



National Pg 3 Makamba commends 3 countries



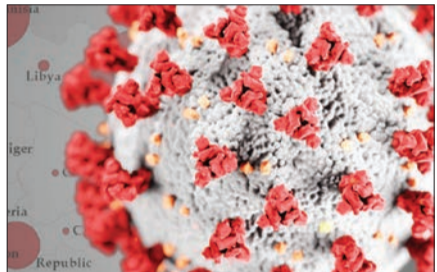
National Pg 4 EAC to settle tariff offer



National Pg 6 Management skills for professionals



National Pg 7 TBL launches road safety app



Covid-19 continues to derail Africa's development gains

SINGAPORE

A report released yesterday at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum under way here says that the Covid-19 pandemic has pushed an estimated 30 million people in sub-Saharan Africa into extreme poverty, wiping out more than five years of progress.

It acknowledges that some ground will be made up as economies across the continent recover, but warns that this will still not be enough to meet the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of eradicating poverty by 2030 - a target that was already a stretch before the pandemic hit.

The Bloomberg Economics Special Report, entitled Long Covid: Jobs, Prices and Growth in the Enduring Pandemic, speaks to the challenges the Covid-19 pandemic poses for growth, inflation and development globally.

A piece entitled Half a Billion in Poverty and Counting: How Covid Derailed Africa's Development Goals models how a lost year of growth has affected poverty reduction goals in Africa.

The turn of the century saw Africa's economy on an upward trajectory thanks to reduced conflict, allowing for better economic policies and increased macroeconomic stability.

The International Monetary Fund

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Malaysian rail engines factory for EAC, SADC

By Henry Mwangonde



Dar es Salaam Port workers prepare for the offloading of one of the three Standard Gauge Railway locomotives worth 22bn/- from a waiting ship yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

A Malaysian company, SMH Rail Malaysia, has unveiled plans to set up a train locomotives and wagons assembly plant in Kibaha District in Coast Region, for the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) market.

Mussa Mansour, a representative for SMH Rail Malaysia, said the plant is billed to cost \$40m (92bn/-) and finally \$100m (230bn/-) upon completion, speaking at a ceremony to deliver first batch of three locomotives for the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) at the Dar es Salaam port.

He said the company has been carrying out locomotive repairs since 2013, but chroniclers say that the company has recently unveiled its H10 locomotive series, as a rolling stock manufacturer and maintenance service provider.

"We intend to invest in assembling of locomotives here and our target is the East African and SADC market. The government has already given us 50 hectares at Kwara, Kibaha in the Coast region and we expect to start construction next month for a year and employ about 1,000 people," he said.

MH Rail is a leading rolling stock manufacturer and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) service provider delivering rail engineering solutions to more than 20 countries globally, the representative noted.

In his remarks, Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa said that

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'Bagamoyo's SEZ revival talks soon'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government said yesterday that it is set to revive negotiations for the multi-billion dollar Bagamoyo Special Economic Zone (SEZ) project, with agreements prioritizing the national interest.

Geoffrey Mwambe, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) declared yesterday that this project was economically viable and would enhance the provision of port services countrywide and regionally.

Briefing journalists on status of the project, he said that the government signed a framework agreement in 2013 with China Merchants Holdings International (CMHI) and the State General Reserve Fund of Oman to build the port and a special economic zone.

This was part of efforts to transform Tanzania into a trade and logistics hub in the region, with the project slated for

implementation in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework with financial support from the Chinese government through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), he elaborated.

An area of about 9,800 hectares has been marked out for the SEZ project, involving the construction of an information and communication technology (ICT) park, industrial research, bank branches, logistics services along with health and educational facilities.

"We want to transform the area into a port-zone-city investment model, featuring upper market residential areas and modernized port facilities," he stated, with experts highlighting that Bagamoyo is an attractive port site for its natural deep water conditions.

Negotiations on the Bagamoyo SEZ project at present focus on using 3,000 hectares of the total allocated land, for the construction of a sea port, a logistics park and portside industrial city covering 2,200 hectares, the minister explained.

Roads, railways and electricity sub-projects, along with water and gas transportation systems are also featured, with investments at the logistics park estimated at \$3.1bn, portside industrial zone billed at \$2.1bn and construction of infrastructures demanding \$1.4bn/-, he elaborated.

The portside industrial zone will

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By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

UP TO 174 industries worth \$2.23bn/- have been registered in the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and Special Economic Zone (SEZ), the minister for Industry and Trade, Prof Kitila Mkumbo said yesterday.

Through these investments, an estimated 57,563 job opportunities have been created as the government continues encouraging more investments in the zones in efforts to add value to agricultural, forest, livestock and fishery products.

"The government is working hard to

...Kurasini, Bagamoyo plans high in minister's EPZ review

ensure that goods exported outside the country are processed instead of being exported raw," he said when briefing journalists on achievements in the sector in the 60 years of independence, highlighting that industries' contribution to the GDP reached 7.9 percent in 2015 compared to 3.5 percent in 1961.

Heightened growth in the sector stems from government encouragement, with industries' contribution to GDP reaching 8.5 percent in 2019. There was slight decline of 8.4 percent the following year due to the global economic recession in the wake of the

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Vice President Dr Philip Mpango has a quick word in Singapore yesterday with Armenian President Armen Sarkissian (L) shortly before attending the ongoing Fourth Bloomberg New Economic Forum. Photo courtesy of VPO





President Samia Suluhu Hassan holds talks at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Lord Walney, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's special envoy on trade relations between Tanzania and the UK and Tanzania. Photo: State House

Covid-19 continues to derail Africa's war against poverty

FROM PAGE 1

and World Bank's Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative in the early 2000s led to substantial reduction in debt levels, freeing up domestic resources and improving donor relations.

Increased trade and buoyant commodity prices also played a role, with GDP per capita in resource-rich countries growing twice as fast.

This resulted in better living standards for the populations - people became healthier, while access to basic services such as water and sanitation improved, school enrolment increased.

Additionally, the share of people living below the World Bank's extreme poverty line of US\$1.90 per day fell from 58 per cent in 2000 to 42 per cent by 2015.

From 2016, however, growth has faltered. The slowdown started a year after the adoption of the SDGs - the universal call to eradicate poverty by 2030 through progress on 17 integrated goals that range from health, education, inequality and climate change.

Sub-Saharan Africa continues to lag behind on most of the goals. Most notable is the lag on poverty reduction; before the pandemic in 2019, Africa had more than 60 per cent of the world's 700 million poor.

The Covid-19 pandemic threatens to throw the region even further behind. In 2020, sub-Saharan Africa plunged into its first recession in more than 25 years, erasing at least five years of progress in fighting poverty.

Economists forecast that lost ground won't be recovered until 2024, when per capita output is expected to return to pre-pandemic levels.

Sluggish vaccine rollout means that many countries will continue to deal with coronavirus outbreaks that delay the safe reopening of their economies.

Rising debt service costs will meanwhile continue to squeeze out much-needed development spending even when the effects of

the virus fade.

The persistent impact of the pandemic on incomes means that the poverty rate would translate into almost 25 million more people living in poverty, compared with pre-Covid-19 estimates.

To make notable progress on poverty eradication, Africa will require immense support from the international community - given the region's limited resources.

To address this gap, funding from official creditors including the IMF, the largest providers of external debt, remain crucial for sub-Saharan Africa.

Over the past 20 years, China has become one of the largest creditors on the continent and has seen its share of debt owed rise from about 40 per cent in 2010 to more than 63 per cent at the end of 2019. The West's share, meanwhile, has halved from around 30 per cent.

Beijing is now looking to deepen its links with the region through the Belt and Road Initiative, a plan to advance development priorities by investing in infrastructure projects around the world.

More than half of the 60-plus recipient countries are in Africa, increasing incentives for China to play a bigger role in the sub-Saharan area's fight against poverty.

Done right, increased engagement with China promises to build much-needed infrastructure and open new routes to trade, helping deliver on Africa's poverty reduction goals.

Done wrong, however, it threatens to add to debt and stymie the development of a native manufacturing industry, adding to the region's many other challenges.

The Singapore forum has brought together at least 495 participants in-person and virtually, among them public and private sector leaders from around the world.

These include representatives of African countries who are expected to contribute to new thinking on pathways towards a global recovery as the world reels from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

...Kurasini, Bagamoyo plans high in minister's EPZ review

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Covid-19 pandemic, he stated.

He said the government is pursuing negotiations with CM Port of China and the Oman Investment Authority to develop the Bagamoyo Special Economic Zone, while seeking out investors for the Kurasini Trade and Logistics Centre, for which 60 hectares of space has been designated.

The ministry has similarly prepared guidelines for new investment areas in an effort to attract more investors by easing procedures to uplift the country's economy, he said, underlining that industries for processing agricultural, livestock, fishery, forest products and minerals increase yearly.

Eight milk processing industries are now operational, raising production from 167,620 liters mid last decade to 193,335 litres per day at present.

With 17 new industries in the milk and meat sub-sector, the number of industries stands at 145, where 33 focus on meat, 99 milk processing industries and 13 plants adding value to hides and skins, he stated.

Empowerment issues were administered through the National Entrepreneurship Development Fund (NEDF) under the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), providing budding entrepreneurs with financial assistance.

Since NEDF was established in 1994, the government has contributed 6.6bn/- capital, with 234,887 applications for 205.4bn/- processed, and 96,335 applicants assisted with 82.6bn/-, equivalent to 41 per cent of applicants and the cash requested.

An estimated 199,768 jobs were created in industrial activities arising from disbursing the funds, he added.

Malaysian rail engines factory for EAC, SADC

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the government received a letter from SMH Rail Malaysia requesting to build a facility for manufacturing locomotives and wagons here.

"Let me assure you that the government will support you and we believe that once your factory commences operations the prices of locomotives will decrease," he stated, underlining that the three locomotives have the right potential and would help the port and the new SGR facility to enhance efficiency.

The government similarly expects to receive two locomotives and 30 wagons for the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project by the end of this month, after which the

trial phase would start, he stated, elaborating that the government has begun the process of importing 17 electric train locomotives and 10 electric multiple unit (EMU) trains, anticipated for the coming year.

The latest arrangement was reached in July and construction is on schedule, he asserted, while TRC managing director Masanja Kadogosa said the contract to manufacture locomotives for Tanzania was signed in March 2019 and expected to be finalized in one year, but it was delayed due to Covid-19 stoppages as the industry was closed, delaying completion by 784 days, he added.

'Bagamoyo SEZ revival talks soon'

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accommodate approximately 1,000 middle-sized industries expected to employ not less than 300,000 people both directly and indirectly. Upon completion, the project will attract investments scaled to \$10bn, he further noted, affirming that the Bagamoyo SEZ is in line with the government's five years development plan 2021/22 - 2025/26 and the development vision from 2000 to 2025.

The project is expected to

stimulate economic growth and generate a multiplier effect, enhance technological growth, employment and enable improving of skills among local technicians manning the port facilities and industries, he asserted.

The Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) will take a share of the benefits as it will be used to import construction materials for three

consecutive years, meanwhile as more foreign direct investment (FDI) will be attracted, and exports enhanced. Revenue collection is expected to go up as all businesses and industries will be paying taxes and bills for water, electricity and gas services, he stated.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan reactivated the Bagamoyo port project saying it would be executed

for the benefit the nation, when chairing a Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) meeting in June, after ascending to the presidency.

The project profile says it will be the largest port in East Africa, and was a key component in China's \$900billion Belt and Road Initiative, an ambitious transnational infrastructure building programme.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured at Zanzibar State House yesterday welcoming the recently accredited French Ambassador to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui, who went to introduce himself. With them is the ambassador's wife, Amna Hajlaoui. Photo: State House

AfDB's coding for employment programme set to expand digital skills for rural youths

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank's (AfDB) Coding for Employment program will train over 500 digital ambassadors to lead a peer-to-peer training model set to expand digital skills to more African youth, especially in rural communities with limited internet connectivity.

Coding for Employment and its technical partners, Microsoft Philanthropies, will offer the digital ambassadors an intensive three-month program featuring in-demand skills, such as web design and digital marketing, as well as soft

skills such as critical thinking, project management and communication.

At the end of the coursework, the Bank and Microsoft Philanthropies will provide graduates with information and communication technology toolkits and resources so they can offer the same training within their local communities.

Coding for Employment online platforms and in-person classes offer these technical courses for free. The program recently hit a 130,000-enrollment milestone among young people across Africa on its eLearning and Digital Nigeria platforms.

"It is very important that we build upon the success of the Coding for Employment program to take digital literacy to the grassroots. The community-based model will ensure that the youth in rural areas are digitally empowered, which further affirms the Bank's commitment to raising the next generation of digitally enabled youth and women on the continent," said Martha Phiri, Director of the Bank's Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Department.

The digital ambassadors' initiative is part of the Bank's strategy to center its technology and digital

investments on the youth and enable them to bring about economic and social transformation in the digital age.

The digital ambassadors' peer-to-peer model is expected to draw more youth because it offers a more personalized learning experience.

Applicants, aged between 18 and 35 years, are expected to be proficient in English or French and must be citizens of Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, or Senegal. Coding for Employment expects to expand the digital ambassador program to other countries soon after the pilot phase.



Industry and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo outlines before journalists in Dodoma yesterday the achievements Tanzania has made over the years in the sectors he is overseeing. It was all part of the run-up to the December 9 climax of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Tanganyika's Independence. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Makamba commends 3 countries for improving the country's energy sector

By Guardian Reporter

ENERGY minister January Makamba has commended the support from Norway, Sweden and Saudi Arabia in improving the country's energy sector.

He made the remarks at different times on Tuesday when speaking at meetings with ambassadors from the specific countries who visited him at his office in Dar es Salaam region.

Makamba said the three countries have been among key stakeholders in providing assistance to Tanzania's energy sector. He said there are a number of projects in the sector which are funded by Norway, Sweden and Saudi Arabia.

He said the government will continue to benefit from their various support, insisting Tanzania is ready to cooperate and work with them throughout.

Minister Makamba appealed to the ambassadors to continue cooperating and working with the government in improving the energy sector which is crucial for the country's development.

Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania, Elisabeth Jacobsen said Tanzania is well renowned for its good history of cooperating with other nations.

She said Tanzania and Norway have enjoyed a cordial bilateral relationship for almost 50 years and that Norway has support many projects in the energy

sector. "Norway will continue to provide financial support Tanzania's energy sector," said Jacobsen.

Sweden's Ambassador to Tanzania, Anders Sjöberg said his country is proud to be part of Tanzania's development especially in the energy sector.

He said Sweden is financing a number of projects including rural electrification and several others which are crucial for the development of Tanzanians.

Saudi Arabia Acting Ambassador, Fahd Al-harbi pledged continued support to Tanzania's energy sector because it one of the key sectors towards economic development.

Ruvu Basin Water Board to boost Dar water levels

By Guardian Reporter

THE Wami/Ruvu Basin Water Board (WRBWB) is considering pumping water from Kitela natural dam in Mtambani ward, Kibaha District to Ruvu River, in an effort to boost water levels at the Lower Ruvu water plant to improve the supply of the precious liquid in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions.

According to the board, water experts are now examining the quality of water at Kitela dam before the pumping begins, as well as knowing its levels to avoid ecological destruction.

The move follows a recent directive from Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa that WRBWB should within three days work on possibility of pumping water from various sources to the Ruvu River.

WRBWB Assistant Water Officer, Halima Faraji said the Kitela dam is of great importance in reducing water shortage in the two regions, but it is also used by residents to feed their livestock and other domestic consumption.

"We do not want to destroy the dam's ecosystem when pushing water to Ruvu River; our experts are at the area looking at how best we can use the resource. We will talk to the villagers so that they stop taking their livestock in the dams to avoid destruction of water sources," she said.

She linked the decrease of water levels at the Ruvu River with increased human activities around the River, saying the board has been providing education to the villagers on how to preserve water sources and conserve

the environment.

"There have been fewer rains in most part of the country this year which affects water flows to Ruvu River, causing water shortages in Dar es Salaam, Coast, and Morogoro regions," she added, noting the board would make sure the small amount available at the River is properly distributed to users until the water levels return to normal.

Kibaha District Environment Officer, Maxmillian Evarist said the decrease in water levels at the Ruvu River is due to climate change whereas the country is now witnessing reduced rains.

"Extension officers must educate villagers on how to practice drip irrigation to save water. Practicing traditional irrigation methods consumes a lot of water," he said.

Recently, Water Minister Jumaa Aweso was quoted saying the government plans to start using water from Rufiji River to curb the current shortage in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions.

Aweso said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan directed the ministry to work on the problem and ensure the availability of safe and clean water services in the commercial capital.

Aweso said there will be no more water rationing in Dar es Salaam after the completion of the project.

Early this month, the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) announced water rationing in Dar es Salaam and some parts of the coastal region, saying the decision was due to reducing water content

from Ruvu River as a result of climate change effects.

DAWASA Chief Executive Director, Eng. Cyprian Luhemeja said before that DAWASA used to collect 520 million litres of water per day, but it dropped to 460 litres occasionally.

Elaborating, he mentioned areas including Sinza, Mabibo, Tabata Kisukuru, Kinyerezi, Mburahati, Mwananyamala and Makumbusho in Dar es Salaam as getting water from Ruvu Juu upstream to be affected in the water rationing.

The list excluded Kisarawe and Pugu areas because they depend on some water tanks located at Chalinze to supply them with water. Areas like Oysterbay, Masaki, and Mikocheni getting water from Mlandizi plant and Bagamoyo will not be affected because they are directly getting water from Ruvu Chini.

Key areas in Dar es Salaam such as Kariakoo, the State House, Muhimbili National Hospital, and the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute will be free from water rationing.

MULTIPLE FURNITURES FOR SALE



Embassy of the state of Qatar in Dar es salaam is selling multiple furnitures.

The items can be viewed at the Embassy from 1500hrs - 1600 hrs Monday to Friday.

All furniture's are in a very good condition.

Location: 6 Msasani Road, Oysterbay, Dar esalam

Oman Celebrates 51st National Day of the Renaissance

The Sultanate of Oman today (Thursday) mark the 51st National Day of the Renaissance, the 18th of November Anniversary. The event comes around at a time when Omanis ponder about the achievements made so far and brace for further accomplishments, with firm resolve, under the astute leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik who pledged to hold high the banner of Renewed Renaissance, since he assumed power in the country on 11 January 2020.

The Renewed Renaissance kicked off on a high note when His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik called upon the people of Oman to do their best to enrich domestic development and foster progress in all fields. This is considered one of the major principles of Renewed Renaissance in its quest to attain the supreme national objective of "making Oman the central point in all that we strive to achieve"—an objective whose salient features already materialized in terms of updated laws and refurbished programmes of action across all sectors.

In the beginning of this year, a Royal Decree No. 6/2021, promulgated the (updated) Basic Law of the State to serve as a basic pillar of continuous efforts to shape a better future for Oman and its citizens and to build a solid ground for their Renewed Renaissance.

The Basic Law of the State lays down a stable mechanism of transfer of rule, which reflects positively on political and economic aspects and affirms the principle of sovereignty and independence of the judiciary. It also serves as a basis of rule in the State. It makes education compulsory till the end of the Basic Education stage. It establishes a scholarly method for thought, development of talents and encouragement of innovation—which all conform with Oman Vision 2040.

Meanwhile, the government accorded special attention to the ensuing economic impacts of Covid-19. The decisions, which took into account the fallout of the pandemic on establishments and companies, included exemption from fines of some services. Special exemptions were sanctioned to small and medium enterprises and holders of Riyada Card for Entrepreneurs. This is in addition to a package of incentives for borrowers, individuals, banking institutions, financing and leasing firms.

The designation of a Youth Day in Oman (26 October) reflects the attention accorded to the young generation by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik. It asserts the leadership's deep conviction in the potential of youth in promoting the country's development. Speaking at a meeting of the Council of Ministers he chaired in October 2021, His Majesty the Sultan underscored the significance of devising a mechanism and for opening channels of communication with youth to explain all the requirements of the development process in all sectors. He gave directives to listen to youth and study their needs and aspirations. He also instructed governors and the authorities concerned to hold regular meetings with youth for this purpose. He advised the officials to raise issues of interest or concern to youth, listen to their opinions and help them perform the role expected of them in contributing to the comprehensive nation-building march.

Omani women's affairs take centre stage in the

Renewed Renaissance thought of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, who has been keen that women enjoy their rights guaranteed by law and operate alongside men in different fields of national service. Attention to women is one of the "national fundamentals" of the country.

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, celebrated last March, Her Highness The Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, commended the great efforts exerted by women in Oman and the rest of the world while building their nations, supporting their families and societies and contributing effectively to the management of human and global issues."

HH The Honourable Lady addressed women on Omani Women's Day this year. She said, "On the occasion of Omani Women's Day, the 17th of October, we would like to express thanks and appreciation for every woman who advocates good deeds and elevates the values of tolerance, amity and benevolence. Our greetings go to every woman who contributes to building this dear country from her position as an active participant delivering her social, national and humanitarian duties in all fields."

Speaking on this occasion last October, His Majesty the Sultan affirmed that "the restoration of normalcy to public life and the supply of basic life needs to citizens tops our priorities" and he reiterated that "the ministerial committee comes under our direct supervision" and he pledged that he would follow up the tasks and achievements of the committee to ensure that the panel provides assistance as soon as possible.

This Royal response reflected positively through the persistent action undertaken by the ministerial committee in cooperation with sectors of the National Committee for Emergency Management (NCEM). As a result, the majority of services were restored at a rate of 100%. Tenders were awarded for the maintenance of damaged roads and for building as many as 328 alternative houses for affected citizens. In the process, His Majesty the Sultan also gave orders to establish a National Fund for Management of Emergencies to address the aftermath of the recent cyclone and natural disasters that might happen in the future.

Nations attain their prime only through education, and this has been a principle espoused by Omanis since the outset of their blessed renaissance 50 years ago. His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik stressed that "attention to education figures high in the scale of national priorities". Accordingly, a motivating environment has been furnished for supporting the march of research and innovation. This translates into the allocation of a ministry mandated with higher education, research and innovation and the establishment of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, with branches in governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

Royal directives to set up six schools to the tune of RO 8,850,000 will raise the number of scholarly institutions to 2,430 schools, 11 government and private universities and 18 private colleges.

The decline and fluctuation in oil prices and precautionary measures to address the impacts of Covid-19 affected the economies of many countries of the world. Since Oman is not isolated from the global community, it had to take measures to address



the situation. These included the initiation of a medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan (2020-2023). Last April (2021), His Majesty the Sultan chaired a meeting of the main committee tasked with the National Programme for Fiscal Balance to follow up the progress of the programme in its second year. The programme was designed to bring down the general debt and to secure financial sustainability.

His Majesty the Sultan endorsed the initiatives submitted by the departments concerned in a bid to develop the schema of social protection. This affirms His Majesty the Sultan's follow-up of the conditions of citizens to ensure the sustenance of decent livelihood for them and to alleviate the fallout of this challenging stage.

The plan targets average annual growth of 3.2% in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through emphasis on promising economic sectors like converting industries of high technological content, agriculture, fisheries, fish farming, food and agriculture industrialization, transport, warehousing and logistics.

Total estimated revenues of the State Budget 2021 stood at RO 8.64 billion calculated on the basis of oil price rate of \$45.

The Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP), endorsed by the Council of Ministers in March 2021 is based on five axes comprising incentives on taxes, fees and incentives for the improvement of the business and investment climate, incentives for small and medium enterprises, incentives for the labour market and recruitment, banking incentives aimed to rally efforts for the alleviation of Covid-19 impacts on the national

economy and other incentives to promote economic recovery, back up economic activities and attract foreign investments.

These financial procedures, topped by the medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan, showed positive results, as Oman registered growth in total revenues by 22.6% and a 58% decline in deficit by the end of September 2021.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expected in a report issued in September 2021 that economic activities in the Sultanate of Oman will recover and that Oman will achieve 2.5% GDP growth in 2021 and 4.2% growth by 2023. The IMF also commended the measures undertaken by Oman while addressing the fallout of Covid-19, as well as the country's fiscal discipline and enhancement of business environment and support for stricken economic sectors.

Meanwhile, Fitch pointed out last May that the Fiscal Plan contributed to the improvement of scenarios for Oman's financial position and expected a 6.1% decline of Budget deficit to GDP this year (2021). It also expected a 3.3% economic growth for Oman by next year (2022).

The government of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik created an investment-encouraging environment through legislations, ports, free zones and logistics, coupled with a unique strategic location in the meeting point of global commercial markets, political stability and security.

The political and regional changes that happened during the Renewed Renaissance period proved that

the Sultanate of Oman's foreign policy stands on firm grounds. Oman advocates principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, positive contribution to safeguarding international security, promoting common public interest through dialogue and understanding among countries and nations.

These principles were affirmed by Oman before the 76th UN General Assembly in New York last September. "Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Sultanate of Oman pursues its commitment to the basic fundamentals of its foreign policy embodied in good neighbourliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, respect for international law and international charters and support for cooperation among countries. Oman considers the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and through harmony and tolerance as a civilized conduct that leads to better and more lasting results than disputes can achieve".

Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Sultanate of Oman adhered to commitment to truthfulness and objectivity through its political stands enhanced by its original values of moderateness.

His Majesty the Sultan's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in July 2021 and his meeting with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is a strong evidence about the deep-rooted relations between the two countries. This first visit of its kind culminated in the establishment of the Omani-Saudi Coordination Council and opened wide vistas of cooperation among the two countries in different fields, particularly economic areas.

The Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and other security and military departments earned the attention of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander. The development of the SAF covered all aspects due to their tangible role in defending this nation, protecting its territories and safeguarding its gains. This Royal attention was symbolically demonstrated by the visits of His Majesty the Sultan to the 11th Infantry Brigade's command, Thumrait Airbase, the Royal Navy of Oman and the Sultan's Special Force. The SAF saw major growth in all its military and technical sectors "so that these sectors could continue to be the strong bastions that defend and protect all territories of the country from end to end."

National days of countries constitute symbols of pride and dignity. In Oman, they are moments of contemplation in the past and the future of the country, a time to remember the Founder of Modern Oman and its Blessed Renaissance, the late Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Bin Taimour. His memory pulsates in the heart of every Omani, man and woman, who incessantly pray for him in gratitude for his good deeds for the nation and its loyal people over 50 years. The achievements made by the late Sultan Qaboos are stark and manifest in every sphere of life. He sowed and cultivated true faith in the people. From our past experiences, we have to derive new, strong will and firm resolve to work in full cooperation and collaboration—rallying our resources and energies and exhibiting self-denial in performing our duty in a manner that facilitates all difficulties and overcomes all challenges as we embark on accomplishing our national missions for the good of Oman and its noble people.

UK expresses commitment to support 2022 Population and Housing Census

By **Getrude Mbago**

THE United Kingdom has expressed its commitment that it will provide close cooperation to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to support the 2022 Population and Housing Census lined up for next year.

This was said by Kemi Williams, a representative from the British High Commission in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the handover event of 20 desktop computers and 28 laptops to the NBS.

She said that the 2022 population and housing is a major foundation for policymakers to development planners as the quality data that will be found from the exercise will help in the country's plans.

"We are proud to support the 2022 population census as we recognize the importance of data and accurate information to help in decision making and thus stimulate social and economic development," she said.

NBS chief statistician General Dr Albina Chuwa commended the UK government through the British High Commission in Tanzania for donating the ICT tools support to the office.

She said that the equipment will help to easy collection and processing of data, thus making the activity smart and timely.

"We are so much excited to receive this support, as we are prepared to conduct a digital population census, we need to have enough resources to achieve the goal, so this support is much appreciable," she said.

She commended UK, the UNFPA for their close support to facilitate achievements of the forthcoming census.

Dr Chuwa said preparation of the 2022 population census has reached 50 percent where the pilot census has already been conducted and proved futile. "In total, we need only 40 desktop computers because the activity will be conducted digitally, so UK has already boosted us with the 20 computers and we hope that other stakeholders will support the initiative," she said.

Dr Chuwa said NBS is currently implementing a special public awareness strategy which aims to intensively educate, encourage and promote the participation of all people in the 2022 Population and Housing Census.

Dubbed, "2022 Publicity and Advocacy Strategy (PAS)", the initiative aims to reach all people from national to the grassroots level with correct education on the importance of the census exercise.

EAC: We're determined to settle AfCFTA Tariff Offer

By **Guardian Reporter, Arusha**

THE East African Community is making strides in conforming to trading requirements under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), with plans underway to finalize the EAC Tariff Offer.

The EAC Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) has directed the EAC Secretariat to convene meetings with experts on Monday this week to finalize the EAC Tariff Offer.

The EAC Tariff Offer currently stands at 85.86 per cent against the AfCFTA modalities of 90 per cent.

The Secretariat was also directed to revise the EAC Schedule of Specific Commitments on Trade in Services and review the Trade in Services offers made by state and non-state parties for the AfCFTA.

Further, the EAC Secretariat was directed to undertake an assessment of the number of additional tariff lines that have been moved by each Partner State from the various categories.

Speaking during the meeting held at the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, EAC Secretary General, Dr. Peter Mathuki said that a lot needs to be done to kick off trading under the agreement.

"Regional Economic Communities are major building blocs in the realisation of the AfCFTA. EAC is keen on implementing policies, decisions, and directives, to ease trading under the agreement set

Anna Makinda, commissioner of the census said the country needs important statistics so as to enable it to plan and implement its development strategies effectively.

Jacqueline Mahon, country representative of UNFPA said the organization has been a technical partner of the government of Tanzania in all previous censuses and continue to support the NBS to prepare for and implement the 2022 Census to ensure it is conducted in line with the international standards and that the data generated is customized for national use.

She said UNFPA is there and will continue supporting Tanzania to ensure the population census is achieved where everyone is counted.

"The government of Tanzania is taking bold steps to ensure everyone is counted in the 2022 Census, using the geographical Information System (GIS) technologies to demarcate the country into enumeration area for the first time and adopting the combination of traditional and digital data collection, UNFPA has supported the adoption of these new technologies through the procurement of tablets and technical assistance for the use new GIS software in the demarcation of the country," she said.

Rob Swinkles, World Bank (WB) senior economic hinted on the note that quality data are essential for the country's development.

He said the WB has made a commitment to support statistical projects in Africa.

"There are statistical projects that are under design and will be implemented in various countries, including Tanzania to support the production of quality data," he said.

Swinkles said the World Bank has been a long-standing partner of the government of Tanzania's in the development of its statistical system. This is among others, in response to popular demands for better information on changes in living standards and the effectiveness of policy interventions.

Currently, a US\$ 10m European Union Trust Fund project managed by the World Bank is in place and has already been instrumental in filling funding gaps for key household survey gaps and strengthening the statistical skills of government analysts.

The upcoming population and housing census 2022 is an important undertaking as it forms the backbone of the national statistical system for the coming years. It will enable an assessment of achievements and gaps in social service delivery.

to widen integration and increase Intra-Africa trade," he said.

African countries began officially trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on January 1, 2021 in a pact connecting 1.3 billion people across Africa with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) valued at US\$3.4 trillion.

Under the agreement establishing the AfCFTA, tariffs on 90% of tariff lines are expected to be eliminated over a period of five-years for developing countries while it is expected to take 10 years for least developed countries. The move gives the business community in the region a possibility of increasing economies of scale through access to cheaper raw materials and intermediate inputs.

Further, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Trade and Industrialization, Betty Maina who is also the current chair of the Sectoral meeting decried the persistence of Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs) in the region.

"NTBs negate the vision of a common market and are a threat to both local and foreign investment in the region," she said.

Maina called for continuous engagements among Partner States through existing Regional and bilateral mechanisms for NTB resolution.

The Council was informed that as at October 2021, 12 NTBs remained outstanding at different levels of resolution while 232 NTBs have been cumulatively resolved since 2007.



Coca-Cola Tanzania brand manager Kabula Nshimo has an audience in Dar es Salaam earlier this week with her workmates the firm's staff in Dar es Salaam earlier this week in connection with the upcoming launch of Real Magic brand platform. The service, to be made available in all regions in the country, is meant to afford the company's customers the chance to interact through a range of social activities during the impending festive season. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

KCB becomes first bank to support small-scale miners in the country

By **Correspondent James Kandoya**

THE State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) and become the first bank to support small scale miners in the country.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday soon after sealing the pact STAMICO Acting Managing Director Dr. Venance Mwashe said the three-year agreement starting 2021, will be reviewed after one year of implementation.

He said lack of funds is one of big challenge facing many small scale miners in the country, noting that the agreement will now see small scale miners get financial support and technology to increase productivity.

Dr Mwashe said currently, there are about 34,000 small scale miners in the country adding that if they were equipped financially, they can contribute more to the economy.

"The agreement reached is to ensure that small scale miners get sustainable loans to support their

mining activities," he said

"In the project implementation, STAMICO and KCB will prepare friendlier procedures to the artisanal to get the loan," he added.

He said according to the agreement, STAMICO will be responsible to offer indicative technology in areas of geology, mining and processing to artisanal projects that need to be financed and later submit to the bank.

In the case of KCB, the bank will be responsible to offer loans to small scale miners submitting their loan requests and met all criteria.

For his part, the head Islamic Banking at KCB Amour Muro said the bank had up to date issues loan amounting to 4.5bn/ noting that the bank opt to issue additional 5bn/.

"As, KCB, we look forward to see the collaboration becomes fruitfully and productive for the benefit of both the bank and small scale miners," he said

Muro said the bank has windows convention and Islamic window urging them to seek loan from the Islamic window because it has no interest rates.



Ummu Mwalimu (in blue headscarf), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), inaugurates the construction of classrooms at Boma Secondary School in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region, yesterday. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

By **Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya**

TCB all set to boost coffee consumption

percent.

Ndunguru said that the quality of coffee produced in the country has shown an increase, a move that will help boost the income of households of farmers of the crop, despite the low consumption of coffee in the country.

Ndunguru said this year's season the quality of coffee has improved compared to the previous two years.

"Coffee is one of the most widely consumed beverages in the world, and the improvement in the quality of the crop is a result of farmers' efforts to focus on better production methods and the use of agricultural technologies aimed at increasing

productivity, although coffee consumption in the country is still minimal," he said.

TCB manager Sijali Bowa said cooperatives representing farmers have the opportunity to buy the crop and continue to process it.

He said through cooperatives farmers could benefit because more companies would come to buy the crop at a better price because of the quality and processing done.

Some stakeholders contributing to the coffee industry value chain said there was still a problem in producing quality coffee.

One of the stakeholders, Samora Mnyaonga from Café Africa said

it needed a concerted effort to help the farmer produce more productively including increasing quality to meet the international competitive market.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera said that the government values coffee as a major cash crop and continues to develop strategies to develop the crop from the point of availability, quality to the market. Coffee is the second largest commercial product in the world, after oil and one of the most popular beverages excluding water; it is due to this factor that the world coffee day was established to celebrate this product.



Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima has a word with Mgombezi health centre staff in Korogwe Town on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Govt gets set to prepare best practices on chemical safety, security management - CGC

By Getrude Mbago

THE government is preparing special guidelines to supervise and control the importation, transportation, and supply of dangerous goods and chemicals in the country.

Dr Fidelice Mafumiko, the Chief Government Chemist, said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening a one-day stakeholders' meeting aimed to discuss a draft bill on the control of dangerous goods.

Organized by the Government Chemist and Laboratory Agency (GCLA), the one-day meeting brought together key stakeholders from the public and private sector, including the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Tanzania Freight Forwarders Association (TAFFA), and others.

He said chemical management was very important and his office had been using all means possible apart from awareness-raising and training.

He also pointed out that stiff penalties were also imposed on violators of rules and procedures.

Dr Mafumiko said with the increasing number of industries in the country, it was obvious that chemical management was unavoidable, thus its safe and proper use was of paramount importance.

"Dangerous goods including anything that can cause harm to people, animals and properties of improperly utilized, so we hope that this guideline will control this business," he said.

He said the meeting will receive the draft bill of the guideline and discuss it deeply and later come up with recommendations that will help improve the bill.

"So this is a very sensitive area that needs closer supervision for safe handling, dangerous chemicals such as sodium nitrate, sulfur, and others if badly used can cause huge harm to people and properties," he explained.

Dr Mafumiko urged stakeholders to continue adhering to laws and procedures when handling dangerous goods.

Edward Urrio, President of TAFFA commended the office of the chief chemist for coming up with the guideline to control usage and transportation of dangerous goods.

"We are ready to receive the guideline and we will cooperate with the government to implement it. There is a need for proper chemical management to avoid environmental and health hazards," he said.

He urged the government to increase the number of dry ports to receive and store dangerous chemicals and goods as the cargo was on the increase.

'Tanzania emerges 10th most robust market for investment in Africa'

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

TANZANIA has been ranked 10th most robust market for investment in Africa, according to the latest Rand Merchant Bank (RMB) report titled 'Where to Invest in Africa 2021'.

Tanzania has been on a rapid path of development over the past few years according to the new report.

"This growth can be attributed to consistent public investment from the government in key secondary and tertiary sectors, ranging from the energy sector to advancements in the telecommunications and finance sectors," the report said.

According to the report, although the covid-19 pandemic brought much devastation, it also enabled opportunities for reimagining policies and trade relationships. Increasingly clear now is that home-grown strategies to tackle poverty, inequality and unemployment across Africa must be implemented. If not, all of Africa suffers," Kavishe says, adding that capital will flow naturally to economies offering a good mix of opportunity and ease of doing business.

The report positions Egypt as Africa's top investment destination followed by Morocco and South Africa in second and third place respectively.

Based on their operating environments, other high-scoring countries have moved up the rankings - notably Rwanda and Botswana, now in fourth and fifth position respectively.

According to RMB, each state's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic has emerged as an important indicator of a market's ability to absorb external and internal shocks.

"A government's ability to aid its economy in a period of deep crisis, either through direct fiscal stimulus or an ability to capitalize on its large distribution networks, has become crucial," its report notes.

"We have therefore included a fiscal score as an additional pillar in our rankings based on available data. This indicator aims to score governments' fiscal positions and provide a basis from which an investor can understand a specific jurisdiction."

According to the author, RMB Africa Economist Daniel Kavishe, historically, investment destinations in Africa have been ranked based on the tenets of economic activity and business operating environment aimed at investors targeting real assets in an economy or looking to expand businesses that rely on physical infrastructure, the rankings offer a strong basis for investing.

He said a "new world" calls for a new approach to the publication and this year's report assesses the extent of the pandemic's impact by sketching the landscape of the continent pre-Covid-19, and then painting a picture of both its actual and potential outcomes through and post, pandemic. "The inclusion of a fiscal score in our rankings aimed to score governments' fiscal positions and provided a basis from which investors can understand specific jurisdictions," Kavishe said.

Previous editions positively projected Africa's prospects, discerned through reliable and readily available data, Covid-19 has muddied the analytical waters and compelled the team to adapt their methodology. "We created a new set of rankings that incorporated some of the unavoidable Covid-19-induced challenges, of which the operating environment score was one," Kavishe said.



The inclusion of a fiscal score in our rankings aimed to score governments' fiscal positions and provided a basis from which investors can understand specific jurisdictions

Exim Bank customers to win big in 'Weka Mkwana Tukutoe' campaign

By Guardian Reporter

Exim Bank has launched a special campaign dubbed "Weka Mkwana Tukutoe" geared towards encouraging Tanzanians to develop a saving culture where various cash prizes and a grand prize of a Toyota Vanguard will be up for grabs.

The three months campaign launched in Dar es Salaam last month targets the bank's existing customers as well all prospective customers across the country.

Speaking during the launch of the campaign, the Exim Bank Head of Retail Banking, Mr. Andrew Lyimo said the campaign seeks to change people's mindsets from home

savings and encourage them to embrace the use of banks for the safety of their money which has got many benefits.

"Our goal is not just to encourage Tanzania's create a savings culture. What we need is to see that more Tanzanians keep their savings in a safe place to sustain economic growth that is why we encourage them to embrace our banking products like the salary account for their day-to-day activities.

He said the bank offers various accounts such as a Mzalendo Account which operates without monthly deductions, as well as Haba na Haba and Faida Accounts that allows customers to save and

earn interest. The bank also has a special children's account called Nyota account.

Commenting on the prizes to be won through the campaign, Lyimo said 6 customers will walk away with a cash prize of Tshs. 1m/- each per month for the three months of the campaign along with a final draw that will allow them to win a grand prize of Toyota Vanguard.

"Our current and prospective customers will stand a chance to win these prizes whenever they make a deposit starting from Tshs. 500,000/- upwards. The more the deposits, the more chances to win a grand prize," he said.



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EXIM BANK
Innovation is life

CAG tells professionals: Equip yourselves more with management skills

By Correspondent James Kandoya, Morogoro

THE Controller Auditor General (CAG) Charles Kichere has called on professionals in public and private sector to be well-equipped with risk management skills to mitigate unforeseeable events.

CAG Kichere made the remarks here yesterday when opening the 4th Annual Risk Summit 2021 and Business Continuity Conference that was organised by the Institute of Risk Management Tanzania (IRMT), themed: "Value creation in uncertain times and business continuity". The forum brought on board professionals, academicians, practitioners, administrators, executives from central and local government, public and private institutions, banks, financial institutions, insurance companies and social security scheme.

He said: "Risk management is an important area, that's why it's important for professionals in government and private sector to be well-equipped with all the necessary skills to mitigate unforeseeable events in advance."

He said that knowledge and skills on risk management play a key role to make organizations free from unforeseeable disasters due to increasing socio-political and socio-economic uncertainties.

He also suggested the need for the government to continue strengthening risk management systems to ensure professionals aren't left behind on what is going on around the World.

He also commended efforts made by the IRMT for continuing to create awareness and provide training and capacity building programme that has increased the number of certified risk professionals in Tanzania.

CAG added that both public and

private need to mitigate risks which are practical and rightly focused on the issues at hand to address failures.

According to CAG, when risk management professionals fail to play their role, consequences become enormous and damaging.

However Kichere said since 2012, his office has issued a number of guidelines for implementation of risk management functions across the public sector adding the outcomes now started bearing fruits through a number of audit incidences and awareness of the risk and controls as important functions for sustainability in the public sector.

IRMT director general Fredrick Mgaya said the institute needs partnership with all stakeholders in its mission to promote the profession and make professionals recognized inside and outside the country.

He said since its inception IRMT has been successfully in various areas such as promoting risk management profession in the country.

Others were conducting training and consultancy in various public and private organizations and bring out over 130 graduate candidates since 2016.

He said despite success registered by the institute it was facing some challenges such as lack of financial resources for running its activities including opening regional chapters in Mwanza, Dodoma, Arusha and Mbeya.

Mgaya said another challenge was recognition of risk management cadre in both public and private sector.

"In a bid to improve services to the public, IRMT is set to observe the sustainable networking strategies to publicize the institute. Also encouraging government participation in promoting risk management profession," he said



Mohamed Mchengerwa, Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), speaks during yesterday's tour by a delegation of World Bank officials to the site of one of the WB-supported projects being implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (Tasaf) at Nzasa A in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt challenges CSOs on homeless children in these times of Covid-19

By Francis Kajubi

THE government has challenged civil society organizations to give a special focus on children living on the streets in the projects especially at the times when they are more vulnerable to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Permanent Secretary ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr. John Jingu, threw the challenge when opening a four-day workshop organised by the SOS Children's Village in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. The workshop intends to go through implementation results of the

'Community Action for Quality Alternative Care and Protection' programme Phase Two.

Dr Jingu said that it is of critical importance that civil societies' priorities vulnerable group, adding:

"We are living in the times that vulnerable groups such as street children are mostly exposed to emerging natural disasters and diseases. The government is calling upon civil societies to give a special priority to these groups in their programmes.

However, the CSOs need to work closely with the government in identifying and reuniting children

on the streets to their families. The government is keen to see that orphanage centers are safe and good for children's lives."

According to him, in the move to adopt street children, the government had established the Kikombo orphanage center in Dodoma capital since June this year that at the time accommodates 50 orphans.

Earlier, SOS Program Director Anthony Binamungu said that the workshop was called for reviewing success recorded since implementation of phase two that commenced earlier this year. He said the programme will be

accomplished next year.

"Phase two covers the five municipalities of Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar where 1,050 children will be reached support of health, education and parental care and upbringing at the four SOS villages in the country;

Funded by civil society development (CISU) Denmark, the program's first phase was implemented between 2017 and 2019 covering one municipal council of Ilala with 50 children benefiting. At least a half of the targeted children have been reached in the first year of the programme," said Binamungu.



Morogoro district commissioner Albert Msando (L) pictured in Morogoro municipality yesterday presenting a dummy cheque for 10m/- to Lika Andrea Lutuli of Mikumi ward in Kilosa District (C), who emerged a Biko raffle competition winner. Looking on is Biko 'brand ambassador' Kajala Masanja. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'PSSN project has massively improved lives of the poor'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has said the Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) project has greatly improved the lives of poor households, appealing for continued support from the World Bank.

Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) Mohamed Mchengerwa said the PSSN project which is implemented through the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) has not only improved the lives of vulnerable families, but also bringing social services closer to the people.

He made the appeal when speaking during the official tour by the World Bank delegation led by Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships, Mari Pangestu to inspect implementation of TASAF projects at Nzasa 'A' in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam Region.

Mchengerwa informed that residents at the area are now enjoying improved social services including schools, bridges and dispensaries.

He said the sixth phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan is determined to lift Tanzanians out of poverty and ensure all the children from vulnerable families who are selected to join secondary education are enrolled as well as providing 100 percent loans to

students selected to join higher learning institutions.

"We want our students at higher learning institutions to use the acquired knowledge and skills to fight against poverty," said Mchengerwa, pledging continued cooperation with the World Bank through TASAF.

World Bank's Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships, Mari Pangestu said: "I have witnessed how the TASAF projects have improved the lives of many Tanzanians from vulnerable families; this is evidence that TASAF has greatly helped in reducing poverty levels in Tanzania."

"I can see you all are healthy, and it is my hope that you will continue to be healthy to participate in income generating activities and finally contribute to the country's development," said Pangestu.

She assured minister Mchengerwa that the World Bank would continue support and cooperation in the fight against poverty through TASAF.

While in the country, Pangestu visited four World Bank funded projects including the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project, Tanzania Citizen-Centric Judicial Modernization and Justice Delivery Project, Development Support for Tanzania Statistics Project and the Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net Project.

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

US launches 'Jifunze Uelewe' programme

REPRESENTATIVES from the United States government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and the government celebrated their continued partnership to advance quality education in Tanzania through the launch of the new Jifunze Uelewe ("Learn and understand") activity.

The four and a half year, US\$38.5 million activity aims to sustainably improve the literacy and numeracy for all pre-primary and primary

education learners in Morogoro, Iringa, Mtwara, Ruvuma, and Zanzibar.

Despite the rapid growth of access to education in Tanzania, the quality of education and learning outcomes remains lower than in peer countries. With the introduction of fee-free basic education, the number of teachers does not match the increased student demand, particularly from children with disabilities. This negatively impacts

education quality, evidenced by early-grade reading scores dropping from 12 percent of second graders reading at grade level in 2013 to only 5.4 percent reading at grade level in 2017.

When children are educated, and supported by their caregivers and communities, then they are more likely to have the necessary foundational skills to become productive young adults, well-positioned to pursue and achieve

their aspirations. USAID addresses quality of education challenges through education programming focused on improving students' reading, writing, arithmetic, and social-emotional learning. Enhancing teacher training, classroom instruction, and parental involvement is also of paramount importance.

Jifunze Uelewe builds on the success of two previous USAID activities, Tusome Pamoja ("Let's

Read Together") and Hesabu na Elimu Jumuishi ("Arithmetic and Inclusive Education"), by working to ensure children have access to learning resources in print and digital formats.

The activity will reinforce school curriculums in the school but also at home and provide opportunities for independent practice. Jifunze Uelewe will also provide access to learning resources for vision-impaired children through

electronic Braille readers, e-books and sign-language overlays.

Speaking at the launch, USAID Mission Director Kate Somvongsiri remarked: "I am encouraged by the significant progress Tanzania has made in recent years to ensure that every child has access to a fee-free education. However, in order to increase the number of children that receive a better education, it is important that our partnerships empower communities. That way, they can sustainably replicate our work and multiply our programmatic reach."



Tanzania Breweries Limited senior communications manager Amanda Walter (3rd-R) presents a copy of a road safety training manual to Dar es Salaam Regional Traffic Police Officer Abdi Issango yesterday. This was at the launch of a road safety mobile app developed by the firm in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Burundi all out for close sector ties with TCRA to enhance postal services

By Guardian Reporter

THE Burundian Postal Corporation has expressed its commitments towards partnering with Tanzania in promoting the postal sector in the two countries.

Burundi Post director-general Lea Ngabire made the remarks during her visit to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Ngabire was accompanied by a delegation from senior officials of the Burundi Post Office on a training visit. Among them include the head of the Burundi Post Office Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Nyayishimiye Olivier, and the head of mails and letters unit, Misirakuba Deo.

"We've come here to TCRA and see the various communication activities and our goal is to see how our two countries can work together in the development of the postal sector," said Ngabire.

TCRA Director-General, Dr Jabiri Bakari told the visitors that the authority recognizes the importance of telecommunications at the regional level.

TCRA has become a key communications partner in the East African region.

"Our goal is to ensure that the telecommunications sector in Tanzania is managed securely and in terms of post office TCRA has been cooperating with various regional and international institutions," he said, adding:

"Tanzania has been at the forefront of ensuring that the telecommunications sector in Africa is strong and that's why it has given land for the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) to build its head office in Arusha, which is to be completed next year."

TCRA head of Teletraffic unit, Dr Emmanuel Manasseha noted: "There is no way a modern economy can be built without the involvement of the post office as the industry is important in terms of transport and transmission of various information enabling to build a modern economy (digital economy)."

"As we move into the digital economy, the post office is a very important sector that we cannot afford to use because it will enable us to achieve the goal of building a digital economy," he stressed.

TBL launches road safety app in partnership with UNITAR

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Breweries Limited (TBL) has successfully launched a road safety app in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Dar es Salaam.

The launch of the app took place during the final day of training for 15 police officers on road safety. The training, which was conducted for three days, began on October 28, with the second taking place on November 4 and the last day being November 16.

TBL's Country Director Jose Moran said: "TBL is proud of the partner up with UNITAR to launch the app and will continue to make progress to improving road safety in Tanzania, as road safety is integral to nearly every aspect of daily life and is essential to building sustainable cities and communities."

The Management Practices for Safer Roads Toolkit Mobile App is developed by UNITAR and launched in English language, for use by Tanzania's Traffic Police. The Swahili version will be made available in December.

The launch of the app is part of UNITAR's Road Safety Global Training (SDG) initiative which is aligned with the Global Plan of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030, which supports countries to achieve the Global Road Safety performance targets and aims to contribute to the advancement of SDG targets for health and well-being, sustainable cities and communities and global partnerships for sustainable development.

The three-day training of 15 traffic police officers addressed the main issues, trends, and challenges in road safety worldwide. The officers were

introduced to UNITAR's "Management Practices for Safer Roads Toolkit," and two successful pilot case studies in Brazil and India, that are featured in the Toolkit.

Participants explored the Toolkit with special emphasis on the need to improve road infrastructure, the importance of law enforcement, on the value of partnerships with a

collaborative and multi-stakeholder approach to road safety, and everyone's responsibility as road users to put efforts on making roads safer for all.

"We are very committed to improving road safety in Tanzania all year round. The officers who were trained were very excited at the training opportunities provided by this partnership, and we view it as a

step in the right direction to providing necessary measures, structures, and policies to ensure that the partnership achieves its set objectives," said Angela Montano, Learning Specialist for UNITAR's Road Safety Global Training Initiative.

Road traffic accidents have become a major concern in Tanzania in recent years. The country continues

to experience increased effects of accidents on human lives, properties, environments, and the economy.

According to statistics by the traffic police department, there were 142,140 road accidents resulting in 32,899 deaths and 129,064 injuries in a period of 10 years from the year 2010 to 2020.

The partnership between TBL and UNITAR hopes to intensify motoring

literacy to achieve the goal of sustainable cities and communities, as part of their commitment to support efforts of the government include providing education on the misuse and responsible consumption of alcohol while we also advocate for effective policies, programs and partnerships with relevant stakeholders in this regard.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TO OFFER VARIOUS CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO THE TRUST

About AMDT

The Agriculture Markets Development Trust (AMDT) has been established by the Governments of Denmark, Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland in 2014 and the current Trustee is KPMG. The Trust has been established as a long term facility with the overall objective of increasing incomes and employment opportunities for poor women, men, and young people in Tanzania. For this financial year, the Trust is funded by the governments of Sweden and Denmark. With a strong pro-poor focus, the Trust works with the Private Sector, Government and Civil Society Organisations to promote the making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P)/Market Systems Development (MSD) approach that stimulates changes to market systems leading to broad and sustained impact on the lives of smallholder farmers as well as competitiveness of agricultural MSMEs. AMDT achieves this by investing, together with market actors, in interventions that are: (i) based on diagnosed constraints and pro-poor opportunities, (ii) are well coordinated to enhance the leveraging of investments and resources targeting similar outcomes, (iii) stimulate the development of inclusive, competitive, and resilient agricultural market systems, leading to sustained benefits and impacts for the productive poor.

As part of its continued improvement and planned future growth, the Trust is seeking for eligible and qualified consultants on the assignments mentioned below:

1. Consultancy for Rapporteur in Various AMDT Gender and Youth Events in 2021/2022: <http://amdt.co.tz/tenders/>
2. Consultancy for Training of Market Actors and Service Providers on Gender: <http://amdt.co.tz/tenders/>

All tenderers are requested to access detailed Terms of Reference and tender descriptions through the above links. The links provide for a complete tender description listing the scope, responsibilities and qualifications required.

Interested bidders for the above tenders may send any other enquiry to: procurement@amdt.co.tz by 29th November 2021.

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants MUST follow instructions in the notice on the RFP:

All applications shall be sent through procurement@amdt.co.tz

Only the qualified firm will be contacted via email.

CLOSING DATE: 6th December 2021



CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION BOARD

Contractors Training Course

Dar es Salaam, 01– 03, Dec 2021

Module SC 140/ MC 240: Contracts Management

PSSSF Convention Centre (PPF Tower) - Dar es Salaam

The Contractors Registration Board wishes to inform all Contractors that a training course on Contracts Management (Module SC 140/ MC 240) will take place in Dar es Salaam at PSSSF Convention Centre starting at 8:30 on Wednesday 01st to Friday 03rd December 2021

The course is highly interactive and practice-oriented and will focus on areas that will enable contractors and other practitioners to improve their Contracts Management skills. The course will cover basic features of construction contracts, rights and obligations of parties to a contract, contract documents, contract performance, contract administration and procedures, variations, dispute resolution, sub-contracts, claims, preparation of interim and final payment certificate valuations Training on the use of Tanzania National Electronic Procurement System (TANEPS) will also be covered.

The course is targeted at Managing Directors (MDs) and Directors of Contracting firms registered with CRB, Architects, Engineers, Quantity Surveyors, Technicians and other Technical personnel from Institutions dealing with Construction

The fees for the course is TZS 50,000/= per participant for registered contractors and TZS 100,000/= for non contractors.

The fee covers training materials, lunch and beverages for three days. Fees are to be paid directly to CRDB, NBC and NMB Banks in the name of CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION BOARD using control numbers 995740044391 for contractors and 995740044496 for non contractors

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REGISTRAR

Why should Africa be this intensely burdened by climate change effects?

THE 26th session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties, popularly known as COP26, happened at a time when the world had just experienced one of the warmest years on record. The year 2020 reached temperatures that were about 1.02°C warmer than average. These kinds of extremes, driven by climate change, are being felt intensely across Africa.

Greenhouse gases - such as carbon dioxide and methane - are largely to blame for the changes to the climate. Some of the sun's energy is reflected back to space and is trapped by these gases leading to a warming of the earth. Increased concentrations of these gases in our atmosphere leads to global warming and consequently climate change.

Africa carries the heaviest burden of the associated climate change effects, despite contributing less than 5 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Industrialised countries - namely China, the US, India, Russia and Japan - top the list in the emission of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide.

Africa is the most vulnerable continent to the effects of climate change due to its low adaptive capacity, as a result of financial and technological limitations, and an over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture. The continent is also witnessing a higher rate of warming than the global average of 0.15°C per decade between 1951 and 2020. Given the observed global warming, it is projected that the continent will experience an increase in hot extremes and more frequent and intense rainfall extremes.

The projected changes in climate

are likely to cause devastating impacts across the continent. The current case of food insecurity as a result of drought in East Africa is a case in point.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that sub-Saharan Africa has losses of over US\$520 million in direct economic damages annually as a result of climate change since the beginning of this century.

The developed nations promised to raise US\$100 billion a year to support climate change adaptation and mitigation in vulnerable countries.

However, reports show that this pledge has fallen short by at least US\$20 billion since 2018. Unfortunately, there are no clear plans provided by the "rich" nations on how this deficit will be met. This is the time to hold them accountable.

At COP26, countries will launch an adaptation goal and adopt strategies for achieving such a goal. This presents African countries with the opportunity to shape the agenda, once more.

Leaders of African countries should approach the convention with a strong, unified voice, presenting their climate change concerns and needs.

The negotiation outcomes at COP26 must succeed in favour of Africa and other developing countries by:

Most African countries have explored renewable energy resources that can help reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

African countries are playing their part. But it rests on the shoulders of all nations to stay committed to deliver on the Paris Agreement's promise of a fair, equitable, robust response to climate change.

Whatever the argument, the onus of educating children is on parents first

IT is an undeniable fact that parents are the ones who brought the children in life, it is simply their married. They are the ones who reproduce the human kind in a given society, as in this way they contribute to the development of the human history. Parents or family as a whole, are one of the direct holder of educational work.

Most parents dump their children in schools and delegate their parental duties to teachers. Their roles have been reduced to paying school fees. This laissez-faire approach to parenting, will only result into chronic joblessness and intellectual deficits in the future.

The 'home education' as a term, represents educational impact of the family on children. It has been proved that in various family environments, children do acquire a variety of experiences, through performing various

activities and is constantly exposed to a range of influence and expectations from the people he/she cohabits. The influence of the parents over their children's education within family environment is crucial. Each family has different educational potentials. In nowadays social circumstances, the family has a huge and very tough responsibility; as it has to take proper care on their health, their physical development, their overall education, the development of their intellectual affinities, as well as creation for a better moral values and convictions and attitudes, habits to a firm and well behaved cultural relations in the family itself as well as in the society where the child lives. On the other hand, the family as an institution has to create conditions for development of positive relationship towards work, which as such is a predisposition towards a better establishment of a realistic approach for a better development

of the children's personality.

Determinants of parental involvement parents' cognitions about their role have been identified as a major contributor to their willingness to engage in supportive parenting. Three forms of parental cognition include parents' aspirations concerning their children's future occupation, their self-efficacy in rearing and educating their children, and their perceptions of the school.

Parental aspirations refer to idealistic hopes or goals that parents may form regarding future attainment. Parents who hold high aspirations for their children's future are likely to be more willing to exert efforts to ensure that those aspirations are realised. Indeed, evidence from research suggests that educational and occupational aspirations are associated with the ways in which parents shape children's activities, time, and learning environment.

Parents' degree of involvement is likely to be affected by the school itself. If teachers appear to care about the welfare of the child, communicate respect for parents, and develop effective means of parental involvement as an important factor for successful education communicating with families, parents are more willing and able to become involved in their children's schooling. Parents and families have a major impact on the success of the process of education and upbringing of children. Involvement of parents is related to their position at home (monitoring the learning of children, as well as participation in activities organized at school (parent-teacher conferences, volunteer activities, various forms of parental activism, workshops and seminars for parents). It is well established that parental involvement is correlated with school achievement of both children and adolescents.

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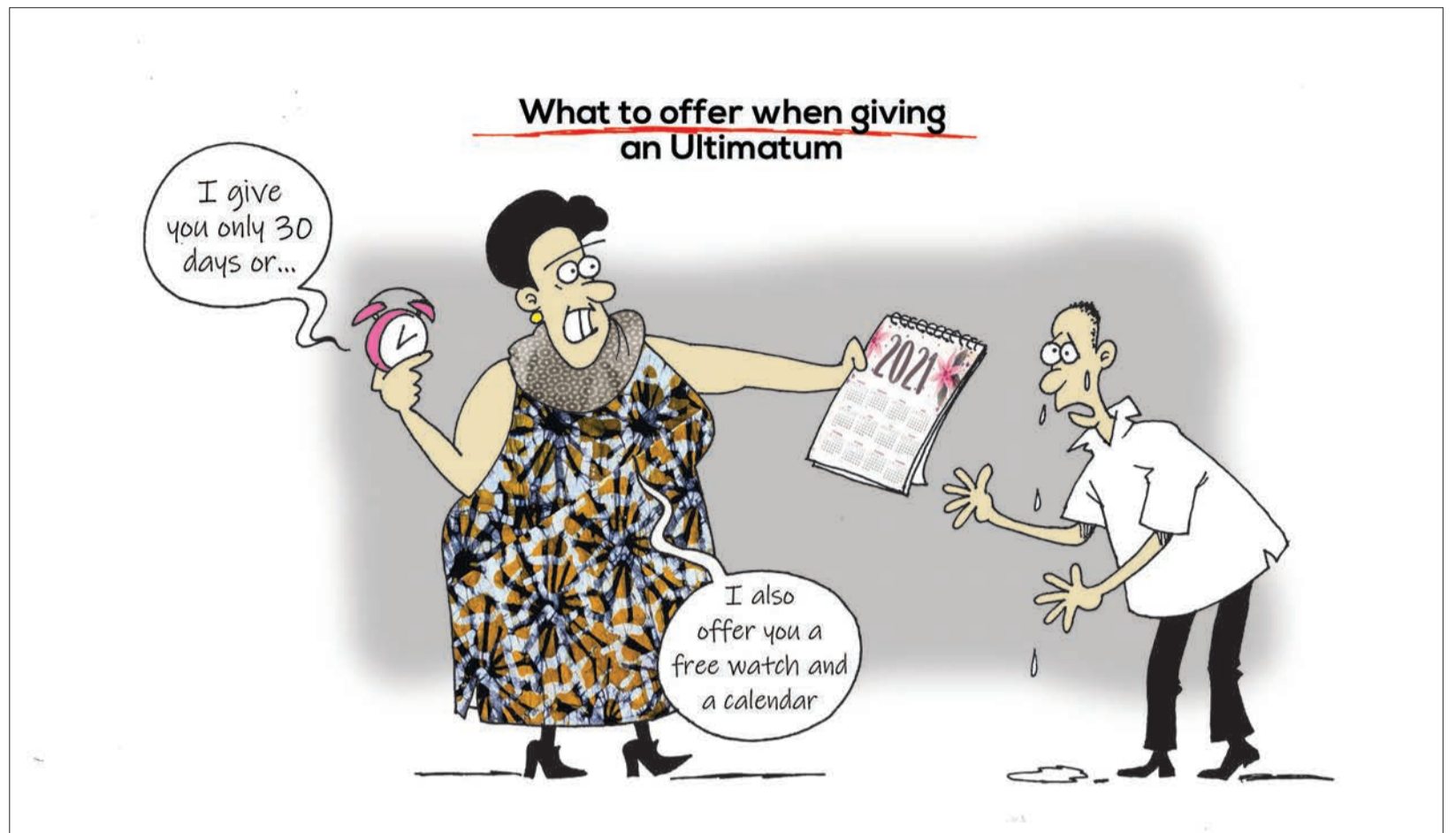
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Better divorced than dead!

By Raissa Sambou

MANY women in our part of the world place high value on their marriages than their lives and psychological well-being, due to the stigmatisation that comes with being a female divorcee.

Society most of the time questions women who are quick to leave their marriages because of infidelity on the part of the husbands, forgetting that emotional and psychological trauma also had the tendency of causing diseases and mental health issues.

Most marriage counselors, especially the ones with the clergy, always warn against divorce with some basing their argument on biblical principles or the presence of children in the marriage. The question is how best an emotionally traumatized can and unhealthy wife take care of her wards?

Many women suffer and endure Gender-Based Violence (GBV) simply because they are women.

It is always better to think about your life and sanity first before settling for a man who subjects you to treatments capable of killing you.

Women must learn to be bold enough to leave abusive marriages or relationships in order to live.

Stop using your children as an excuse to continue to stay with abusive husbands because choosing to stay with an abusive spouse only exposes your children to psychological issues and aside that you are also setting a bad example to your daughters, as they will also grow up thinking that staying in an abusive marriage is normal.

Let us save the future generation by changing the narrative.

GBV is unacceptable; women must be bold enough not to just divorce abusive husbands but also report them to authorities for the necessary actions to be taken against them.

Do not let abusive husbands go unpunished for their actions. Divorce them and ensure they are put behind bars.

Meanwhile, imprisoning abusive husbands is what many financially unstable women do not want to think about because, in the event where the couple have children and the husband is the sole bread winner of the family, putting behind bars would mean no food for the children.

This is just the case of men who despite their abusive nature, still provide for their wards because there are many others who do not even provide for their family.



Amna Atiq

Such men physically and emotionally abuse their wives and refuse to provide for the family.

According to the statistics available at the Accra Regional Office of the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU), as of August 2020, 31.9 per cent of Ghanaian women have faced at least one form of domestic violence either physically, economically, psychologically, socially or sexually.

There have also been many instances where women in Ghana get murdered by their significant others.

On March 11 this year, the police in the Akatsi North District of the Volta Region arrested one Philip Caesar for allegedly killing his girlfriend, Elizabeth Yesutor, after physically assaulting her.

Some friends of Elizabeth after her death confirmed that she always complained of her boyfriend abusing her physically, but remained in the relationship.

A 25-year old woman, Harriet Kafui Ahiati, was reportedly killed by her boyfriend in the Volta Region of Ghana in March same year.

Also, a 40-year-old man, Maxwell Boadi, on October 20, this year, killed his pregnant wife on suspicion of infidelity.

He was alleged to have stabbed his 31 year old wife, Priscilla Owusu, in the neck before fleeing their room at Nyankyerenease, a suburb of Kumasi,

These are just a few examples of how the lives of women enduring violence in their relationships and marriages ended tragically.

Sherifatu Ibrahim, shared her bitter experience in marriage with the Ghanaian Times in Accra last weekend, saying she mustered courage to leave her matrimonial

home after realising her life was threatened.

"He brought his concubine into our home and kept her for days just to spite me but I never said anything thinking things might change with time. I continued to stay with my abusive husband, with whom I have a son because my mother was hesitating to grant me the permission to leave my marriage, until one fateful day, after a misunderstanding, this man hit me with a wood.

I lost consciousness and found myself in the hospital with a huge plaster on my head. That was when I said enough was enough. I packed out of my matrimonial home to save my life and protect my son. I now live alone and manage to fend for myself and my child with what I earn from my small business. I have never felt better in a very long while," she added.

Sherifa advised other women going through all kinds of abuses in the name of marriage to think about their sanity and lives first because endurance is not the solution to any form of abuse.

Recounting the early weeks after separating from her abusive husband, she stated that her now ex-husband pleaded for a reconciliation but she declined, saying "My life is more important to me than living in a plush house with a monster."

Research has revealed that one in three women around the world experience physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives.

This is a heartrending situation that needed to change as a matter of urgency.

To prevent GBV from escalating, everybody needs to get involved.

More awareness must be created especially in rural Ghana about the

laws that protect the rights of women and also about the possibility of living better as a divorcee.

Mothers and religious leaders must also be advised against encouraging their daughters to remain in abusive marriages with the hope that "things will get better" and the belief that "God hates divorce."

Stop using God and religion as an excuse to endure abuse in marriages because our creator himself said in the book of Hosea chapter 4:1 that "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."

All forms of violence against women must stop now but it can only be possible if those who find themselves in abusive relationships muster the courage to know their self-worth by courageously leaving their abusive husbands with their shoulders held high.

Combating violence against women is possible; we only need more empowerment as women and a change of mind.



...I continued to stay with my abusive husband, with whom I have a son because my mother was hesitating to grant me the permission to leave my marriage, until one fateful day, after a misunderstanding, this man hit me with a wood

UN Human Rights Commission builds women CSOs' capacity on gender-responsive planning

By Special Correspondent

In the national budget, financial resources are not specifically focus on addressing critical issues affecting vulnerable segment of the country including women, children, disable persons, older persons.

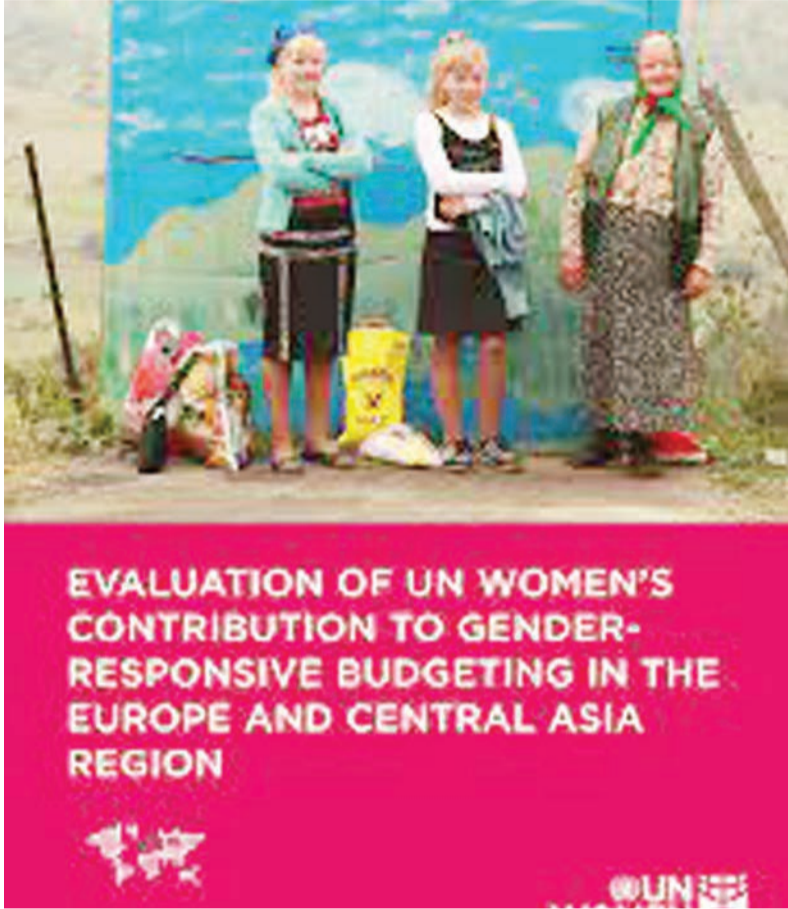
In spite of United Nations resolutions such as United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and massive advocacies by many institutions for equal opportunities for all vulnerable people are still not prioritized when it comes to making decisions on national issues such as the national budget.

Against this backdrop, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Liberia in conjunction with the Women non-governmental organization Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) and the Government of Liberia from November 5 to 6 organized and facilitated a two-day capacity building program on promoting Gender based budgeting at National and local levels to achieve the Liberia National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security which was held in Ganta City, Nimba County.

The two-day capacity building program for Women human rights civil society organizations and members of the implementing and monitoring structure under the women peace and security Project funded by the Peace Building Fund brought to together heads of women led NGOs in Liberia, and representatives from the Ministries of Justice, State for Presidential Affairs, Gender and Children Protection, amongst others.

Lead Facilitator at the event, Wilfred Gray Johnson of the Sustainable Development Institute said the essence of the workshop was to focus on Gender Based Budgeting or Gender Responsive Budgeting with a Human Rights approach to the national Budget.

He said the phrase Gender



Responsive budgeting it does not mean a separate budget for women but rather for the budget Gender responsive in terms of allocations targeted at addressing women issues affecting the same way as men.

Disaggregation of impact on issues affecting women

"When say gender responsive budget it does not mean the budget should only consider women issues, it considers men and women. The disaggregation in terms of the impact that budget will have on men as well as on women is what we are referring to as gender responsive budgeting", Mr. Gray Johnson said.

He added "We need to look at where the most needs are-if we talk about funding for education, healthcare, we need to look at women in the area of health with issues such as infant mortality for

child bearing mothers, how does the budget address these issues confronting women".

According to him there are critical issues confronting women in Liberia that are not addressed in the national budget in terms of allocation and Civil Society organization need to raise these issues that are not making the budget Gender responsive.

Mr. Gray Johnson said in rural areas women lack access to proper health care such as facilities for safe delivery, lack of proper medication for pregnant women and as such women in the Civil Society should scrutinize the budget and ask hard questions as to why there are not adequate resource allocation to address these issues affecting women.

"In most rural parts of Liberia it is a reality that pregnant women have

to be transported on motorbikes or carried by foot to give birth and this has been happening for many years. This is not Gender responsive for National Government to not allocate more resources to addressing these kinds of issues affecting only women continuously", he indicated.

He challenged participants at the event to begin the process of scrutinizing the national budget to see whether these critical issues affecting women have been allotted financial resources to address.

During the group presentation session, the participants analyzed the budget of the National Legislature, Judiciary and Executive taking into account budgetary allocations to human rights.

The various groupings concluded in their separate presentation that the Government make less allocation to the Judiciary which has oversight over the rule of law aspect of the country and as such the issue of Human rights is not prioritized in the National Budget.

Mr. Gray Johnson challenged the women Civil Society leaders to begin the process of looking at the budget every year and fledging out areas that does not address gender and human rights issues.

He told the women Civil Society leaders that one problem is that the national budget centers too much around the presidency

"The entire budget of our country centers around the president, so you do not know how Gender responsive is the budget" he observed.

"Many of you might know how much in terms of salary the president makes, but the president does not use any of that salary for electricity, water, health, regular medical checkups, food and others. Almost everything is free for the president paid for by the country but ordinary people who make less use their salaries to pay for everything while the person who makes more does not pay anything from their salaries", he indicated.

Mr. Gray Johnson noted that the issue of imperial presidency is aged old and it is affecting the national budget from being gender responsive and making allocations to address critical areas affecting overall human rights.

'Put People First in distributing resources'

Making a presentation on Human Rights based approach to budgeting, Igiriogu Francis Esq. Human Rights Officer -OHCHR said a human right based budget should emphasize the importance of integrating human rights principles and standards in each and every part of a development process on the basis that the human rights normative framework helps to ensure more sustainable and equitable development outcomes.

The OHCHR Human Rights Officer said taking a human rights based approach to budgeting means distributing resources in a way that puts people first.

He noted that it involves thinking through how people's rights are impacted by the way that money is raised, allocated, and spent.

Said Mr. Francis "all governments must respect, protect and fulfil human rights. The way they generate, allocate and spend money play a key role in this. You can't guarantee the right to vote if you don't have an effective electoral system and you can't guarantee the right to habitable, accessible, affordable and secure housing without well-regulated public and private housing sectors.

Mr. Francis also said a rights-based approach to the budget demands that policy choices be made on the basis of transparency, accountability, non-discrimination and participation.

He added "These principles should be applied at all levels of the budgetary process, from the drafting stage, which should be linked to the national development plans made through broad consultation, through approval by

parliament, which in turn must have proper amendment powers and time for a thorough evaluation of proposals, implementation and monitoring".

Amongst the groups that should be impacted by national budget that is Gender sensitive, Francis indicated that Human rights budgeting recognizes that budgetary decisions can have materially different outcomes for different groups including women, children, disable persons, older persons and observed that Government budgets are not always sensitive to this.

He cautioned the women Civil Society leaders attending the two-day event that human rights budget scrutiny or analysis involves examining the public budget to assess a government's compliance with its human rights obligations.

"This is done with the central goal of making public budgets more effective in helping to realize human rights, to ensure that everyone can live a life of human dignity" he told the participants.

He continued "This involves exploring both the budget process: to ensure that it is participative, transparent and accountable; as well as examining a government's resource generation, allocation and spending with reference to the agreed human rights standards, as noted above"

Ernestine Ebai of OHCHR said OHCHR and partner hope that the knowledge gained from the two days training will go a long way for advocacy in Gender Based budgeting in advancing the Liberia National Action Plan.

She said the training will be rolled out in other counties for more women civil society actors to provide them the tool to continuously analyze the national budget by advocating for more allocation to issues of human rights and holding national government to ensure that the National Budget is gender sensitive.

South Sudan

Africa has pinned its hopes on agriculture for the creation of jobs and the resulting reduction of poverty. But its role is being stymied by the high cost of financing.

Limited investment, high interest rates and restricted support means African businesses are losing out to foreign competitors.

If we want to transform the continent's food security and fortunes, then African Governments must help create an economic environment conducive to local investment by, for example, amortizing loan rates and driving billion dollar investments into the sector.

And all stakeholders—including government, donors, and the private sector— must work towards a more equitable and inclusive approach to build local investment for sustainable agricultural growth.

Agriculture in Africa is the sector that offers the greatest potential for poverty reduction and job creation, particularly among vulnerable rural populations and urban dwellers with limited job opportunities.

Agriculture today accounts for 23% of GDP in Sub Saharan Africa, and growth generated by agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to be 11 times more effective in reducing poverty than GDP growth in other sectors—a vital multiplier given that 65% of the continent's labor force is engaged in agriculture.

While an absolute increase in investment is essential, Africa has been the land of opportunity for foreign investors. African entrepreneurs are facing some of the world's most challenging business conditions. The resources necessary to grow a business—such as finance, human and social capital, and infrastructure are less accessible in Africa. Finance, in

Inequity in funding: Africa's agripreneurs paying a high price for start-up financing



Groundnut farm in Torit, South Sudan. Credit: Itaiyah Eshipisu/IPS.

particular, is costlier in Africa than in other parts of the world.

The most obvious of all the challenges, most African-led start-ups have difficulties in raising capital. Entrepreneurs and small business owners cannot easily access finance to expand business. They are usually faced with problems of collateral, high interest rates, extra bank charges, inability to evaluate financial proposals, limited financial knowledge, making it difficult for small businesses to access finance.

On the other hand, American venture capital and private equity is dominating Africa, but it's mostly funding other foreign founders as native entrepreneurs struggle to raise financing. Some attribute the funding inequity to a mix of issues, including lack of experience with

and understanding of the African market, general mistrust, and the tendency to fund companies based in the West that are operating in Africa.

For example, in Ghana, foreign businesses who borrow from their home countries assess 3-5% loans to do business in Ghana whereas the locals have to borrow at 23% to compete with these companies. Even with continental free trade these foreign businesses have about 20% advantage over local companies and startups who borrow from within. Even with efforts from the government to compel prevailing commercial banks to reduce loan rates, Ghanaian businesses and startups are still losing out with the implementation of continental free trade agreement.

Even though some agro-processing

businesses registered with the Ghana Free Zone Authority and Ghana Investment Promotion Centre are exempt from income tax for ten years from paying duty on the importation of equipment, lowering interest rates will go a long way to solidify some of these interventions for startups who must borrow money to start a business.

Tax incentives alone cannot account for other challenges for the lack of infrastructure and problems faced in Ghana's investment environment. The government should also address land acquisition challenges with local and traditional authorities who own most of the land in Ghana. By having inequity in funding, Africa's start-up environment is missing out on a lot of talent and losing out on building many great companies to transform the continent's food systems.

To build the continent's next start-up giants, a few things are needed; setting up SME help desks and developing relevant products for the emerging African entrepreneurs; government agencies should engage to provide credit support to help de-risk bank lending, reducing the need for collateral as well as the cost of borrowing; banks across the continent need to work with entrepreneurs to help them prepare viable business proposals in accordance with their lending rules.

Public-private partnerships are a strong pillar and a good support system for agribusiness start-ups to leverage. For example, a high-yielding economic opportunity in the agri-food systems sector needs numerous components: capacity development adapted to local entrepreneurs' needs and labor markets opportunities; facilitation and

mentorship in adequately accessing land, credit, and markets; and enhancing the opportunities for agripreneurs inclusion in policy and strategic debates.

To be sure, there are exciting steps in the right direction. Organizations like Food Systems for the Future are offering capital and wraparound services tailored to Agtech, Foodtech, and Innovative, scalable market businesses with a potential for increased profitability and nutrition impact in Sub Saharan Africa. In addition, Norrskan Foundation is building East Africa's largest hub for entrepreneurship and innovation in Kigali, Rwanda, for education, innovation, and entrepreneurship—forming an ecosystem that enables entrepreneurs to build strong companies that solve local and global challenges. Google, The Tony Elumelu Foundation, and Seedstars World (to name a few) are also playing an active role in providing funding for these green entrepreneurs.

However, this challenge is still very far from being resolved on the entire continent.

There is a need to enable African entrepreneurs in the food systems to develop or enhance their business ideas and create a high-quality business plan to support the launch or growth of their agribusiness.

Until then, agriculture will fail to live up to its potential for economic growth in Africa.

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Seoul

The squid game: The story about losers in the shadow of glory

Immediately after its release, the *Squid Game* went viral, grabbing the attention of the world's entertainment stage. The grotesque and hyper-violent thriller has reportedly become Netflix's biggest show, the world's most-watched and the most-talked-about streaming entertainment. Is it a case of art imitating life?

The global rise of Korean entertainment is reminiscent of South Korea's rags-to-rich story. The once war-stricken country with per-capita GDP of 67 US dollars after the 1950-53 Korean War has become one of the world's top economies with a per-capita GDP of 32,860 US dollars in 2020.

South Koreans enjoy high-tech conveniences, and many of their enterprises are sought after internationally, including home electronics, vehicles and ships.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, success stories abound about its business, technology or entertainment industries.

K-pop BTS is now a global star who often tops the Billboard charts. A few years ago, it was unthinkable that Korean entertainment could surpass the content produced in the United States.

"The *Squid Game* has become a hope for our students to go to the global stage," Kim Sang-Hoon, a professor at Cheju Halla University who teaches future talents video-making or filmmaking or broadcasting, told IPS.

However, the storyline suggests that success is not the only parameter with which to measure Korean society. *Squid Game* is a story of the "losers" who dropped out from the success story.

The hero, Gi-Hoon, was in debt after losing his job and squandering his money on a horse-racing game. He got divorced and missed his ten-year-old estranged daughter. Sang-Woo was once a brilliant stockbroker but went broke after gambling away his money.

The drama director Hwang Dong-Hyuk told local media: "In



Korea is one of the world's top economies. Yet, behind the success, many feel alienated. Does the recent hit show *Squid Game*, reflect the underbelly of the society's success? Credit: Ori Song/Unsplash

fact, I used to be one of the losers."

He elaborated that "as a boy of a single-mother at the backstreet of Seoul, I used to be a boy at the back street spending almost the whole day playing the games (all of which) appear in the *Squid Game*".

Although many more South Korean people live the "most affluent life" ever in the country's history, many people feel like they are playing the squid game, where a few winners take all at the expense of many losers.

In the *Squid Game*, an elderly character Ilnam said to another character, Gi-Hoon, while playing marbles: "Cheating on others is OK, but being cheated, is not OK?"

This soundbite is one that many South Koreans identified with.

"I felt thrilled when I heard this because it sounds like our reality," said Ko June-Ho, a South Korean fan and a university student told IPS. He added he identified with so much in the story. "When the elderly character Il-Nam met Ki-Hoon after the squid game, Il-Nam said: 'Life here (outside the game) is more hellish (than the life I spent in the squid game)'."

In the death game, the losers are separated from their family, friends and community. Like Sae-Byok, a North Korean woman defector struggles to rebuild her lost family connections but all in vain. Or, Ali, a worker from Pakistan, is in debt because his Korean employer didn't pay him. Even the elderly character Il-Nam, the *Squid Game* host, is wealthy but misses his old family ties. He tells Gi-Hoon: "I used to live with my

family".

Some experts say that the squid game losers are like South Korean losers, who feel isolated from the glory story.

Ironically, South Korea, one of the world's most affluent countries, records one of the world's top suicide rates. South Korea's suicide rate in 2020 was the average of 25.7 suicides per 100,000 persons, compared with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries average of 10.9 suicides.

While technology businesses, like the online selling platform Coupang, have become successful during the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurant owners were forced to shut down because of regulations. The impact is clear.

Dr Park Chanmin, Seoul Central Mental Health Clinic, reflects this in a recent interview here.

"Since the start of the pandemic, people have become more and more worried about their jobs, they are seeing their incomes falling, and that is having an impact on their day-to-day lives."

Asia Nikkei reported that a study by the Korea Economic Research Institute found that sales by independent merchants were down 78.5% in the first half of the year from the same period in 2020, with 58% of respondents attributing the decline to COVID.

Sanjog Lama, a Nepali student who studies hotel management in South Korea, believes the show was excellent.

"The cast and crews have done such an outstanding job. On top of that, the content of the series is just superb. It is thrilling, many scenes are gruesome, yet there is

meaning in it."

Another South Korean fan, Lee Ji-Hyeon, said: "The drama was like a puzzle game. I felt thrilled as I was putting the pieces of actors' talk and each scene together so that I kept thinking about what it means and how it will be related to the next move."

However, even in the extreme death game, the underlying warmth of the South Korean traditional culture is reflected.

The thriller's punch line, with "Kkak-Ttu-gi" or "Kkan-Bu", demonstrates Korean culture. The elderly Il-Nam says to Gi-Hoon: "Let's make 'Kkan-Bu' friendship between two of us."

Kkan-Bu is a life-long friendship that lasts unchanged regardless of whether a person is a loser or a winner. Some characters made decisions that touched the heart of the fans.

Gi-Hoon did not give up their heart even in the live-or-die moment. Ji-Young gives up her life to let her game partner Sae-Byok can win the game. Even the hardened heart of the elderly Il-Nam softens as the senior and becomes friends with warm-hearted Gi-Hoon.

Another female character Mi-Nyo said: "They call me Kkak-Ttu-gi" In Korean children's games."

Kkak-Ttu-Gi shows how Korean culture values human connection. Even though the player is poor and cannot contribute, the team won't kick them out.

There is irony in the money matters. Even though Gi-Hoon emerges as the winner of the game, grabbing \$40 million, his life did not change. When he returns home after the game, he finds his mother dead. He remains a divorced, lonely man. Even though he has the prize in his bank account, he doesn't spend it. Instead, he borrows Won10,000 from a banker and gives it to a street flower-selling woman.

"The drama makes me think about what matters in my life. People risk their lives for money, which turns out to be no solution," said South Korean fan Lee Ji-Hyeon.

What Nigeria and Africa can learn from America's infrastructure agenda

By Chido Nwangwu

Chido Nwangwu commends a new legislation in America that seeks to rebuild aspects of America and reposition her for the digital competition, environmental science and energy efficiency. It was former President Bill Clinton's Press Secretary Mike McCurry who some time ago spoke in projection of the focus of the Democratic Party. McCurry whom I met and chatted with in South Africa when I traveled with and covered U.S. President Bill Clinton's historic visit to parts of Africa, March-April 2, 1998, has argued "There's a wider agenda that speaks to what the Democratic Party has historically stood for, which are economic rights for those who are struggling in the middle class, concern for the poor, for economic justice for those who are marginalized in our society." There are millions in his party who believe the same aspirations and achievement of such important purposes.

Even more strongly than Mr. McCurry, the President of the United States, Joe Biden, has made the same arguments, legislated for, voted for and proposed that agenda for more than 50 years of his engagement with public service.

In the usual intra-party squabbles of the Democratic Party, they sent mixed and confusing messages about their handling of the Biden Infrastructure agenda to rebuild aspects of America and reposition better for the digital competition, environmental science and energy efficiency necessary.

I do know that those three areas constitute the dominant highways to economic success and leadership.

After all the zig and zag, the formidable Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi reorganized her parliamentary tactics and strategy. In a couple of days, the House approved bipartisan infrastructure legislation last Friday November 5, 2021 - advancing the President's agenda.

It is the \$1.2 trillion "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act" H.R. 3684, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework, or BIF. It increases investments and spending on road and technology highways. BIF projects and provides substantial funding for better transit and rail networks across the country. Also, it supports the development and research into electric vehicles, climate change issues, harnessing of green energy and explore other solutions to some of the environmental challenges which Americans and the world are facing, currently and into the future!

Biden has commended the bill as:

"A once-in-a-generation investment that's going to create millions of jobs, modernize our infrastructure, roads, bridges, broadband, a whole range of things. To turn the climate crisis into an opportunity... It puts us on a path to win the economic competition of the 21st century that we face from China and other large countries in the rest

of the world." He also promised: "It's going to create more jobs -- good-paying jobs, union jobs -- that can't be outsourced."

Some of the high points of his agenda include yearly grants for energy efficiency programmes, energy efficiency building codes, and enhanced energy efficiency standards for manufacturing and industrial facilities, use of battery power, battery storage, battery mineral processing and recycling.

The package also deals with one of the issues faced in some poor neighborhoods namely that of healthy, clean, drinking water infrastructure and for lead service line replacement and the prevention of poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination.

Significantly, the Biden and BIF legislative package seeks to plant more than 1 billion trees.

Somehow, the toxicity of rabid partisanship have seen some moderate Republicans

face death threats and severe attacks from their radical party members especially those who wake up on, sleep and swear by anything former President Donald J. Trump says!

Hopefully, many of the mismanaged and corruption-ridden African countries can borrow or copy to adapt several of the strategic and tactical ideas about the competitive future and paradigm shifts for all economies. Or, will Nigeria and Africa be colonized again?

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Dr. Nwangwu is the Founder and Publisher of USAfricaonline.com

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 UMJUUYO 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

India organises a 'study in India' education fair in Dar es Salaam

By Guardian Reporter

THE High Commission of India in Dar es Salaam has organized a three-day education fair to explore the opportunities of Tanzanian to study in India.

The "Study in India" Education Fair which started yesterday in Dar es Salaam was inaugurated by Shri. Raj K Ganger, Charge d'Affaires of the High Commission of India - Dar es Salaam with the main focus to inform students about the wide variety of courses offered, scholarships provided and fee waivers. Whereby the Study in India is offering around 1,00,000+ seats to the foreign students, out of which 60,000+ Fee Waived seats,

with 2600+ courses ranging from the field of AI, Engineering, Pharmacy to political sciences.

'Study in India', is a unique initiative of the Government of India, under the aegis of the Ministry of Education (MoE), will help facilitate the student fraternity from all across the globe to come and experience the best of academic learning from the top institutions in India. "Study in India" was successfully launched by Govt. of India on 18th of April, 2018 whereby students can register themselves and give their preferences according to their choices and eligibility criteria on which thereafter they will be allotted courses and institutes options.

Study in India along with

top select Indian institutes is conducting Study in India Education Fair in Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia to promote Indian Higher Education.

The institutes from India participating in this Study in India Education Fair in Dar es Salaam are IIT Roorkee, National Forensic Sciences University, Career College, CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY, CV Raman Global University, Ganpat University, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), KIIT University, KONERU LAKSHMAIAH EDUCATION FOUNDATION, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana-Ambala, Marwadi Education Foundation, Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gujarat, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan,

SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY and Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) - Deemed to be University.

India has been a preferred choice of education for Tanzanian students, with more than 1000 students choosing Indian education every academic year. The Study in India program aims to make India the preferred destination for education leveraging value for money and globally competitive standard of education in Tanzania.

This program involves partnership with more than 100+ premier education institutes in India as per the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) or the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).



Shri. Raj K Ganger (L), Charge d'Affaires of the High Commission of India in Dar es Salaam, cuts ribbon to inaugurate a three-day education fair in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Africa's Great Green Wall gives viable return on investments, FAO-led study finds

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA'S Great Green Wall (GGW) programme to combat desertification in the Sahel region is not only crucial to the battle against climate change but also makes commercial sense for investors, a new study led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and published in Nature Sustainability shows.

For every US dollar put into the massive effort to halt land degradation across the African continent from Senegal in the west to Djibouti in the east, investors can expect an average return of USD 1.2, with outcomes ranging between USD 1.1 and USD 4.4, the analysis finds.

"We need to change the rhetoric about the Sahel region," to reflect the fact that despite its harsh and

dry environment, "investors can get a viable return on their investment in efforts to restore the land", says Moctar Sacande, International Projects Coordinator at FAO's Forestry Division and one of the study's lead authors.

The analysis uses field and satellite data to track the land degradation over the period 2001-2018 and then compares the costs and benefits of restoring the land based on different scenarios adapted to the local contexts.

The results provide the final piece of economic transparency in a jigsaw, with the political will and technical know-how already in place and should encourage the private sector, which is showing increased interest, Sacande says.

The greening and land restoration along this belt stretching 8,000

km across the continent is already underway. Communities are planting resilient and hardy tree species such as the Acacia senegal, providing gum arabic, widely used as an emulsifier in food and drinks and the Gao tree or Faidherbia albida, which helps to fertilise soil for the cultivation of such staples as millet, and for animal fodder.

With technical support from FAO, more than 500 communities have seen improved food security and income generation opportunities. The total area the GGW programme encompasses remains limited, with only 4 million hectares out of a targeted 100 million, according to the study.

A total of some 20 billion dollars has been pledged internationally to support the scaling up of the Great Green Wall programme, including

USD 14.3 billion at a One Planet summit for biodiversity held in Paris in January this year and USD 1 billion from Amazon founder Jeff Bezos at the just-concluded COP26 climate conference.

Concrete details of how these funds can be accessed are yet to be clearly mapped out, says Sacande, adding that unless some of the funding is delivered urgently, it could be too late for planting to catch the limited rainfall expected in June and July.

With its potential for carbon sequestration and restoring biodiversity and its emphasis on the socio-economic benefits to the impoverished communities inhabiting the region, the GGW straddles the key areas of climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience. It also addresses Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs) 1 (No poverty), 2 (No hunger), 13 (Climate action), 15 (Life on land) and 17 (Partnerships)) in the UN's Agenda 2030.

The armed conflicts pervading the region have long made some wary about its potential. And the study finds that about 50 per cent of the land area involved is currently inaccessible for security reasons. But even taking this into account, land restoration interventions still represent a viable business proposition, the authors say.

FAO's contributions to the Great Green Wall

Support for the implementation of GGW forms a key part of FAO's Action Against Desertification work, which is active in 10 GGW Sahel countries and involves establishing baselines and monitoring the GGW

in North Africa, the Sahel and Southern Africa. The programme seeks to help restore degraded land at scale and sustainably manage fragile ecosystems.

It puts rural communities at the heart of restoration and upscaling to meet the massive environmental and socio-economic needs. The use of the local biodiversity in restoration generates diverse non-timber forest products, vital in supporting income generation, economic growth and sustainable management of natural resources. The programme works to strengthen local capacities and put in place monitoring and evaluation systems tracking progress and impact, while sharing information and promoting south-south cooperation to leverage lessons learned.

US envoy urges public to advocate the rights of domestic workers

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo

THE US Ambassador to Tanzania Donald Wright has called upon the public to advocate for the rights of domestic workers by taking action against their abuse.

Ambassador Wright made the call in Mwanza recently during his official tour to WoteSawa, an NGO whose founder was a former domestic worker.

Wright commended WoteSawa for the tremendous job being done, adding what is being done by WoteSawa promotes women's empowerment and education to children something he said was important for their development.

"The bilateral relationships between the US and Tanzania have been good for the past 60 years. The US government is committed to ensuring the collaboration between the two countries gets even better for the next 60 years," the envoy said.

Mwanza Regional Commissioner, Robert Gabriel reiterated the government's commitment to ensure children fully enjoy their right to education.



WoteSawa Executive Director Angela Benedicto (L) hands over a 10-year summary report for the organisation to the US Ambassador to Tanzania Dr Donald Wright, during his recent visit to Mwanza. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

The RC called upon community members to report to his office on any acts of abuse, exploitation, and child labour committed against children of school age who do not afford to exercise their right to education saying legal measures will be taken against them.

WoteSawa Executive Director Angella Benedict mentioned the objective of the organization as to reach, identify, recruit, train, rescue,

and shelter domestic workers who are victims and survivors of abuse and exploitation, including human trafficking.

For the past 10 years, the NGO has been able to rescue 138 (125 females and 13 males) victims of trafficking have been rescued and reunified with their families.

Among them, 42 school-age children have been enrolled in school while the rest have

been provided with start-up capital for income-generating activities. Within the said decade, the Organization has also conducted training on human trafficking to 5,625 people including police officers, migration officers, and Local Government authorities.

The NGO has further led to the formation of 6 Domestic Workers' Advisory Committees, comprising of 78 individual members, in

Mwanza Region alone.

WoteSawa was established by Child Domestic Workers, as a forum and a safe space to share and discuss interests and challenges respectively.

The NGO has recruited and trained domestic workers who are working in networks of advocates providing strategic advice to domestic workers about their rights.

COVID-19 coverage differed in the US and China. Here's how...

By Shradha Chakradhar

How did major Chinese and US outlets differ in their initial coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic? That's the central question behind a new study published last just over a week ago in the Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly journal.

The overall finding: Chinese outlets' focus on Covid-19 was much more domestic, perhaps because they were focused on trying to contain the outbreak. Meanwhile, the US view was much more focused on politics and the conflict between various levels of government when it came to combating the crisis.

To arrive at these findings, researchers at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, looked at the three largest newspapers by circulation in each of the two countries.

In the US, the list included The New York Times, USA Today, and The Wall Street Journal. In China, the newspapers were The Beijing News, Caixin Weekly, and People's Daily.

It turned out that these six outlets also represent different ideological views, according to Kaiping Chen, an assistant professor of life sciences communication at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and the senior author of the new paper.

"Some are more party-focused in China and some more investigative, and we tried our best to cover a variety of mainstream outlets," she said.

They also only looked at coronavirus coverage between January and May 2020 to get a snapshot of what early coverage of the pandemic looked like.

The researchers found that the volume of coverage remained somewhat steady in China, peaking in February and again in March.

In the US, however, there was an explosion of Covid-19



ries tended to focus on everyday life, with stories highlighting individuals.

However, Chinese media tended to focus more on collective impacts, such as that of the pandemic on students and education.

"It's interesting because these cultural differences kind of play into how journalists might write stories in the different countries," Chen said.

US coverage meanwhile shifted over time to recognize the complexity of Covid-19 and how it was a multifaceted risk. The US media talked about the impact on small businesses, the ongoing impact on families and, when it was signed in March 2020, the CARES Act.

The authors found that Chinese media remained more or less focused on the same topics throughout the study duration.

Overall, a big theme that emerged was also how the US media tended to play the role of a watchdog, while Chinese media tended to be much more of a cheerleader.

One possible explanation for this, according to the study, is this:

"Part of the difference in representation and focus on political coverage could be due to the different media systems. In the Chinese media system, limited press freedom and high levels of state intervention may have prevented coverage of political conflicts, while emphasizing how well the country was coping with the outbreak.

"In the United States, in contrast, high levels of press freedom combined with a competitive media market may have led the news media to cover politics more to cater to the high levels of political polarisation among American audiences.

"Therefore, while it might be that there was more political conflict in the US than in China during this time period that conflict and the coverage of such conflict might also reflect what each government and media system allow for. It could be that conflict in the US was just more transparent, and media were able to then further broadcast that conflict."

What could all this mean for future risk and pandemic communication? "If the news continues to talk about the leadership doing a bad job, then it might create very confusing signals to citizens," Chen said.

She added: "This is where I would think about depoliticising Covid-19 and instead talking about the hope of science to the public."

Chen said the idea isn't to glaze over political missteps or only put a positive spin on things, but instead to aim for a good balance between the hopeful stories and those that might dampen the outlook for a given crisis.

As far as future steps are concerned, Chen and her group are continuing to look at coverage past May 2020 to see how themes continued to evolve beyond the initial months of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The group is also looking at how news narratives about collaboration (or lack of it) between different countries during the pandemic may have affected how people perceive those from different racial and ethnic groups.

• A dispatch by IJNet originally published by Nieman Lab.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 160 00--

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: ASS,
4 Letters: YULE, MASS, OMEN, WASH, PASS, SPAN, REEF, HEED, TRAP,
5 Letters: MONEY, SKILL, DAILY, MAYOR, HAMAS, WATER, SHADE
6 Letters: MOSCOW, NOISES, UGANDA, SHARES, ASMARA, CAREER, REMAIN
7 Letters: SANGOMA, ENGLISH,

CLUES: Across
1. Tanzania's Capital
6. Nation created in 1948
7. Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Christ
9. turn away
10. Second largest city in Tanzania
11. step in a process
13. mischievous person
16. skilful
17. large round citrus fruit
19. sell goods by going from place to place
20. utter words

Down:
1. images seen while you sleep
2. a place far away
3. the mixture of gases surrounding the earth
4. personal, secret
5. beloved
8. consisting protein that is produced by a living organism
12. an off break bowled with an apparent leg-break action
13. a surface which is higher on one side than the other
14. keep away from someone
15. demonstrate by evidence
18. a donkey

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

R E A D Y S C O P E
T L A A A
S H A R A S A M E
I E A Y A H P
S N A K E I R A Q
M A S T E R E A S T
G T A R K I
T A N A P A I P
I C F R O S T
M A S H E R H A Y
E O W L N

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

F A R M E R R A
R A L E A S E
I S L A N D P K
D L O I L E R
A N Y O N E A M
Y M E D D L E A
C L A N E S
P L A N T A T I O N S
O E R I E A A
L A G T A C E T G
O N E Y T S U E

RADIO One

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 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 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Thursday 18 November 2021

Unique central bank-registered women's 'Kikoba' has 250m/- in annual turnover

By The Banker Reporter

A unique all women's savings and credit group which has a turnover of 250m/- per annum and has been registered by Bank of Tanzania will officially launch in Dar es Salaam on Saturday this week.

Dubbed 'Malkia' Ladies Group with 34 members, its Chairperson, Charity Mwakalonge said their goal is to change women's thinking by showing that the group can serious engage in high profile investments.

"We are a group of 34 members with an annual turnover of 250m/- which is a result of being focused but also financially disciplined," Mwakalonge said while noting that during the launch which will be presided by Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, Jenista Mhagama, a number of things will also be launched.

She named the other projects as a 100 room Malkia Woman Market Mall, an insurance company and Malkia Ladies YouTube channel. "During the launch we will also have a symposium to discuss the potential of women in business and invest-



Malkia Ladies Group chairperson, Charity Mwakalonge (2nd-L), speaks in Dar es Salaam mid this week on the launch of the all-women's savings and credit group due to be held on Saturday this week.

ment," Mwakalonge noted.

She further noted that the symposium which will also be attended by Malkia Ladies Group

patron, Ambassador Getrude Mongella, is also aimed to give women in the country confidence to venture into big business.

"We would like to welcome all women in Dar es Salaam and anywhere in the country to come and join us at the symposium to learn new skills and get knowledge on big business and investment projects," the Malkia Ladies Group Chair added saying a book on entrepreneurship will also be launched.

Seconding their peer, Community Committee Chair, Husna Mkupete and Facilitation Committee Chair, Chevawe Mberesero urged women to turn up and join their peers to share experience and knowledge on how savings and credit groups can grow big.

"We expected not less than 6,000 women to attend the launch which will be held at PTA Hall in the city," said Mkupete who stressed that most women have the potential to grow their small businesses into large companies if given access to capital and expertise.

FNB cuts out go-betweens with new car marketplace

JOHANNESBURG

FNB has expanded its successful nav» Home marketplace, which allows its customers to buy and sell homes from each other without agents, to vehicles.

The new nav» Car functionality enables a peer-to-peer marketplace of sellers and buyers in collaboration with FirstRand's WesBank vehicle and asset finance unit. Its 'nav»' proposition is integrated in the FNB app, which offers access to four million users.

The marketplace ensures "less angst" on both sides of the transaction. From a buyer's perspective, as WesBank Motor CEO Ghana Msibi explains, the asset has been vetted. From a seller's perspective, there is little risk as the buyer has been pre-approved for finance. The platform offers an instant value estimate to ensure sellers price correctly and, through a partnership with vehicle inspection company Dekra, can include an inspection report for the vehicle.

There are thousands of listings live on the platform already and the bank says it has "already facilitated some sales." In the second phase, the group's partner dealership network will be included. It will be interesting to see to what extent dealers embrace the platform as it effectively disintermediates them.

Importantly, the platform offers sellers another option for private sales besides WeBuyCars which now dominates the buying side of the market in urban areas. Marketplaces like Facebook, OLX and Gumtree have tens of thousands of listings, but there remain serious questions about vetting and the vulnerability to fraud and/or scams on these.

The nav» Car platform already has robust usage, with over 70 000 licence discs renewed and delivered during the pandemic, and the paying of 200 000 fines enabled. Crucially, it already has 700 000 vehicles loaded in customers' digital garages. This means it has built up a valuable view of these vehicles over time and bank executives have hinted that, in future, it may add functionality that enables ongoing tracking of events during ownership (such as maintenance).

These vehicles are already automatically loaded in digital garages for new WesBank finance clients, and there are strong incentives in place for customers to have their cars loaded and to keep details accurate.

Prof Mkumbo dares private sector to think big and exploit AfCFTA market



Stanbic Bank Tanzania Limited CEO Kevin Wingfield.

By Francis Kajubi

The local business community has been challenged to think big and focus on exploiting market opportunities provided by Africa Continental Free Trade Area but also the global market instead of confining to the domestic market.

Minister of Trade and Industry, Professor Kitila Mkumbo said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week when addressing a Chief Executive Officers Roundtable meeting whose theme was 'Accelerating Tanzania's economy towards AfCFTA,' that as top management officials of companies, they need to start plotting for the bigger market.

He said following ratification of AfCFTA by parliament last September, the issue of integrating the continental market is quickly becoming real. "Our private sector has so far managed to exploit only 20 percent of the East Africa regional market, seven percent of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and only one percent to the rest of

the world," Prof Mkumbo said.

He told the CEOs that they need to focus on the continental and global markets by taking into account the facts of quality in productivity and most importantly working with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to boost their participation.

"Most of the industries are operating at 40 percent and they operate seasonally. You must change this kind of approach if we are to be competitive in the AfCFTA," Prof Mkumbo charged saying, in recent years, there has been a booming increase in the number of SMEs in the market.

The Trade and Industry Minister pointed out that the government considers SMEs as an important business group that if empowered with technology, business knowledge and capital by big enterprises, Tanzania will be in the comfort zone of exploiting the AfCFTA market to the maximum.

"The government's role is setting friendly policies and creating a conducive environment for doing business while

the private sector utilises such

business potentials to trade," he explained adding that if well supported SMEs are more likely to play a big role in the continental market hence the need to transform them from their local status to international level. "On part of the government, we are in the process of setting up a specific policy for SMEs and establishing a National Entrepreneurship Development Fund," he asserted.

Commenting on the subject, Stanbic Bank Tanzania Limited's CEO, Kevin Wingfield said the government should play its part by working hand in hand with the private sector in ensuring that SMEs are informed about the role of digital economy to acquire so that they required necessary skills.

"There should also be a well-designed mechanism to facilitate cross border payments that cut across fintechs," Wingfield suggested. The AfCFTA which officially started in January this year, covers a market of 1.2 billion people and a combined gross domestic product of US\$ 3.4 trillion.

Mobile lenders bar borrowers over CRB freeze

NAIROBI

Digital lenders will no longer give loans to new customers outside their existing database of borrowers, citing their continued freeze out of the credit reference bureaus (CRB).

Current rules bar the unregulated digital lenders from blacklisting defaulters, and they can only access a borrower's credit information from a CRB with the express consent of the borrower and Central Bank of Kenya (CBK).

Digital Lenders Association of Kenya (DLAK) chairman Kevin Mutiso said its members will now only lend to repeat customers on their own databases, a move that is likely to deny a majority of borrowers short-term loans.

The lobby represents 25 digital lenders, including Tala, Branch, Okolea, Zenka, and Stawika. Mr Mutiso said they have a cumulative three million active borrowers. The self-imposed ban will also limit growth, given that individual firms are unlikely to open up their database for rivals

to check on potential borrowers.

The Data Protection Act bars sharing of data with third parties without consent and gives individuals the right to be told when their records are being shared and for what purposes. "We will just set new rules and say no to new customers because if we are not able to access the bureau, we can't know the record of a new customer," Mr Mutiso said.

"We can't keep having CRB used like a toy...because lenders are not allowed to give positive or negative information to CRB." The unregulated digital lenders have been barred by the CBK from blacklisting defaulters since April 2020, following numerous public complaints about misuse of credit information sharing and poor responsiveness to customer complaints.

Further, they had listed many defaulters of amounts below Sh1,000, forcing the CBK to issue guidelines that only defaults above Sh1,000 will be shared with CRBs and borrowers who had been blacklisted for lower amounts to be cleared uncondi-

tionally. The freezing out of digital lenders from CRBs saw them cut lending by half from about five million customers and loans disbursed to an average of Sh1.8 billion a month from Sh4 billion.

"The challenge of unpredictability and politicisation of our industry will scare investors, make us not want to come up with new products or get new customers or leave the industry, taking the country back to 20 years," Mr Mutiso added.

The lenders will, however, be allowed back into the CRB system should Parliament pass the Central Bank of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which looks to bring the digital loan providers under the regulatory umbrella of the CBK. The Bill has already received the approval of the National Assembly committee on Finance and National Planning, paving the way for debate.

Once digital lenders fall under the watch of the CBK, the regulator will be able to supervise their use of credit information sharing like banks, saccos and other entities currently using the system. The

regulator estimates there are more than 100 unregulated digital lenders operating in the country.

Even if the Bill is passed, the digital lenders are still unlikely to benefit much from being allowed to list defaulters in the short term following the suspension of blacklisting of defaulters with Sh5 million loans and below.

The listing moratorium is set to last until September next year. The CBK has already warned that commercial banks could restart rationing loans following the directive, especially to individuals and small traders at a scale last witnessed between September 2016 and November 2019 when Kenya capped interest rates.

Bankers said a lack of credit reference information could contribute to soaring costs of loans and stall lending to businesses due to incomplete borrowers' information. During the rate cap era, individuals who could not access small loans from banks sometimes turned to the unregulated mobile lenders from cash, helping fuel their rapid growth in the period.



Digital Lenders Association of Kenya's chairman, Kevin Mutiso.

Investors' appetite for CRDB, NMB Bank shares boosts DSE turnover to 2.64bn/-



DSE's CEO, Moremi Marwa, speaks at a past event.

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

IMPRESSIVE third quarter results posted by CRDB Bank Plc and NMB Bank Plc last month have boosted their share prices at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange last week with a combined turnover of 2.64bn/- compared to 953m/- that was made the previous week.

DSE's weekly report said, in all 9.1 million shares were transacted during the five days of trading last week with local investors choosing shares of the two rival banks in the market. The report said more than 95 percent of the turnover generated was in respect of CRDB and NMB shares. "We anticipate that this week's market activity will still be dominated by companies that have released their third quarter earnings, with majority recording profits as the country continues to bounce back from the perils of the Covid-19 pandemic suffered last year," the report said.

CRDB was the week's top mover after trading a pre-

arranged block of 7.6 million shares which accounted for 84.2 percent followed by NMB with 11.7 percent while Twiga came third with 1.28 percent. Similarly, NMB was the top gainer with its share price appreciating by 805 percent to close at 1,880/- per share, followed by CRDB whose share price appreciated by 4.1 percent to close at 250/- each.

Meanwhile according to Zan Securities' weekly market report, share price for Jatu Plc depreciated by 11.48 percent to 540/- each, falling from an all time high of 1,200/- at the end of September this year.

"Local investors accounted for 91.9 percent of all purchases in the market and 24.7 percent of selling while foreign investors accounted for only 8.0 percent of the buying activities and 75.2 percent selling activities," the report said.

Total market capitalization however increased by 0.2 percent to 15.6bn/- while domestic market capitalization also grew by 1.06 percent to close at 9.2bn/-. Net foreign outflow for the week was 1.7bn/-, compared to 174.5m/- the week before.

In another development, the two year Treasury bond issue with 7.82 percent per annum interest rate issued by Bank of Tanzania last week was oversubscribed by 90 percent supported by higher market liquidity. The oversubscription was due to investors' liquidity preference towards the short end of the curve with the 2-year Treasury bond providing higher yields than money market instruments.

The investors tendered 217bn/- significantly above the targeted 114bn/- with BoT taking up 164bn/- "In regard to the oversubscription, investors are attracted to short-term bonds, which typically yield higher interest rates than money market funds such as the 364 day T-bill offering a weighted average yield of 4.10 percent," the report by Orbit Securities said.

In the secondary market however, the value of bonds traded decreased by 71.7 percent to 32.48bn/- from 55.8bn/- made last week. On a year-on year basis, the yield curve dropped due to falling yields.

AfDB taking local content of women's enterprises as its priority

MAPUTO

The African Development Bank (ADB) Group is granting 1.5 million US dollars to Mozambique to support the development of women-owned Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) which will enable them to provide local content for the natural resource sector.

The grant builds on the previous grant in June of one million US dollars to fund the provision of technical and institutional assistance to the Institute for the Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises (IMPEME) aimed at supporting youth projects.

The current grant will provide technical and institutional assistance to Mozambique's National Hydrocarbon Company (ENH) under the 'Creating a Sustainable SME Supply Chain in the Oil and Gas Sector in Mozambique (LinKar)' project.

This flows from the decision of the ADB in November 2019 to approve a loan of 400 million dollars to the Mozambique LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) Area One project, which will have an initial production capacity of 12.88 million tonnes of LNG per year, drawing on the discoveries of massive reserves of natural gas in the Rovuma Basin, off the coast of the northern province of Cabo Delgado. The loan agreement includes reference to the need for technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of local companies to provide services to the hydrocarbon sector.

However, this LNG project is currently at a standstill because of the terrorist attack against the town of Palma on 24 March. The consortium undertaking the project, headed by the French company Total, promises that it will resume operations when the security situation allows.

According to an ADB press release, LinKar will concentrate on improving the capacities of local small and medium enterprises to supply a wide variety of goods and services including catering, office supplies, customs clearance, recruitment, and logistics. Estevao Pale, the chairperson of the ENH board, points out that the implementation of gas projects over the next 12 to 24 months requires the realisation of the four action areas under LinKar - training, finance, technical assistance, and contracting small and medium enterprises.

In particular, Pale referred to the development of the Coral South floating liquefied natural gas (FLNG) project in Cabo Delgado and the CTT power project in the southern province of Inhambane. The African Development Bank financed its first project in Mozambique in 1977 and since then has focused on supporting projects covering agriculture, transport, water and sanitation, energy, communications, mining, and finance.

Retired CAG says transparency key factor to enhance accountability in govt business

By The Banker Reporter

TRANSPARENCY is an important factor that will lead to accountability in government's revenue collection and expenditure hence the two must go hand in hand.

Retired Controller and Auditor General, Ludovick Utouh said in Dodoma mid this week that transparency will force all civil servants and elite public officials to be more accountable for fear of being censured.

"By ensuring transparency and good governance, many public officials will be accountable because the public will be seeing things that are happening," Utouh who is currently founder and Director of Wajibu, said. Wajibu is a not for profit accountability organisation based in Dar es Salaam.

He revealed that an international symposium on transparency and accountability which begins in Arusha city today is aimed at discussing the two issues as key factors if Africa is to realise its development goals.

"During the two days symposium, local and foreign experts in the field will present papers and case studies on the importance of transparency in enhancing accountability of public officials," he noted. The former CAG who is also ITAC founder further noted that the issue of transparency and good governance is a required of the country's constitution hence cannot be ignored.

"We expect to have some 500 delegates at the symposium who will mostly come from African countries but also some from outside the continent," he added while revealing that Vice President Dr Philip Mpango is expected to officially open the meeting.

ITAC is a brainchild of Wajibu and is designed for people to meet and discuss trends on transparency and accountability, sharing best practices, successes and challenges in order to promote an interdisciplinary learning in hastening the transformation process by promoting the culture of transparency and accountability in our societies. The conference theme is "Transformation to a culture of total transparency and accountability."



Former CAG Ludovick Utou, who is founder and director of Wajibu, speaks in Dodoma city mid this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NEWSINDEPTH

Q3 results: Jumia losses continue despite accelerated growth

NAIROBI

Jumia's Q3 (for the period ended September 30 2021) results show that the eCommerce giant continue to incur losses despite increased revenues.

In its financials released yesterday, it highlighted the business accelerating usage growth across its key KPIs - Orders increased by 28% to 8.5 million year-over-year; Annual Active Consumers increased by 7.3 million, 8% year-over-year; and GMV increased by 8% year-over-year reaching \$238mm. Revenue grew by 8.5% year on year to \$427 million

According to the co-CEOs, Jeremy Hodara and Sacha Poignonnet, the acceleration strategy was beginning to pay off. In their own words,

"Our growth acceleration strategy initiated at the end of the second quarter of 2021 is starting to pay off. We are making investments in Sales & Advertising and Technology to further enhance consumer education, brand consideration as well as the relevance and convenience of our platform.

We believe that these investments are long-term in nature and that accelerating growth will ultimately contribute to profitability, leveraging the strong efficiency gains achieved throughout 2020 and the first half of 2021. We are more than ever confident about the strong growth potential of our markets and our ability to build a growing business across e-commerce and fintech activities."

The investments in Sales Advertising reached \$24 million, an increase of 227.9% year on year and Technology investment grew by 27.3% to \$9.4 million. These investments brought about an operating loss of \$64 million, a decline of 92.6% when compared to 2020 loss value of \$33.3 million.

A bright spark in the company's operations was in JumiaPay. JumiaPay transactions reached 3 million, up 34% year-over-year. The company continued releasing more products and features to enhance both consumer and merchant experience on payment platform. It also continued expanding the range of digital and financial services available to consumers on the JumiaPay app.



Jumia co-CEOs Sacha Poignonnet and Jeremy Hodara.

SUA entrepreneurs want Mkongo changed into agribusiness vocational centre

By Correspondent
Gerald Kitabu

IN a bid to increase the number of youth engaging in agribusiness in the country, Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (Sugeco) wants the government to transform Mkongo Agricultural Youth Camp (MAYC) into an agricultural business vocational training centre.

Speaking at the graduation of young girls from marginalized section of the society in the country who completed their training at MAYC last week, Sugeco Executive Director, Revocutus Kimario said there is urgent need MAYC into the first agricultural business vocational training centre in the country.

Kimario said because there is no such specialized agribusiness training centre in the country, its time for the government to elevate and invest in the centre so that it can be able to train youth to be able to produce, manage and supervise farm activities.

"Production of high quality commodities and

management of farm activities can be done properly if we have a specialised vocational training centre in agribusiness where youth are given knowledge and skills in the field," Kimario said.

He said the vocational agriculture business training centre will help build competent and skilled youth who will serve smallholder farmers and help transform the country's subsistence farming into commercial agriculture.

Commenting on the centre where the young girls had graduated, the Sugeco chief executive said MAYC which has been running since 2015, has trained hundreds on various aspects of value chains in horticulture, beekeeping, poultry farming and other commodities.

He commended the 53 young girls from different districts and regions who completed the course with sponsorship from a pro-girls charity called CAMFED. Most of the girls came from Iringa, Morogoro, Tanga and Coastal regions.

"This is a unique experience for us. It is the first time we are run-



CAMFED Tanzania Programme director, Nasikiwa Duke (L) has a word with young girls who completed training in agricultural production at Mkongo Agricultural Youth Camp in Rufiji District last week. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

ning a training focusing on women only from marginalized section of the society with support from CAMFED Tanzania," he added saying the young girls have learnt how to add value to commodities before supplying markets.

The young girls had been at MAYC for two weeks undergoing hands on training on how to add value to different commodities including fruits and vegetables as well as training in non agricultural activities.

"We expect to see them implementing what they have learnt here at Mkongo camp. I understand that they have developed their own action plan from which Sugeco will use to develop a mentorship and business coaching programs for next six month," he added.

Kimario said however that there are issues that need support for them to excel naming such things like compliance, standards, registration and formalization of their business so that they can be

able to produce and sell their produce to premium markets locally and abroad.

Program director at CAMFED Tanzania, Nasikiwa Duke explained that the organization has entered into partnership with Sugeco to see how they can assist not only those who are at school but also those who have completed tertiary education.

Duke said agriculture is an area where young girls who are still at school and those who have finished

or simply dropped out, can employ themselves by changing their mindset which regards farming as an occupation for illiterate people.

"CAMFED also supports young girls attending secondary schools and those who have completed form four. After completing, they joined agribusiness and agro processing. Some of them are aspiring to be occupational farmers," Duke noted.

Commenting on the challenges they face after been supported, she said they include lack of land and capital to successfully venture into agribusiness ventures. The CAMFED chief executive called on the government to set aside land banks for youth to conduct agribusiness.

"Rufiji district has very fertile land and water that can do well in agriculture be it sesame, cassava which can be processed before the final product is taken to the market to earn premium prices," Duke added.

She said CAMFED also support the young girls to access to education and has been working with them after joining form

one. The vulnerable girls were identified by district councils using the Ministry of Health guidelines. "We have been supporting them since they were in secondary school and for those who pass their examination to go to high school, we continue supporting them all the way till they finish high school," she stated.

Closing the training, Rufiji District Commissioner, Major Edward Gowele said that the government will support them achieve their dreams by providing them with seed capital. Major Gowele said recently, the district supported 60 groups of youth and women with a 248m/- in concessional loans as per government directives.

"The government will work with Sugeco and other development partners to improve the camp's training infrastructure so that many youth can benefit," he said while commending Sugeco and CAMFED for the good work of building capacity and transforming the young girls many of which come from poor families.

"I recognize the huge contribution of CAMFED

in supporting young girls and promise that Rufiji district will work closely with you," he noted while revealing that CAMFED has supported more than 723 primary school young girls and 1,033 secondary school young girls in his district with a total investment of more than 266.44m/-.

He urged the young girls to be good ambassadors in implementing what they have learnt saying the training received should be practiced and lead to desired fruits in their respective communities.

Established in 2005, CAMFED works with the government to boost secondary school enrolment especially for girls because Tanzania has one of the lowest transition rates between primary and secondary school in Africa.

CAMFED started working in Iringa town where many girls who couldn't afford secondary school fees were leaving home to become house girls in urban centers. Since then, CAMFED has expanded its campaign country-wide and currently operates in 32 districts.

Building an organisation's culture, transformation to boost brands

By Francis Rugangila

Whether an organisation's employees and leadership realise it or not, every organisation has a culture. In most organisations, culture is viewed as the way things are done. It is defined by what the people within the organisation do. Culture is the sum of all behaviours that are visible in the organisation.

Asking critical questions can help you identify your organisation's culture. Do employees go out of the way to help each other? Is there a unified approach to the way employees treat customers? Are ethical expectations consistent across the organisation? Is there an expectation on the form of dressing and relating to other employees?

Cultural strengths

Culture determines how the organisation operates and responds to internal and external challenges. It is observed as a pattern of interactions; and preferences when making choices in dealing with dilemmas. Most organisations get a clear picture of their culture in situations of crisis.

In many organisations, culture shapes and is shaped by



By Francis
Rugangila

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leadership and behaviour exhibited in decision making, governance and employees' actions. How the organisation relates with the outside world as well shapes its culture based on the purpose and strategy which is manifested through interactions with customers, the regulatory environment and general public.

Culture patterns

Within the organisation premises, culture pattern is attributed by the physical environment including office design, layout, office locations and technology enabled ways of working (such as virtual working). The stories and symbols including what is displayed on the office walls, the type of languages used, dress code as well as internal and external communication styles, all defines

the organisation culture.

Organisation culture is also evident in terms of structures, systems and processes, on how a business organises its people and activities to get things done, including decision making process; career pathways; recruitment and learning plus development programs in place.

Embarking on a journey of culture transformation requires a reflection of the organisation current and desired state in terms of beliefs, values, norms, behaviours and assumptions.

Benefits

When the organisation culture is well aligned to its purpose, employee engagement is improved, enhancing productivity and morale. With increase in productivity, the employees are likely to embrace a continuous improvement philoso-

phy through innovation in serving customers, resulting in excellent customer service.

Other notable benefits of culture transformation to the organisation are improved collaboration and accountability amongst staff; willful compliance to organisation's code of conduct and policies; and a strong brand identity from customers based on consistency and quality of service provided by the organisation employees.

Fundamentals of transformation

It is essential that the culture transformation involves the different stakeholders of the organisation throughout the journey in order to increase level of ownership and acceptance of the desirable change initiatives during implementation.

Overall, transforming an organisation's culture requires support of a modern performance management framework that recognise both results and behaviour in attaining the set goals and living to its purpose.

Performance management frameworks should be linked with rewards and recognition schemes, so that the employees who excel in demonstrating the organisation's values and conducts are rewarded accordingly.

BANKING&FINANCE

Absa commits to getting things done for those who are ready

JOHANNESBURG

Younger populations are usually considered an economic gift for countries. When the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share, there is usually a boost in economic productivity, referred to as a demographic dividend.

If sub-Saharan Africa takes advantage of this economic gift and can provide its expanding workforce with skills and jobs, the World Economic Forum estimates it could add up to \$500bn per year to its economies for up to 30 years - the equivalent of one-third of Africa's GDP.

The continent is at a tipping point where the skills and potential of its youth should be honed and guided to see Africa leapfrog and flourish. But if Africa's young people are further neglected, their frustration and feelings of exclusion will backfire and damage the fibre of our society.

Enabling Africa's youth to overcome the challenges they face and turn them into an asset that could drive growth, and contribute to their communities, is only possible if they are given access to the resources they need. And right now, they're being left behind through poor quality education, and limited opportunities to be gainfully employed.

"They don't need brands who are all talk. They need an ally to support them. With the 'Here for the Ready' campaign we are calling out to those who are ready to learn, work, grow, change, rise and participate. It is time for brands to stop talking and start doing to create a world where we can all flourish."

"The campaign is saying we are more than a bank. We want to play a shaping role in helping Africa achieve its possibility. Absa is saying if you are ready, then we are here to work with you to get things done; things that will bring your possibility to life," says Jenny Moore, head of brand and design at Absa Group.

Egyptian billionaire Sawiris shuns Bitcoin, is bullish on gold and eyes Euronews sale

CAIRO

Despite some saying gold has lost its lustre as a hedge against inflation, Egyptian billionaire Naguib Sawiris is bullish on the precious metal. He also has no intention to invest in cryptocurrencies, is looking at including green energy assets in his investment portfolio and plans to divest his stake in the Euronews television channel.

"I'm still very bullish [on gold] and it is a safe haven. People now are comparing Bitcoin with gold; it's a wrong comparison," Mr Sawiris, 67, told The National in an interview on Wednesday. The entrepreneur, who has a net worth of \$3.2 billion, is executive chairman of Cairo-based Orascom Investment Holding,

whose interests span financial services, mining, telecoms, media, real estate and hospitality businesses, among others.

He is also chairman of La Mancha Holding, which launched a \$1.4bn investment fund this year to pursue investments in gold mining. Mr Sawiris also sits on the boards of both Evolution Mining, the second-largest gold producer in Australia, and Endeavour Mining, Africa's third-largest gold producer.

In February, AKH Gold, a company Mr Sawiris backs, signed a deal to explore nine blocks in Egypt's gold-rich Eastern Desert, following a shake-up in regulations to attract more investment in the country's gold mining sector. The billionaire

considers Bitcoin as a "very speculative" investment, which is facing a lot of challenges in terms of the regulatory environment. "It's a very risky business, I'm not into this," he said.

The volatile nature of cryptocurrency trading and the wild price swings in recent months have drawn regulatory ire. Central banks around the world have been reluctant to endorse cryptocurrencies because of their lack of underlying value, their traceability and regulatory oversight.

Last month, China, the world's second-largest economy, banned the mining and trading of Bitcoin and other digital currencies. However, proponents of online assets expect them to compete

with traditional currencies. El Salvador accepts Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, as legal tender.

Bitcoin dropped 4.2 per cent to \$64,293.66 at 6.28am UAE time on Thursday, according to coinmarketcap.com, which tracks prices. The world's biggest digital currency has rallied more than 50 per cent since the start of October. However, Mr Sawiris said "when the dooms day comes and it crashes, the last people in the row will lose."

In 2015, the billionaire acquired a 53 per cent stake in Euronews through Media Globe Networks (MGN) and boosted his shareholding in 2017 to 60 per cent and further in 2020. MGN currently holds 88 per cent stake

in the company and Mr Sawiris plans to divest it.

"Media is a very tough business. It is actually a loss-making business," Mr Sawiris said. "We believe we will exit." "Between now and the beginning of the next year," he said when asked, when he plans to divest. Mr Sawiris did not provide further details on the potential sale.

Mr Sawiris said he is focused on investing in the green energy sector and reducing the carbon footprint of the companies in his portfolio. "All our mining operations are now going to shift to solar [power]," he said. "We are also looking at investing in a clean energy fund" that primarily invests in renewable energy, he said.



Naguib Sawiris, executive chairman of Cairo-based Orascom Investment Holding.

WORLD

WTO report calls for multilateral trade cooperation

GENEVA

THE World Trade Organization on Tuesday published the 2021 edition of World Trade Report, calling for more multilateral and regional trade cooperation after analyzing vulnerabilities and resilience in global trading system amid pandemic.

"While the WTO already contributes to economic resilience in important ways, it can and must do more, as we confront a future of increasing natural and man-made risks and disasters," WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said in her foreword to the report titled "Economic resilience

and trade."

"Today's highly connected global economy is more exposed to risks and vulnerable to shocks, from supply chain cut-offs to infectious disease outbreaks, but that it is also more resilient to shocks when they do strike," she said.

The report emphasized that multilateral and regional trade cooperation is conducive to the global response to future crises.

Noting that the ongoing health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has been a massive stress test for the world trading system, the report said the system has proved itself more resilient



Director-General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala attends a press conference on the annual global WTO trade forecast at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on Mar 31, 2021. AFP

than many expected at the outset of the crisis, and many economies have gradually begun to recover.

More trade cooperation at the multilateral or regional level, backed by strong international trade rules, can support the various domestic strategies deployed to avoid and mitigate risks

and to prepare for, manage and recover from shocks, the report said.

The World Trade Report is an annual publication that aims to deepen understanding about trends in trade, trade policy issues and the multilateral trading system.

Xinhua

Russian security chief calls for stopping US scheme to gain foothold in Central Asia

MOSCOW

WASHINGTON'S attempts to gain a foothold in the former Central Asian Soviet republics, using the worsening situation in Afghanistan as an excuse, must be stopped, Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev said yesterday.

"It's of critical importance to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a testing ground for the ill-conceived and reckless geopolitical gambits of outside players," he said at an annual meeting of security council secretaries of the CIS, a group of former Soviet republics known as the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"I'm referring primarily to the attempts by the US and their allies to gain a foothold in the region, including the CIS area, using the worsening of the situation in that country as an excuse."

"These initiatives must be stopped in accordance with the decisions that have been taken at the highest level," he said.

Patrushev called for joint efforts by the CIS to work with Afghanistan. There's a need to have a clear picture of what is going on in Afghanistan, set the priorities in resolving problems and propose well-balanced solutions that would help to settle the crisis in Afghanistan, including fostering national reconciliation and economic recovery, Patrushev said.

EU targets key commodities in push to prevent deforestation

By Bloomberg

THE European Union will on Wednesday unveil new rules for companies selling six major commodities in a bid to reduce global deforestation.

The European Commission, the 27-nation bloc's executive arm, wants the draft regulation to cover soy, beef, palm oil, wood, cocoa and coffee, as well as some derived products such as chocolate, leather and furniture, according to a document seen by Bloomberg News. The plan will require backing from member states and the European Parliament to enter into force.

"It's about our responsibility as one of the largest economies, who unfortunately drives deforestation and forest degradation in other regions," EU Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevicius (pictured) said in an interview. "With this proposal we're sending a very clear message that we're leading the way in addressing this issue."

The EU seeks to be the world's leader in the fight against climate change. The proposal will reduce biodiversity loss and cut at least 31.9 million metric tons of carbon emissions to the atmosphere every year, according to the Commission's estimates. That would translate into economic savings of at least 3.2 billion euros (\$3.6 billion) annually.

Under the draft law, operators would have to collect the geographic coordinates of where the commodities originated and competent authorities in member states will ensure that only deforestation-free products enter the EU market. The rules would prohibit the placement of commodities and products produced on land deforested or degraded after Dec 31, 2020, or in breach of the country of production's laws.

The rules will be the same for all companies, both from the EU and third countries, who want to sell their products to Europe, according to Sinkevicius.

"We received a lot of support from companies," he said. "Some are already doing that and they're happy that we're finally going to apply the regulation to all and that there's not going to be any greenwashing or fooling the consumer."

There will be a benchmarking system run by the Commission to classify countries according to their level of risk for deforestation and that information will be used to determine the obligations on companies and member states. For example, due diligence will be simplified for goods from lower risk areas while more stringent demands will be placed on products coming from higher risk areas.

Companies and member states will have around one year from the adoption of the rules to fully prepare, according to Sinkevicius. The Commission plans to update the regulation regularly, potentially adding new products as new scientific data becomes available and deforestation patterns change.

"This is already a very ambitious, ground-breaking proposal, which hasn't been proposed anywhere in the world," Sinkevicius said. **Agencies**



China, Africa boost trade cooperation despite COVID-19

BEIJING

CHINA and Africa have maintained robust economic and trade cooperation, despite COVID-19, as their bilateral trade has set a record high in the January-September period.

Trade between China and Africa rose 38.2 percent year on year to 185.2 billion US dollars in the January-September period, reaching the highest level in history for the same period, Chinese Vice Commerce Minister Qian Keming said Wednesday.

China's direct investment in Africa hit 2.59 billion US dollars in the first nine months, up 9.9 percent, year on year. The growth rate is 3 percentage points higher than China's overall outbound investment, Qian said, adding that the growth rate outperformed the pre-pandemic level in the same period of 2019.

Chinese enterprises signed 53.5 billion US dollars in new contracts in Africa in the pe-

riod, up 22.2 percent year on year, with a turnover of 26.9 billion US dollars, up 11.6 percent year on year.

These figures fully demonstrated the confidence of Chinese enterprises in Africa's future development, Qian said.

The Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation takes place in Senegal at the end of November.

Against the backdrop of COVID-19, the 55 FOCAC members will gather again, which shows the strong willingness of China and Africa to deepen cooperation, Qian said. Qian believes the conference will boost the China-Africa comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership and chart the course for sustainable and high-quality development of China-Africa cooperation. He also said it would play a positive role in building a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era.

China has maintained its position as Africa's largest



In this undated photo, construction vehicles are driven aboard the Glovis Challenge at Yantai Port, Shandong province, for export to countries in East Africa. File photo

trade partner for 12 years straight. The bilateral trade defied pandemic pressure to hit 187 billion US dollars in 2020.

Ever since the establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2000, trade between China and Africa and China's direct investment in Africa have increased 20 and 100 times, respec-

tively, said Xu Bu, president of the China Institute of International Studies, at a forum in October.

China-Africa trade is generally balanced from a long-term perspective. Since 2000, China has imported 1.2 trillion US dollars of goods from Africa and exported 1.27 trillion US dollars of goods to Africa, Qian said.

Regarding sustainable development, Qian said China is ready to strengthen policy coordination with Africa. China would boost green, low-carbon, and clean energy cooperation and conduct technology exchanges to support Africa in enhancing its capacity to adapt to climate change and achieve sustainable development. **Xinhua**

Biden bans Nicaragua officials from entering US

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Tuesday banned members of the Nicaraguan government from entering the United States as he issued a broad proclamation in response to an election that Washington has denounced as rigged in favor of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

Biden's travel ban applied to all of Nicaragua's "elected officials," apparently including Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo, in addition to security force members, judges, mayors and others seen as undermining democracy in the Central American nation.

"The repressive and abusive acts of the Ortega government and those who support it compel the United States to act," Biden said in the decree.

Biden's order came just a day after the United States, Britain

and Canada imposed targeted sanctions on lists of Nicaraguan officials in a concerted response to the Nov 7 election that many countries have called a sham.

They took action after Ortega's re-election to a fourth consecutive term after jailing political rivals and cracking down on critical media.

Ortega, a former Marxist guerrilla leader, has derided his US critics as "Yankee imperialists" and accused them of trying to undermine Nicaragua's electoral process. Cuba, Venezuela and Russia have offered Ortega their backing.

In his proclamation, President Joe Biden said he had determined it was in US interests to bar entry to all those "who formulate, implement or benefit from policies or actions that undermine or injure democratic institutions or impede the return to democracy in Nicaragua"



Previous sanctions, asset freezes and travel bans on certain Nicaraguan officials imposed by Biden and his predecessor, Donald Trump, have failed to deter Ortega, and many analysts are skeptical whether new measures will have much impact.

The Organization of American States (OAS) adopted a resolu-

tion on Friday saying Nicaragua's election lacked "democratic legitimacy." Twenty-five nations voted in favor and seven abstained, including Mexico, Honduras and Bolivia.

In his proclamation, Biden said he had determined it was in US interests to bar entry to all those "who formulate, implement or benefit from policies or actions that undermine or injure democratic institutions or impede the return to democracy in Nicaragua."

His order also bans their family members from the United States.

Biden's proclamation cited security forces, saying they "abuse persons to further the Ortega government's authoritarian agenda," and said that municipal officers "directed violence against pro-democracy protesters." It accused the judiciary of "aiding and abetting" politically motivated arrests.

US officials have made clear that further sanctions are in the works and that the administration intends to use other provisions in a bill the president signed last week to further ratchet up pressure on Ortega.

For instance, Brian Nichols, assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere Affairs, told a House of Representatives subcommittee on Tuesday the administration will seek to prevent Nicaragua from obtaining funds from international financial institutions where Washington has a vote.

The so-called RENACER Act also requires that the US government report on alleged corruption by the Ortega family and calls for a review Nicaragua's participation in the Central America Free Trade Agreement, which gives preferential treatment to exports to the United States. **Agencies**

THE 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE) has spurred a wave of openness and cooperation, through which the international community sees more clearly that China is unswervingly safeguarding true multilateralism and common interests of all through courageous actions, continuously providing impetus for improving global economic governance and jointly building an open world economy.

As unilateralism and protectionism are on the rise and economic globalization is encountering headwinds, the 4th CIIE attracted participants from various countries, offered great opportunities for cooperation, and caught the attention of people around the world, signaling a more

China unswervingly safeguards common interests of all

evident role of the expo in promoting international economic and trade cooperation.

As a Chinese saying goes, people with petty shrewdness attend to trivial matters while those with greater wisdom attend to the governance of institutions.

The combined forces of changes and a pandemic, both unseen in a century, have brought the world into a phase of fluidity and transformation. To ride out the phase, countries need to reform and improve the global economic governance system constructively and better seize opportunities and avoid harm to facilitate the steady progress of economic

globalization.

The multilateral trading regime with the WTO at its core is the cornerstone of international trade. However, the regime has been eroded, and the WTO has had difficulty performing normally in recent years, with its Doha Development Round going around in circles and the Appellate Body of its dispute settlement mechanism paralyzed.

The reform of the WTO has been put on the agenda, yet a consensus hasn't been reached on the goals of the reform and the ways to advance the reform.

Standing at a crossroads, countries can only enjoy a bright future by de-

termining on a clear direction and marching forward together.

"China supports the WTO reform in moving in the right direction. We support the inclusive development of the multilateral trading regime, as well as the legitimate rights and interests of the developing members," announced Chinese President Xi Jinping at the opening ceremony of the 4th CIIE.

China has always stressed that the WTO reform should preserve the core values of the multilateral trading system, guarantee the development interests of developing members, and follow the consensus-based de-

cision-making mechanism.

Besides, China believes that the reform of the WTO should uphold the multilateral trading system's status as the main channel for international rules-setting, give priority to the key issues that threaten the survival of the organization, ensure the fairness of trading rules, respond to the needs of the times, guarantee the special and differential treatment for developing members, and respect the respective development models of WTO members.

China's propositions for WTO reform have provided theoretical guidance and political impetus for maintaining and developing the mul-

tilateral trading system, drawing wide attention and winning recognition from the international community.

Of the problems confronting the world economy, none can be resolved by a single country alone.

Countries should stick to the vision of global governance featuring extensive consultation, joint construction, and shared benefits and jointly improve global economic governance, instead of allowing unilateralism or protectionism to undermine the international order and international rules. They should show more willingness and roll out more measures to advance opening-up and cooperation, rather than isolating themselves from the rest of the world.

People's Daily

Putin, Armenian PM discuss situation on Armenian-Azerbaijani border – Kremlin

MOSCOW

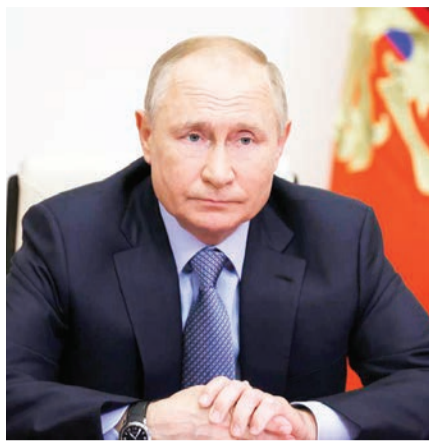
RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has held a telephone conversation with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, discussing the situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kremlin press service said in a statement.

"During the phone call, initiated by Armenia, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan discussed the situation following a number of incidents on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border," the statement reads.

According to the Kremlin press service, Putin and Pashinyan agreed to remain in contact on the matter.

Intense fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani armed forces broke out in the border areas of Armenia's Syunik region on Tuesday.

According to the Azerbaijani De-



fense Ministry, Armenian troops attacked Azerbaijani positions, wounding two service members.

The Armenian Defense Ministry, in turn, said that Azerbaijan's armed forces had shelled Armenian positions on the eastern border, causing casualties.

Agencies

Sino-US talks 'good signal for world'

THE virtual meeting between President Xi Jinping and United States President Joe Biden has charted the direction of and injected fresh impetus into the growth of bilateral ties, officials and experts said on Tuesday.

Xie Feng, vice-minister of foreign affairs, said at a news briefing that the bilateral meeting was "candid, in-depth, constructive and fruitful".

"If China-US relations cannot return to the past, then we should face the future. China is without any illusions, but the nation remains confident and will maintain its strategic orientation," he said.

Xie added that China will remain open to options that will benefit bilateral relations, and Beijing is open to dialogue between the two heads of state in various forms, including face-to-face meetings.

The two leaders reached a key principled consensus the extreme importance of bilateral relations, he said.

The other principled consensus from the summit, Xie said, is that both sides are opposed to a "new Cold War". He said that other nations, including allies of the US, are also unwilling to retake the old path of the Cold War and be forced to take sides between the world's largest and second-largest economies.

Another key topic during the meeting was the Taiwan question, the most important and sensitive issue in bilateral relations.

Xie said the Chinese public deplores the recent erroneous remarks and practices by the US on the Taiwan question as well as its attempts to confuse the one-China policy.

He urged the US to respect the fact that an overwhelming majority of nations in the world adhere to the one-China principle and to use actions to win the trust of the Chinese people and



President Xi Jinping meets with US counterpart Joe Biden via video link in Beijing on Tuesday morning. XINHUA

the international community.

With regard to managing differences between the two sides, Xie highlighted the need for the two countries to be even more determined to prevent a possible crisis and to eliminate the source of crisis.

"It is equally important to put out a fire and to prevent a fire. We need to take the initiative to remove the 'flammables'," he said.

The senior diplomat said China opposes intervention in the affairs of other nations on the grounds of human rights issues.

China has always called for peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, which are common values of humanity, and stands ready to have talks on human rights issues on the basis of mutual respect, he said.

There is no room for China to concede over issues concerning Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet, as well as regarding maritime issues, all of which involve China's sovereignty, territorial integrity and core interests, Xie said, urging the US to respect China's interests and concerns.

The significance of the virtual sum-

mit was also hailed by global analysts.

Lucio Blanco Pitlo III, research fellow at the Manila-based foreign policy think tank Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation Inc, welcomed the virtual summit, saying it was a "good signal for the world that the two major powers are finding ways to engage in high-level dialogue".

The summit would put some guardrails or offramps in place to try to manage strategic competition, he said, as both sides "understand the risk of conflict, so they would try to mitigate the chances of miscalculation".

Koh King Kee, president of the Centre for New Inclusive Asia, a think tank based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, said the key message from both leaders is that both sides are sincere about reducing tension and improving their relationship.

"Sound China-US ties are important not only to both countries, but also the people of the world," Koh said, adding that Chi-

na's agreement to cooperate with the US on climate issues shows its sincerity in improving bilateral relations. Xinhua



It is equally important to put out a fire and to prevent a fire. We need to take the initiative to remove the 'flammables'

Preventing conflicts requires closing

UNITED NATIONS

PREVENTING conflicts requires closing development gaps, reducing inequality, and offering hope to people around the globe, senior UN officials said at a Security Council meeting on Tuesday.

"History has shown that conflicts do not emerge out of thin air, nor are they inevitable," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. These problems are caused either by a lack of access to basic services and life staples such as food, water, and health care - or by gaps in the security, laws, and governance systems.

Conflicts can also be sparked by gaps in public trust, both in institutions and in one another, he added. "These gaps are potential flashpoints for violence and even conflict," the UN chief stressed.

The solution means not only defusing tensions through dialogue, but also ensuring that no mother is forced to skip a meal to feed her children.

Closing development gaps and giving people hope can help stabilize societies and reduce inequalities that stoke conflict.

The UN chief noted that for 76 years, the UN has provided a platform for dialogue as well as tools and mechanisms needed for peaceful dispute settlement. Citing the judicial dimension of prevention - provided by the Hague-based International Court of Justice - as well as the Economic and Social Council's work to advance sustainable development, he also recalled his own calls for a surge in diplomacy and conflict prevention efforts.

These efforts have included the review of all tools comprising the UN's peace architecture, a better integration of prevention and risk management, and more innovation and foresight.

Moreover, the UN's growing partnerships with regional and subregional groups, including the African Union, provide in-depth knowledge of dynamics on the ground.

The top UN official highlighted the Our Common Agenda report, which takes a holistic approach to global security and proposes a new social contract. Abdulla Shahid, president of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, said that over the decades the UN has learned more about the link between socioeconomic factors and conflict.

Among the most critical emerging challenges of the 21st century, he cited the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated socioeconomic struggles and inequality; the climate crisis, which threatened displacement; and ineffective institutions which left people

without hope. Meanwhile, the absence of democratic participation, political freedoms and equality deprives entire populations of their human rights.

While global security will always fall under the Security Council, he maintained that it can be complemented by the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) efforts to build more resilient and prosperous communities.

ECOSOC President Collen V. Kelapile recalled that the organ's mandate to promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples, protect human rights and oversee the UN's development and humanitarian systems - drawing links to conflict prevention. Suffering continues in Africa's Sahel region "because of the failure to appreciate the complex interplay of human survival, in a very fragile and culturally diverse environment," he said.

And extreme poverty in South Sudan is rooted in over 50 years of conflict, while Haiti's vast challenges stem from historical and structural inequality, governance deficits and vulnerability to climate change.

However, despite the UN's interlinked mandates to address such crises, interactions between them have remained sporadic and ad hoc.

"Today's complex challenges require more institutionalized collaboration," Kelapile underscored. Joan E. Donoghue, president of the International Court of Justice, also spoke to the council about how the body can contribute to conflict prevention.

According to her, the court may be used to defuse tensions over resources, land or water borders, or other sources of potential conflict.

She explained that while the circumstances and requirements of each case vary, all the principal UN organs have the opportunity within their respective mandates to help implement the court's judgments and contribute to the promotion of peace, security, and justice.

"The court itself stands ready to receive any requests for advisory opinions that relevant UN organs and specialized agencies may make," she stressed.



Today's complex challenges require more institutionalized collaboration," Kelapile underscored. Joan E. Donoghue, president of the International Court of Justice, also spoke to the council about how the body can contribute

Test event for 2022 Winter Olympics employs robots to ensure safe, convenient services

ROBOTS just showed what they got at a 2022 Winter Olympics test event for ice hockey. From making coffee to offering contactless deliveries, they made the games and the preparation work much easier.

The test event "Experience Beijing" was held between Nov. 7 and 10 at Beijing's Wukesong Sports Center, also known as the Cadillac Center, where some of the Olympic ice hockey games will take place in February the next year. The test event was joined by four men's ice hockey teams in Beijing.

During the event, a robot was employed as a coffee barista at the Wukesong Sports Center. It only took four minutes for the robot to make a cup of pour over coffee.

"The robot has two 6-axis robotic arms and it can make different types of coffee. Its operation stability enables it to ensure the same quality and taste for every cup of coffee it makes," said Wei Qing, technical manager of the Wukesong Sports Center.

To make the test event free from possible COVID-19 risks, the organizers of it divided the Wukesong Sports Center into two parts - an inner section and an outer section, and the two sections were isolated from each other. Technical materials, general materials, documents and personal items needed by the staff in the inner section were



Photo shows the robot coffee barista at the Wukesong Sports Center, Beijing.

transported by logistics robots and smart delivery and collection cabins, in a contactless manner.

There was also a buffer zone between the two sections, and that was where the logistics robots worked. Zhang Fan, logistics manager of the Wukesong Sports Center, said that each of the logistics robots was able to carry 30 to 300 kilograms of cargos, and they could deliver the cargos within the venue without any contact to the senders and receivers.

"They can go everywhere they want, and automatically sense and avoid obstacles around them. Besides, these robots

charge themselves automatically, and are able to intelligently plan their routes. In this way, the contacts in the venue are reduced," Zhang said.

The cargos transported by these robots were mostly materials in urgent demand, while those not-so-urgent items were handled by smart cabins. The cabins were 214 centimeters in height, 87 centimeters in width, and 50 centimeters in length. They were placed in the buffer zone, too, with two sides of them facing the inner section and outer section of the venue, respectively.

"Pick-up information is sent to the receivers in the inner section only after the senders outside

place the items in the cabin and close the doors. And that's why the service is totally contactless," Zhang explained.

Services and logistics are important for holding the Olympic Games. The Wukesong Sports Center has repeatedly run over procedures in over 30 aspects, including game organizing, venue operation, infrastructure, pandemic control, accommodation and transport, as well as media management.

"We made schedules and detailed plans for every task during the games," said Shi Wei, deputy service director of the Wukesong Sports Center.

People's Daily

UK inflation surges to highest in a decade on energy costs

By Bloomberg

UK inflation climbed faster than expected to the highest in a decade, heaping pressure on the Bank of England to raise interest rates and tightening a squeeze on living standards for households.

Consumer prices rose 4.2 percent from a year ago in October, the fastest pace since November 2011, the Office for National Statistics said Wednesday. The figure was up sharply from 3.1 percent in September and the reading of 3.9 percent expected by econo-

mists.

The Bank of England has warned that it's likely to lift borrowing costs in the coming months to keep inflation in check, estimating that prices may leap 5 percent early next year, more than double its target. The pound rose after the report, with investors bracing for a move next month after stronger labor market data on Tuesday indicated upward pressure on wages.

"With high inflation sticking around, this may force a response from the Bank of England in just a matter of weeks,"

said Sukhdeep Dhillon, senior economist at BNP Paribas Real Estate.

For now, inflation is largely driven by temporary factors linked to the revival of global demand following the pandemic. However, the BOE is concerned that inflation could take root more widely if left unchecked.

Growth in employment and wages this week reinforced views that the BOE is likely to move to prevent an upward spiral in prices from taking hold. Business groups sounded a note of caution, highlighting

weaker economic growth and signs of weakness in consumer spending and confidence.

"The Bank of England are facing a tricky trade-off between surging inflation and a stalling recovery," said Suren Thiru, head of economics at the British Chambers of Commerce. "However, with the UK economy facing mounting headwinds, raising interest rates too early should be resisted."

The pickup in inflation last month was driven by natural gas and electricity prices after regulator Ofgem allowed suppliers to hike tariffs by as much

as 12 percent to offset rising wholesale costs.

The prices charged for food, motor fuel, used cars and at restaurants and hotels also contributed to the sharp increase in inflation.

Households face the prospect of another steep rise in April, along with a sharp increase in payroll taxes. That could undermine the recovery by leaving people with less money to spend on other goods and services.

Rising prices also present a problem for Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak by

making it more expensive to service inflation-linked government bonds. The Retail Price Index, which determines payments on index-linked gilts, rose to 6 percent in October, the fastest pace since April 1991.

"Many countries are experiencing higher inflation as we recover from COVID, and we know people are facing pressures with the cost of living," Sunak said in a statement. "We're helping people get into work." Supply-chain disruptions boosted prices for a wide variety of goods and services.

Core inflation, which excludes energy, food, alcohol and tobacco prices, jumped to 3.4 percent from 2.9 percent.

"While painful for households, the fact is that the global nature of these inflationary pressures mean that traditional tools such as raising interest rates are likely to have little effect," said Jack Leslie, senior economist at the Resolution Foundation. "Instead, we need to focus on securing the as yet incomplete COVID recovery so that stronger growth creates more scope for higher pay rises." Agencies



Emmanuel Okwi

Is Emmanuel Okwi still good enough for Simba SC?

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AFTER the 2019 African Cup of Nations finals in Egypt, Ugandan Emmanuel Okwi announced he was leaving Simba SC in pursuit of challenges in the lucrative Egyptian Premier League.

Okwi, who had a good 2019 AFCON finals with Uganda senior national team, joined Egypt's Al Itihad Alexandria.

A lot of Simba SC fans were heartbroken but understood his desire to challenge himself elsewhere, after all, he was not joining their club's age-old rivals, Young Africans SC, alias 'Yanga'.

Okwi and Simba SC is a love affair that began in 2009 when he was signed from Uganda's SC Villa as a teenager.

In his first four years, he won the Mainland Tanzania Premier League trophy twice with the club, including the Msimbazi Street squad's memorable invincible season in 2009/10.

In the midseason of 2012/13, Simba SC sold him to Etoile du Sahel of Tunisia.

The Tunisian giants bought him for a then Mainland Tanzania Premier League record transfer fee of \$300,000.

Unfortunately he did not last long in North Africa and came back to join Yanga in the 2013/14 mid season.

After a six-month frustrating spell with Yanga, he switched back to Simba SC.

He quickly re-established himself as the main player of the team, scoring 10 goals in 21 league appearances.

In yet another financial trade off for both parties, Okwi was sold to Danish side, Sønderjyske.

Another unsuccessful stint away saw him make his familiar route back to Tanzania after two years.

Upon his return from Denmark, Okwi re-joined former club, SC Villa, signing a six-month contract.

He scored 10 goals in 13 Uganda Premier League matches.

In June 2017, Okwi signed with Simba SC for the third time. By this time, Simba SC was desperately rebuilding under investor, Mohamed Dewji, after a five-year league drought.

Okwi was brought back to reclaim the glory. He played 68 games during his last spell at Msimbazi Street squad, scored 41 goals, and made 12 assists across all competitions.

He was one of the main players of the team, winning the Mainland Tanzania Premier League twice, Federation Cup, Community Shield and reached the CAF Champions League quarterfinals.

After his departure, Simba SC continued on its upward trajectory, winning the league four times in a row and also reaching the CAF Champions

League quarterfinals in 2020/21.

Meanwhile, Okwi once again struggled away from the familiar and comfortable surroundings of Msimbazi Street club, where the attacker is treated as royalty.

Okwi joined Rwanda's Kiyovu Sports Club on a year-long deal as a free agent after his two year's tenure at Al Itihad Alexandria expired.

Hardly a month from the mini transfer window, Simba SC is figuring out its needs and the stopgap additions the club would be willing to make to retain its league title and also make inroads in a potential CAF Confederation Cup group stage campaign.

The club finds itself in a difficult transition period after selling two of its main players, Clatous Chama and Luis Miquissone, in the last transfer window.

There has been a lot of speculation that the Ugandan international could return to Dar es Salaam for a possible last dance. However, the question is, is he still good enough for Simba SC?

Post Simba SC and 2019 AFCON finals, it has been a torrid spell for the Uganda Cranes captain, who was overlooked by current Uganda Cranes' head coach, Milutin 'Micho' Sredojevic, in the last four 2022 World Cup qualifiers' fixtures, which saw Uganda play Rwanda, Mali and Kenya.

He is no longer young but Simba SC might be tempted if it could get him in a reasonable deal.

However, a comeback to Tanzania would represent a redemption for Okwi than any potential profit for Simba SC.

It is understood Okwi wanted to return in August but Simba SC was not that keen as the outfit sought to rebuild with more youthful additions to its squad.

It is true, Okwi knows the club, he played with many current Simba SC players and most of the fans still love him. However he would have to accept a lesser role not playing every single game.

The outfit's attacking line is made of veterans well into their 30s, John Bocco, Chris Mugalu and Meddie Kagere so it is hard to say if Simba SC can opt to sign him at the expense of offloading one youngster.

There is the big matter of form. At the moment, Okwi is yet to light up the league in Rwanda as he did upon his return to Uganda in 2017 that prompted Simba SC to re-sign him.

The most convincing argument would be to say Simba SC can re-sign him for his influence, and the lift it gives the whole camp.

Okwi's comeback at Simba SC is a tough sell, a high risk one but the truth is it is not impossible.

With 52 schools devoted to sports, athletics could as well be revived

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

ATHLETICS enthusiasts would have sighed with relief that even if they are in their upper middle ages, they may live to see Tanzania back as a contending country in international athletics meetings, as it was the case in the far off past.

The country's ability to put up a competitive side in field sports and indoor games rapidly declined in the 1980s after having sparkled in the early 1970s and partially the late 1960s.

Wellsprings of talent especially in inner parts of Arusha and Manyara regions remained visible, at least.

For decades, the country's sporting prowess has been exhibited in skills of individual boxers and either bouts of luck or performance from the top Premier League sides, and occasionally from the senior national soccer side, Taifa Stars.

In the East Africa Senior Challenge Cup, a couple of coaches have led Mainland Tanzania's Kilimanjaro Stars to the title, namely Syllersaid Mziray, and Kim Poulsen, scarcely anyone else, not even the famed Brazilian coach, Marcio Maximo.

With Emmanuel Amunike, the side repeated its 1980 feat of reaching African Nations Cup finals, virtually after one generation, and the same applies to club football, especially Simba SC side.

Innocent Bashungwa, the Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports, was announcing last week that the government is setting up 52 schools specialised in sports, in a way serving as sports academies, a major turn of outlook or policy not seen virtually since independence.

In the first two decades of self rule it was as if the country was finishing off the capacity created in earlier periods, whether in later stages of the British period or



Tanzanian junior athletes put their skills to show in a recent National Junior Championship, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

early years of independence, as the mid-1960s started to notice a rapid decline in the setting up of infrastructure.

This displacement was not located in schools first but in wider political scene.

February 5, 1967 was the pivotal date in which the country's post-independence profile was created, for good or for worse, when the government moved to possess banks, insurance, import/export trade and commercial farms.

This touched off an emigration wave, the collapse of land-based credit from banks and freezing all infrastructural development related to improved education like academia, other than simple expansion of classroom space.

Late 1973 and into 1974 petroleum prices quadrupled, putting the shilling into a spin and by the early 1980s all was up for grabs except that leaders did not want to 'turn into stone.'

The current shift is a result of the gradual reactivation of economic capacity into improving railways, roads and now education and health, in which case citing 52 schools

for sports specialization is in like manner as finishing off rural electrification by late next year.

It is a result of current capacity building at a different pace- and remarkably the COVID-19 pandemic appears to have helped out, by creating the right conditions for fairly large amounts of resource transfers to poorer countries, to stem the worst.

Only when money is available for all sorts of improvements could the proposal have been taken up - even at present.

Admittedly, there were moments in the past when individual public institutions, especially the military, moved in that direction, but could only focus at soccer as it has more or less immediate dividends.

Again, athletics needs to start at a tender age, whereas the military was more adept at running secondary schools rather than nurseries and primary schools, and when there are two such schools at most - Makongo Juu, Jitegemee in particular - the number of young people likely to be involved was somewhat constrained.

With 52 schools the spread out is more assuring, as it can capture a breadth of budding talent whether it is at secondary school level or goes down to primary schools, meanwhile as other academies may catch up.

An auxiliary sort of dividend that is likely from this policy innovation and its implementation is that it will now be possible to add sports infrastructure and capacity in figuring out government support to private schools.

That would help privately run academies to have a distinctive sports focus and even certain entrepreneurs putting up actual sports academies where in other subjects pupils may even take part as private candidates, in the same or other examination centres.

It is like a sort of open school with an independent syllabus, where pupils or students enroll for certain skills, not routine school qualifications.

Were the latter aspect of innovation feasible for instance, old guard role models like Filbert Bayi and others, especially from Manyara and Arusha regions, could lead the way into opening sports institutions, if not as entrepreneurs than as consultants.

There have always been interested entrepreneurs and innovators but once someone attempted to put his idea to the ground, a long list of taxes and levies would be at his door, and soon that investment becomes unfeasible.

That way, the country surreptitiously depended on untaxed public schools to bring up the talent, but they specialised first in farming, then in tuition classes.

DStv offers top value and choice for joyful holiday season

By Guardian Correspondent

MULTICHOICE Tanzania Company has announced the launch of a festive season campaign, dubbed 'Zigo la Sikukuu', for DStv customers.

Great entertainment awaits the subscribers with a content slate guaranteed to keep viewers of all tastes, from movie lovers, sports enthusiasts, kids, and lovers of drama and intrigue, in a joyful mood.

Speaking at the launch, MultiChoice Tanzania's Head of Marketing, Ronald Baraka Shelukindo, disclosed:

"The season of joy is upon us and the leading entertainment provider Tanzania, DStv, is dishing out great tidings of entertainment with a wide selection of content to please the whole family, including special festive line-ups, a pop-up channel, key sporting events and more, and the convenience to watch it in any way that suits our customers."

He said: "As part of our commitment to ensure that our valued customers have an enriching entertainment experience, and as Africa's most loved storyteller."

"We take the festive period very seriously and have a special line-up in store to ensure that all members of the family are catered for."

"We have also considered those who would like to join DStv Family during this Season and therefore we have extended a special offer whereby the new customers can purchase a full set of DStv decoder at 59,000/- only."

The wide range of added entertainment includes the new local series on Maisha Magic Bongo channel, namely 'Danga' and 'La Familia', among others.



Tememe District Commissioner, Jokate Mwegelo (2nd L), speaks at a function for unveiling MultiChoice Tanzania's festive season campaign, dubbed 'Zigo la Sikukuu', rolled out for DStv customers, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Sitting (2nd R) is MultiChoice Tanzania's Head of Marketing, Ronald Baraka Shelukindo. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Entertainment as well includes the Afrimma Awards, which celebrates the rich musical heritage of African continent on November 21, 2021 whereby local artists such as Nandy, Rosa Ree, Diamond Platnumz, Marioo, and Zuchu are among the nominated artists.

With the vast selection of festive content to choose from, DStv customers also have the choice of how they view.

Whether one wants to stay up to date and watch content in real-time or catch-up on the latest shows at his or her own time or stream live TV on-the-go, whenever and wherever, DStv has people covered.

The DStv App, downloadable on the iStore for iPhone users or Play Store for Android users, allows customers the option to view Live TV on their mobile devices download selected content to view later when they are offline.

Furthermore, the fact that content is viewable on different devices at one time, means family members can watch what they want at the same time with no remote-

control wars in the household.

Movie nights are also widely catered for, as viewers on all DStv packages have the option to catch the latest blockbusters through the new Add-Movies functionality which allows customers to add additional premium movie channels to their existing DStv packages at a fraction of the price.

Young minds will also be entertained and educated through the wide of kiddies programming including 'Christmas Again?' found on Disney Channel.

An all-day festive stunt on Da Vinci, both on December 24, and a Boxing Day festive marathon on Nickelodeon with holiday episodes from SpongeBob, Henry Danger, School of Rock and more will be on offer.

Moreover, viewers will continue to be given unrivalled access to the most thrilling variety of sporting action anywhere in the world, and the months of November and December, 2021 will only see the volume turned up even higher.

From the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup to the skills and

brilliance of the NFL and NBA on ESPN, and everything in between.

Football fans will cheer at SuperSport's world class coverage from the likes of the Premier League, La Liga, Serie A, and UEFA Champions League, as well as a clutch of key World Cup qualifiers in Europe from November 11-16.

The 2021 Formula 1 season will draw to a close with races in Mexico, Brazil, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi through November and December, while WWE will feature pay-per-view events Survivor Series and TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs before the year is out.

UFC brings the best fighting action, including the 'Nigerian Nightmare', Kamaru Usman, defending his welterweight title.

Golf's PGA Tour will see action from the WWT Championship, Houston Open and RSM Classic, while tennis fans can enjoy the WTA Finals and ATP World Tour Finals.

DStv offers an outstanding range of riveting entertainment to suit all tastes and at a customer's viewing convenience.

Dutch reach World Cup, Turkey and Ukraine into play-offs

LONDON

THE Netherlands clinched the final automatic place in European qualifying for the 2022 World Cup as late goals from Steven Bergwijn and Memphis Depay sealed a 2-0 win over Norway on Tuesday, with Turkey and Ukraine grabbing play-off spots.

The Dutch, with injured coach Louis van Gaal watching from the stands in Rotterdam, only needed a point to top Group G and came through a nervy encounter to finish two points clear of second-placed Turkey, who pipped Norway to a play-off spot.

Tottenham winger Bergwijn smashed Arnaut Danjuma's cross into the top corner with six minutes left at De Kuip.

Barcelona's Depay then made it two a minute into injury time as he slotted home Bergwijn's pass to seal the Netherlands a return to the tournament after missing out on Russia in 2018.

The victory was played behind closed doors after a partial lockdown was re-introduced last week due to an increase in cases of Covid-19.

"Of course there are many things that could be improved, but the result was the most important. We are going to Qatar," Oranje captain Virgil van Dijk told broadcasters NOS.

"I was very sorry that the national coach was there from a distance and the fans were not there at all. We're going to celebrate well inside (the stadium). I can't wait for the World Cup."

In Podgorica, Montenegro forward Fatos Beqiraj opened the scoring after just four minutes to put Turkey in danger of missing out on a top-two finish.

The visitors responded on 22 minutes as Galatasaray attacker Kerem Akturkoglu finished acrobatically at the back post before Feyenoord youngster Orkun Kokcu added a second to secure a 2-1 win.

"There are very tough opponents in the play-offs," Turkey's Abdulkadir Omur said after assisting Akturkoglu's equaliser.

"We want to give the best fight there and go to the World Cup. I am very happy and proud in this shirt, I do everything I can."

- 'Nervy' Wales -

The Netherlands join Belgium, England, Germany, Denmark, France, Croatia, Switzerland, Spain and Serbia to have qualified directly from Europe.

In the play-offs, Turkey are alongside Euro 2020 winners Italy, Portugal, Scotland, Russia, Sweden, Poland, Wales, North Macedonia, Ukraine, the Czech Republic and Austria, with the draw on November 26 for the games in March.

Elsewhere, in Group E, Wales secured a home game in the play-offs after a 1-1 draw in Cardiff against Belgium without injured captain Gareth Bale.

"It's so important to get a home draw -- look at the teams that have come in second, the likes of Portugal and Italy -- it's been a bit nervy!" Wales goalscorer Kieffer Moore told Sky Sports.

In Group D, Finland missed out on the play-offs as Karim Benzema and Kylian Mbappe scored in World Cup holders France's 2-0 win in Helsinki.

AFP

Beaten PSG star demands privacy over Abidal link

PARIS

THE Paris Saint-Germain women's footballer Kheira Hamraoui, who had her legs beaten in a mysterious street attack, appealed Tuesday to the media to respect her privacy amid speculation about her relations with former French international Eric Abidal.

The assault on Hamraoui, 31, took place while she was being driven home from a dinner in Paris by teammate Aminata Diallo, 26, on November 4.

The car was stopped by masked men who dragged the players from the vehicle and beat Hamraoui's legs with a metal bar while restraining fellow midfielder Diallo.

Hamraoui required stitches and missed her next game with PSG.

After an initial flurry of speculation about her sporting rivalry with Diallo, who was unharmed in the attack and stood in for her in the next game, the focus shifted to Abidal after the investigation revealed links between the former France and Barcelona star and the PSG midfielder.

In a statement Hamraoui's lawyer said the player "demands that her private life be immediately respected, along with her right to remain silent about this difficult episode."

The statement added that the attack pointed to an "unconcealed desire to damage her (Hamraoui's) professional career" and that she had suffered "significant physical and psychological harm".

Hamraoui had the "firm intention" of returning to her midfield berth at PSG, it added.

Hamraoui was using a telephone SIM card registered in Abidal's name on the night of the attack.

A source close to the inquiry said Hamraoui had told the police that the SIM card was "in her ex's name."

Abidal is a household name in France. He made a stunning return to his playing career in 2013, a year after undergoing a liver transplant.

AFP

Ekambi takes Cameroon to play-offs at expense of Ivory Coast

CAIRO

KARL Toko Ekambi was the toast of Cameroon on Tuesday as his first-half goal delivered a 1-0 win over Ivory Coast and a place in the African play-offs for the 2022 World Cup.

The 29-year-old Lyon forward struck on 21 minutes to decide a clash of giants with Cameroon having qualified for the World Cup seven times -- an African record -- and Ivory Coast on three occasions.

Ivory Coast entered the Group D decider in Yaounde with a one-point advantage and needing a draw to remain first.

But Cameroon, who have been playing catch-up since losing in Abidjan in September, emerged victorious less than two months before hosting the Africa Cup of Nations.

African champions Algeria, Nigeria and Tunisia also won sections to fill the other three places up for grabs on the final



Cameroon forward Karl Toko Ekambi (C) celebrates after scoring the goal that beat the Ivory Coast on Tuesday in a World Cup qualifier in Yaounde (AFP)

day of group matches.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Mali, Morocco and Senegal had earlier secured the other six play-offs places.

A seeded draw, likely to be based on FIFA world rankings, will divide the 10 survivors into five pairings, with the winners of the two-legged ties representing Africa at the World Cup in Qatar.

There will be huge pressure on the qualifiers to impress at the global football showpiece after Africa fared

disastrously at the 2018 tournament in Russia, with all five teams eliminated after the first round.

Algeria stretched an unbeaten run to 33 matches -- a record for an African national team -- with Manchester City winger Riyad Mahrez among the scorers in a 2-2 Group A draw against Burkina Faso.

His goal was cancelled out by Zakaria Sanogo before half-time and Issoufou Dayo converted an 83rd-minute penalty to set up a tense finish in Blida after Sofiane

Feghouli had put Algeria ahead a second time.

Algeria, who are seeking a fifth World Cup appearance, topped the table with 14 points, Burkina Faso accumulated 12, Niger seven and minnows Djibouti none.

- Osimhen strikes early

Nigeria were another country to progress despite failing to take maximum points at home as they drew 1-1 with Cape Verde in Group C.

In-form Napoli forward Victor Osimhen had the Super Eagles in front within one minute

of the kick-off in Lagos, but Ianique 'Stopira' Tavares levelled five minutes later.

The result triggered more social media calls for six-time World Cup qualifiers Nigeria to sack German coach Gernot Rohr after an unimpressive campaign.

Nigeria suffered a stunning matchday 3 loss to the Central African Republic -- a first home defeat in World Cup qualifying since 1981 -- and were overly reliant on Osimhen for goals.

The Super Eagles finished with 13 points, followed by Cape Verde on 11 while Liberia (six) and the Central African Republic (four) were never serious contenders.

Tunisia recovered from a first loss in Group B last week -- away to Equatorial Guinea -- by hammering Zambia 3-1 in Rades to top the table.

Goals from Aissa Laidouni, Mohamed Drager and Ali Maaloul before half-time ensured the Carthage Eagles stayed on course to qualify a sixth time.

Equatorial Guinea

came a creditable second, two points behind Tunisia, thanks to a 1-1 draw against Mauritania in Nouakchott, where Saul Coco cancelled out a lead Aboubakar Kamara gave the hosts.

A showdown between Premier League stars Mohamed Salah and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang did not materialise in Group F as Egypt beat Gabon 2-1 in Alexandria.

Egypt captain and prolific Liverpool scorer Salah started on the bench before replacing Mohamed Sherif for the last 30 minutes.

There were conflicting reports as to why Gabon skipper and Arsenal forward Aubameyang missed the match. Some said he was injured and others that an agreement was reached with his club to release him early.

Morocco were the only team among the 40 in the group stage who won all six matches with Ryan Mmae netting twice in a 3-0 Group I trouncing of Guinea in Casablanca

AFP

Argentina looking confident, cohesive with World Cup spot secured

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

ARGENTINA have qualified for the World Cup and extended their unbeaten run to 27 games, but Brazil will probably come away the happier side after Tuesday night's 0-0 draw in San Juan.

Argentina were at full strength, on paper at least. Lionel Messi may not have been close to full fitness -- he had only played the last 15 minutes against Uruguay on Friday and looked short of his usual sharpness. And over the course of the game they lost Cristian Romero, their best centre-back, and midfield anchorman Leandro Paredes to injuries. Lautaro Martinez also left the game at the interval. He may have been feeling a knock, but his replacement was also an admission by coach Lionel Scaloni that the game was not going as he had planned. An out-and-out centre-forward, Martinez was not able to get into the game because Brazil blocked Argentina in midfield so effectively.

Brazil were without both Neymar and Casemiro -- the players referred to by coach Tite respectively as the technical leader and the competitive leader. The attack was extraordinarily youthful; centre-forward Matheus Cunha was making his first start for the national team, Vinicius Junior his second and Raphinha his third. The other member of the attacking quartet, Lucas Paqueta, looks like a grizzled veteran in comparison, but he has only consolidated his place in the side over the last few months.

But with the wingers helping back, and full-backs Danilo and Alex Sandro playing conservative roles, Argentina were denied the space to establish their customary passing rhythm in midfield. In



Lionel Messi

comparison with the final of the Copa America in July, it was clear that the extra speed of Eder Militao at centre-back allowed Brazil to stay compact higher up the field so they could press more effectively. And if the defensive line was breached, the immaculate Marquinhos was there to cover. Alisson in goal was hardly troubled. He had to dive left to push away a shot from Rodrigo De Paul, and, in the 89th minute, Messi finally broke away but struck straight at the keeper.

The clearer chances, however, came at the other end. Vinicius fluffed an audacious chip after a clever pass from Paqueta. Matheus Cunha was still more audacious, and shot narrowly over from inside his own half with Emiliano Martinez stranded. A Fred volley clipped the bar after a free kick had been half cleared, and a rare Danilo burst set up Vinicius for a shot that Martinez got down smartly to save.

There was, perhaps, little on show that will linger in the mind of the neutral. Maybe the venue did not help. The game was taken to the small northern town of San Juan, with the crowd close and creating a frenetic atmosphere.

in confidence.

As can Argentina who, if not at their best on this occasion, have put together their most solid, coherent and frequently attractive side for the last few years. Their new total of 29 points guarantees their World Cup place because so many of the teams behind them dropped points -- including Chile, who went down 2-0 at home to Ecuador.

Everything went wrong for Chile in the first half. They went behind early to a well struck shot from rampaging left-back Pervis Estupinan. Soon afterwards they had Arturo Vidal sent off. And Alexis Sanchez limped off. They made a bold effort to haul themselves back into the game, but the points were sealed in stoppage time when midfielder Moises Caicedo advanced to score a cracker from the edge of the box.

Ecuador were the big winners of this round. They went into the action safely in third place, with a four point cushion, which has now been increased to six. Effectively this means that they are guaranteed to go into the final two rounds still in third place. A slot in Qatar is now theirs to lose.

Chile's defeat means that they fall from fourth to sixth, outside the qualification places. They are overtaken by

Colombia, despite a deeply disappointing 0-0 draw at home to Paraguay. For both sides it was their fifth consecutive game without a goal. But Colombia have been defending so well that they have only lost one in their last 10, and are crawling to the World Cup one point at a time.

Into fifth, the playoff spot, climb Peru, who have made a remarkable rally since the Copa America in the middle of the year. Their 2-1 win away to Venezuela was open and dramatic, with the two sides trading punches. At 1-1 the game was decided by two set pieces. Peru won a free kick on the edge of the area, and Cristian Cueva's shot flicked off the defensive wall and beat the keeper. Straight away, Venezuela were awarded a penalty. Darwin Machis had already scored a fine goal, but his kick was at a comfortable height for Pedro Gallese to save. Gallese had more problems in stoppage time when a Machis shot took a deflection, requiring a fine reflex save. Such moments turned one point for Peru into three -- and the difference could well be vital when the competition comes to an end.

Peru are a point ahead of Chile, and of Uruguay, who found new ways to self destruct in their

latest defeat, 3-0 away to Bolivia.

The extreme altitude of La Paz is an extremely tough challenge for visitors, and for almost half an hour Uruguay appeared to be taking the sting out of the game. But there are risks in defending deep, especially for the goalkeeper. At altitude, the ball flies through the rarefied air more quickly than usual, making it hard for the keeper to judge its trajectory.

Bolivia's veteran Juan Carlos Arce sent in a cross from deep on the left, looking for centre-forward Marcelo Martins Moreno. He stretched but was unable to make contact. Uruguay keeper Fernando Muslera had to prepare to cover his shot, and when the ball went straight on it came at him quicker than he expected, slipped through his hands and tricked in off the far post.

Then, just before half-time, Uruguay needlessly gave away a corner. Their marking was slack, and Martins Moreno rose to give Bolivia a two goal lead and put Uruguay in the dreaded position of having to chase the game while gasping for oxygen. They lost 3-0, a result that keeps Bolivia's hopes alive, but which may well bring an end to the remarkable near-16 year reign of Uruguay coach Oscar Washington Tabarez.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Nigeria a point from playoffs in World Cup qualifying

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KMC FC will not part ways with Simkoko, Kondo- official



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) Football Club's players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KMC FC

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE 2021/22 NBC Premier League club, Kinondoni Municipal Council Football Club, states it has no plans to part ways with its coaches, John Simkoko, and Habibu Kondo.

The two coaches have been missing during recent KMC FC matches but the club's information officer, Christina Mwangala,

disclosed the tacticians are still with the club.

She, however, could not disclose the reason why the two have been missing on the team's bench, saying there is no pressure as they are both moving in the same direction.

"Our coaches, Simkoko and Kondo, are with the team... they are with us and are our coaches," she said.

Commenting on her team's preparations for this weekend's top-flight match against Azam FC, she said her team will fight every inch of the way when taking on Azam FC.

She said although KMC FC has not done well in its previous matches she is confident that the squad will record good results this weekend.

"The team is performing well, yes we

are not winning but the team is performing well and I'm sure we will win our coming game against Azam FC, we are preparing well ahead of the encounter," she said.

KMC FC that has this season boosted its squad with many experienced players, has yet to register a victory in its five fixtures.

The Kinondoni Municipal Council-owned outfit lost 1-0 to Coastal Union in the opening fixture and thereafter conceded a 2-0 loss away to Polisi Tanzania.

KMC FC went on to succumb to a 2-0 loss to Yanga, notched 1-1 draw with Namungo FC, and lost 1-0 to Kagera Sugar.

Meanwhile, Azam FC's assistant coach, Vivier Bahati, disclosed his team is looking forward to winning this weekend's game.

"During the international break, our team had enough time to prepare well for our game against KMC FC, we played a friendly match against JKU of Zanzibar," the Burundian tactician pointed out.

"The tie helped us a lot to analyze and rectify the problems we have been making in our previous league matches," he said.

EATV THURSDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

SalamaNa

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:30 Kili Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Waganga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
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

NIC to insure all cyclists set for Tanzania International Tour

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NATIONAL Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited (NIC) says it will issue insurance to all bikers who will compete in the coming Tanzania International Cycling Tour.

The International Cycling Tour will take place from December 1-8 and there will be awards and prizes handed over to winners. It will reach Bagamoyo, Zanzibar, and Lindi.

NIC Director-General, Elirehema Doriye, said all bikers, who will compete at the tour, will be insured a product known as Group Personal Accident (GPA).

He said GPA covers personal accidents, body injury, permanent disability, death, and medical expenses.

Doriye said NIC is insuring all bikers at the race to ensure riders who will compete at the tour are safe.

He also said he believes the GPA will help in promoting cycling in the country.

"Cycling is an emerging sport in the country which is becoming popular but, unfortunately, corporates and other possible sponsors seem not to be interested in it."

"Therefore the National Insurance Corporation noticed that gap and decided to promote cycling in the country," he said.

The NIC Director-General said this is not the first time the corporation is involved in sports sponsorships.

Doriye pointed out they have sponsored the famous Mapinduzi Cup football tournament in Zanzibar, Goba Marathon, Capital City Marathon, BIMA Marathon, and other events.

He said NIC values the potential that sports have in creating job opportunities for many youths in the country.

"NIC is injecting its resources in these sports initiatives simply because we do believe sports are the source of employment to youths and it is our role to support them," he said.

He promised NIC's continued support to put its weight behind the development of sports in the country and ensure that the Tanzanians are proud of their corporation.

Doriye pointed out the institution provides quality insurance services to the majority and creates a conducive atmosphere for sports to grow which ultimately contributes to the overall welfare of the country.

The NIC Director-General asked Tanzanians to insure with their long-time serving corporation to contribute to the national development.

The tour, known as 'Unforgettable Cycle Tour Experience', is organized by Afrika Mashariki Fest and local and international bikers are expected to compete.

According to tour organizers, invitations have been extended to riders from Africa zones of EAC, SADC, ECOWAS, and partner states.

The partner states are Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Egypt, USA, Italy, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, Turkey, and other countries, with the participating cyclists set to arrive in the country from November 28-29.

The cycling tour is intended to celebrate and salute Tanzania's contribution to Africa's liberation struggle and further showcase Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar's tourism potential to the world.



Dar es Salaam's Mjomba Band artist shows off her skills at the Financial Services Week exhibition held at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in the city recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Visual artist revels in gaining recognition

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIAN realistic painter, Athuman Hamis, says he is happy to be recognized by top female international visual artist, Seona Sommer, that has drawn Hamis' portrait.

Hamis, who is better known in art circles as 'Ochu', said recently his portrait, drawn by

the German artist, is a sign that he is doing well in art circles.

Sommer, who runs a humanity project in Tanzania and India, recently visited Dar es Salaam, drew 'Ochu' portrait, and posted it on her social media platforms.

Her projects provide school children with some of their needs.

"For Seona Sommer to draw my portrait is something which I did not expect. To me, it is a great honour and I am excited with that honour."

"It shows that my works are appreciated by many people both locally and internationally," he said.

'Ochu', who admires the works of United States of

America (USA) acrylic painter, Nick Sider, is also the 'Kili Canvas' competition's winner.

According to her biography, Seona from Cologne, Germany is a primarily self-taught contemporary figurative artist.

Her compelling portraits promote humanity and diversity and offer fascinating insights into people's souls.

"She sees herself as a global citizen with a strong interest in international collaboration, she strives to tear down the borders and overcome distances with her artworks."

"She explores the great variety of different cultures and individual characters and she is also a strong advocate of humanity," part of her biography revealed.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

