back by a decade and, in some Pacific Island countries, by up to 30 years, warns the regional inter-governmental organization, Pacific Islands Forum.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 215 00--

WORD-FIT

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 letters
4 letters
5 letters
6 letters
7 letters
8 letters

SOW, NOW,
HAIL, TOOL, ALOE, OMEN, RHEA
CANON, YEMEN, EJECT, ISLET,
LEAVE, AHEAD, FACTS, BRAID, SWINE

DRIVER, NATIVE, CANADA
DROUGHT, ETONIAN, SEA BASS
OHM METER, IMMUNITY,

CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21

CLUES: Across

- Tanzania's statesman
- obtain in exchange for payment
- a period of seven days
- an assistant to a political leader
- open to public inspection
- a tall deciduous shade tree with spreading branches and broad top
- support, encourage
- longest river in Africa
- town on the border of Kenya and Tanzania
- People of Nigeria
- a rower
- young form of a louse
- North American plant with stems of showy snap dragon like-flowers

Down:

- printed publication
- a formal process whereby a politician is elected
- pardon a sin
- characterized by constant change
- mate and then produce offspring
- Her capital city is Luanda
- Children
- a building devoted to the worship
- once more
- a thing that is not possible
- the expression of creative skill
- have an obligation to pay money

By Magezi - 0755429240 (telximage@gmail.com)

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Why bonds become 'safe heaven' for investors in post Covid-19 pandemic

By Francis Kajubi

BILLIONS of shillings might be idle in the hands of investors, targeting non risk investments avenues, which are currently not enough to cater for what they really demand.

As a result, investors are hardly scrambling for small opportunities arising from the market, mainly the government debt market, specifically long term treasury bonds.

Government bonds have become an investment avenue of which every investor, both individual and corporate, are mostly targeting.

Despite of slight decrease of yields, for both maturity and coupon, investors' appetites have remained high, especially this time when economies are recovering from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the report by Bank of Tanzania, yields for 25 years bond slightly went down to 13.8179 percent (upon maturity) in January this year from 15.4888 percent recorded in October 2021 auction.

Unlike other investment avenues in the financial market such as equities, corporate bonds, the government bonds are turning out to be "safe haven" for investors, mainly banks, insurance companies, pension funds and individuals.

Analysts say in a time when the economic situation is risky, investors are always cautious in investing in areas they believe are safe, mainly government debt instruments.

The Bank of Tanzania reports have shown the massive attraction of bonds, to investors, both local and foreign.

The reports have show massive oversubscription of treasury bonds, mainly those with maturity periods of 15 years and above, compared with short and medium term bonds.

Retirees are also being encouraged to invest in bonds, because they are guaranteed by the government, with stable returns.

Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) Chief Executive Officer, Moremi Marwa told The Banker yesterday that surge in appetite for corporate and



personal investments in treasury bonds has been attributed to various reasons, but COVID-19 pandemic outbreak being one of them.

"The COVID-19 impacts on other business avenues where investors have opted to invest into assets with certainty of results on investments," said Marwa.

He said other factors such as increased financial literacy and financial education among people have stimulated the government debt instruments.

"Competitive investment returns compared to other asset classes have also contributed to investors' appe-

te," he said.

"So, apart from what is being observed in the primary market at the central bank, the same applies to secondary market at the DSE where annual turnover on Treasury bonds have increased from less than 1 trillion/- prior 2019 to more than annual turnover of 2.1 trillion/- in 2020 and topped 2.5 trillion/- in 2021," asserted Marwa.

Report shows a 13.50 percent fixed interest rate 15 years Treasury bond held on October 27, 2021, the central bank had offered 136 billion/- that recorded total tendering of 157.877 billion/-

leading to an oversubscription of 21.877 billion/-

However, this kind trend in treasury bonds goes back to the year 2019 when investors shifted from investing in other business avenues.

Recent auction results for a 15.95 percent 25 years treasury bond floated January 19th this year recorded oversubscription of 532 billion/- as the amount offered was 133 billion/- while the total tendered amount topped 656 billion/-.

A relevant auction result that also depicts investors' appetite on long term Treasury bonds is the 20

year Treasury bond held on November 24, last year with a fixed interest rate of 15.49 percent.

At the end of auction, the central bank offered 139 billion/- that 661.52 billion/- of total tendered that attracted an oversubscription of 522.52 billion/-

Raphael Masumbuko, Chief Executive Officer of ZAN Securities, an investment advisory firm said security was a biggest concern for investors to rush for bonds.

"Corporate and individual investors have shown interest in treasury bonds since has minimal risks compared to other businesses besides guaranteed returns for most of the time," he said.

"Market liquidity as money supply gains tempo among financial institutions is another fact that has been attracting investors to treasury bonds," said Masumbuko.

According to him, intervention by the central bank to cut further discount rates to enable commercial banks to extend more loans to individual borrowers has also played a role in increasing liquidity among people's accounts that has resulted into investments in bonds.

Another analyst who spoke to The Banker said bonds are an important piece of an investment portfolio's asset allocation since the steady return from bonds helps offset the volatility of equity prices.

Treasury bonds are considered risk-free assets, meaning there is no risk that the investor will lose their principal.

Investors that hold the bond until maturity are guaranteed their principal or initial investment.

Treasury bonds can also be sold before their maturity in the secondary bond market.

In other words, there is so much liquidity, meaning an ample amount of buyers and sellers, investors can easily sell their existing bonds if they need to sell their position.



AngloGold warns of lower full-year earnings

Gold producer AngloGold Ashanti expects to report headline earnings of between \$572-million and \$642-million for the year ended December 31, 2021 - a 40% year-on-year decrease.

Headline earnings per share (HEPs) will likely be between \$1.37 and \$1.53.

The company posted headline earnings of \$1-billion and HEPs of \$2.38 for 2020.

Further, basic earnings for 2021 are expected to be between \$584-million and \$650-million, resulting in basic earnings a share of between \$1.39 and \$1.54 apiece - a decrease of at least 32% year-on-year.

AngloGold attributes the decrease in earnings to lower gold sales volumes; higher operating costs as a result of lower grades and inflationary pressures; unfavourable foreign exchange movements of \$43-million; increased exploration and evaluation costs of \$40-million; and lower income from joint ventures since the company disposed of its Mali operations in 2020.

Other one-off expenses for the year included the voluntary suspension of underground mining activities at Obuasi, in Ghana, following a sill pillar incident in May 2021, while care-and-maintenance costs totalled \$45-million during the shutdown.

The company also incurred retrenchment costs of \$18-million in its organisation streamlining efforts and accelerated bond settlement costs of \$24-million, to settle its 2022 bonds and replace them with 2028 bonds, which extended the debt maturities of the company at lower interest rates.

AngloGold admittedly experienced a challenging 2021, with full-year production of about 2.4-million ounces, compared with the 3.04-million ounces produced in the prior year.

The company has been divesting from its South African operations and undertaking significant reinvestments across key assets, while lower realised grades also impacted on certain operations.

Covid-19 has also had persistent impacts on the company's production, which can be quantified to 47 000 oz in 2021, affecting operations in Ghana, Brazil and Argentina.

AngloGold will publish its results on or about February 22.

(Agencies)

DSE share indices up as CRDB, JATU share prices gain

By Banker Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) shares indices gained on Tuesday close, following the increase of share prices among local companies.

The market report shows the Tanzania Share Index (TSI), which measures the performance of local companies, closes at 3,689.53 points, an increase of 29.67 points from 3,659.86 points on Monday.

The DSE all share index (DSEI) also gained by 8.98 points to closing 1,927.77 points on Tuesday, higher than 1,918.79 recorded on Monday.

The report shows the gained share indices resulted from the appreciation of share prices, mostly locally listed companies including CRDB Plc and JATU.

CRDB Plc share price went up by 9.23 percent, closing at 355/- from previously 325/-, while JATU share price closed 1.27 percent up to 400/- from 395/-.

CRDB emerged top mover during the day was CRDB Bank after transacting 620,710 shares valued 218.7million/- traded between 335/- and 355/- per share in eleven deals.

The bank's share price increase also pushed up its market capitalisation to 927.2 billion/- on Tuesday from 848.85 billion/- recorded during the opening day of the week.

The trading week ending January 28 saw the share prices of CRDB and NMB appreciate by 4.84% and 1.79% respectively.

CRDB which is Tanzania's biggest bank by virtue of total assets recently disclosed their unaudited financial statements for the financial year ending 31st December 2021 posting an impressive performance eventually fuelling demand for their respective shares in the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

CRDB has taken the crown as being the biggest bank by virtue of the value of its total assets (8.81trn/-) compared to NMB's 8.69trn/- boosting a branch network of 254 branches compared to NMB's 226 branches.

According to market analysts, CRDB has made significant gains in its share price, outpacing other listed banks.

According to the Zan Securities Chief Executive Officer Raphael Masumbuko, the general outlook for the bank this year shows meaningful improvement in revenues and margins.

"In 2022 reconfirmed 2022 outlook for the bank's performance is tied to the general economic outlook which is positive, with real GDP projected to grow 5.8% in 2022, due to improved performance of the tourism sector and the reopening of trade corridors," Masumbuko revealed in Zan Securities Weekly Market Report.

During the 2021 calendar year CRDB opened trading with a price of 195/- per share, to reach 280/- on the last trading day of 2021 representing an appreciation of 43.5%.

Accompanying the significant share price growth in CRDB, the bank also carries a low price over earnings (P/E) ratio.

The P/E ratio is the ratio for valuing a com-

pany that measures its current share price relative to its earnings per share.

CRDB is the cheapest stock among the two, with a P/E of 3.17. NMB has a P/E ratio of 3.95

CRDB group was in December 2020 rated B2 (stable outlook) by Moody's corporation, an independent global credit rating firm, and has maintained a strong rating for five consecutive years.

The bank financial statement shows that profit before tax increased by 63.7 percent to 387 billion/- in 2021 from 236 billion/- recorded in 2020, making it one of the most profitable banks in Tanzania.

The bank's total assets also increased by 8.5 percent last year to 8.8 trillion/- 2021 from 8.13 trillion/- recorded in September 2021, according to the bank quarterly financial statement.

CRDB's total declared dividends is predicted to be approximately 93.45bn/- ultimately translating to a dividend per share of 35/- per share.

Oil climbs toward 7-year highs on US stock draw, eyes on OPEC+ move

By Banker Reporter

TOKYO. Oil prices climbed on Wednesday toward last week's seven-year highs as a draw in U.S. crude stocks confirmed strong demand and tight supplies, but investors remained cautious ahead of an OPEC+ meeting later in the day.

Brent crude rose 11 cents, or 0.1%, to \$89.27 a barrel by 0743 GMT, after easing 10 cents on Tuesday.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude was up 14 cents, or 0.2%, at \$88.34 a barrel, having gained 5 cents the previous day.

Tight global supplies and geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East have boosted oil prices by about 15% so far this year. On Friday, crude benchmarks hit their highest prices since October 2014, with Brent touching \$91.70 and U.S. crude hitting \$88.84.

"A drop in U.S. crude inventories provided support, though an increase of gasoline stocks partially offset bullish sentiment," said Satoru Yoshida, a commodity analyst with Rakuten Securities.

"OPEC+ is likely to maintain its policy unchanged, which means

a supply shortage and an upward trend in oil prices will continue," he said.

U.S. crude stocks fell by 1.6 million barrels for the week ended Jan. 28, against analysts' estimate of an increase of 1.5 million barrels, according to market sources citing American Petroleum Institute figures on Tuesday.

But gasoline inventories rose by 5.8 million barrels, above analysts' expectations for a 1.6 million barrel build.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies, together known as

OPEC+, will likely stick to existing policies of moderate output increases on Wednesday, five sources from the producers' group said, even as it expects demand to rise to new peaks this year and as oil prices trade near seven-year highs.

But Goldman Sachs said there was a chance the oil market's rally would prompt a faster ramp-up.

Sources said an OPEC+ technical panel meeting on Tuesday did not discuss a hike of more than the expected 40,000 barrels per day from March.

"If Saudi and Russia show any signs of raising their production

to shoulder shortfalls of some members who cannot meet their output targets, oil prices will likely fall," said Tetsu Emori, CEO of Emori Fund Management Inc.

"But if there are no such surprises, the market is expected to keep a bullish trend as demand is recovering and geopolitical tensions linger," he said.

Tensions between Russia and the West also underpinned crude prices. Russia, the world's second-largest oil producer, and the West have been at loggerheads over Ukraine, fanning fears that energy supplies to Europe could be disrupted.



WASHINGTON.

It will likely take “years” to permanently address airplane interference issues caused by the deployment of 5G wireless in the C-band, a group representing major U.S. passenger and cargo carriers will tell U.S. lawmakers on Thursday.

Nick Calio, who heads Airlines for America, will tell a House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee in written testimony that the 5G issues facing the aviation industry should have been avoided.

“The process that led to this operational nightmare should be held up as a cautionary tale of government communication and coordination gone awry,” his testimony, reviewed by Reuters and not yet made public, says.

“It will likely take years, not days or weeks, to fully and permanently mitigate the interference issues caused by deployment of 5G in the C-band,” adds Calio, whose group represents American Airlines (AAL.O), United Airlines, FedEx (FDX.N) and other major carriers.

Verizon and AT&T in January agreed to delay deploying some 5G wireless towers near airports after the aviation industry and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) warned 5G interference can impact sensitive airplane electronics like radio altimeters. read more

The FAA said last week it has cleared 20 altimeter models and approved 90% of the U.S. commercial fleet for landing in low-visibility approaches in areas with C-Band 5G. But 5G has impacted some flights in poor weather, especially some regional jets. read more

Aerospace Industries Association President Eric Fanning will tell lawmakers that progress is being made on the problem but it is not yet solved.

“With many outstanding questions still on the table, there are disruptions in our future, even with further

US airline group warns 5G interference issues could linger for years



compromise and collaboration,” his testimony says.

The hearing will also feature testimony from FAA Administrator Steve Dickson, wireless industry group CTIA CEO Meredith Attwell Baker and others.

A spokesman for the committee said the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) was invited to testify but was unable to appear. The FCC did

not immediately comment.

Baker will tell lawmakers the wireless industry “remains confident that 5G poses no risk to air traffic safety”.

Air Line Pilots Association President Joe DePete says the FCC’s support of the telecom industry has “not only put the public at risk, but it has also forced pilots to perform extensive workarounds to ensure the safety of flight.”

Cathryn Stephens, an airport official appearing on behalf of the American Association of Airport Executives, will tell lawmakers that “pockets of pain persist and it is clear that the reprieve may be temporary and dependent on the willingness of the telecoms to operate in a limited fashion in some areas.”

(Agencies)

Shanta replaces all ounces mined in 2021 with new reserves

ACCRA

OZÉ, the fintech startup which provides digital recordkeeping tools with embedded finance products to MSMEs across West Africa, announces it has raised \$3m via a pre-Series A round led by major venture capital fund, Speedinvest. Savannah Capital, Cathay AfricInvest Innovation Fund.

Co-Founder and CEO of OZÉ, Meghan McCorm By Banker Reporter and Agencies Aim-listed Shanta Gold has replaced the ounces it mined in 2021 with new reserves.

The company has also extended the life of its New Luika gold mine, in Tanzania, to at least the end of 2026, while the mine life of its Singida project, also in Tanzania, remains unchanged to the end of 2029.

Shanta produced 55 280 oz of gold in 2021 and plans to produce between 68 000 oz and 76 000 oz in 2022.

New defined reserves of 110 000 oz were added in 2021, while 80 000 oz, grading 4.31 g/t gold, have been upgraded from probable to proven reserves.

Shanta has, for the third consecutive year, replaced mined reserves across its portfolio thanks to successful exploration efforts worth \$4.4-million in 2021.

The company has a total gold reserve of 645 000 oz, grading 3.04 g/t, across its New Luika and Singida projects. An updated resource estimate for the West Kenya project, in Kenya, is expected at the end of February.

Shanta Gold is an East Africa-focused gold producer, developer and explorer. The Company is focused on its flagship asset, the New Luika Gold Mine (New Luika), located in southwest Tanzania.

BANKING&FINANCE



Helia Intimates general manager Thusitha Rathnayaka

EPZ firm workers strike over new payroll system enter second day

NAIROBI

A garment manufacturer at the Export Processing Zone Authority (Epza) in Athi River that operates 24 hours closed on Wednesday after workers strike over a new payroll system entered the second day.

Hela Intimate workers have accused the company of transferring them illegally to a new employer and unlawfully sacking some colleagues.

The garment company is a local subsidiary of Sri Lankan-incorporated Hela Clothing which manufactures lingerie for European and United States markets.

The over 5,000 workers say the EPZ firm is planning an ownership change and has made changes to their contracts without informing

them.

“I have worked for this company for seven years. I am now being forced to be enrolled in a new payroll under a new company brand. This is a gimmick to deny us our service pay as stipulated in law,” said Mr Shadrach Oguto, a Hela company employee.

The staff also claim that the company has been sacking employees who question certain decisions made by the management.

According to the workers, those targeted were due for service benefits after serving the company for years.

“The management is thriving on workers intimidation and coercion in disregard of the labour laws. Workers’ rights have been infringed

in totality with workers being subjected to long hours of unpaid overtime,” said Ms Nancy Akoth, an employee at the Athi River-based firm.

Tailors and Textiles union Athi River branch secretary Mr James Cheptrin confirmed Wednesday that they have received complaints from the workers.

“We are not opposed to the company ownership change but we are demanding workers to get their dues. We have already taken the matter to court,” Mr Cheptrin said.

“We ask our members to remain firm as we seek a long-term solution.”

In an internal memo signed by an anonymous official seen by Business Daily, the firm dismissed claims

of ownership urged the workers to be calm as they work to resolve the stalemate.

“We hereby urge all employees of Hela Intimates EPZ Ltd to remain calm and not to be involved in any kind of acts damaging the company properties. The company is in the process of taking legal action against the 3rd parties who are trying to spread rumours ... and trying to interrupt the operations,” the statement read.

The protests come barely a month after more than 2,000 workers at the Global Apparel company held a peaceful protest after they were denied entry into the company.

The workers had been fired and asked to reapply afresh for their positions.

Why precision is a key for Tanzania's economy to prosper in 2022

By Geoffrey Nangai

THE simplicity of doing business in Tanzania has been a subject for discussion for many years now with some analysts citing red tape as the biggest impediment.

According to the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business 2020 report, Tanzania ranked 141th position out of 190 economies, below regional competitors in terms of ease of doing business.

Doing Business recognizes the important work countries have done to improve their regulatory environments in terms of starting a business, dealing with construction permits, and trading across borders.

Rwanda was the East African Community (EAC) performer ranking in the 38th position followed by Kenya and Uganda in the 56th and 116th positions respectively.

Rwanda among other things made starting a business easier by exempting newly formed small and medium-size enterprises from paying the trading license tax for their first two years of operation.

The index particularly pointed out that reforms were inevitable if Tanzania is to improve trade across the border and resolving insolvency.

Tanzania seems to be moving in the right direction to address the long-term glitches in the ease of doing business after some multinational companies have expressed interest in investing in Tanzania.

On January 10, 2022, Anglo-Australian mining giant BHP invested \$50m in Tanzania’s Kabanga Nickel, with a further \$50m investment agreed subject to conditions, as demand for the metal used to make electric vehicle batteries grows.

The project is a partnership with the Tanzanian government, which has a 16% interest through local partnership entity Tembo Nickel Corporation.

The investment marks a re-entry into Africa’s mining sector after BHP unbundled Perth-based metals miner South32 in 2015 which operates mines in South Africa and Australia.

At full capacity, Kabanga will also produce 4,000 tonnes per annum of cobalt, a metal produced as a by-product of nickel mining that is used in lithium-ion batteries and the manufacture of high-strength alloys.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to Tanzania reached \$1.01 billion in 2020, higher than \$991 million in 2019, according to data from the World Investment Report 2021 by the United



Geoffrey Nangai

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Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad).

The primary investors to Tanzania are China, India, Kenya, United Kingdom, Mauritius, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, the United States, the Netherlands, South Africa, and Germany.

Increasing the business environment is however still very fundamental for Tanzania to sustain its economy.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan earlier this year formed the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry headed by Dr Ashatu Kijaji with Exaud Kigaha as a deputy.

Dr. Kijaji however faces an uphill task ahead of improving precision and effectiveness in new ministry in terms

of service delivery if the country is to make strides in improving the ease of doing business.

President Samia while officiating at the launch of Raddy Fibre Manufacturing located in Mkuranga District in Coast Region, hinted that bureaucracy has no place in her government.

The head of state noted that the sixth Government will do everything possible to continue accelerating efforts to clear bureaucratic tendencies and establish more friendly investment environment for the benefit of the country’s economy.

She urged that the issue of red tape puts off many potential investors with interest in investing in Tanzania and urged responsible authorities to stop

the tendency of showing contempt to both foreign and local investors who show interest in investing in the country.

“When you delay the business permit process you are delaying Government tax, you are delaying job creation and you are suffocating our economy. You should remember that some of these investors secure loans from banks so they are supposed to repay it on time. We need to change this and this kind of bureaucracy will not be tolerated,” she insisted.

According to the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) 2020/2021 Annual Report, Tanzania has continued to record positive economic growth, despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic with Tanzania Mainland’s real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growing at 4.8% in 2020 compared with 7 percent recorded in 2019.

The slow growth reflected the impact of the pandemic on economic activities, particularly those directly exposed to external shocks according to the new report.

It added that growth was driven by construction, agriculture, transport and storage, and mining and quarrying sectors.

The report predicts that Tanzania’s

GDP growth is projected to rebound this year, reflecting recovery of economic activities, particularly those related to the hospitality industry.

The Central Bank however needs to undertake cautious and deliberate fiscal policy interventions to ensure adequate liquidity in the economy by implementing a wide range of measures to safeguard the stability of the country’s financial system.

“These measures, combined with fiscal policy interventions, immensely contributed to avoidance of economic recession,” the Governor said in a statement.

Even though Tanzania has enjoyed good economic growth over the last decade, reforms in the regulatory framework are inevitable to allow businesses to operate more efficiently.

The country also needs to embark on an aggressive domestic resource mobilization campaign for strategic projects currently undertaken so as to bridge the development-financing gap.

The author of this article is a corporate PR & Communications consultant based in Dar es Salaam. For feedback contact him via email: geoffnangai@gmail.com / 0758897538

PM touts role of private investments in SMEs recovery



Rwanda's Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente addresses Rwanda Business Forum on the sidelines of the ongoing Dubai Expo

KIGALI

PRIME Minister Edouard Ngirente has touted private investments as a key driver for recovery of small and medium businesses (SMEs) in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic and other global challenges.

Ngirente was addressing a business forum on the sidelines of the ongoing Dubai Expo 2020, where Rwanda is showcasing its investment opportunities and tourist attractions.

The two-day forum, which opened Wednesday, comes hot on the heels of what was dubbed Rwanda National Day at the International Expo held on Tuesday.

Ngirente's audience included business and government leaders from around the world who are taking part in the exhibition.

With respect to recovery from the effects of the pandemic, Ngirente said the focus is to attract anchor investments that will create industry ecosystems

and new market opportunities for SMEs to empower and prepare them to withstand future shocks and quickly adopt global trends.

"The pandemic has taught us that we are all in this together. The same applies to business, we cannot rely only on big businesses or national champions only," he said.

He noted that, "For most of our economies, small and medium businesses are the engine of the economy and they will continue to drive inclusive and sustainable growth post-Covid."

Ngirente also observed that, in regards to the vital role of digital technologies in ensuring business continuity, Rwanda had made smart investments in building ICT infrastructure and human capital.

Rwanda is committed to continuing its digital transformation, he said.

"It will be important to mobilise resources, especially private investments, to further

investments in developing the required infrastructure and future skills that will secure our digital transformation while bridging the critical digital gap in digital access and literacy," the PM added.

Investments, including Foreign Direct Investments, he said, will play an increasingly important role in sustainably bridging the financing gap for Rwanda's development through targeted, productive sectors of the economy, which are expected to be showcased at the forum.

The meeting was attended by notable speakers from Rwanda, including: Cabinet ministers Paula Ingabire (ICT and Innovations) and Beata Habyarimana (Trade and Industry); as well as Pascal Murasira, Managing Director, Norrsken East Africa; and Alain Ebobisse, Chief Executive, Africa

Others include Clare Akamanzi, Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Development Board; Nick

Barigye, Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Finance Limited; Ashish J. Thakkar, Founder, Mara Group and Mara Foundation; and Yamina Karitanyi, Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board.

Rwanda's economy contracted by 3.4 per cent in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a far cry from the growth rate of 9.5 per cent in 2019.

However, it was expected to rebound in 2021 at 10.2 percent growth rate posted double-digit growth in Q3.

The economy is also projected to further grow at 7.2 per cent in 2022 and 7.9 per cent in 2023.

Hosted by the United Arab Emirates, the expo - which opened on October 1, 2021 and is set to run until March 31, 2022, is viewed as a strategic platform for governments to pitch investment opportunities, exchange ideas and build relations.

T-bill holdings fall 8pc as CBK shifts more debt to bonds

NAIROBI

THE share of government's domestic debt held in form of Treasury bills dropped by eight percentage points in 2021, reflecting the increased effort by the Treasury to reduce refinancing risk.

Central Bank of Kenya data shows the outstanding stock of T-bills stood at Sh709.3 billion at the end of last year, accounting for 17.58 percent of the total domestic debt stock of Sh4.03 trillion.

At the end of 2020, the stock of debt in form of T-bills stood at Sh855.7 billion, equivalent to a quarter of total domestic debt which stood at Sh3.49 trillion at the time.

The State has since 2019 been working to cut the share of debt held in form of the short term securities while increasing that of long-dated bonds in order to lengthen the maturity profile of domestic debt.

This has seen the average time to maturity for

Treasury bonds rise to nine years in December from 7.5 years in June 2019.

Bonds now account for 82 percent of the debt, up from 74 percent a year ago.

Movement in interest rates on the T-bills has however remained limited despite the Treasury's lack of appetite for them.

Average yields for the 91- day and 182-day T-bills ended last year at 6.96 percent and 7.58 percent respectively, compared to 6.86 percent and 7.51 percent in 2020.

Analysts at city based investment bank Sterling Capital say however that this year will likely see upward pressure on yields across government securities due to increased budget financing pressure.

The potential approval of bank requests for upward reviews of their landing rates by the CBK would also heighten competition the between government and private sector for credit, pushing up the government's borrowing costs.

NAIROBI

THE Communications and Multimedia Appeals Tribunal is Wednesday set to start hearing a case in which Safaricom has petitioned it to block the sector regulator's decision to cut mobile termination rates (MTR) to Sh0.12 per minute from the current Sh0.99 per minute.

MTR are the charges levied by a mobile service provider on other telecommunications service providers for terminating calls in its network.

The CA has said the cut will have a positive impact on both consumers and operators, adding the review will reduce the need for consumers to own multiple SIM cards as charges across networks come down.

But Safaricom while appealing the decision argues the move to cut the charges will negatively impact its revenues and profitability and occasion its financial loss.

Safaricom earns an estimated Sh6.5 billion annually from MTR while paying out Sh2.6 billion to rivals, leaving it in a profitable position while competitors remain in a net losing trade.

Both Airtel and Telkom have backed the regulator's decision, saying it will ensure a level-playing field for all, while protecting the commercial interests of smaller operators.

Following Safaricom's application, the tribunal chaired by Rosemary Kuria suspended CA's decision on the cuts until the case is heard and determined

Safaricom case to block CA mobile tariff slash starts



Safaricom PLC headquarters in Westlands, Nairobi.

from Wednesday. The cuts were expected to be implemented from the start of this year.

The sector regulator says in its response to a petition filed by Safaricom before the tribunal that it plans to conduct a more detailed network cost study of mobile termination rates, suggesting it could consider a further review.

The Consumers Federation

of Kenya, Airtel Kenya, and Telkom Kenya have joined the legal fight throwing their weight behind CA.

Airtel and Telkom had earlier criticised Safaricom for seeking to scuttle the recently announced reduction in MTR, accusing the leading telco of only being interested in protecting its revenues from rivals.

A smaller operator tends to

pay more in mobile termination rates because its users are likely to spend more time on other networks than its own.

Industry data shows that the rate has been falling gradually from a high of Sh4.42 in 2011 to the just reviewed Sh0.99, which has been in place since 2015, marking a freeze of more than five years amid intense lobbying by some top telcos.

The CA says the recent cut in

mobile termination rates will give smaller telecoms operators a better chance at competing with market leader Safaricom, even as it has hinted at a further drop in call tariffs.

The regulator says the revised rates will give small operators greater price flexibility to compete with the market leader- Safaricom and benefit consumers.

How trade between Tanzania-Rwanda can be boosted

KIGALI

THE latest statistics show that Tanzania-Rwanda's total bilateral trade has hit \$274.6m calling for action to further address barriers that are still in existence to boost the free movement of goods and people between the two countries, the East African Business Council (EABC) has stated.

This was said last week during the public-private dialogue that gathered officials from the Ministry of EAC Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade and Industrialization, trade facilitation agencies, importers, exporters, transporters & freight forwarders, and women cross-border traders at Rusumo One-Stop Border Post.

The dialogue was organized by The East Africa Business Council (EABC)-the regional apex body of Private Sector associations and corporates in East Africa and Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) to assess challenges being faced by cross-border traders.

"Prior to Covid-19, Rusumo One-Stop Border Post used to clear 400 trucks daily," The East African Business Council (EABC) CEO, John Bosco Kalisa said.

Tanzania's exports of goods to Rwanda have hit \$269.6million while Rwanda's exports to Tanzania have reached \$5 million according to the International Trade Centre.

Kalisa urged the United Republic of Tanzania to fast-track the use of national identity cards as a travel document to ease the movement of cross-border traders across the East African Community region.

"Travelers and business people from Rwanda to Tanzania are required to have passports and laissez-passer as travel documents. Tanzania doesn't accept national identity cards like other EAC members. This is still a barrier to the free movement of goods and people in the region," he said, adding it is contrary to common market protocol.

The EAC Common Mar-



Cargo trucks at Rusumo One stop border post between Rwanda and Tanzania.

ket Protocol was signed by the five East African Community Heads of State on the 20th November 2009 to ensure free movement of goods, people, services, labor and capital, use of a single currency for daily transactions within the Common Market, form political federation as well as the customs union.

The main objective of the Common Market Protocol is to accelerate economic development and foster social

ties of the East African citizenry through the elimination of barriers to regional trade and movement of East African nationals.

Besides using IDs as travel documents when moving within EAC territory, the protocol also stipulates that an East African citizen must be able to stay in a member state without being his/her own for up to 6 months without requiring a work permit or visa.

If national identity cards

are used for traveling to Tanzania, Kalisa said, it could boost trade between Rwanda and Tanzania and other countries.

Kalisa stated that Rusumo One-Stop Border Post that connects Rwanda and Tanzania is also an important gateway to the Democratic Republic of Congo which is also seeking to become a member of EAC.

Kalisa also urged Tanzania to adopt the EAC Single Tourist Visa to lure more

tourists into the EAC bloc.

The Visa boosts the free movement of goods and people in the region and is meant to reduce bureaucracies involved in getting multiple visas.

Tourists can visit any member country of the East African Community (EAC) using one VISA.

However, Kalisa said that Tanzania and Burundi have not yet adopted Single Tourist Visa.

"We urge these countries to remove such barriers to boost trade and tourism in the region," he said.

Tourism contributed to the Gross Domestic Product of the EAC Partner States by an average of 8.8 per cent in 2017.

The percentage contribution was higher than the average in Rwanda (12.7 per cent), Kenya (9.7 per cent), and Tanzania (9.0 per cent).

percent).

The other issue that needs to be addressed is the adoption of one network area-initiative that establishes borderless mobile network coverage across the EAC region and treats subscribers moving between the EAC member states as local subscribers that can make and receive calls at standard local call rates.

"When you come from Rwanda and reach Tanzania, it is very expensive to call someone in Rwanda when you are in Tanzania because Tanzania has not yet joined the One Area Network. This is a challenge to cross-border traders between Rwanda and Tanzania," he said.

It requires about Rwf1,000 per minute to call a person in Rwanda when you are in Tanzania using a Rwandan Sim card.

According to Alex Mutamba- Senior Officer in charge of EAC and Eastern Africa Region desk at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Cooperation and East African Communi-

ty said that every year barriers are recorded despite the common market protocol.

"There is a slow pace in harmonization of domestic laws in the East African Community, charges of Visa and work permits for EAC citizens and persistent non-tariff barriers. Members have to work together to address the barriers that impede trade flows," he said.

James Tayebwa, CBT Policy Specialist from the Ministry of Trade and Industry Rwanda said that Tanzania and Rwanda signed MoUs on the promotion of cross-border trade and elimination of NTBs and invited traders to take part in the upcoming joint border committee to discuss and formulate a concrete action plan on MoU.

Happiness Ruangisa, Chargé d'Affaires at Tanzania High Commission to Rwanda said that Covid-19 disrupted global supply chains hence the need to facilitate intra-EAC trade amid the pandemic for the resilience of our economies.

WORLD

Guinea-Bissau president survives W. Africa's latest coup attempt

BISSAU

GUINEA-BISSAU'S President Umaro Sissoco Embaló survived an attempted coup on Tuesday but said many members of the security forces had been killed repelling an attack on democracy that may have been linked to drug trafficking.

Earlier, heavy gunfire rang out near a government compound where Embaló had been chairing a cabinet meeting. The situation was unclear for several hours, during which the African Union and West African bloc ECOWAS condemned what they called "an attempted coup".

The fast-moving events in the former Portuguese colony on the West African coast came just over a week after the military in Burkina Faso, another country in the region, deposed the president there.

Appearing in the evening in a video posted on the Guinea-Bissau presidency's Facebook page, Embaló said attackers had tried to enter the compound just after the cabinet meeting but had been repelled.

"It wasn't just a coup. It was an attempt to kill the president, the prime minister and all the cabinet," he said.

He added that the attack "was well prepared and organized and could also be related to peo-

ple involved in drug trafficking", giving no further details.

Poverty-stricken Guinea-Bissau is viewed by the United Nations as a major waypoint for Latin American cocaine headed for Europe. US and European authorities have long suspected that some in the country's military are involved in the drug trade.

Embaló, who had enjoyed strong support from the military during a previous political crisis, suggested in his video that the army was not involved in Tuesday's attack.

"I can assure you that no camp joined this attempted coup. It was isolated. It is linked to people we have fought against," he said, without elaborating.

He said arrests had begun of people involved, but he did not know how many.

'Coup Contagion'

Portugal's President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa said on his official website he had spoken to Embaló by telephone and had "conveyed his vehement condemnation ... of these attacks against the constitutional order of Guinea-Bissau".

Prior to Embaló's video, the African Union had said some government members were being detained and had called on the military to release them, without giving details.



Guinea-Bissau's President Umaro Sissoco Embaló

Political instability has blighted Guinea-Bissau for decades, with nine previous coups or attempted coups since independence in 1974.

During the hours of confusion on Tuesday, the Portuguese embassy had urged its citizens in Guinea-Bissau to stay at home while UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply concerned" by what was going on in the capital Bissau.

Embaló had begun chairing an extraordinary cabinet meeting at around 10 am, entering the government palace with a heavy security detail, a diplomatic source said. While he was present in the building, gunfire began outside.

The cabinet meeting was being held to prepare for a forthcoming ECOWAS summit in response to last week's military takeover in Burkina Faso, the latest in a rash of coups across the region in the last 18 months. [read more](#)

"It looks increasingly hard to argue against the idea of coup contagion," said Eric Humphrey-Smith, an analyst at risk consultancy Verisk Maplecroft.

"When added to successful coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Chad in the past year, there is no doubt that West African leaders are nervously looking over their shoulders."

US reacted negatively to Russia's key demand on indivisible security – Lavrov

MOSCOW

THE United States reacted negatively to Russia's key demand that the accords on indivisible security be implemented responsibly, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said after a phone talk with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday.



"As for the key issue that generally prompted us to turn to the United States and the North Atlantic alliance with the initiative, the reaction was negative. I mean our demands that all must responsibly implement the agreements on indivisible security reached within the OSCE framework in Istanbul in 1999 and in Astana in 2010," Russia's top diplomat pointed out.

The US reply to Russia's proposals on security guarantees that was received last week showed that "the Americans prefer to focus on discussing still important but secondary issues," Lavrov insisted.

At the same time, the West seeks "to sink into oblivion" the key principle of indivisible security, he said. "They literally make as the cornerstone exclusively the principle of the freedom of choosing unions while completely ignoring the condition agreed at the highest level that infringing upon the security of other states in this case is inadmissible," the Russian foreign minister elaborated.

"In order not to let this happen, when we received a reaction from Washington to our original proposals, I described this in detail in a special message and sent it to all OSCE foreign ministers and the foreign ministers of other countries to let them know our position," Lavrov said.

Moscow is also alarmed that other NATO countries, for example, France, "insist on the need of ensuring security based on the documents that preceded the adoption of the Istanbul charter and the Astana declaration and, in particular, they quote a document of the 1990 OSCE Paris summit, which lacked a provision that the security must not be strengthened at the expense of the security of others," he added.

Russia will insist on an honest talk with NATO and seek explanations why the West does not want to honor its commitments, the Russian foreign minister stressed.

"Today, I confirmed to Antony Blinken that after all this is an issue, which we will not allow talking down. And we will insist on an honest talk and on an honest explanation why the West is unwilling to implement its commitments or wants to implement them selectively in its favor," Russia's top diplomat said.

At the same time, the US Secretary of State agreed that there was a subject matter for discussion with Russia regarding the issue of indivisible security, Lavrov said.

"Tony Blinken agreed that there is a subject matter here for a further talk. We will see how things will develop," Russia's top diplomat said.

Russia preparing response to Washington's proposals Moscow is completing inter-agency coordination work on Washington's proposals received in the process of security discussion and a subsequent report will be made to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the foreign minister said.

The news that appeared earlier on Tuesday that the United States had allegedly received Moscow's reply to its security proposals emerged due to misunderstanding, Lavrov said.

"Today we, indeed, heard a message from the US Department of State that a reply was allegedly received from Moscow to the document that the Americans had sent as a reaction to our original proposals on the guarantees of security in Europe," the foreign minister said. "There is a misunderstanding here."

On December 17, the Russian Foreign Ministry published Russia's two draft agreements on security guarantees, which Moscow expects from Washington and NATO. The agreements with the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization stipulate, among other things, the US-led bloc abandoning its designs on eastward expansion along with denying membership to Ukraine, in addition to restrictions on deploying serious offensive armaments, in particular, nuclear weapons. The sides have already held several rounds of consultations in various formats but have not announced any agreements reached yet.

On January 26, the United States and NATO handed over their written reply to Moscow's proposals on security guarantees. The US side requested that the texts of these documents should not be published. However, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg outlined their basic provisions. These statements suggest that the West has refused to make concessions fundamental for Moscow, but indicated areas for further negotiations. **Agencies**

Diverse Chinese New Year celebrations send festive vibes across globe

BEIJING

COLORFUL celebrations of the Chinese New Year in different countries have sent festive vibes across the globe as people from various cultures express their good wishes for the Year of the Tiger.

Across the United States, celebrating the Chinese New Year has become a tradition for many residents and institutions as Chinese culture, especially the unique Chinese zodiac, adds upbeat elements to life.

New York landmarks like the Empire State Building and the World Trade Center were lit up in red on Sunday night to celebrate the Year of the Tiger.

The Empire State Building has also staged a window show featuring a festive installation with artistic imagery and representations of this year's animal, the tiger. In Spain, the capital city of Madrid is celebrating the Chinese New Year with a number of activities that are set to last until Feb. 28.

The Chinese Cultural Center in Madrid highlighted that in 2022 there are two reasons to celebrate: the start of the Year of the Tiger and the Beijing Winter Olympic Games. Although the pandemic means many events are being held online, a firework display over the lake at the Pradolongo park will be carried

out on Saturday.

Located in the Usera district of Madrid, the park, near a large Chinese community, has been specially decorated in red. On the first day of the Year of the Tiger, a special program dedicated to the Beijing Winter Olympic Games and Paris 2024 Olympic Games was broadcast on France's TV5 Monde.

Performed by some 100 Chinese and foreign artists, the programs of the 110-minute concert "Peace, Friendship, Love" were recorded separately in China and France. Western classic music, traditional French dance, Beijing Opera and Chinese folk dance were on the show.

With their magic paper-cut work, artists from China wished a wonderful new year for audiences around the world. In a statement on Tuesday, the Venezuelan government said "Venezuela reiterates its best wishes for the New Year to increase the prosperity and common fortune of our peoples," and reaffirmed its willingness for deeper cooperation with China.

Also on Tuesday, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea (PNG) James Marape sent his good wishes to China for the Chinese New Year.

On behalf of the PNG people and government, the prime minister said he wishes all the Chinese peo-



A woman takes a selfie with a tiger sculpture in St Ann's Square in Manchester, Britain, on Feb. 1, 2022. The sculpture will be in the square from Feb. 1 to Feb. 6 to celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Tiger. Xinhua

ple a happy new year and hopes China and PNG-China relations will continue to be prosperous.

Namibian President Hage Geingob also offered best wishes to the

Chinese people on social media. "In the Chinese Lunar Calendar, this is the Year of the Tiger, a symbol of bravery and courage.

As you celebrate the New Year, I

extend my best wishes to the Chinese people, who stood by us during the struggle for freedom," said Geingob.

Xinhua

UN chief appoints Sawyerr of Nigeria as force commander for UN peacekeeping force in Abyei

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday announced the appointment of Maj. Gen. Benjamin Olufemi Sawyerr of Nigeria as force commander for

the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

Abyei is a region contested by Sudan and South Sudan. Sawyerr succeeds Maj. Gen. Kefyalew Amde Tessema of Ethiopia to

whom the secretary-general is grateful for his dedication, invaluable service and effective leadership during his appointment with UNISFA, said the secretary-general's press office. Sawyerr has

a military career spanning more than 34 years of service with the Nigerian Army, including as the director of defense information of Nigeria's Defence Forces since 2021.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in political science from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria in Nigeria and a Master's degree in defense and strategic studies from the University of Madras in India.

China vigorously promotes women's role in digital economy

LIANG Qianjuan, a woman who returned from the cities to her hometown Shitan village, Huixian county, Longnan city, northwest China's Gansu province to start her own business, opened an online store on an e-commerce platform.

By providing products that suit the market demand, she has turned ordinary local agricultural products into Internet-famous commodities and attracted an increasing number of consumers to her online store.

As the supplies of special agricultural products in Shitan village fell short of demand, she started to sell farm produce from neighboring villages and even farmers across the city, according to Liang.

Today, she sells more than 50,000 ki-

lograms of agricultural products a year on average for villagers living in the surrounding areas and helps increase the income of more than 300 households.

Wu Yumping, representative of women in Chaijia village, Jilin city, northeast China's Jilin province, has run training courses on straw plaiting to help women in the village increase their income.

To further promote the traditional craft and straw-plaited products through the Internet, she took part in a training session jointly organized by the Jilin municipal women's federation and the Jilin municipal commerce bureau, in which she acquired knowledge and skills about livestreaming promo-

tion, including online store operation, product description, as well as skills for hosting livestreaming shows.

"Now there are up to 500 people watching us make straw-plaited products via livestreaming," Wu said happily.

In Zhijin county, Bijie city, southwest China's Guizhou province, local embroiderers have seized opportunities generated by the booming livestreaming e-commerce market and managed to make products featuring Miao embroidery and batik, national-level intangible cultural heritage of the Miao ethnic group, into fashionable consumer goods that enjoy great popularity online.

"I learned livestreaming from scratch

and I'm now able to introduce embroidery and batik vividly to consumers online. Once I sold 200,000 yuan (\$31,640) worth of products in a show," said Yang Xuexue, a local embroiderer.

After receiving comprehensive training in livestreaming skills, she opened an account on a livestreaming platform and quickly emerged as a well-known embroiderer online.

The fast-growing digital economy characterized by innovation, high penetration rate in various industries, and wide coverage has become a new growth point for the Chinese economy.

Women, a driving force that should not be neglected in the development of digital economy, are playing indispens-

able roles in the field. Data suggested that 55 percent of the entrepreneurs in Internet-based businesses in China are women.

Digital economy has generated new opportunities to boost employment and entrepreneurship for women, narrow the gap in women's development between rural and urban areas, and improve the quality of women's employment and entrepreneurship.

As the Internet has enabled people living in remote regions of China to sell their high-quality local products to various parts of the country, livestreaming e-commerce, online marketing and other skills have become an important approach to re-employment of women

in remote, rural, and impoverished areas.

While women embrace more opportunities in the era of digital economy, they also need more support in pursuing further development.

Since 2015, the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) has rolled out guidelines and work plans to promote women's development and protect their rights. At the same time, the ACWF has arranged special funds and worked together with government bodies including the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs as well as e-commerce platforms to carry out training sessions on e-commerce and livestreaming skills for women. **People's Daily**

US national debt surpasses 30 trln USD as Fed prepares to raise rates

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. national debt has surpassed 30 trillion U.S. dollars for the first time, raising concerns about future fiscal sustainability, as the Federal Reserve prepares to raise interest rates to tame inflation.

The total public debt outstanding exceeded 30 trillion dollars on Monday, which included 23.5 trillion dollars in debt held by the public and 6.5 trillion dollars in intergovernmental holdings, according to the U.S. Treasury Department's daily treasury statement.

The national debt increased sharply in recent years, in part because of former President Donald Trump's large tax cuts and massive government spending to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, analysts said.

The milestone of 30 trillion dollars in debt should be "a giant red flag for all of us about America's future economic health, generational equity, and role in the world," said Michael A. Peterson, CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation.

"How we got here is a long story of repeated chapters of fiscal irresponsibility on both sides of the aisle. Leaders in Washington have made imprudent decisions over decades, time and again choosing a favorite new tax cut or spending program above our collective future," Peterson said on Tuesday in a statement.

Peterson also warned that on the current trajectory, the interest on the national debt will rise to eat up nearly 50 cents of every tax dollar collected in 2050.

"It's not only unsustainable, it's a moral failure that will harm our children and grandchildren," he said, urging policymakers to put the nation on a strong and sustainable fiscal path.

The rising national debt came after U.S. Congress passed legislation in December to raise the federal government's debt limit by 2.5 trillion dollars to about 31.4 trillion dollars, averting a looming debt default.

The Fed signaled last week that the central bank is ready to raise interest rates as soon as March to combat surging inflation as it exits from the ultra-loose monetary policy enacted at the start of the pandemic.

Now traders have priced in a total of five quarter-point rate hikes this year, bringing the federal funds rate to a range of 1 percent to 1.25 percent by the end of the year.

The rate hikes will certainly push up U.S. debt service costs. A growing debt burden could increase the risk of a fiscal crisis and higher inflation as well as undermine confidence in the U.S. dollar, making it more costly to finance public and private activity in international markets, the Congressional Budget Office has warned.

Xinhua

Boris Johnson gifted at 'surviving difficulties': Russian envoy on PM's 'Partygate' woes

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Ambassador to London Andrey Kelin, commenting on the ongoing political scandal that UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is embroiled in over his lockdown-defying parties at Downing Street during the worldwide pandemic, noted that the British head of government has great abilities for "surviving any difficulties."

"Johnson has great abilities for surviving any difficulties. He hasn't weathered just one scandal but a whole slew of them," the envoy told the Soloviev Live YouTube channel.

Earlier, Labour Party leader Keir Starmer and Leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP) Ian Blackford, among other politicians, asserted that the British prime minister lost the moral right to hold office following the scandal over Downing Street's get-togethers that apparently breached COVID-19 restrictions.

Several of Johnson's fellow party members also stated their loss of confidence in him. His predecessor Theresa May who is currently an ordinary delegate of the ruling Conservative Party also sharply criticized the prime minister.



ister.

Johnson himself opined that members of the House of Commons should focus on counteracting Russia and not on attempts to force him to resign.

On January 31, a Downing Street representative reported that Johnson was planning to hold a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday in order to discuss the Ukraine crisis.

Then, Johnson's spokesman said that the conversation was postponed because the prime minister spent several hours in parliament answering questions over Downing Street parties during the lockdown.

AU expresses concern over resurgence of military coups undermining peace, stability in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) Commission has expressed its deep concern over the growing trend of military coups across the African continent that undermines peace and stability of countries in Africa.

The statement was made by the Peace and Security Council of the AU Commission during its latest meeting on Monday that dwelt upon the situation in Burkina Faso, which has become the latest African country to experience military coup.

The Council, which suspended Burkina Faso from the pan-African bloc until normal constitutional order is restored in the country following the latest military coup, stressed its concern over the new trend of military coups in Africa.

The Council expresses deep concern over the resurgence of military coups which undermines democracy, peace,

security and stability in the continent, an AU statement issued late Monday read.

The 55-member pan-African bloc further reiterated its zero tolerance of unconstitutional changes of government in line with the AU Constitutive Act and reaffirmed total adherence to the AU normative frameworks on illegal takeover of governments on the continent.

It reiterated its communique adopted back in September 2021, which called for a comprehensive and objective analysis of the root causes and impact of unconstitutional changes of government in the continent.

The Council further noted the recommendations of the 8th High Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa held in Oran, Algeria in December 2021, which called for the review of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the Lome Declaration on unconstitutional changes of government.

Oil companies make investment decision to start production in Uganda

KAMPALA

CHINESE oil giant China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) and France's TotalEnergies on Tuesday announced the Final Investment Decision (FID) to start commercial production in Uganda.

FID is the detailed plan which an oil company will follow to develop an oil field.

A grand ceremony attended by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Tanzanian Vice President Philip Isdor Mpango, oil company chief executives and government officials was held at the Kololo Ceremonial

Grounds in the capital Kampala. Museveni said he was happy that the project was finally taking off after protracted negotiations with the oil companies.

"I salute and congratulate TotalEnergies and CNOOC for finally reaching Final Investment Decision because I was getting a bit impatient. I am glad now we have concluded all the issues," Museveni said.

The 10-billion-U.S.-dollar project, according to Uganda's ministry of energy and mineral development, includes the development of the oil wells and the construction of a crude oil pipeline that will transport the oil from the wells in the Albertine Graben in western Uganda to the Tanzanian seaport of Tanga.

The 1,445-km pipeline, estimated to cost 3.55 billion dollars, will be the world's longest heated pipeline. Due to the viscosity properties of Uganda's oil, it has to be heated in order for it to flow.

Museveni said the revenues accrued from the oil will be critical in strengthening the country's and the region's economic development.

Mpango urged all partners to ensure that the project is implemented in consideration of the interests



Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni (3rd R) attends a ceremony in Kampala, Uganda, on Feb. 1, 2022. Chinese oil giant China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) and France's TotalEnergies on Tuesday announced the Final Investment Decision (FID) to start commercial production in Uganda. Xinhua

of local people and the environment.

"The international oil companies are reminded to adhere to labor laws including avoidance of child labor and ensuring environmental sustainability and conservation in line with the environmental and social impact assessment," the vice president said.

Mpango said the multiplier effect from the project will spur regional growth as a lot of jobs would be created besides provision of services like hospitality.

According to Uganda's ministry of energy and mineral development, first oil is expected in 2025 after completion of construction in the next four years.

Ruth Nankabirwa, Uganda's minister of energy and mineral development, said the project will generate

about 160,000 jobs besides provisions of goods and services. She said the government has put in place the necessary laws to ensure that local companies and people benefit from the contracts to be offered by the oil companies.

"It would be shameful for food to be imported outside east Africa. We need to be prepared to partake of the chances that the industry is bringing," Nankabirwa said. Chen Zhuobiao, CNOOC Uganda president, said the company will stick to local laws and ensure environmental protection in the course of implementing the project.

"I wish to reiterate that CNOOC Limited is and has always been a firm believer in

being a responsible energy company.

And that is exactly what we put into practice - all of our operations are in strict compliance with the relevant laws and regulations, and our operational protocols live up to the best practices of the industry," Chen said. He said the oil fields will be developed in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner.

Patrick Pouyanne, chief executive officer and chairman of TotalEnergies, said that respect for the rights of local communities is critical especially as the project requires land acquisition.

He said taking care of the local communities will be a top priority as the project is being implemented. Uganda in 2006 discovered 6.5 billion barrels of oil, of which 1.4 billion barrels are commercially viable. The country will have both a refinery and a crude oil pipeline.

Xinhua

Accurate meteorological services to ensure success of Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games

TO cope with weather risks has always been an important duty of Winter Olympics organizers, and it is also true to the upcoming Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

Relevant departments, including the China Meteorological Administration, kicked off preparations for accurate forecast of mountain meteorology and other internationally recognized challenging tasks, soon after Beijing won the bid to host the 2022 Winter Games. They have established teams offering meteorological services, building a meteorological monitoring network on untrodden steep and summits.

The Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games marks the first time that the Winter Games is hosted in a region primarily covered by continental monsoon climate in the recent 20 years.

The competition zones are all situated in mountainous areas with complex terrains, which raises a requirement that all key meteorological conditions must be forecasted within a spatial resolution of 100 meters. This has no precedence in history.

Because of the different demands of the games for meteorological data, the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games has tailored meteorological services for every single venue and event.

Research teams have been established to study the features of the weathers and climates in complicated mountainous areas, and meteorological forecast teams have gained plentiful experiences after carrying out forecast drills for five consecutive winters. These efforts will all contribute to the success of the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

Monitoring is the first step of meteorological forecast. Meteorological observation stations have been built to monitor meteorological conditions in



Staff members carry devices to a meteorological station in the Zhangjiakou competition zone of the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games. (Photo by China Meteorological News)

and around competition zones, forming a multidimensional monitoring network together with meteorological satellites, radars and other unconventional detectors. They can obtain comprehensive real-time meteorological data in competition zones and lay a solid foundation for further improvement in forecast capabilities.

The Genting-1 observation station is one that was built with a lot of efforts in the Zhangjiakou competition zone. It sits on top of the venue holding freestyle aerials events and around it are steep and slippery slopes with an angle of over 45 degrees. Even snowmobiles cannot get to the station. To build and maintain it, relevant staff members have to climb on the slopes wearing crampons, with each one of them carrying devices that weigh over 10 kilograms.

A total of 441 observation facilities have been built in the three competi-

tion zones of the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games, including the above-mentioned meteorological stations. Together, they constitute a multidimensional monitoring network that covers a wide range of meteorological factors with a second-level response.

State-of-the-art observation devices and top-notch technologies are providing strong support for meteorological forecast, too. China has successfully developed key technological solutions such as the model of high-precision weather forecast, the model of rapid integration of multi-source meteorological data, and the model of AI-correction for prediction error. It has also launched the Rapid-refresh Integrated Seamless Ensemble system that is able to offer 10-day forecast in the regions near mountainous venues by grids of 100m*100m, as well as 10-day forecast in key spots for the Winter Games at fixed time and locations

with fixed quantities.

According to Chen Mingxuan, who heads a national meteorological plan that helps China hold a high-tech-based Olympics, weather forecast for previous Winter Olympic Games was usually made within a spatial resolution of 1,000 meters and updated every half or one hour. "The forecast grid for the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics has been narrowed to 100m*100m or even 67m*67m at least, and information is updated every 10 minutes," he said.

AI-powered weather forecast will also be applied for the first time in the history of Winter Olympics, which is expected to re-correct forecasts after reinterpreting massive observation and forecast data. It will further improve the precision of weather forecast for the Winter Games.

People's Daily

WASHINGTON

Blinken discusses Palestinian Authority reform with Abbas

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the need for reform in the Palestinian Authority in a phone call on Monday with President Mahmoud Abbas in a further step to strengthen bilateral relations, the State Department said.

President Joe Biden has sought to repair ties weakened when his predecessor, President Donald Trump, slashed aid to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza and closed a US consulate for Pal-

estinians in Jerusalem.

The Biden administration has restored aid and pledged to reopen the consulate over Israeli objections, while urging Abbas, 86, (pictured) to change several policies including payments his self-rule authority makes to Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

Briefing reporters on Monday, State Department spokesperson Ned Price did not mention the prisoner stipends but said Blinken and Abbas discussed

"the need for reform within the Palestinian Authority."

The two also discussed "the need to improve quality of life for the Palestinian people in tangible ways," Price said.

In a readout of the phone call, Abbas' office did not mention any discussion of reform within the authority, which exercises limited self-rule in West Bank territory Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

Abbas told Blinken that Israel



must "stop the abuse of prisoners and ... the withholding of taxes." Israel in 2018 began deducting the value of the prisoner stipends from taxes it collects on the Palestinian Authority's behalf and transfers to it monthly.

Israel and the United States say the stipends, dispersed monthly to prisoners, their relatives and the families of Palestinians killed for allegedly carrying out attacks, encourage further

violence.

The Palestinians consider them a form of welfare for inmates and families they regard as national heroes.

Blinken also spoke Monday with Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, Price said in a statement. The two discussed Ukraine, Iran and Israeli-Palestinian issues, and Blinken reiterated the Biden administration's commitment to Israel's security.

Agencies

The need to improve quality of life for the Palestinian people in tangible ways

The Guardian

SPORT



Simba SC's Manager, Patrick Rweyemamu.

Simba SC's previous success current incites criticism - official

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

SIMBA SC has said that its success in the past four years is the reason the club is talked about when it gets poor results.

The club's Manager, Patrick Rweyemamu, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the results his outfit got in the last three Premier League matches are normal in football but, in Tanzania, a top club's poor results are not accepted by its supporters.

He said they are aware of the success of their team and that is why they are so widely spoken on social media.

"Every time a popular team loses a game it is talked about a lot, these developments are due to our success, for us this gives us the motivation to reorganize and continue to do well in the games," Rweyemamu disclosed.

"We had a moment like this last season, we lost two matches in a row but we stayed focused and won the top flight."

"Simba SC has the best squad we will fight to make sure we bring back happi-

ness to our fans who have always been our catalyst to do well," the official pointed out.

He said they are well prepared for today's league game against Tanzania Prisons, slated to be held in Dar es Salaam, and do not have any pressure on the results.

Simba SC head coach Pablo Franco said they are well prepared for the game against Prisons and look forward to using it to alleviate the grief of their fans following his team's poor results in recent league duels.

"We are well prepared, the past is over yet our goals are still there, we will play our game knowing that all our fans need is victory," the tactician disclosed.

In the last three Premier League games, Simba SC has collected just one point out of nine, increasing its points gap with Yanga, which has reached 10 points.

Yanga is at the top of the Premier League standing with 35 points followed by Simba SC with the two having played 13 games.

6 Danish men's hockey players test positive at Olympics

BEIJING

DENMARK's men's hockey team held its first pre-Olympic practice yesterday without six players after a spate of positive COVID-19 test results upon arriving in China.

The Danish Olympic federation announced that forwards Matthias Asperup and Nick Olesen tested positive for the coronavirus and went into isolation. Former NHL forward Mikkel Boedker, veteran defenseman Markus Lauridsen and two taxi squad players also missed practice after testing positive, though the team believed the results to be inaccurate and expected them back on the ice soon.

"Fortunately, it looks like four of them were false positive, we are hoping," longtime NHL center Frans Nielsen said. "I wouldn't call it 'scared,' but you're always worried about, 'Is there going to be more?'"

Coach Heinz Ehlers expressed optimism about getting four of the players out of isolation late yesterday or early today. The National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark said it did not believe any other members of the nation's 62-person delegation would need to be isolated.

Ehlers said everyone on Denmark's men's hockey team tested negative twice within the previous 48 hours before leaving for Beijing. Asperup and Olesen

need to produce two negative COVID-19 tests 24 hours apart to be cleared to re-join the team.

"Of course it's frustrating about the practice because we were supposed to do a little bit of power play today and three or four of those players, they were out," Ehlers said. "It's just (we have) to accept the way it is right now."

The tournament begins in a week. Denmark plays its first game Feb. 9 against the Czech Republic.

Denmark qualified in men's and women's hockey at the Olympics for the first time. "I think with every team right now, all you can do is cross your fingers and hope that we're going to get through this tournament without too many positive cases," Nielsen said.

Ukrainian biathlete Olena Bilosiuk, a gold medalist in the women's relay in 2014, also tested positive in Beijing. Coach Uros Velepec told Ukrainian public broadcaster Suspilne that Bilosiuk had a fever but was otherwise well. Biathlon competitions begin Saturday with the mixed relay.

Beijing organizers on Wednesday reported 32 new cases - 15 in tests of people arriving at the airport and 17 within the Olympic bubbles. Athletes and team officials accounted for nine of the latest cases and 23 were "stakeholders," a category that includes workers and media.

AP

Simba SC cannot afford to blink against Prisons

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC will be looking to snap a three-game winless run when they host Prisons in an NBC Premier League clash at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam tonight.

The defending champions are second on the log with 25 points, about 10 points behind leader, Young Africans SC, popularly known as 'Yanga'.

Yanga is not in action until Saturday against Mbeya City FC at the same venue. It is not beyond reprieve for Simba SC, but they really can't afford many more dropped points.

Simba SC's 6-0 victory over third-tier side Dar City FC in the fourth round of the Federation Cup which took place in the city on Sunday should go some way to easing pressure on the former's head coach Pablo Martin.

While Prisons are likely to provide more opposition to Simba SC compared to Dar City FC, the six goals scored could go much into boosting Simba SC's goal scoring confidence which was at an all time low.

Until Sunday, Simba SC had played four games without scoring from open play. With two games to the mid season, the outfit's attackers, John Bocco and Chris Mugal, have managed a combined tally of two goals in all competitions.

Considering Prisons' defensive vulnerability in recent weeks, this is a great time for the forwards to play.

Prisons have the second worst defensive record in the league,



Simba SC players feature in training in Morogoro last month to prepare for an NBC Premier League match against Mtwara Sugar, which took place in the region. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

having let in 18 goals in 13 matches this season.

There are not many injury concerns for Simba SC. Striker Dennis Kibu should be back involved and could start for the outfit after missing the last three games with an injury.

Prisons, meanwhile, sits at the bottom of the standings as the club has only won three of its 13 league matches this season.

The appointment of Kenyan coach, Patrick Odhiambo, is yet to bear fruits for Prisons so far, with two losses and one penalty shoot-

out victory in the Federation Cup in his first three games.

Odhiambo will have to worry not only about his leaking defense but also Prisons has the second worst attacking record in the league this season.

Only Mtwara Sugar (seven) have scored fewer goals than Prisons (eight) in the NBC Premier League this season.

Simba SC's line-up from their 1-0 loss to Kagera Sugar last week: Aishi Manula, Shomari Kapombe, Mohamed Hussein (Hassan Dilunga 90'), Henock Inonga, Joash

Onyango (Joash Onyango 90'), Sadio Kanoute, Rally Bwalya (John Bocco 78'), Pape Sakho, Mzamiru Yassin (Yusuph Mhulu 78'), Clatous Chama, Bernard Morrison, (Meddie Kagere 59').

Prisons' line-up from their 4-0 loss to Azam FC: Hussein Abel (Hassan Mshamu 51'), Benjamin Asukile (Adily Buha 85'), Ramadhan Ntobi (Mudathir Yahya 55'), Salum Kimeanya, Vedastus Mwihambi, Lambert Sabiyanka (Marco Mhulu 86'), Athanas Mdamu (Aboubakar Malika 56'), Jeremiah Juma, Dotto Shaban, Samson Mbangula.



Tanzania Paralympic athletes, Sauda Njopeka (L) and Ignas Mtweve, feature in drills in Dar es Salaam yesterday to prepare for 2022 Commonwealth Games that will take place in England in July. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

All set for National Para Power Lifting Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Para Power Lifting Association (TPPA) has announced that it will host National Championship at the end of this month in Dar Es Salaam.

Yohana Mwila, TPPA Secretary-General, said the championship will take place at Ununio Beach on February.

He said it will involve weightlifters in the 65kg, 59kg and 55kgs categories for men while women event will see competitors put their skills to show in 70kg, 65kg and 55kg categories.

Mwila said the championship will be used to identify new talents which will represent the country at next year's Africa Games in Ghana and 2024 Paris Paralympics.

The official stated: "Preparations for the coming Para Power Lifting Championship are going on very well and we expect many athletes

to attend the championships."

"We encourage many upcoming Para Power Lifters to take part at the event as the aim is to identify new talents which will represent the country at future international events like Africa Games in Ghana, Paris Paralympics and other top events," he said.

Mwila is the only Tanzania Para Power Lifter who will represent Tanzania at the coming Commonwealth Games which will take place in England.

The official had, in Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC)'s Annual General Meeting, hailed the government for its support to all athletes in the country.

He said decision to help all athletes to prepare well for the Games is a good development which will make them to work hard.

"I really thank the government for its support to all athletes, for the first time athletes with disabili-

ties will have a camp ahead of the Commonwealth Games."

"We will also get all other necessities and privileges like any other athletes who will represent the country at international games," he said.

Powerlifting is a strength sport that consists of three attempts at maximal weight on three lifts-squat, bench press, and deadlift.

As in the sport of Olympic weightlifting, it involves the athlete attempting a maximal weight single-lift effort of a barbell loaded with weight plates.

Powerlifting evolved from a sport known as 'odd lifts', which followed the same three-attempt format but used a wider variety of events, akin to strongman competition. Eventually odd lifts became standardized to the current three.

In competition, lifts may be performed equipped or un-equipped, typically referred to as 'classic' or

'raw' lifting in the International Power Lifting Federation (IPF).

Equipment in this context refers to a supportive bench shirt or squat/deadlift suit or briefs.

In some federations, knee wraps are permitted in the equipped but not un-equipped division, in others, they may be used in both equipped and un-equipped lifting.

Weight belts, knee sleeves, wrist wraps, and special footwear may also be used, but are not considered when distinguishing equipped from un-equipped lifting.

Competitions take place across the world. Power lifting has been a Paralympic sport (bench press only) since 1984 and, under the IPF, is also a World Games sport.

Local, national and international competitions have also been sanctioned by other federations operating independently of the International Power Lifting (IPF).

Queiroz hits back at Eto'o: Football is not 'war'

YAOUNDE

EGYPT manager Carlos Queiroz said that Cameroon federation president Samuel Eto'o was out of line with his comments that urged the Africa Cup of Nations hosts to prepare for "war" against their semifinal opponents ahead of Thursday's meeting.

The two teams will square off at the Olembe Stadium on Thursday -- only 10 days after eight people lost their lives and 38 were injured, seven seriously, during a stampede outside of the venue ahead of Cameroon's last-16 win over Comoros.

In a video shared by the team's media outlet FECAFOOT TV following Cameroon's 2-0 quarterfinal victory over Gambia, Eto'o is shown speaking to the squad ahead of the semifinal as they look to reach the tournament showpiece for the first time since 2017.

"We have one objective, our next [game], it's Thursday," Eto'o said. "Everything you've done, you need to capitalise on it. Prepare yours, because it will be a war, my guys, a war."

"That's how you have to get fired up for this one -- a war."

Eto'o won two AFCON trophies and an Olympic gold medal with the Indomitable Lions, as well as several club titles with Barcelona.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Queiroz said the comments by Eto'o star were "unfortunate."

"It's an unfortunate comment and a very bad message to the people of Cameroon," Queiroz said. "I think he forgot that Cameroonian people died at the stadium several days ago, and so making this declaration of war before one game shows that he learned nothing from his time in professional football."

"It was a very, very unfortunate comment, because football is not about war, it's about celebration, joy and happiness."

"We are going to answer to war with football, we're going to answer football with joy," he continued. "We're here to please the people, not to make people die, but to give them fun and some joy."

After removing one quarterfinal from the Olembe Stadium while an investigation into the cause of the deadly stampede took place, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) announced on Sunday that the Cameroon-Egypt semifinal and the Feb. 6 final would be held at the 60,000-seater stadium only after additional safety measures were implemented.

CAF, the local organising committee and the Cameroonian government have established greater security measures and mobilised increased resources in order to ensure the safety and security of match-going fans.

(Agencies)

Barca accuse Bartomeu's board of 'serious criminal behaviour'

BARCELONA

BARCELONA's previous board showed "very serious criminal behaviour", a lawyer hired by the club said on Tuesday at the presentation of their 'forensic report' into the financial management of Barca under Josep Maria Bartomeu.

When Bartomeu's successor Joan Laporta took over he was forced to allow iconic star Lionel Messi leave on a free transfer, essentially because the club's finances meant they could no longer afford to pay his salary.

Laporta said the club had found "payments without cause, payments with a false cause or disproportionate payments".

Laporta added that "it could not be ruled out that there was unfair reward for those people responsible for these payments".

The findings of the report prompted the club to file a complaint last week with the prosecutor's office in Barcelona which began an investigation into "economic crimes" on Friday, a source told AFP.

Barcelona's report, carried out by financial investigations company, Kroll, was initiated after the club's general director, Ferran Reverter, announced the results of an internal audit in October.

Reverter said the club was "technically bankrupt" when Laporta took over as president in March 2021, with the audit uncovering total club debts of 1.35 billion euros (\$1.52 billion).

The presentation of the report was made in the offices outside Camp Nou on Tuesday morning by Laporta, Eduard Romeu, Barcelona's financial vice-president, and Jaume Campaner, a corporate lawyer contracted to work on the investigation.

Campaner said: "It's not about pointing fingers or describing the management of the previous board as better or worse, that's not it."

"It is about transferring information to the authorities that investigate crimes and clamp down on this sort of behaviour, which is very serious criminal behaviour."

Campaner continued: "If I had to define it all in one word, it would be: disloyalty. Because it is money from the members of FC Barcelona. That money cannot be abused or given away as if it was yours."

- 'False accounting' -

Campaner listed a number of alleged irregularities found in the report, including lawyers being paid seven million euros for the "supposed signing of a player", commissions paid to agents that were inflated from five to 33 per cent and a 15 million-euro payment made to a club to secure first refusal on young players, which Campaner said had "no basis in reality".

AFP

Aboubakar and Toko-Ekambi hold key to AFCON success for Cameroon

YAOUNDE

FORGET Mohamed Salah or Sadio Mane, because the most prolific strikers at this Africa Cup of Nations are the two players leading the attack for the hosts as they face Egypt in the semi-finals today.

Cameroon captain Vincent Aboubakar is the tournament's top marksman with six, while Karl Toko-Ekambi scored both goals for the Indomitable Lions in their 2-0 quarterfinal win over Gambia to move onto five altogether.

Between them they have scored every one of Cameroon's 11 goals so far at the Cup of Nations, the duo emerging as the key men five years after playing bit-part roles in the side that won the title in Gabon.

In 2017 both were used almost exclusively from the bench, although Aboubakar came on as a substitute to score the winner in the final against Egypt.

"In 2017 I played a bit less but still helped the others in training and during games," recalled Toko-Ekambi after his match-winning display in



Between them, Vincent Aboubakar and Karl Toko-Ekambi have scored all of Cameroon's goals so far at the Africa Cup of Nations (AFP)

the quarter-final.

"Now the roles are reversed and it is the same for Aboubakar too, although the main thing is that the squad gets on well together, that we play well and that we win."

It would be grossly unfair to reduce Cameroon's success so far solely to the two forwards, with Collins Fai starting at right-back and midfielders Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa and Martin Hongla both outstanding.

"They are the finishers but their goals are the result of the work put in by everyone," says the coach, Toni

Conceicao.

- The role model -

Aboubakar is a star throughout Cameroon, albeit he may never be worshipped in the same way Roger Milla or Samuel Eto'o were before him.

However he is certainly a hero in his native Garoua, the main city in the north of the country.

"Before Aboubakar people didn't really believe that the region might produce a top player, but now youngsters look at him and say to themselves that anything is possible," said Djibrilla

Kada, who runs the youth

academy at Garoua club Cotonsport, Cameroon's leading side.

"He is a role model for all the young players at the club."

Aboubakar grew up in a working-class neighbourhood described by his brother, Michel Dior, as "a place with a bad reputation".

"Vincent was not like us, going out, spending his money. Cotonsport saw his potential right away," he said.

Cotonsport are the only professional club in the north, financed by the in-

urance company of the workers of cotton company Sodecoton, the main employer in northern Cameroon.

"Aboubakar is the best ambassador for the club, a product of our youth academy. We are now looking to develop partnerships with foreign clubs," says Fernand Sadou, Cotonsport's president.

Aboubakar started banging in the goals there when he was 17 and was still a teenager when he was called up to the Cameroon squad for the 2010 World Cup.

- Former rapper -

After a spell in France, he went to Porto. Still just 30, he recently left Europe to go and play in Saudi Arabia for Al-Nassr. But his first coach believes he may soon end up back in Europe.

"He has been one of the best players at the tournament. I think big European clubs will come in for him now, and he deserves it," says Kada.

Toko-Ekambi, meanwhile, is among the players born and raised in Europe but with Cameroonian heritage.

Now 29, he grew up in Paris in a Cameroonian family.

Almost lost to football after suffering a knee injury as a teenager, he was a member of a rap group before returning to the sport and working his way up through the French leagues.

After a spell at Villarreal in Spain, he moved two years ago to Lyon, where he has sometimes struggled to win over the doubters.

Nobody doubts him in Cameroon now though, as Toko-Ekambi and Aboubakar look to fire the Indomitable Lions to their sixth AFCON crown.

AFP

As African Cup plays out, soccer dying in parts of Cameroon

BUEA, Cameroon

THE African Cup of Nations in Cameroon sparks memories for Tiku Achale of what soccer used to be like in his hometown before the fighting and the killings.

Achale remembers fans wearing Cameroon team shirts and carrying flags as they walked down the streets on gameday, even if Cameroon was playing across the country in the capital Yaounde or somewhere else in the world.

Some of the most dedicated would wear the entire team uniform, complete with soccer boots, he recalled.

None of that happens anymore in Achale's hometown of Buea in southwest Cameroon, where anti-government militias roam those streets and where it has become dangerous to wear a Cameroon shirt.

"They are afraid that fighters will kill them, beat them or burn their houses," Achale said of the fans, who have all but disappeared. He explained a Cameroon shirt might be interpreted by the militias as support for the government.

The militias are here after fighting broke out in western parts of Cameroon in 2017 between English-speaking separatists and soldiers from the French-language dominated government based in Yaounde.

More than 3,000 people have been killed in the fighting and more than 700,000 have fled their homes. Buea has been one of the hotbeds of the fighting, with gun battles on the streets and improvised explosive devices going off.

The African Cup visited Achale's region, albeit briefly. Buea was a base for four teams for the early part of the tournament last month, and the nearby city of Limbe hosted group games and two knockout games in the last 16.

The tournament escaped



People on motorcycle taxi ride past a bus painted in traditional colours of the Cameroon national team with photo of the players, in Yaounde, Cameroon, Monday, Jan. 31, 2022. AP

any major incidents in Buea and Limbe, but there were reminders of what life has become here. The Mali squad abandoned a training session at a stadium in Buea and was rushed back to its hotel under armed guard as gunshots rang out in the neighborhood.

That gun battle between separatist rebels and government soldiers left two dead and five injured.

Buea resident Obasse Romeo, a former player for a local club, wondered why the African Cup was brought here.

"They (the teams) train with so much fear," he said. "Imagine having just military people watching training sessions. The atmosphere is not there."

Others have criticized what they call a deliberate attempt by the government to use the African Cup to conceal the rebellion here, to whitewash. Cameroon didn't play any games in Limbe but local fans, fearful of the violence, were drawn out to games with the help of free match tickets and, according to some claims, an easing of strict COVID-19 restrictions to ensure the sta-

diums weren't empty and kept up the host country's image.

"How can people be celebrating and playing when others are in hurt and in tears?" asked Rev. Ludovic Lado, a Jesuit priest and activist who was against the African Cup being staged in Cameroon.

While Cameroon's team gets set to play in the semifinals in Yaounde on Thursday and has a chance to make another final and claim a sixth African title,

soccer in many western cities is being suffocated in an atmosphere of fear and violence.

Players for Buea-based club Mount Cameroon FC were recently attacked at a training session by unknown gunmen. Separatist fighters abducted and tortured members of the Buea University's soccer team. The owner of a club was killed by gunmen in Kumba city.

Coaches have been kidnapped and many local

and semi-professional teams have withdrawn completely from competitions, a death knell for grassroots soccer.

Cameroon's top league is also affected. When Yong Sports Academy plays home games in the city of Bamenda, heavily armed security personnel surround the field. At the end of games, visiting teams are rushed away by security forces, said local sports reporter Bakah Derick, with

"no time to change their

jerseys."

That started, Derick said, when an armed group attacked visiting team Drag-on FC of Yaounde.

The fighting has driven a wedge between western Cameroon and the rest of the country, but also between English-speaking and French-speaking. Yong Sports used to have many French-speaking players in its squad, comfortable in representing both heritages. Now, there's just one.

"Those players are afraid of kidnappers and stray bullets," Yong Sports club official Wanchia Cynthia said.

Amid his nostalgia, Achale remembered most fondly how some of Cameroon's star players used to come to the western cities after winning big titles. Achale recalled visits to the region by former player Pius N'Dieff, who was on Cameroon's 2000 and 2002 African Cup-winning teams, and is from Kumba.

He would come "to encourage and inspire young people," Achale said.

He wonders if any of today's stars will visit if Cameroon gets to Sunday's final in Yaounde and wins this African Cup.

Maybe only the other part of the country will celebrate.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Aboubakar and Toko-Ekambi hold key to AFCON success for Cameroon

PAGE 19

Yanga to designate president's post in new leadership structure



Yanga Chief Executive Officer Senzo Mbatha.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA'S Chief Executive Officer, Senzo Mbatha, says with the club's pedigree, it cannot start a season without setting any goals.

Mbatha stated in an interview that after losing the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup, his club has set a goal of lifting this season's NBC Premier League top honour and the Azam Sports Federation Cup.

"The Mapinduzi Cup is over and now we are moving forward. We are doing a great job not only for the players but for everyone in this team to win titles," Mbatha noted.

Speaking about players' registration, the official stated they did it carefully making sure the players help Yanga achieve its goals.

Mbatha revealed they are on their way to changing the club's operations after being approved by the relevant authorities.

The official pointed out: "Yanga is not only for the National Sports Council but also the Tanzania Football Federation and, after our constitution was finalized, we sent it to them and they have given us six months and

told us everything in the constitution should be completed within those months."

Mbatha disclosed the main thing is for the team's fans to change and become members and they do not have time to lose as the process is already going on well.

"We have started registering our members and the numbers are going on well. So far we are seeing changes go well and there will be a structural change in Yanga's leadership aiming at getting the team structure," he stated.

The former Simba SC CEO noted after the completion of

the registration of members they will turn to the real value of the club so that investors can get a complete picture of Yanga before depositing and investing their money in the club.

Mbatha revealed: "We will set the real value of Yanga and we will call people who will come to help us in setting the right direction. In this process automatically there will be a major shift in leadership."

The South African national noted there will be neither Chairman nor Vice-Chairman, instead, there will be a club president and there will be no such position without free elec-

tions within the club.

"Through the branches, we will have branch leaders who will come out to go to this election and this should be done within six months from now. The thing to be thankful for is that the changes are going well and the goal is to get the team to another level," Mbatha stated.

The official noted: "You cannot be a member of a team if you are not a branch member. If you are abroad you need to make sure you sign up for the branch membership and while you are there you will receive a text message informing you and this is due to investing in the digital side."

The official revealed all aspects of change will go smoothly whilst seeing to it the outfit excels in its fixtures because both issues should be fulfilled.

Yanga's Director of Finance and Administration, Haji Mfikirwa, who accompanied Mbatha, noted the digital structure for members is good because it helps to know how many members the outfit has, as opposed to the current format.

"Even in the past the club had members but this system is going to benefit them by knowing how many members we have at any given time. In our transformation there is an element of good relations with members," Mfikirwa disclosed.

"In the past, we had La Liga (Spanish Premier League) and Sevilla FC as partners... we were asked how many members we had, but we did not have a complete answer."

"Everyone had their answer, now the only thing we do is

have a memory of the members who will put everything in the form."

Mfikirwa noted the benefit that members will get is to buy the club's products directly because their records will be available.

The official added: "More than 500 branches have registered so far and in each branch, there should be 100 members and at the top, there will be 500 members."

"The response is huge and we are doing this with great vigour and at the end of the day we have to find leaders," he revealed.

"The constitution says not all members are coming to the polls, but through their branches, they will be the ones to elect the people to go to the polls and in the seventh month we have to have new leaders according to the constitution."

Mfikirwa pointed out Yanga's fanatics should be patient as the leaders struggle to make the team better and get better results.

"In these projects, there is a day we will go down and one day we will climb up if the long road will have corners and mountains," he revealed.

"Members should continue to support team and leaders. We have been without a trophy for a long time but with everyone fulfilling their responsibilities we will achieve our goals."

Mbatha emphasizes: "The main thing is to collect three points. I urge fans to back the team by coming to the stadiums and empowering the players, you know the players will see they are well supported and at the same time let them continue to prosper."

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MFA
12:30 Bonga Hits
13:00 Masi Kilaani (r)
13:30 Kili Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Waganga Ulumbo (r)
16:00 Ubonga Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SalamaNa

Every Thursday at 9pm

eastAfrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Arusha athletes hold sway in 2022 National Cross-Country Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ARUSHA'S athletes have shined at the just-ended National Cross-Country Championships which were held at Burkana Estates ground in the region.

According to Athletics Tanzania (AT) information officer, Rogath Stephen, more than 300 athletes competed at the championships.

He said Gabriel Gerald was the winner in the 10km men category after recording 31.44.84 while Faraja Damas, who clocked 32.23.31, settled for the runner-up spot.

Joseph Panga, who clocked 32.31.54, finished third, Josephat Gisemo posted 32.32.89 to end fourth, while Alphonse Simbu posted 33.08.25 and came fifth.

Jacqueline Sakilu beat the rest of the contenders to the top spot in the women 10 km category, posting 30.09.42, Marcelina Mbua, who clocked 30.13.19, took the second spot, Natalia Elisante came third having recorded 30.16.27.

Cecilia Ginoka finished fourth as she clocked 30.42.68 and Magdalena Shauri who clocked 31.11.00 took the fifth spot.

Stephen stated: "The National Cross-Country Championships ended very well, Arusha athletes were the runners who performed well."

"Arusha Mayor Maxmillian Iranqe and AT president Silas Isangi were among the people who watched the event," Stephen disclosed.

The championships were used to select 12 athletes, six male, and as many females, who will represent the country at the East Africa Cross-Country Championships which will be held in Ethiopia on February 12.

The AT information officer said the names of the selected athletes and coaches will be announced soon. The selected athletes will enter camp immediately.

The East African Cross-Country Championships are also known as the Eastern Africa Cross-Country Championships.

The championships are international cross-country running competitions involving the nations of East Africa and are organized by the Confederation of Africa Athletics (CAA).

They are typically held over one day in February and feature a senior and junior race for both men and women.

All four races contain an individual and team competition. Senior short course races were also held during the period where the events were present at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships.

Wheelchair tennis players set for BNP Paribas tourney

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will be represented by six wheelchair tennis players at the BNP Paribas World Team Cup which is slated for next month in Turkey.

Wheelchair Tanzania Tennis (WTT) secretary-general, Riziki Salum, said the team which is made up of three men and as many women will depart for Turkey on March 9.

He said from March 12-15 they will compete in the Megassaray Open and, two days later, the players will compete in the event which will be used for World Cup qualification.

Salum, who is also the squad's head coach, mentioned the male players as Voster Isaya, Jumanne Nassor, and Albert Churi while female players are Rehema Suleiman, Lucy Julius, and Pendo Zengo.

"The country will be represented by six wheelchair tennis players, as well as the leader of the delegation at the BNP Paribas World Team Cup which will be held in Turkey," the tactician, who will also be part of the contingent, noted.

"There will be two events, the first one (slated for March 12-15) is



Female wheelchair tennis players put their skills to show during training at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) courts recently.

like a warm-up event while the World Cup qualifying showdown will be held from March 17-21," he said.

The World Cup will be held in Portugal from May 2-8 this year.

He said the International

Tennis Federation (ITF) will contribute flight tickets and accommodation expenses for two players.

He said the association is looking for air tickets and accommodation of the remaining five people.

Salum appealed to the government and well-wishers to help them secure flight tickets and meet accommodation expenses.

The association had, in its meeting held early this year, resolved that it will send its

players to various major showpieces scheduled for this year.

The association's officials said they are confident that the national wheelchair tennis team will compete in all events.

The meeting also agreed that this year they will intensify player identification in schools and communities, apart from securing partners to support the growth and development of the sport in the country.

"We have planned to reach out to many schools and communities in the country, the country has many young athletes with disabilities who can play wheelchair tennis and represent the country at many local and international events," Salum revealed.

"The identification will also help in player transition as most of the players we have now are in their advanced ages," he pointed out.

Tanzania's wheelchair tennis team competed at the BNP Paribas World Team Cup which was held in 2017 in Italy and the squad has also competed at many regional events and performed well.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

I AM JUST HERE TO REMIND YOU THAT VALENTINE'S DAY IS ON THE 14TH OF THIS MONTH!

