



National Pg 3
Tanesco to buy 45MW from private firm



National Pg 5
Cotton farmers seal inputs pact



National Pg 6
Combating truancy in Dodoma schools



Children playing on the swings at Nyerere Square in Dodoma yesterday as part of Christmas celebrations. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Pastoralists want court judgements carried out

Representatives, activists wish to meet with top leadership

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

PASTORALIST groups are demanding that the central government should start respecting decisions of courts of law when it comes to land occupancy among pastoral communities. Advocate Alais Melau points linked to a number of pastoralist advocacy organisations here, said in an interview yesterday that in the case of Moberge Village in Morogoro

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Al-Shabaab militants kill two men near Kenya's east coast

NAIROBI

AL-Shabaab Islamist militants attacked Taa village in Pandaguo, Lamu County on Christmas Day and killed two local men.

The area is adjacent to Boni forest, where security agencies have been conducting an operation since 2015 to flush out militants in hiding.

The forest near the Kenya-Somalia border and the area around it has been repeatedly attacked by the militant group in recent years.

Police said the attackers invaded the village, some miles away from the popular tourist destination of Lamu town, and targeted homes in a coordinated manner.

Many villagers ran and hid in bushes as the gang descended on their homes, survivors

said.

Coast regional commissioner John Elungata said assailants attacked the village at night but were repulsed by Kenya Police Reservists after a heavy gunfight.

Elungata urged locals to cooperate with security officers on the ground.

"The situation is calm, we have officers patrolling the area and we would like to ask members of the public to tell us what they know to help us in our investigations as we continue hunting them," he said.

The attack comes barely a week after the suspected al-Shabaab militants attacked a police vehicle in northern Kenya, killing two officers and a civilian.

Kenya began the construction of a

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Pula Graphite sues Rainbow Minerals for contract breach

By Guardian Reporter

PULA Graphite Partners, a locally registered firm and its parent company, Pula Group LLC have filed a suit against African Rainbow Minerals (ARM) of South Africa at the High Court demanding \$195m for breaching a non-disclosure and non-competition agreement.

The amount cited in the suit is based on a third party valuation of what the local firm stands to lose as a result of the competitive disadvantage resulting from ARM's violation of that agreement.

The plaintiff says that in July 2019 Pula and ARM signed a two year agreement that

A pre-trial hearing is set for January 10th in Dar es Salaam

committed them to sharing confidential information that would put either company at a competitive disadvantage should either company share that information or use it to enter into an agreement with a potential competitor.

During the period covered by the agreement ARM invested in an Australian company - Evolution - exploring for graphite in the Ruangwa area of Tanzania. Pula's graphite project is also focused on the Ruangwa zone.

Pula Group president Dr Mary Mildred Stith, when asked to comment on the suit, said that not only do the facts of the case

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Z'bar minister meets malaria project team

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR Health minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui has commended achievements of the Zanzibar Malaria Elimination Programme (ZAMEP), urging the team to take the programme to finish the last leg.

The meeting with the minister was a follow-up of a retreat of programme management officers on 19th October, where Dr Salim Slim, the director of preventive services, commended the contribution made by development partners in the fight against malaria in Zanzibar.

"We received technical and financial support from WHO, the Global Fund and

other organisations that supported the implementation of our plans to eliminate malaria. We count on this support as we commit to sustaining the gains and step elimination of malaria in Zanzibar," the director had affirmed.

In the meeting, the minister confided that in many undertakings, the last part is usually the hardest. "I'm encouraging you to keep the momentum, our goal is more visible now," he declared.

Dr Zabulon Yoti, acting WHO country representative said at the retreat that the evidence of an ever-decreasing rate of malaria in Zanzibar demonstrates that with collaboration and efforts at community, facility and policy level, "we can achieve goals that may seem elusive."

With government funding the programme procured and distributed anti-malaria drugs to public health facilities, with district pharmacists redistributing medicines based on demand prevented over-stocking or expiration of antimalarials in facilities, he said.

Vector control and surveillance, which are critical in the fight against malaria, also registered success in the review results, he

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Education, Science and Technology minister Prof. Adolf Mkenda (C) shares a light moment with KCB Bank employees before the kick-off of 'Rombo Marathon' race on December 23 in Rombo District. Others are Culture, Arts and Sports deputy minister Pauline Gekul (L) KCB Bank marketing manager Shose Kombe (R) with other staff. The bank sponsored the race to promote domestic tourism. Photo: Courtesy of KCB



Al-Shabaab militants kill two men near Kenya's east coast

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700-kilometre-long wall along its border with Somalia in 2015 to stop Al-Shabaab militants from crossing in and out of Kenya.

The project includes having designated immigration and customs entry points with a concrete wall fitted with CCTV cameras.

Trenches are also being constructed in the area.

The plan includes the creation of at least 22 border posts with well-

equipped personnel to respond to any form of aggression.

Officials say, once complete, the teams will be spread 40 kilometres apart to enable quick response to attacks from militants.

The fence, especially in Mandera and Lamu, has helped reduce incidents of attacks by the militants who previously crossed at will.

Research by government security agencies says about a third of the country's security problems are traced to the porous Somalia border.

AGENCIES

Pula Graphite sues Rainbow Minerals for contract breach

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support the company's complaint against ARM, but the firm has evidence to validate the claim, which they will disclose at the right time.

Interviewed city advocates said this case is important as it is one of the largest suits between private parties to have been filed in the High Court, while underlining the competitive disadvantage that local firms face in their efforts to develop opportunities in the minerals sector.

Currently, just over half of the number of companies doing mineral exploration in Tanzania are Australian, the bulk come from a scatter of countries and just four percent are local firms. Local shareholders have 50 percent equity in Pula Graphite Partners, they said.

Exploration of minerals has a clear potential to grow the Tanzanian economy, increasing the share that

local firms have in the country's rich reserves of mineral resources.

In South Africa, companies involved in exploration account for over 250,000 well-paying jobs and thousands of businesses, in drilling, geological consultation and testing of mineral resources, they further noted, wishing not to be named.

This case also stands to underscore the rising impression that Tanzania has one of the world's largest graphite deposits. The quality of those deposits is similarly believed to be world-class.

Both these factors position Tanzania at the center of the renewable energy revolution taking place on the global stage, since minerals like graphite are essential to batteries for storing energy. There's more graphite in lithium-ion batteries than lithium itself, they said.

A pre-trial hearing is set for January 10th in Dar es Salaam, they added.

Z'bar minister meets malaria project team

FROM PAGE 1

Dr Jovin Kitau, a WHO malaria control technical officer, who participated in the review said that ZAMEP has an efficient vector surveillance system and a good molecular laboratory infrastructure. This is vital for the successful implementation of interventions in the elimination phase, he asserted.

The review results indicated that there is a strong framework for malaria reporting through national health information. Case investigation improved from 73 percent in fiscal 2017/18 to 92 percent in 2020/21, he said.

Community members now have sufficient knowledge of malaria elimination interventions due to consistent exposure to targeted messages through mass media and direct interaction with community health volunteers.

The programme includes the conduct of research to help guide effective its implementation of activities, with studies checking the sensitivity of rapid test kits to detect infections, and the use of drones for larviciding, among other aspects.

At the retreat, the director of

preventive services said that objectives pursued for five years from 2017 include ensuring quality assured diagnosis and appropriate case management in all health facilities and at the community level to 100 percent.

It also sought to increase appropriate vector control measures upon the population at risk of malaria to 100 percent, reinforcing malaria surveillance for malaria elimination to actively investigate and classify all confirmed cases from 0 percent in 2017 to 100 percent, he stated.

Other objectives were initiating insect or parasite propagation surveillance in malaria foci areas from 0 percent of 2017 to 100 percent, along with improving advocacy and behaviour change.

Social communication and mobilization of the general population on malaria elimination interventions was to have reached 90 percent in 2023, where appropriate operational research is undertaken to evaluate implementation, strengthening coordination structures for malaria elimination at different operational levels, he added.

DC in Mafia calls upon TPA to rehabilitate passenger's gate

By Guardian Correspondent, Mafia

MAFIA district commissioner, Martin Ntemo, has directed the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to rehabilitate the passenger's gate in the Island as it is badly damaged and threatening lives of people.

According to him, the gate's situation at Mafia port was devastating and that immediate measures should be taken to address the same.

Eng Ntemo made the directives here during the weekend when he visited to inspect the gate and wanted TPA to prioritize the area so as to avoid impacts that may occur to passengers and other users.

"The gate has been worn out and

needs rehabilitation, it is not safe for passengers and motor vehicles who are using the gate, so TPA has to do something," he said.

The DC said that the gate is an important link for transporting people and vehicles and that its current situation was unfavorable and thus threatening the safety of people.

He also advised the importance of adopting modern technology when rehabilitating the gate by removing the current wood system installed in the gate and putting iron made materials that will facilitate smooth moving of both passengers and motor vehicles.

The 1-km gate worth 20bn/- was officially launched by the then President, Jakaya Kikwete in 2013.



Orphans who are taken care of Angel House in Tarime district, Mara region receive Christmas and New Year gift from James Masero Barrick North Mara official and public relations officer Zachayo Makobero. Barrick North Mara also donated gifts to City of Hope centre. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FROM PAGE 1

Region, the court ruled in favor of its residents as having the right of land ownership and the hamlet be legally registered, yet government officials went ahead to evict the villagers.

He also observed that when it comes to evictions and people losing their homes, farms and properties, it is women and children who suffer most, while Mary Mushi, an activist with the Women and Children Welfare Support Organisation (TWCWC) points out that land-based conflicts, lead to livestock and property belonging to poor households getting confiscated or auctioned.

Ordinarily those are the only things that such families own, she said, noting that sometimes the confiscated cattle, "strayed into former grazing pastures whose land-use has been changed."

"When animals get used to their usual grazing areas, it is hard for them to know that the land-use has been changed or a piece of property revoked, they still go there and get confiscated."

Problems facing most pastoralists usually involve the herders and conservation agencies, she said, underlining that for indigenous livestock keepers cattle are paramount to wildlife.

Pastoralists want court judgements carried out

"The animal husbandry sector creates employment, it is an important segment of the farm-based economy, producing meat, milk and hides for domestic use and export," interviewed activists emphasized, saying the sector needs to be supported.

They similarly insist that pastoralists such as the Maasai have always lived in harmony with wildlife, feeling intensely at loggerheads with conservation measures to reduce the herding presence within and on the margins of key wildlife areas.

Ushering into 2023 with implacable opposition to redrawing the map in Loliondo and other conservation areas where the pastoralists' massive presence is contested, they want to take their case to a direct meeting with the country's top leadership.

Interviews conducted here showed that indigenous livestock grazers facing a series of demands for resettling elsewhere rather than in the zone they have always used despite intermittent migratory

patterns, want to meet President Samia Suluhu Hassan for a direct expression of their position.

Representatives from pastoralist communities and environmental activists say that a meeting with the president would help clear the air regarding accusations levelled against them in relation to acute conservation needs.

Robert Kamakia, director of Pastoralist Livelihoods Support and Empowerment Program (PALISEP), says that the pastoralists' side of the story "has never been heard."

He lays emphasis on the view that traditionally, pastoralists are pioneers of conservation but of late there is extensive misinformation at various levels of government, "insinuating that indigenous people are destructive to the environment," saying this is not so and has never been the case.

These accusations lay the ground for episodes of land-grabbing at the expense of livestock grazers, he said, expressing the view that an audience with the president will enable them to bring out

"the real story behind the lives and predicament of indigenous livestock grazers as well as other marginalised groups."

Loserian Maoi, the director of Integrated Development Initiative in Ngorongoro (INDIGO), says it is possible that government officials don't correctly inform top leadership of issues regarding pastoralists or their lands.

"We need to have an audience with the president so that the head of state gets to hear everything straight from the pastoralists themselves, in order for her to come up with own informed decision," he stated.

The Loliondo chaos and Ngorongoro evictions and the ongoing displacement of people around the Kilimanjaro International Airport who have always lived there are cases in point, he said.

Other cases include problems facing pastoralists in Morogoro Region and the Southern Highlands as well as Simanjiro District of Manyara Region, he added.



Small trader hunting for customers of wash basins at Kitunda in the outskirts Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Orkesumet Ward councillor in Simanjiro district, Manyara region Sensei Laizer (C) speaks with residents at a public meeting to offer contributions for development projects including Simanjiro secondary school's desks and toilet construction at Orkesumet primary school over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Dr Philip Mpango tells Tanzanians to step up protection of children

By Polycarp Machira, Ddoma

THE Vice President, Dr Philip Mpango has urged Tanzanians to strengthen protection of children from acts of violence, especially at this festive season, saying they are affect both physically and psychologically.

He made the statement on Sunday during the Christmas Holy Mass led by Father Saimon Katembo at Christ the King Parish in Veyula in Dodoma city.

The VP also appealed to Tanzanians to make good use of the rainy season that has started in almost every part of the country and plant crops, insisting that it is only through that that the country can evade food shortage.

Likewise, the VP also directed people to plant more trees, given that there are rains, maintaining that environmental conservation is critical, now and forever, failure of which the coming generation will face adverse effects of climate change.

He appealed to Tanzanians to ask for God's forgiveness for abusing children and they should stop injustice to children, stating that the believers and Tanzanians at large must meet needs of children, including education.

A recent police report showed a 25.95 per cent increase in child sexual abuse cases from 2015 to 2020. In the year 2020, some 7,388 cases were reported, while in 2015, 5,803 cases were reported.

Police records showed that from January 2021 to December 2021, there were 11,499 reported cases of abuse and violence against children in Tanzania.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recent report, nearly 3 in 4 children, or 300 million children aged 2-4 years regularly

suffer physical punishment and/or psychological violence at the hands of parents and caregivers.

One in 5 women and 1 in 13 men report having been sexually abused as a child aged 0-17 years and 120 million girls and young women under 20 years of age have suffered some form of forced sexual contact.

Country's Law of the Child Act, 2009 provides for reform and consolidation of laws relating to children, to stipulate rights of the child and to promote, protect and maintain the welfare of a child with a view to giving effect to international and regional conventions on the rights of the child.

It also provides for affiliation, fostering care, adoption and custody of the child; to further regulate employment and apprenticeship; to make provisions with respect to a child in conflict with law and to provide for related matters.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the most widely-ratified international human rights treaty in history and the most complete statement of children's rights.

The Convention, which came into force in Tanzania in 1991, puts children at the heart of development.

Since it was adopted by the United Nations in November 1989, 196 countries have signed up to the UNCRC, with only one country yet to ratify.

Meanwhile, the Vice-President urged Tanzanians to use the current rainfall for producing crops and planting trees for environmental preservation.

"It is important that the culture of planting trees starts at the family level. Each household should plant three trees, this will beautify the country and protect the environment," he insisted.

TanESCO plans to buy 45 MW of clean energy from private firm

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) is willing to buy 45 MW of clean energy under Aqua Power Tanzania Limited.

The power generation plant, which consists of three gas-fired turbine generators with the capacity of 15 MW each, is currently seeking for a potential buyer to operate the two-year-old plant in Mtwara.

When asked if TanESCO would be willing to purchase and run the said plant, Eng. John Mageni, TanESCO's planning director said:

"The procurement regulations don't allow TanESCO to purchase used machines."

He added: "As a parastatal, we are required by law to purchase brand new machines, but of course, for the private sector the requirement is omitted. An individual or a company can purchase and run the plant, TanESCO is willing to buy electricity generated."

Moreover, Eng. Mageni noted that TanESCO will only sign a power deal to beef up the national grid at a reasonable price which the company sees fit.

Earlier, TanESCO's managing

director Maharage Chande had informed this paper that purchasing a plant involves a scientific process of which experts at his firm would need to establish.

"We will need to investigate the plant's capacity, the running hours and also its motion as far as the natural gas is concerned, when they are satisfied, then the matter will be forwarded to the management," he said.

According to him, the management will then seek approval from the board which will have to be Okayed by the ministry responsible for energy.

Earlier, Adv Adrounius Byamungu of ADCA Veritas Law Group, who acts as the Receiver and Manager of Aqua Power's assets, said: "The plant was in operations just for two years only. We are seeking a new owner who will sell to TanESCO, 45 MW is huge, in fact, the installed capacity is more than half of Mtera dam, the natural gas will be supplied by Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDPC)," he noted.

The plant stopped working after its off-taker - the Mtwara-based Dangote Cement Company retired from purchasing the 45 MW produced.

RC warns herders to stop grazing cattle in KINAPA

By Guardian Reporter

AUTHORITIES in Kilimanjaro Region have warned herders to stop grazing their animals in the Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA).

The warning is meant to overcome fire incidents within the park, which is on the slopes of Africa's tallest mountain—Mount Kilimanjaro.

Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Nurdin Babu declared war with herders who have been sending livestock in the park saying that if caught the government will seize and nationalize the animals.

"There are also people who have been entering the park to harvest honey as well as those hunting small animals, all of them should be aware that we are no longer entertaining these activities within the park," he said.

The move came after reports show that KINAPA has experienced recurring fires for five consecutive years before the recent fire outbreak which destroyed a total of 34 square kilometers of natural vegetation.

According to the KINAPA's database, in 2016/17 year, fire destroyed a total of 49.13 square kilometers of natural vegetation; in 2017/18 a total of 17 hectares were destroyed; in 2018/19, a total of 82 hectares were destroyed before destroying 22.05 hectares of the national park in October 2020.

Improper honey harvesting, poaching and farming have been named as among major causes of the fires.

Benard Sahini, ZARA Tours' administration officer said fire disasters in the park also cause loss of manpower, funds as well as increase medical expenses.

"Apart from promoting climate change, fire incidents with the park also reduce the number of tourists who cancel plans of coming to visit Mount Kilimanjaro due to pictures of fires spread on social networks," he explained.

William Mwakilema, Conservation Commissioner of the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) said that the

recent fire outbreak in KINAPA was caused by human activities.

In his statement to the public, Mwakilema said that the fire destroyed plants and the ecology of the reserve although there are no recorded impacts that occurred to tourists, tour guides and infrastructures.

"Initial reports have shown that the fire was caused by human activities within the park. The TANAPA team in collaboration with other safety bodies is still investigating the issues to find out those who are behind the fire outbreak," he added.

Commissioner Mwakilema said that efforts to control the fire took seven days starting from October 22, a day after the fire broke out and went until October 28.

According to him, just a day after the authorities had controlled the fire, it recurred in the Karanga River area and spread rapidly towards Umbwe and Baranco areas due to strong winds.

Commissioner Mwakilema noted that in the process to puff off the fire, they encountered various obstacles including large valleys that are difficult to pass by foot, especially canyons of Karanga, Baranco, Umbwe, Lyamungo and Mweka.

"The team was also facing low knowledge in fighting fires in mountains due to lack of expertise in hiking mountains. Other challenges are drought, strong winds, presence of Erica and Protea plants which easily catch fire," he explained.

The Controller and Auditor General (CAG) is aware of what is going on in KINAPA. In his report for the year ended June 30, 2021, GAG Kichere explained in detail the fire incidents in Kinapa and suggested four major steps to be taken to control them.

He said that TANAPA is not fully equipped with modern firefighting equipment and preparedness, including proper training for fire fighters to properly contain disasters.

He explained that disaster preparedness includes various measures taken by governments, organizations, communities or

individuals to deal with the immediate effects of both human and natural disasters.

"My review of fire incidents report dated December 23, 2020 on the investigation of the fire outbreak in KINAPA found that the Park spent six days to contain the fire from October 11 to 16, 2020 whereby 96.07 square kilometers of the park area was destroyed," he noted.

In addition, the fire destroyed the landscape of moorland, creatures and park's infrastructure including ten tourist's huts with 80 bedding capacity. Further, the report detailed that loss of material properties was 993m/- and the Park spent 221.51m/- to combat the fire.

The CAG further said: "I also learned that this was not the first fire outbreak in KINAPA as the Park had experienced fire in the years 2002, 2004, 2008, 2013, and 2016 of which a total of 357,565 hectares were burnt."

The CAG advised the government and TANAPA to assess the impact of fire rehabilitate the infrastructures and plant vegetation in fire affected areas; use the satellites in detecting fire incidents; establish disaster response team to deal with natural disasters and consider budgeting and purchasing modern firefighting equipment, including helicopter and its bucket and strengthen patrols and rescue operations.

He further cited that many fire outbreaks within the park were fuelled by invasion and human activities especially in the 'Half-mile' area which is owned by KINAPA.

He wanted the government to come up with alternative strategies for human development especially in areas bordering conservation areas so as to protect the parks and ecology.

In its budget estimation speech for this fiscal year, the Natural Resources and Tourism Ministry unveiled plans that will help address fires within national parks such as strengthening public awareness in the areas that border conservation areas.

WAJIBU-Institute of Public Accountability has analyzed the CAG Report of 2020/21 and found that a total of 4.591trn/- has been misused and without getting nugatory expenditure.



Advertisement

TEMBO NICKEL CORPORATION KABANGA NICKEL PROJECT

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the provision of Earthworks and Concrete Construction

Tembo Nickel Corporation ("Tembo") is an operating company formed via the Framework Agreement (19 January 2021) between Kabanga Nickel Limited ("Kabanga Nickel") and the Government of Tanzania ("GoT") for the development of the Kabanga nickel deposits in the Ngara District in the Northwest of Tanzania. Under the Framework Agreement terms, Tembo (owned 84% by Kabanga Nickel and 16% by GoT) has been formally established for the mining, processing, and refining of Class 1 nickel with cobalt and copper co-products.

Kabanga is the largest development-ready nickel sulphide deposit in the world, unmatched in scale and grade, with at least 30 years life of mine and further exploration upside. Once in operation, the Kabanga Nickel Project will produce Class 1 battery-grade nickel, cobalt, and copper refined metals in Tanzania. The cradle-to-gate operation will use hydromet technology that is significantly more cost-efficient than smelting. The hydromet process will reduce the carbon footprint, minimize environmental impact, lower capital, and production costs, and contribute significantly to the economic growth of Tanzania.

Tembo Nickel Corporation, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the ALL Services detailed below:

No.	Reference no.	Scope of Work (Description of Work)	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	TEMBO-2022-12-01	SCOPE OF WORK (EARTHWORKS AND CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION) a. Grading of Existing Access Tracks (Length 10km) b. Construct Concrete (Culvert) River Crossing c. Construction of Airfield - Gravel (Length 2.6 km) d. Borrow Pit Survey e. Fencing (Length 6.8 km)	i. Must have CRB class two and above registered in Civil and Earthworks and active in payment of the board fees. ii. Must be compliant with the Local Content Legislation and have an approved Local Content Plan. iii. List and attach all earthmoving and concrete equipment including but not limited to graders, dozers, excavators, back-actors, haul trucks, flat-beds, road-going trucks, concrete mixers, formwork, concrete batch plants, and mobile crushers. iv. Demonstrate experience in completing earthworks and concrete contracts in the recent 5 years. Provide detail of all contracts completed in the last 5 years including value, duration, Client contact details. v. Must be able to provide accommodation and related temporary infrastructure to support the scope of work. The site is remote and there is no existing infrastructure. vi. Provide details of current contracts in the execution phase. vii. Confirm that key personnel required, including Site Agent, Engineer, and Surveyor, as a minimum, will be available from 1 March 2023. viii. Confirm that grader, dozer, water bowser, and haul truck, as a minimum, will be available from 1 March 2023.

The above Services are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for **pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender**, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Comprehensive company profile
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of Incorporation, Business License, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration
- Years of service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work
- Indicate the above reference number and description of your Expression of Interest (EOI) submission.

EOI's from Companies that can provide ALL services detailed in the Scope of Work above will be considered.

Kindly send your response by email to tenders@kabanganickel.com by the close of business on **23rd January 2023**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote the reference number in the subject line of your email.
 Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **Tembo Nickel Corporation**.

For and on behalf of TEMBO NICKEL CORPORATION: KABANGA NICKEL PROJECT

BOXING DAY IN DAR ES SALAAM'S COCO BEACH

Dar es Salaam residents enjoy Boxing Day at Coco Beach in Oysterbay suburb yesterday. Photos: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Export marketing training boosts African tech start-ups' place in the global market

By Special Correspondent

EXPORT Marketing Plan training is set to boost African tech entrepreneurs' place in the global marketplace. Exporting to international markets is a powerful way for African tech startups to increase their company's bottom line, smooth out seasonal dips, and increase competitiveness. The challenge is how to successfully navigate that process.

A critical part of the work by the International Trade Centre's NTF V programme is to train African entrepreneurs on how best to conquer the complexities of global marketing and international sales.

In October, the Netherlands Trust Fund V Ghana Tech programme concluded an eight-month Export Marketing Plan training for 18 IT & Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO) companies to sell their services across the world.

"We will be using the training to improve our marketing strategy and growth plan for 2023 and the years ahead," said Nehemiah Yelu Attigah, founder and CEO of Hatua Tech Ltd. "We are looking to venture into the UK, the Netherlands, and Nigeria as primary markets, and Sierra Leone, Gambia, Kenya and Rwanda as secondary markets," said Attigah.

Hatua Tech is a Ghanaian business process outsourcing business that helps companies in the service and manufacturing sectors streamline and digitize their processes and manage effectively. Attigah said his company has worked hard to get potential clients to see their value proposition.

Led by expert Fred Janssen and local trainers Paulina Adjei and Emmanuel Kpogo, the training included full day workshops, visits to the companies and online coaching sessions.

"The facilitators and coaches were brutally honest with their feedback," said Attigah. "It was a refreshing approach. People are not used to being pushed to think deeper," he said.

The EMP breaks down how companies should identify their internal strengths and weaknesses and determine which international markets they will be able to expand into. Participants were given Export Marketing handbooks to guide them through the training and develop their own tailor-made service offering and export plan.

"This was not a box-ticking exercise, this was hands-on: you were expected to deliver," said Attigah, adding that his company has become far more strategic in how it looked at markets in terms of product and marketing combinations.

Partners from key institutions

that ITC works with, such as Joyce Owusu-Kwarteng from the Ghana Export Promotion Authority, David Gowu from the Institute of ITC Professionals Ghana, and Akosua Annobil, the founder of the Tech in Ghana biannual event, were also brought in to interact directly with the companies.

"The presence of these government agency enablers at the meetings means they now are aware that organizations like ours exist in Ghana," said Ernest Amartey Otu, Senior Manager, Marketing & Sales at eService Africa Ltd., (eSAL) who also took part in the training.

eSAL is a 24-hour business process outsourcing operation serving international and local Ghanaian and international clients in the financial, telecommunication, healthcare, utilities and aviation industries, as well as fast moving consumer goods, sales and marketing.

eSAL is working to reach additional international clients, but is up against established players in Africa in Kenya, South Africa, Morocco and Rwanda, and internationally in the Philippines and India.

"The competition is fierce and comes with a lot of financial muscle. We are a small company trying to survive in those waters," Otu said. "The Marketing Mix Strategy, which looks at product, place, price, promotion and most importantly planet, was key in how we articulated our value proposition in our 5-year plan," he said.

Otu is aware that giants like Amazon and Google entering African countries could poach many of the best tech experts, leaving local companies short of qualified workers. But, he notes, these larger corporations would benefit more by partnering with local companies.

While confident as his company was already on the right path to success, Otu said the ITC training helped eSAL better package its offerings.

"After critically analyzing our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), we know we have what it takes to enter the European market, specifically the United Kingdom," said Otu.

Attigah agreed that training like those provided by NTF V are important for tech companies who need to provide services at global-level standards in order to sustain and grow their businesses.

"This is something we are encouraging and should be repeated in the years to come, it will help a lot of African and Ghanaian businesses to become international in their outlook and delivery," Attigah added.



Mbeya Police Commander ACP, Benjamin Kuzaga, shows ivory impounded in December in Chunya district after a special operation conducted by police. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Cotton farmers seal pact to facilitate timely availability of farming inputs

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

COTTON farmers in the country have signed an agreement that requires everyone to contribute 5/- from every kg of the crop so as to boost the newly established Input Fund and facilitate timely availability of farming inputs.

This was said by the Tanzania Cotton Co-Operatives Joint Enterprise Limited (TANCCOOPS) chairperson, Zainabu Mahenge, when presenting a report on the cotton farming situation during the

27th annual meeting of the Kahama Cooperative Union (KACU).

He said that the crop has been falling every year due to lack of inputs including pesticides and to address the challenges, farmers have decided to come up with the agreement.

"Farming inputs supplied by cooperative unions have been arriving late something which affect cotton farming, with this, the farmers will now be obliged to contribute 5/- from each 1kg so as to help boost the Fund and be used to

purchase inputs and distributed to farmers on time.

Mahenge said that the crop's farming season starts in November and that through the Fund, farming inputs will be purchased in September so as to have enough time to distribute them to all farmers through the 14 cooperative societies.

KACU chairman, Hamisi Majogoro expressed his gratitude for the establishment of the Fund as it will greatly help address the input challenge which has been affecting

farmers for many years.

"I am just waiting for the written instruction from supervisors of the crop which will be approved to enable farmers to start contributing the agreed amount so as to boost cultivation of the crop, bring productivity and improve lives of the farmers," he said.

Ahmed Nambo, one of the farmers, said they have been spending a lot of money to cultivate the crops but they end up counting losses due to the delay of inputs, especially pesticides.

Simon Nzengo, also a farmer, said they are ready to start contributing the amount as the move is going to benefit them by accessing essential farming inputs on time.



Mafia district commissioner, Eng Martin Ntemo (with cap) looks at a broken Mafia pier in Coast region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Former South African herdsman preparing to sail across Atlantic

JOHANNESBURG

THE first time he saw the ocean, Sibusiso Sizatu was amazed by the gigantic dimensions of what he naively took for a lake. Twenty years later, the South African, a former herdsman, is preparing to sail across the Atlantic.

On January 2, he will be sailing from the southern tip of the African continent to Brazil for the 17th edition of the Cape2Rio, some 3,700 nautical miles (6,600 km) in crew, for the longest sailing competition in the southern hemisphere.

Standing on the dock in a white polo shirt, next to his ten-meter sailboat named Alexforbes ArchAngel, the 30-year-old skipper believes he has already won a victory by reaching the starting line.

"This will open the eyes of young people," he tells AFP, hoping to inspire a new generation of black sailors. After that, "the goal is to finish the race," and while he has no doubt about his boat's potential, winning would be an incredible bonus.

About 15 boats are registered, most of them monohulls. The record for this crossing, set during the previous edition in 2020, is seven days and twenty hours.

Today at the head of a crew of four men and one woman, all South Africans, Sibusiso Sizatu initially

dreamed of being a professional footballer. Originally from a rural part of the Eastern Cape, Nelson Mandela's home region, he moved with his family to a township in Cape Town at the age of nine.

In his mind as a child, sailing was a pastime of the rich, usually retired and white. Far from the daily life of his deprived neighbourhoods.

- Peaceful on the water -

The taste of the open sea came to him a little by chance. An association intervened in his school with the mission to teach sailing to kids who often only apprehend water late or never, and are regularly victims of drowning.

His first outing was not a success. Seasickness and fear in the stomach. He jumped into the water and swam back to shore.

It is finally the appetite for victory that convinces him, after having won a race in which a friend had embarked him. Sibusiso Sizatu then realized that it was not just a matter of "playing on the water", that steering a boat was a serious sport.

He proved to be gifted and started to train. Of course, he didn't always have the money to travel to events, or even to pay for food when he was away. And until he was 20, he didn't have any identity papers either, which made it impossible for him to compete abroad.

Ruto urges South Sudan's leader to end war in Upper Nile, Jonglei

NAIROBI

KENYAN President William Ruto has appealed to his South Sudanese counterpart Salva Kiir Mayardit to de-escalate the conflict in Upper Nile and Jonglei states and deploy humanitarian efforts.

President Ruto said the escalation of hostilities might ruin the 2018 peace agreement.

"The increasing insecurity, violence, displacement and unfolding humanitarian crisis is detrimental to the peace and stability of South Sudan and the East Africa region as a whole," said Dr Ruto in a statement Saturday.

Deadly fighting between rival

factions in Upper Nile and parts of Jonglei states has been ongoing since mid-August this year, leading to massive displacement of civilians.

Women and children bear the greatest brunt, Dr Ruto said, noting that they are in desperate need of food, water, shelter and medical supplies.

The President stressed that the widening political division is impairing any hopes for resumption in the implementation of the revitalised peace deal.

"As a neighbour and guarantor of the South Sudan peace process, I, on behalf of Kenya, bring these concerning developments to the

attention of the wider international community and call for a focus on immediate intervention geared towards de-escalation, peaceful resolution and coexistence among the parties involved."

He said he spoke to President Kiir and "strongly implored him-in concert with all parties involved-to deploy their best efforts to lead the country from the brink and back to a path of durable peace as envisioned in the deal".

While urging the international community to intervene, he said Kenya was airlifting a shipment of foodstuff and essential medical supplies to Upper Nile and Jonglei states.

Initial fighting began in Panyikang and Fangak counties in Upper Nile State in July before escalating into heavy conflict by mid-August. It has since spread to parts of Jonglei and Unity states.

Last month, President Kiir was forced to airlift the king of the Chollo Kingdom, Reth Kwongo Dak Padiet, to Juba after fighting spread to Fashoda County, where he resided.

Activists, aid agencies and the UN Mission in the country have condemned the violence and called on the national government to deploy security forces to contain the situation.

Invest in sustainable forest harvesting to benefit more, villagers near reserves told

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

VILLAGERS around forest reserves have been advised to invest in a sustainable harvesting programme that recognizes the importance of biodiversity and forest resource management.

Charles Meshack, Executive Director the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) said recently that there is need to embark on this because if people continue to cut trees to a larger extent then, it will definitely affect the rainfall and also will create an unstable atmosphere which will lead to destruction of earth.

"Trees and other plants clean the air we breathe and help us tackle the global challenge of climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide," he said, adding that without biodiversity, our entire support system for human as well as animal life, would collapse, we rely on nature to provide us with food and clean water, for a lot of medicines, and to prevent flooding and other extreme weather effects.

On the other hand, local government authorities should also assist them to benefit from forest resources they have in their localities.

Local governments should assist them because through forest resources they have on its land, people can set up carbon trade, earn cash to improve their livelihoods while improving environmental conditions, increasing employment and revenue collection.

He also suggests that "Let us make village forests to have economic value and attract local people to have forests in their homes and conserve them.

He also said as more people continue to open farms in different areas across the world to produce food to feed the world, water sources and biodiversity that support all life on earth including humans will be affected and people who invade the forest reserves will also rise.

"When people remove trees and other plants for farming activities, fire and other human activities it can increase flooding and cause climate change," he said.

Also every year more than 469,000 hectares of forest are cleared in Tanzania with most deforestation occurring on unreserved forests within the village land resulting in emission of over 44 million tonnes CO₂/year into the atmosphere, and hence impact on the global climate.

Also the unreserved forests are exposed to illegal and unsustainable harvesting, which lead to forest degradation and the government revenues from forests continue to decrease due to this alarming forest loss.

"Let us find comprehensive ways to save our forests on village land and government forest reserve because population is now increasing, people will be required to cut trees and open new farms for farming activities that is the main factor of deforestation accounting to a reduction of the reserve by 80 percent," he said.

Apart from that, forests are the source of many major rivers supplying water that people depend on for domestic use, irrigation farming, power generation and other issues while Forest products and their ecological services are critical to the livelihoods of millions of people living in rural communities.

He urged stakeholders engaged in the forestry sector to ensure that Tanzania's high biodiversity forests areas are well managed in ways that are sustainable, equitable, effective and train people on how to conserve it.

Highlighting on Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) he said CBFM has been cited as the best tool designed to reduce deforestation, protect forests on village land and allow communities to earn cash through forest products including sustainable charcoal and timber.

Meanwhile, Principal forest officer, from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (Beekeeping Unit), Emmanuel Msofe noted that "if we want CBFM to bring in positive results to the communities, good governance, transparency and decision-making processes should be observed by village government leaders.

Also legal actions should be taken for culprits, "if we do not take legal action, [against it] more forests will disappear, deforestation will be high.

According to him, the loss of trees and other vegetation can cause climate change, desertification, soil erosion, fewer crops, flooding, increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and loss of habitat of animals and plant species that we depend on for medicinal and food as well.

"One of the most dangerous and unsettling effects of deforestation is the loss of animal and plant species due to their loss of habitat.

80 percent of land animals and plant species live in forests. Not only does deforestation threaten species known to us, but also those unknown.

"When we cut down trees, we are taking a home away from animals" he said.

He called upon forest officers to have a backup training for villagers on forest conservation and management and visit them to identify the main challenges they have, what they need and later on take action on it.



Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania Northern- East secretary general Julius Madiga speaks at the Christmas mass Eve in Muheza district, Tanga region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Dodoma proposes antidote to fight truancy in schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Region has come up with strategies aimed to completely fight truancy in schools, a challenge which has been hampering education development efforts.

This was reached during the regional consultative committee (RCC) meeting which discussed eight agendas including education, health, agriculture, water, environment and other development issues.

The RCC meeting which was led by its chair, Rosemary Senyamule, the regional commissioner, noted that truancy was one of the major challenges facing many schools in the region and that the resolutions

reached by the meeting are going to eradicate it.

Speaking, RC Senyamule said Dodoma was facing a huge challenge of chronic absenteeism of students both in primary and secondary schools with lack of feeding programmes being one of the causes.

"Lack of feeding programmes in schools is cited as one of the major causes of truancy, but also lack of parents' commitment is supervising education for their children, village and street leaders not playing their roles well to ensure that they conduct close follow up to the children so as to fight truancy," she explained.

She, however, said that despite

the challenges, Bahi District has performed well and emerged among top ten best schools in the national 2022 Primary School Leaving Examination.

"I commend Bahi District council for the job well done, emerging among top ten best schools is not an easy task, you have shown that it is possible and it is now better for other schools to emulate this, go and learn how Bahi has managed to reach this far," she asserted.

RC Senyamule also wanted leaders to work jointly and make sure that all children who left school come back to continue with studies.

She also directed all district councils in the region to increase

efforts in revenue collections as well as issuance of the 10 percent from internal collections.

"I direct all councils to work closely with stakeholders so as to produce enough desks so as to address the shortages in schools, the councils should also supervise bylaws to facilitate issuance of meals in schools, heads of schools should also come up with plans which include setting aside farms to produce food for students," she added.

Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Dr Fatuma Mganga urged district executive directors (DEDs) to supervise head teachers and ensure that children are well taught so as to improve performance.

Gift Kyando, regional education officer said the meeting has agreed to ensure that all students who pass to enter secondary education are registered and complete their studies.



Passengers bound for Songe in Kilindi district, Tanga and Arusha regions stranded at Msente yesterday after heavy rain crippled services. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

DR Congo: Pope Francis' planned visit ignites hope for troubled eastern region

KINSHASA

AFTER another spate of violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo's east, locals are hoping Pope Francis' visit in January will be able to bring some calm to the troubled region.

The 86-year-old pontiff is due to arrive on January 31st after an earlier visit in July 2022 was postponed after he strained his knee and underwent therapy for his strained ligaments.

In recent months the M23 rebel group, which is backed by neighbouring Rwanda, has conquered vast areas in the east and advanced within a few dozen kilometres of Goma, the capital of North Kivu province.

According to a preliminary United Nations investigation, at least 131 civilians were massacred in the villages of Kishishe and Bambo on November 29th and 30th by the March 23 rebel group, which is predominantly an ethnic Tutsi rebel group.

The area is rich in mineral resources which have fuelled many years of fighting.

Abbé Martin Yuremye, a parish

priest in Kanyaruchinya, which is just outside the city of Goma and is where many people displaced by the massacres are sheltering, said Francis' visit will bring hope to the whole country.

"By choosing the Congo as the place of his visit, I think he carries us, the whole country, especially the east that he had wanted to visit," Abbé Martin Yamuremye, the parish priest of Saint Thérèse of the Child of Jesus said.

"By visiting Kinshasa, I think he carries the whole country which knows all the difficulties suffered by people in the east. Therefore, the message he brings to us is a message of peace and it is a message that comforts us. We are proud that he is visiting our country," Yamuremye added.

Pope Francis will fly to the capital Kinshasa from Rome to pay a courtesy call to President Tshisekedi and will meet with other government authorities and civil society groups.

The next day, February 1st, he will fly to Goma to meet victims of violence and the representatives of charities working with them.

Young African entrepreneurs gain from training in cross border trade

By Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze, Abuja

GTAND Africa Initiative (GAIN) in collaboration with Africa Export-Import Bank (AFREXIMBANK), has trained young African entrepreneurs from across Africa as part of the Africa Export-Import Bank's effort to increase participation of African young entrepreneurs in cross border trade and expand trading activity under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

The programme, GAIN-AFREXIMBANK Masterclass on Entrepreneurship and Intra-Africa Trade is an empowerment

programme which will help in the actualization of the objectives AfCFTA which is pivotal to the continent's economic transformation.

The Executive Director, GAIN, Chinwe Okoli, who disclosed this in a statement in Abuja, said that the initiative was geared towards training, empowering, and providing technical support to African young men and women by equipping them with digital, leadership, employability, and entrepreneurial skills for self-sustenance.

She said the programme was designed to, among others, equip young African entrepreneurs who

were selected from across Africa with skills to build and scale their businesses across borders; learn key insights that will help them identify opportunities in various African Markets, and expand their businesses.

According to her, the program, which kicked off August 8th, 2022, received applications from 1,376 young African entrepreneurs from 29 African countries across the five regions in Africa out of which two hundred 200 were selected.

Okoli explained that the training was 3-month program that had intensive live masterclass facilitated by global experts and leaders in

various aspects of business who brought to class experience and mastery adding that the participants learned from facilitators from Africa, America, and Europe who covered fifteen (15) broad topics, which was followed by mentorship and business advisory sessions with experienced mentors and experts in various business sectors."

She said, "The programme kicked off on the August 8th, 2022 with a virtual opening ceremony which had the Executive Director Grand Africa Initiative-GAIN, Chinwe Okoli; the Senior Manager, AU/AFCTA Relations and Trade Policy, African Export-Import Bank Babajide Sodipo and the Keynote Speaker His Excellency Thami Mseleku, the High Commissioner of South Africa to Nigeria, selected participants and members of the public in attendance".

Plant more trees to gain from the carbon business, Tanzanians told

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

TANZANIANS are now advised to heavily invest in tree planting projects to save the earth from climate change and biodiversity loss.

Youth Survival Organisation Co-Founder and Chairman, Humphrey Mrema said this over the weekend at the just-ended one day workshop on COP27 outcomes: Youth, Media and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that was organised by Africa Youth Transformation (AYT) that involved CSOs from different areas across the country.

There is a need for people to venture into this business because right now carbon trade is one of the best businesses that can help them to earn cash, improve their livelihoods and implement various projects in their localities.

So far Kenya and South Africa have been able to establish artificial forests to sell carbon credits to reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, particularly carbon dioxide.

“Let us use this opportunity and plant trees to benefit from this market and even sell in other countries,” he said, adding: “When we plant trees, restore degraded land or areas and conserve natural forests we have within our localities, we remove carbon and support biodiversity.”

Highlighting on COP27 outcome for journalists and youth from different CSOs, Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAP)’s Programme Officer, Werner Msoka said that in a bid to combat climate change and its effects in Tanzania youth will be advocating for effective implementation of the country’s Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and the National Climate Change

Response Strategy 2021-2025,” he said.

Msoka encouraged young entrepreneurs to venture into climate resilient activities including digital tech, climate smart agriculture, and green industries and empowering youth to contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic transformation of their respective countries to spearhead climate change adaptation and strengthen resilience.

Other plans include mainstreaming gender and promoting the girls and young women to study or work in the fields of environmental science and engineering /STEM that are tailored to provide climate solutions by availing scholarships.

Advocating for effective implementation of the country’s Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), the National Climate Change Response Strategy 2021-2025 and the National Strategy for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) to enhance greenhouse sink and reduce emissions.



When we plant trees, restore degraded land or areas and conserve natural forests we have within our localities, we remove carbon and support biodiversity

Indonesia sets sights on African students

By Maina Waruru

INDONESIA is seeking alliances with universities in East Africa, using its existing exchange programmes as an entry point to the continent.

The world’s most populous Muslim country is actively promoting “educational diplomacy” by establishing partnerships between its universities and their African equivalents and promoting opportunities such as the Ministry of Education and Culture’s Partnership for Developing Countries scholarships initiative.

Indonesian universities will hold joint collaboration programmes including staff and student exchanges and joint research, which will also see teaching staff in Africa advance their studies in Indonesian universities.

Scholarships will be issued to African students and lecturers to study at Indonesian universities as part of the Asian country’s plan to “expand and enhance” relations between Indonesia and Africa.

“So far, the Indonesian embassy in Nairobi has actively promoted educational diplomacy, including scholarships managed by Education Ministry under the Partnership for Developing Countries (KNB) scholarships as well as those offered independently by various universities Indonesia,” said Mohamad Hery Saripudin, Indonesian ambassador to the East African countries of Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The envoy, who recently led a delegation from his country into meetings with universities in the region, said that countries in East Africa were targeted with opportunities for studying in

Indonesian universities within the framework of Sister University cooperation.

One of the universities visited by the delegation was Umma University, a university in Kenya that operates under Islamic values and practices.

While Indonesia also trails its neighbours including Singapore in attracting foreign students, calls for a more aggressive push for African students have been growing since 2015 when reportedly less than 1000 Africans were studying there.

Cultural shock, language barrier and the education system used in the country have been cited as some of the reasons why the Asian country is not a popular destination for Africans.



So far, the Indonesian embassy in Nairobi has actively promoted educational diplomacy, including scholarships managed by Education Ministry under the Partnership for Developing Countries (KNB) scholarships as well as those offered independently by various universities Indonesia



Buguruni resident in Dar es Salaam negotiates a move at a broken fence installed to protect accidents. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

ALGIERS

ALGERIAN transport services app Yassir has seen its workforce grow from five employees in 2017 to over 1,000 in six countries, and its co-founder says there is more room for growth.

“We started from nothing and now we have reached some important figures,” says Mehdi Yettou, Yassir co-founder.

The popular phone app provides ride-hailing, grocery drop-off and payment services, operating in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa, Senegal and France.

Algeria’s ride hailing services app eyes expansion to more countries

Yettou says Yassir has 6 million users but is not stopping there as the business plans to expand further in Africa.

Last month, the business got a major boost that could help with those ambitions when investors gave Yassir funding worth \$150 million.

The money was provided by a group of investors from the United

States during a fundraising event.

It is a large sum compared to the \$30 million that Yassir collected in all of 2021, but Yettou says he is focused on the next target.

“That is just a step and we are looking to go further,” Yettou says.

Yassir, which means “easy” in Arabic, has launched dozens of supermarkets across Algeria.

From there, its drivers pick up

groceries and deliver them to customers across the North African country.

Algiers resident who only provided the name Meriem has been a loyal Yassir user for the past three years.

“I use it every day to go shopping, visit my family or go to work out. It is very affordable and they are fast,” she says.



Customers buy pineapples at Buguruni market in Dar es Salaam yesterday as captured by our photographer yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Ethnic violence in Darfur kills at least 12

DARFUR

ETHNIC violence in Sudan’s troubled western region of Darfur has killed at least 12 people over the past few days, an aid group has said.

The clashes between herdsmen and farmers in the Beileil area in South Darfur province also wounded at least 42 people, said Adam Regal, spokesman for the General Coordination for Refugees and Displaced in Darfur. Local authorities said the

clashes grew out of an attempt by herdsmen to loot a motorized rickshaw known as a tuk-tuk in the village of Amouri, killing one person. The fighting escalated on Thursday and Friday when herdsmen and the local population traded attacks.

Authorities on Saturday declared a state of emergency and imposed a night-time curfew in Beileil to help stop the clashes.

Regal said the aid group counted 12 dead in the fighting, and the tally could be higher. He said many

villages in the area were either burned down or looted.

Hundreds of families were displaced and took shelter in Nyala, the provincial capital of South Darfur, he said.

The violence was the latest to rock Darfur in recent months. In November, at least 48 people were killed in tribal clashes in Central Darfur province.

The sprawling region was engulfed in bloodshed in 2003 when rebels from the territory’s ethnic central and sub-Saharan

African community launched an insurgency, accusing the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum of discrimination and neglect.

The government, under then President Omar al-Bashir, responded with a scorched-earth assault of aerial bombings and unleashed local nomadic Arab militias known as the Janjaweed, who are accused of mass killings and rapes. Up to 300,000 people were killed and 2.7 million were driven from their homes.

Crime: Threat to nation's stability preventing it must be a priority

It is understood that criminal activities could be induced by socio-economic factors such as unemployment and poverty.

Criminal mentality is being spurred by the growing materialist cultural and global network of money laundering, human trafficking and contraband trade. And a terrorism network is affecting the world's socio-economic arena as it changes its maneuvers from time to time.

According to sociologists, youths, among the various age groups, face high exposure for indulgence in crime because of their great ambitions to do whatever they wish to. As they are more influenced by their peers, sometimes they become restless to replicate others' adventure. Particularly, if they are unemployed resorting to criminal act has high possibility. Others also might use them to serve their interest. Therefore, in order to facilitate a better future for the youth and help them be optimistic, parents and the society must be considerate towards the youth.

On the other hand, as crime is a threat to a nation's stability, tracing and preventing it must be a priority agenda. At this point, the justice organs as well as the system must be reorganized and institutionally strong.

If rampant unemployment and poverty continues the chance of the youth to involve in criminal activities is much higher. Hence, the government's plan of reducing poverty through job creation is vital. The on going effort to create job through small-scale enterprises must be enhanced. Tracing criminals and bringing them to justice is a secondary action. Rather, addressing poverty and unemployment is vital and must be prioritized because it could address the root causes of the problem.

According to Twaweza findings released in 2015 crime rate in the country is on the rise. It showed

that three out of ten citizens experienced theft in 2014, with half of all Tanzanians having had something stolen from them.

The findings have it that majority of the citizens, almost 84 per cent, believe they are likely to be affected by gangs similar to Panya Road in Dar es Salaam.

In January 2015, Panya Road, a gang of youthful criminals, caused mayhem among residents, with extensive social media blowing the panic beyond proportions.

Two out of ten citizens report that they witnessed violence during the local government elections in December 2014. Twaweza in a research titled, "Our Safety? Citizens' views on security and justice," said the findings are based on data collected from 1,401 respondents across Mainland Tanzania in February and March in 2015.

Despite the relatively high rates of theft, fears about gangs and incidents of political violence, eight out of ten citizens report never or rarely, feeling unsafe in their own communities and neighbourhoods.

However, they believe that the justice system in the country is not functioning as it should, whereas over half of citizens believe that ordinary citizens would be punished according to the law if they commit a crime.

Given the reported low trust in the police, many communities have local security groups who provide basic law enforcement.

Although many citizens report feeling safe in their own communities, they have also experienced burglary, are afraid of being affected by gangs and have observed political violence.

Also ordinary citizens believe that the police or justice system favour the elite. This belief has become more widely held over time. In addition, they have seen an increase in police violence in the past two years, which discourages them from pursuing formal mechanisms of justice.

Boxing Day: It is customary in some localities for the alms boxes to be opened and distributed to the poor

BOXING Day is a holiday celebrated after Christmas Day, occurring on the second day of Christmastide (26 December). Though it originated as a holiday to give gifts to the poor, today Boxing Day is primarily known as a shopping holiday. It originated in Great Britain and is celebrated in a number of countries that previously formed part of the British Empire. The attached bank holiday or public holiday may take place on 28 December if necessary to ensure it falls on a weekday. Boxing Day is also concurrent with the Catholic holiday Saint Stephen's Day.

In parts of Europe, such as several regions of Spain, Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, Norway, and Ireland, 26 December is Saint Stephen's Day, which is considered the second day of Christmas.

There are competing theories for the origins of the term, none of which is definitive.

The European tradition of giving money and other gifts to those in need, or in service positions, has been dated to the Middle Ages, but the exact origin is unknown; it may reference the alms box placed in the narthex of Christian churches to collect donations for the poor. The tradition may come from a custom in the late Roman/early Christian era wherein alms boxes placed in churches were used to collect special offerings tied to the Feast of Saint Stephen, which, in the Western Christian Churches, falls on the same day as Boxing Day, the second day of Christmastide. On this day, it is customary in some localities for the alms boxes to be opened and

distributed to the poor.

The Oxford English Dictionary gives the earliest attestations from Britain in the 1830s, defining it as "the first weekday after Christmas day, observed as a holiday on which postmen, errand boys, and servants of various kinds expect to receive a Christmas box".

The term "Christmas box" dates back to the 17th century, and among other things meant:

A present or gratuity given at Christmas: in Great Britain, usually confined to gratuities given to those who are supposed to have a vague claim upon the donor for services rendered to him as one of the general public by whom they are employed and paid, or as a customer of their legal employer; the undefined theory being that as they have done offices for this person, for which he has not directly paid them, some direct acknowledgement is becoming at Christmas.

In Britain, it was a custom for tradesmen to collect "Christmas boxes" of money or presents on the first weekday after Christmas as thanks for good service throughout the year. This is mentioned in Samuel Pepys' diary entry for 19 December 1663. This custom is linked to an older British tradition where the servants of the wealthy were allowed the next day to visit their families since they would have had to serve their masters on Christmas Day. The employers would give each servant a box to take home containing gifts, bonuses, and sometimes leftover food. Until the late 20th century there continued to be a tradition among many in the UK to give a Christmas gift, usually cash, to vendors, although not on Boxing Day as many would not work on that day.

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By Francine Pickup

CLIMATE change is the defining issue of our time. In the words of the UN Secretary General at COP27, "we are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator." Cutting greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050 is crucial when it comes to meeting the 1.5 degrees Celsius target.

At the same time, if we don't effectively deal with corruption in climate action, it will severely impede our abilities to fight the climate crisis through scaled-up adaptation and mitigation efforts.

According to Transparency International, up to 35 percent of climate action funds, depending on programme, have been lost to corruption in the last five years.

Corruption and the climate crisis reinforce each other

On the one hand, corruption fuels the climate crisis by depriving countries of much-needed revenues to act on climate change and build resilience, while also significantly altering the efficient allocation and distribution of resources to achieve development objectives.

For example, according to the U4 Anti-corruption Resource Centre, the top recipients of climate finance are among the riskiest places in the world for corruption.

On the other hand, climate impacts reinforce corruption by creating economic and social instability and inequality, fostering an environment more conducive to corruption and misuse of funds, that ultimately deprives the poorest and hardest hit.

Overcoming corruption in the race against the climate crisis requires collective action and bold partnerships between government, private sector, and civil society to recognise and combat the issue through more effective management of resources and programmes.

This calls for:

- Governments to step up their efforts in environmental governance,
- Businesses to strengthen business integrity,
- Media, youth, and communities to continue to advocate against corruption.

The three immediate actions that require commitment from all actors:

1. Management of funds: A much greater transparency and accountability is needed in the use and management of climate finance in adaptation and mitigation programmes.

Access to finance is often presented as the main obstacle to achieving a just transition and transformative climate action, but that's only one side of the

Overcoming corruption in race against climate crisis



problem. The other side is to make sure that the much-needed resources to address climate crisis are not lost due to corruption and mismanagement.

One good example is that of the Colombian climate finance tracking system, which provides updated data on domestic, public, private, and international climate funding.

It is one of the first countries in the world to have developed a comprehensive Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework to transparently track the inflow and outflow of climate finance from public, private and international sources.

2. Voice and Accountability: This means leveraging the power of advocacy and accountability mechanisms, and providing civic spaces for meaningful participation of society, empowering them to hold policy makers and private sector accountable.

For example, UNDP is empowering communities in Uganda and Sri Lanka, to use digital tools to mainstream integrity and transparency in environmental resource management. In Sri Lanka, UNDP has launched a digital platform, in collaboration with the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation and other partners, for citizens to engage and monitor illicit environmental activities. The initiative is supported through UNDP's Global Project - Anti-Corruption for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies (ACPIS) funded by the Norad- Norwegian Agency

for Development Cooperation.

Meanwhile, in Uganda, UNDP and the National Forestry Authority have launched the Uganda Natural Resource Information System (NARIS), designed to monitor and mediate deforestation throughout Uganda to protect the country's forests and biodiversity.

In the climate change agenda, fighting corruption is not only about the money. It is also about building trust in institutions and restoring hope in the future. Studies show that 'eco-anxiety' is increasing, particularly amongst young people.

A global study of 10,000 youth from 10 countries in 2021 found that over 50 percent of young people felt sad, anxious, angry, powerless, helpless, and guilty about climate change. But we have also seen youth, civil society and communities taking action against the environmental damage and climate change from Serbia to India.

Through UNDP's Climate promise alone, more than 110,000 people have been engaged in stakeholder consultations to revise key national climate strategies, known as nationally determined contributions -, helping to build social consensus and explicit recognition of the roles of youth and women's leadership in renewed climate pledges in 120 countries.

3. Private sector has a key role to play: Public capacity needs to be strengthened to implement policies to regulate private sector activities to protect the environment. At the same time, businesses should

also play their part with fair, human-rights based business practices, business integrity, and environmental sustainability goals.

4. The normative framework to protect human rights: An intensified focus on 'environmental justice' at global and national level is needed. On 28 July 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted a historic resolution that gave universal recognition to the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment (R2HE). UNDP promotes responsible business by strengthening human rights standards across 17 countries, with support from Japan.

UNDP has supported over 100 national human rights institutions to address the human rights implications of climate change and environmental degradation. In Tanzania, UNDP has supported the 'Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance' to manage disputes related to environmental human rights violations. In Chile, UNDP has supported an ongoing process of constitutional reform which includes strong references to environmental rights.

The development community needs to ensure integrated approaches and break the siloes between the governance and environmental communities; and between public and private sectors to tackle the interlinked crises of corruption and climate change.

The writer is Deputy Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP

Boosting innovation in Africa and Europe

By Special Correspondent

A New sustainable business and digital hub for innovation stakeholders from across Africa and Europe has begun operation in Cape Town, South Africa. Called the EIA Centre, the hub has been launched as an outcome of the EU-funded EIA project aimed at supporting and strengthening the innovation ecosystem on the two continents.

The launch of the EIA Centre was announced at the annual EIA congress held in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2022. The congress was attended by senior-level decision-makers, incubator and accelerator experts, business executives, start-ups and SMEs, as well as African and European corporate investors who came together to discuss a mutual future of innovation through cooperation.

State-of-the-art services

The EIA Centre is centralised through an online digital platform and provides a digital meeting space for various innovation stakeholders. Users are required to register on the platform to gain access to a variety of cutting-edge services. As reported in a news item posted on the project website, these include services tailored for incubators and accelerators in Europe and Africa through a Champions membership programme as well as targeted programmes for entrepreneurs, such as Open Innovation Challenges and soft-landing opportunities.

The EIA project brings together 12 partners from five European countries (Belgium, Germany, France, Austria and Portugal) and four African countries (Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania). “We are thrilled to be able to work with such a strong group of partners to add additional



value to the innovation ecosystem of Europe and Africa,” states EIA Centre director Eduardo Herrmann of Steinbeis Europa Zentrum, Germany, in the news item. Steinbeis Europa Zentrum is an umbrella brand consisting of three partners, one of which is EIA project coordinator Steinbeis Zi. “There is such a great amount of work already taking place in this space, but we see a real value in being able to raise the capacity of such actors as well as connect

the two regions to each other,” Herrmann goes on to say.

The two South Africa-based consortium partners chosen to host the EIA Centre are start-up accelerator Startupbootcamp AfriTech and international innovation group Methys. Methys CEO Christophe Viarnaud, also an EIA Centre director, remarks: “Methys is very pleased to have been chosen, jointly with our long-time partner Startupbootcamp AfriTech, to host in Cape Town the

head office of ENRICH in Africa Centre. Together we will, thanks to the grant from the European Commission and the platform of partnerships we have been building over the years, work relentlessly to build together a common business around technology partnerships, open innovation and soft-landing for African entrepreneurs in Europe and European entrepreneurs in Africa. We look forward to continuing to amplify our work to



The two South Africa-based consortium partners chosen to host the EIA Centre are start-up accelerator Startupbootcamp AfriTech and international innovation group Methys.

support our ecosystem.”

The EIA Centre was founded by four consortium partners, the previously mentioned Methys, Startupbootcamp and Steinbeis Europa Zentrum as well as Portuguese consulting firm Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação. The EIA (ENRICH in Africa - A Multi-sided Platform Business Model for supporting the EU-African Innovation Community.) The project ends in December 2023.

Deep inside the ecological devastation of Mexico’s avocado production

ZAPOTLÁN EL GRANDE, Mexico

TEN minutes away from downtown Ciudad Guzmán, the municipal capital of Zapotlán el Grande, is a small century-old ranch, where fruits and vegetables sprout from the ground and fall from the trees. It’s a picture of biodiversity fast fading from Mexico’s western state of Jalisco.

Ranch owners Rogelio Trejo and Yaskara Silva, who inherited the land from Trejo’s parents, have seen the change take place. Once upon a time, sage would turn surrounding mountains into a sea of blue-green. Now, there are avocado farms as far as the eye can see.

“They’ve destroyed our natural forests,” Trejo says.

Mexico is the world’s seventh-largest agricultural exporter, with agro-industrial exports expected to reach \$46 billion this year, the highest in 30 years. Among its most significant exports is the avocado, of which it is the world’s top producer. Consumed locally for millennia, in recent years, avocados have skyrocketed in popularity outside of Mexico – especially in the neighboring United States, which consumes 3 out of every 4 Mexican avocados sent abroad.

Expansion’s effects on farmers

During the Super Bowl alone, according to one 2020 estimate, U.S. football fans eat their way through 7% of annual consumption in a single day. Until this year, all avocados exported from Mexico to the U.S. came from a single state: Michoacán. This summer, however, Jalisco became Mexico’s second supplier to the lucrative market – an occasion described by Governor Enrique Alfaro as a “historic day for Jalisco and ... the development of our countryside.” Small farmers in the state, however, faced with the consequences – environmental and otherwise – of increasing avocado production are far less enthusiastic.

“We noticed there were no corn leaves for making tamales because corn is no longer being



cultivated,” says Carmen García, a feminist educator, referring to Zapotlán el Grande. In 2021, more than 57% of farmed land in the municipality was taken up by avocado orchards, accounting for more than a fifth of the state’s total avocado output. Jalisco ranks second in avocado production in Mexico, although it lags far behind Michoacán in terms of total output. But production is growing faster here than anywhere else. According to data from the government’s agriculture and fisheries information portal, avocado cultivation increased by 527% between 2012 and 2021.

Farmers are experiencing the effects of this expansion in multiple ways. According to a study by Alberto Gómez Tagle, of Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, in the city of Morelia, avocado farms require four to five times as much water as an equivalent area of pine forest. When avocado trees are irrigated, because their roots are relatively horizontal, water is less likely to seep into the subsoil – in other words, an avocado tree

can replenish only a fraction of soil moisture compared to a pine tree. Silva and Trejo’s well, which they use to water their farm, would typically accumulate 3 to 4 meters of water. Now, one meter is a bounty.

“Last year, we lost our first harvest of vegetables due to lack of water,” Silva says.

Ecological consequences

“Ecological agriculture is inextricably linked to the right to healthy food,” says Jaime Morales, an agroecologist and founder of an agroecology training center in Jalisco. The expansion of industrial agriculture – boosted by state and taxpayer money, he says – and the accompanying threat to family-owned small farms is endangering this right in a country where more than 55% of rural households are food insecure.

Many medicinal plants are burning up

Locals also point to changing climatic conditions, which they say are a result of changes in land

use. Zapotlán el Grande, located in southern Jalisco, among the foothills of Nevado de Colima and near the Sierra del Tigre mountain range, used to be cool and abundantly rainy, García says. Less than a decade ago, maximum temperatures tended to be in the high 20s Celsius; this May, however, temperatures reached 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit). Indeed, according to one analysis, Zapotlán el Grande experienced the greatest growth in avocado production between 2009 and 2018 – from 2,400 tons to almost 37,000 tons – and, in the same period, ranked ninth out of 125 Jalisco municipalities in terms of most tree cover lost.

As avocado production in the municipality shot up by 509% between 2010 and 2021, crop diversity plummeted. In 2010, farmers in Zapotlán el Grande grew 39 types of crops, whereas, in 2021, they cultivated just 15 different crops in the area.

“Many medicinal plants are burning up, such as mullein, arnica and sage,” Silva says. Native fruit trees – such as tejocote

(Mexican hawthorn), apples, pears, plums, pomegranates, black cherries and blackberries, some wild and some cultivated – are also disappearing, García says.

Avocado production and deforestation

In neighboring Michoacán, 30% to 40% of recent deforestation was driven by avocado production, according to Global Forest Watch, an online monitoring tool. In Jalisco, agricultural expansion is the second-greatest cause of deforestation. In both Jalisco and Michoacán, it is illegal to cut down trees to cultivate avocado, but if land is burned, then a change of land use is permitted. Thousands of hectares of trees have been set on fire in the mountains around their ranch, Trejo says. Later, avocado orchards were installed. According to official data, 14% of avocado orchards in the state are on land previously destroyed by fires.

Jalisco’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development did not respond to requests for comment.

They are destroying a forest that took hundreds or thousands of years to develop.

Néstor Rodríguez, who grew up in San Gabriel, a municipality within a protected natural area next to Zapotlán el Grande – Parque Nacional Volcán Nevado de Colima, which has the second-highest number of hectares of avocado crops in the state – says he began to see avocado orchards spring up in place of forests six years ago. “I consider it a crime that, out of human voracity or economic interest, they are destroying a forest that took hundreds or thousands of years to develop,” he says.

“This industry is destroying us”

One avocado cultivator in Zapotlán el Grande, who wishes to remain anonymous for fear of retribution, says he pivoted to growing the fruit because it is more profitable than corn. (In 2018, the production value per hectare of avocado trees was nearly four times as much as a decade earlier.) “But there is also a big difference in the investment,” he says.

As a result, many of the avocado orchards in Jalisco do not belong to small farmers from the state – rather, says Everardo Pérez, director of a development research center, locals rent their land since they cannot afford the necessary investments.

Cultivators from Michoacán began arriving here to plant the fruit around the year 2000, says the anonymous avocado grower. Before that, he adds, there was only one avocado orchard in all of Zapotlán el Grande.

“If you want avocado, you need to have a deep well because there are no rivers,” he says. His own well is about 200 meters (656 feet) deep. “I’ve heard of some wells that are as deep as 1,000 meters [3,281 feet].”

Meanwhile, Silva has a message for avocado aficionados. “I would like us to embark on a silent strike against avocados,” she says. “Because this industry is destroying us.”

Sahara Foundation empowers African social entrepreneurs with seed funding



Fund was set up to help close the gap in energy equality in Africa, as well as promote sustainable environment through the empowerment of creative social entrepreneurs working to move Africa from a continent of potentials to actualisation.”

Uzokwe urged the social entrepreneurs to use the training and funds received from the programme to advance their business dreams and congratulated all 21 Fellows who participated in this year's programme.

Also addressing the Fellows at the close out ceremony, Ndidi Nwuneli, founder, Leap Africa, congratulated the Fellows for successfully completing the programme. Nwuneli implored them to make good use of the knowledge acquired and help improve Africa's development with their ideas and abilities.

She also thanked Sahara Foundation for powering this initiative and commended their commitment to advancing Social Development Goal (SDG) 17 - Partnership for the Goals.

Speaking on behalf of the recipients, Lazarous Siwelwa from Zambia expressed excitement and gratitude on behalf of the 2022 Fellows. Siwelwa thanked Sahara Foundation, Leap Africa, and Impact Amplifier for putting together such a rewarding experience that exposed them to quality business knowledge, tools, and networks guaranteed to impact their businesses for good.

In closing, Uzokwe speaking to the Fellows again, said: “This is not the end”. The Sahara Foundation is looking to continue this relationship and we urge you all as ambassadors to go out there and strengthen your businesses and each other. Leverage this network and build impactful social enterprises. As social entrepreneurs, Africa's future depends on your actions today.

By Ngozi Okpalakunne

SAHARA Foundation, the personal and corporate social responsibility vehicle for Sahara Group, has announced the award of \$5000 as seed funding to each African social innovator who has successfully completed its 2022 Sahara Impact Fund (SIF) Fellowship programme.

The beneficiaries of the seed funding include Ayilara Assurance Oluchi, CEO of OnePad Reusable Pad, Nigeria; Lamin Ceesay, CEO of Karakunku Farm, the Gambia; Aminu Moses Rex, CEO Delfak Nigeria Ltd; Claude Albert Moghomaye, CEO, Bertec, Cameroon; Michael Osumune, CEO, Moon Innovations, Nigeria;



Uzokwe urged the social entrepreneurs to use the training and funds received from the programme to advance their business dreams and congratulated all 21 Fellows who participated in this year's programme.

Adeyemi Tunde, Ceo, D-Olivette Global Enterprise, Nigeria and Olawale Thompson, CEO, Planet Savers Global Ltd, Nigeria.

Other beneficiaries include James Thuch Madhier, South-Sudan; Ligare Allan, Kenya; Siwelwa Lazarous, Zambia; and Gerasia Laurent Andrea, Tanzania.

The three-month Fellowship was organised by Sahara Foundation in collaboration with LEAP AFRICA, a youth-focused leadership development nonprofit organisation; and Impact Amplifier, a social enterprise that accelerates the investment readiness, growth and capital provision of high impact, innovative social enterprises in

Africa.

The objective of the Fellowship is to better equip African social entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skill sets required to build sustainable businesses, capable of addressing the continent's challenges. Faced with challenges such as inadequate energy, waste management, unemployment, poverty, climate challenges occasioned by drought, flooding, extreme heat, etc. These African social innovators are helping to address Africa's social economic issues with their business models.

Read also: First Bank partners JA Africa on entrepreneurship competition

The need to accelerate

Africa's growth in access to energy and promote sustainable environments across the continent, inspired the creation of the Sahara Impact Fund Fellowship programme. We believe that Africa's biggest challenges need diverse, local problem solvers and Sahara Foundation is helping to identify and empower these social solution providers.

Speaking on the motivation behind the Fund during the SIF close out ceremony, Pearl Uzokwe, director, Sahara Foundation commented that Sahara Foundation is committed to impacting lives and building sustainable societies across Africa. She said: “The Sahara Impact

Senegal struggles to break dependence on imported rice

DAKAR

AROUND the village of Dak in central Senegal, women cut rice stalks with sickles and knives, singing and dancing. In this West African country, which is a major consumer of the cereal, the current harvest will not cover all needs.

“This production is for self-consumption. We don't want to buy imported rice anymore, which is very expensive,” says Diétéo Diouf, head of a women's association, in the middle of the rice fields.

The global food crisis and inflation caused by the war in Ukraine and the rise in cereal and energy prices have made the search for food self-sufficiency in Africa a pressing issue.

Rice, one of the staples of the African diet, is particularly affected as India, the world's second largest producer, announced restrictions on its exports in September, raising fears of a shortage in Africa, where more than 280 million people were already undernourished by 2020 according to the UN.

The Asian giant banned the export of broken rice (rice with lower prices and accidental or unintentional fractures) and introduced a 20% tax on exports of high-quality rice to improve

domestic supplies after a major drought in the main producing regions.

To combat speculation, Senegal recently set a price of 325 CFA francs per kilo (about 0.5 euros) for Indian broken rice, one of the cheapest and most widely consumed types of rice, and virtually the only one imported into the country, according to the coordinator of the national rice self-sufficiency programme, Waly Diouf.

Rice is essential for the preparation of ceebu jën, rice with fish and the most popular dish in Senegal.

Panic and tension

Africa accounts for 32% of the world's rice imports for 13% of the world's population, according to Africa Rice, a research centre in Abidjan with 28 member countries.

“Local rice production covers only about 60% of current demand in sub-Saharan Africa,” the centre said.

India's decision to limit its exports has created panic in several African countries where rice is an essential commodity.

In the Comoros, an archipelago of 890,000 inhabitants where more than a quarter of the population lives on less than two euros a day, the soaring price of

rice caused clashes at the end of September.

In Liberia, queues formed in front of wholesalers amid rumours of a shortage. Prices reached the equivalent of 23 euros per 25kg bag, compared to the usual 13 euros.

“The threat (of shortages) is real in Senegal” when India says it will not export any more, Diouf said. The country experienced “hunger riots” in 2008 due to a sharp increase in the price of basic foods.

Over the past two years, “Senegal has produced some 840,000 tonnes of rice each time, or nine months' consumption, a quantity that is increasing,” Diouf said.

The country “imports an average of 900,000 tonnes of rice every year. This exceeds the country's needs, but importing makes it possible to guarantee the availability of the product and to avoid speculation,” he explained.

Producing locally

The aim is to reduce this dependence. “By 2030, consumption in Senegal should reach 1.5 million tonnes of rice per year. We have worked on a strategy to move towards self-sufficiency,” says Waly Diouf. He estimates the financial effort needed to achieve self-sufficiency at 1,371



Rice is essential food crop in Senegal

billion CFA francs (about two billion euros).

“We need more rice fields, credit, combine harvesters and a new irrigation system,” says Mouhamadou Moustapha Diack, president of a farmers' union in Boundoum (north). There, the dykes and irrigation channels between the rice fields are worn out, dotted with eucalyptus and water lilies.

Beyond the quantity, the supposedly poorer quality of rice produced in Senegal has long turned consumers away. “That has changed,” Birame Diouf, head of a rice mill in Ross Béthio (north), a factory that removes impurities such as small gravels, told AFP. The grains are swallowed up in huge vats, where they are husked, cleaned and processed into whole or broken

rice. Senegal hopes to follow the example of Côte d'Ivoire where the quantities imported from India have fallen by 24% from 2021 to 2022. There has been a clear shift towards Ivorian rice and secondarily towards other origins,” Régina Adea, communications officer for the Agency for the Development of the Rice Sector in Côte d'Ivoire (Aderiz), said.

During 2022, Samia made her mark in world leadership, and teased foes

By Guardian Correspondent

THE outgoing year has been somewhat eventful in Tanzania for many good reasons, seeing the consolidation of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in being elected the ruling party chairperson. Up to that point there were signs of divisions where the wish for separating the positions of party leader and president briefly came up during 2021 but waned somewhat rapidly as well. The party polls were a show of consensus although it was somewhat vivid that ardent supporters of the fifth phase presidency scored especially highly in filling 'open basket' NEC slots.

The demand - expressed on a stop and go basis - for separating the two positions has been there since 'time immemorial,' but has never had ardent expression within the party. The reason is that wishing to separate the two positions is an expression of lack of confidence in the president (during this or that phase) and thus designing a scheme where contestants can arise within the party and struggle for the nomination. It is the wish to put the party leader to a ballot after one term.

That is one reason why, despite the fact that the demand for a new constitution is basically an opposition battle horse, with which they hope to gain sympathy and even galvanise support among the population, the demand has plenty of adherents in CCM. The reason is that they wish for a wider environment that can compel the ruling party to be more democratic in its organisation, thus the lack of an intense opposition and a legal framework to sustain it, no such demand can arise from CCM. (But as it is usually the case, disappointment leads to wishing for change.)

The point is that when policy lines shift, it involves bringing about certain forms of language and particular individuals with known or disparate loyalties being brought together for the new project. It is often a watershed in the party hierarchy when the language used to mobilise cadres up to that moment is seen to be out of place with reality, bringing personal interrogation, and even shame, to some of these individuals. That is how ardent pro-fifth phase cadres, a good number of them, started feeling from mid last year, such that those who are left in the rain start wishing that the party was run more democratically, to canvas for their cause, etc.

Yet it must be admitted that there is no room within CCM for such sentiments to succeed, because the sort of expression the president makes, who is also party chairman or chairperson, is tied to personal sentiments and convictions. The sort of outlook that the leader of the ruling party expresses at any moment combines two distinct spheres, that of his or her training as a party cadre and thus with a clear agenda of this parameter in mind, as well training as an individual, or citizen.

reports of intrigue on changing the party rules so that someone Here there are issues of specific loyalties at the social level arising from different sources of affinity, and it is from this group or breadth of apertenance that cabinet is set up.

Given the far more distinctive expression of relative disenchantment with the president's leadership up to the third quarter of 2021 at the very least, the sheer diminution of such expression as the ruling party prepared for its electoral congress speaks volumes of the consolidation of support at the popular level. When approval of the president is high among the people, those canvassing for a different vision in CCM, especially one involving reaffirming solid positions of the past like those of the first phase and then of the fifth phase find it difficult to canvass. They find it a bit hard to find people to plant ideas of change among CCM cadres as in the past.

Outside the strict expression of loyalties within CCM - and this has played a part in how far detractors were unable to penetrate into her acceptance drive nationally - as it was backed by wider standing regionally and globally. As the president was trying to settle down in her job, habitually corrupt bureaucrats and agencies of the state were busy setting up their spiders' webs to fleece public incomes, revenues and extort from the population. While this is for their own benefit, they would then heap the blame for chaos on the president, to bring back strongman leadership - unquestionably from the Mainland. Perhaps they already knew where to select!

To their chagrin, they soon discovered that the president was not a trainee on the job, with those close to the fifth phase presidency needing to be close enough to give vital advice here and there. As a matter of fact such hopes were misplaced from the start, since she was herself vice president during that period, so she was clearly adapted to the situation, and knew there are wellsprings of support - and growth dynamic - that she needed to bring up. Vibrant openness to the region and to the world, the sharp take up of investments, and a still muted dialogue with the opposition while media freedom was being restored, diminished opponents' 'to do' list. Plenty of NEC votes went to fifth phase cheerleaders, who lack real agenda.



Wildlife conservators push for friendly strategies to curb illegal wild meat trade

By Guardian Correspondent, Serengeti

WILDLIFE conservators have resolved a number of strategies meant to address illegal wild meat trade, which threaten the survival of animals and the tourism industry in the country and the world at large.

They made the resolutions when speaking at the just-concluded first national workshop on the wild meat trade in Tanzania brought together participants from eleven institutions from the government agencies responsible for wildlife conservation, researchers of wild meat hunting and trade from Universities in Tanzania and UK and conservation partners from across Tanzania.

During the two-day discussions on the topic, research data from various protected areas across Tanzania were presented. These data provided useful insights into the scale of the wild meat trade, identified existing gaps both on the species traded and spatially and shed light on the effectiveness of the existing conservation and trade reduction strategies.

In their communiqué, conservators resolved to continue working together to coordinate law enforcement efforts across neighbouring protected areas.

Participants resolved to undertake a review of the wild meat research across Tanzania, and compile a database of projects and results by location and focus, suggesting the need for researching the challenges and opportunities presented by a legal trade in wild meat that avoids the use of indiscriminate snaring.

They tasked the government to fund and undertake research to monitor the levels and impact of illegal wildlife harvests across key protected landscapes and evaluate the impact of new interventions on rates of illegal activity, as well as suggesting the need for the government to engage with the new National Wild Meat Working Group on wild meat.

"Conduct annual meetings on wild meat trade and wildlife poaching to track the progress in reducing the problem," the workshop suggested to the Tanzanian government.

They also recommended that increased use be made of communities in the prevention and enforcement of laws concerning wild meat, as well as livelihood interventions be carefully targeted



Free-for-all bush-meat trade adds pressure to wildlife conservation efforts

at the particular demographics and individuals who are ready.

They recommended the increased use be made of ranger-based monitoring and independent analysis to inform and improve efficiency of law enforcement activities on the ground, as well as increased use be made of intelligence to target criminal syndicates at higher levels in the illegal trade pipeline, drawing on experience gained through effective reduction of poaching of high value wildlife products.

Participants also suggested the need for a national Wild Meat Working Group to be formed, to generate trust and working relationships that ultimately leads to better sharing of information between agencies.

They also proposed measures to enhance and strengthen public-private partnership in addressing the illegal wild meat trade challenge and wildlife poaching.

"Engage more in advanced technology to enable and accelerate the ability to combat illegal wild meat poaching and trade."

It is noted that hundreds of thousands of animals are being

illegally killed and removed from landscapes annually across Tanzania.

According to the workshop, for many species this harvest is unsustainable and threatens the populations of species for which Tanzania has international responsibilities.

It's also noted that thousands of snares are removed by dedicated rangers from Tanzania's protected landscapes every year, but the proportion of snares removed even in the most frequently patrolled areas remains low.

It further said that law enforcement efforts provide an essential deterrent that limits the numbers of people engaged in wild meat harvests, but ever increasing law enforcement effort at this level has probably decreasing impact on further deterrence.

"The sale of illegally harvested wild meat underpins a multi-million dollar black market, also there are multiple groups of people involved in the wild meat trade, from individuals occasionally involved in poaching to fund immediate cash requirements, though a large number of individuals making only small incomes, to

professional poachers earning good income and ultimately to criminal networks that facilitate large-scale the transport and marketing."

Reports have it that many poorer individuals making only small incomes from poaching state willingness to end their involvement in wild meat trade if they have suitable alternative livelihood options that exceed the incomes they make from illegal wildlife harvests.

"Purchasers of wild meat in Tanzania have multiple motivations for consumption, from simple value for money to strong cultural preference. The meat of individual animals can be sold and consumed in the areas close to source, or exported to national and international markets."

It also stated that wild meat harvesting varies seasonally and between years, with climate change exacerbating the challenge in many ways and there remain significant gaps in our knowledge of the illegal wild meat trade, from effective monitoring, through impact in forest systems, to understanding the middle and top operators.

Morocco reports 30 pct drop in criminal cases during 2022

RABAT

MOROCCO'S General Directorate of National Security (DGSN) reported a 30 percent drop in crimes recorded in 2022.

In its annual report, DGSN stressed that the number of cases handled during this year reached 820,274. There were around 875,879 people involved in the crimes reported that faced public prosecution across Morocco.

Crimes of violent nature did not exceed 6.59 percent of the total cases that police handled throughout the year.

Detailed statistics from the DGSN indicated that the clearance rate maintained record levels for the sixth year in a row to stand at 94.34 percent in total registered cases and about 85.34 percent in violent crimes.

The clearance rate explains the number of cases solved by security services.

DGSN explains that the recorded rate is attributed to developments in the crime prevention system, such as criminal investigation and advanced scientific and technical policing during investigation.

DGSN also lauded the coordination between national security services and the involvement of the General Directorate of Territorial Surveillance (DGST) in solving cases.



Morocco's police

Intensified security against drug trafficking Morocco's national security department reiterated its

mobilization against drug trafficking stressing that they have intensified security operations to tackle drug and psychotropic cases increased by

8 percent.

Joint field interventions carried out by police and the DGST enabled the processing of 92,713 cases, including the arrest of 120,725 individuals involved in drug-related cases.

The total number includes 241 foreign suspects.

In 2022, police seized 98,543 tonnes of cannabis, representing a drop of 49 percent compared to a year earlier.

This year, police also seized 190.18 kilograms of cocaine, representing a decline of 87 percent in the quantity seized of this drug. In addition, police also seized 2.82 kilograms of heroin, representing a drop of 5 percent this year.

DGSN, however, reported worrying statistics about the psychotropic tablets sewed throughout the year. The psychotropic tablets seized, including ecstasy, captagon, among others recorded an increase of 85%.

DGSN also drew attention to the number of irregular migration networks arrested this year.

Around 32,733 would-be irregular migrants were arrested, including 28,146 foreigners of different nationalities.

Police also dismantled 92 criminal networks and arrested 566 people involved in irregular migration and human trafficking networks.

The number represents over 36 percent compared to 2021.

In addition, police have identified and seized around 832 false travel documents to identity documents. Police also seized 193 boats, 156 boat engines, and 614 vehicles used in organizing irregular migration attempts.

Extinction crisis puts 1 million species on the brink



By Katy Daigle

NATURE is in crisis, and it's only getting worse. As species vanish at a rate not seen in 10 million years, more than 1 million species are currently on the brink.

Humans are driving this extinction crisis through activities that take over animal habitats, pollute nature and fuel global warming, scientists say. A new global deal to protect nature agreed on Dec. 19 has the potential to help, and scientists are urging the world's nations to ensure the deal is a success.

When an animal species is lost, a whole set of characteristics disappears along with it - genes, behaviors, activities and interactions with other plants and animals that may have taken thousands or millions - even billions - of years to evolve.

Whatever role that species played within an ecosystem is lost too, whether that's pollinating certain plants, churning nutrients in soil, fertilizing forests or keeping other animal populations in check, among other things. If that function was crucial to the health of an ecosystem, the animals' disappearance can cause a landscape to transform.

Lose too many species and the results could be catastrophic, leading an entire system to collapse.

In the last five centuries, hundreds of unique animals have vanished across the world, such as the flightless Dodo bird killed off from the island of Mauritius in the late 1600s.

In many cases, humans were to blame - first by fishing or hunting, as was the case with South Africa's zebra subspecies Quagga hunted to its end in the late 19th century - and more recently through activities that pollute, disrupt or take over wild habitats.

Before a species goes extinct, it may already be considered "functionally extinct" - with not enough individuals left to ensure the species survives. More recent extinctions have allowed humans to interact with some species' last known individuals, known as "endlings". When they go, that's the end of those evolutionary lines - as occurred in these iconic

A female Iberian lynx, a feline in danger of extinction, named Ilexa is released with other four lynxes, as part of the European project 'Life LynxConnect' to recover this species in Arana mountain range, in Iznalloz, near Granada, southern Spain Decem-ber 19, 2022.

cases:

"Toughie" was the last known individual of the Rabb's Fringe-Limbed tree frog. All but a few dozen of his species had been wiped out by chytrid fungus in the wild in Panama. In his enclosure at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, he was calling out in vain for a mate that didn't exist. He died in 2016.

The story of passenger pigeon "Martha" is a cautionary tale for conservation: in the 1850s there were still millions of passenger pigeons, but they were eventually hunted to extinction as conservation measures were taken only after the species was past the point of no return. Martha, the last, died in 1914 at the Cincinnati Zoo.

"Lonesome George", found in 1971, was Ecuador's last Pinta Island tortoise. From the 17th century, some 200,000 individuals were hunted for their meat. Later, they struggled to compete for food after goats were brought to the island in the 1950s. Scientists tried to save the species through captive breeding before George died in 2012.

"Ben" or "Benjamin" was the world's last known thylacine, a marsupial carnivore also known as the Tasmanian tiger. The animal was given protective status only two months before Benjamin died in 1936 in the Beaumaris Zoo in Tasmania.

There are some species that could soon be reduced to their own endlings. The world's smallest porpoise - Mexico's critically endangered vaquita - is down to just 18 individuals in the wild, as populations have been ravaged by fishing nets.

The Northern white rhino subspecies, the second-largest land mammal after elephants, has no hope of recovery after the last male died in 2018. Only a female and her daughter are left.

These stories of endlings matter, scientists say, precisely because so many extinctions happen out of sight.

"Somewhere in the core of our humanity, we recog-

nize these creatures, we're touched by their story, and we feel compassion - and maybe also a moral compulsion - to help," said Paula Ehrlich, president and CEO of the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation.

The Northern white rhino isn't just a part of the world, she said. It's a world unto itself - its own ecosystem - mowing fields through grazing, fertilizing lands where it walks, having insects land on its skin, and then with birds feeding off those insects.

"Understanding everything that an animal is and does for the world helps us understand that we, too, are a part of nature - and we need nature to survive," Ehrlich said.

Unlike with the endlings, most species simply fade away in the wild without people noticing.

Scientists count 881 animal species as having gone extinct since around 1500, dating to the first records held by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - the global scientific authority on the status of nature and wildlife. That's an extremely conservative estimate for species extinction over the last five centuries, though, as it represents only the cases resolved with a high degree of certainty.

If we include animal species that scientists suspect might be extinct, that number shoots up to 1,473. The bar is high for declaring a species extinct - a sobering task that scientists are already reluctant to do.

"It's hard to prove the negative, to prove you can't find it," said Sean O'Brien, an ecologist who heads the NatureServe nonprofit working to establish definitive data on North American species. "And it's emotional. A botanist doesn't want to declare it extinct because it feels like a failure."

Among terrestrial vertebrates, or land animals with a backbone, 322 species have been declared extinct since 1500. Add in the number of possibly extinct species and

the tally comes to 573.

For moisture-loving amphibians, vulnerable to both pollution and drought, things are looking particularly bleak with the extinction rate escalating over the last few decades. Only 37 species have been declared extinct with a high degree of certainty since 1500. But scientists suspect more than 100 others have disappeared over the last 30-40 years, according to a 2015 study in the journal *Science Advances*.

Last recorded sightings increase over time, especially from the mid-19th century start of the Industrial Revolution. That shows animals have been at increasing peril, but also that our knowledge of nature has improved as we study and survey more species.

There are many notable species among those that have vanished since 1500. The dodo was last seen in 1662, within 65 years of it first being recorded. The Pinta Island tortoise was last seen in the wild in 1972.

Some vanishings have inspired public outcry, such as the 2016 extinction declaration for the tiny Christmas Island pipistrelle bat species, last seen in 2009. It was Australia's first recorded mammal extinction in 50 years.

Losing hundreds of species over 500 or so years may not seem significant when there are millions more still living on the planet. But the speed at which species are now vanishing is unprecedented in the last 10 million years.

"We are losing species now faster than they can evolve," O'Brien said.

Plenty of animals have gone extinct naturally or due to causes unrelated to human activity. In a healthy environment, as species die off naturally, new species evolve - and an evolutionary balance is maintained.

This turnover relies on what scientists consider a normal or background extinction rate.

But when the extinction rate jumps so high that more than 75% of the world's spe-

cies go extinct within the relatively short time frame of less than 2 million years, this is considered a mass extinction event.

That's happened five times over the last half-billion years, which we know through studying Earth's fossil record - with layers upon layers of sediment having buried the remains of animals over time. When a layer with a large and diverse number of animals is found, scientists can see that a mass die-off occurred.

Under a normal extinction rate scenario, it would have taken at least 800 years and up to 10,000 years for the high number of vertebrate extinctions that we've seen in the last century, according to the 2015 paper in *Science Advances*.

"Despite our best efforts, the extinction rate is still estimated to be 1,000 times higher than before humans entered the stage," Ehrlich said. "At this rate, half will be gone by the end of the century."

As bad as it seems, scientists say the reality is likely even worse. Looking only at species extinctions doesn't give the full picture, partly because scientists are so conservative in saying a species is gone. For example, even though Toughie was the last known individual of his kind, the IUCN lists his species still as "critically endangered, possibly extinct."

More importantly, there is a vast reservoir of species that we have yet to discover. Scientists have identified some 1.2 million species in the world, but estimate there are about 8.7 million. That leaves roughly 7.5 million species that we think are out there but know nothing about - including whether or not they're in trouble.

"Knowing what we do about the impact of climate change and habitat loss, it's hard to imagine that thousands if not millions of species are not in the process of going extinct right now," O'Brien said.

The IUCN uses a range of categories to describe the state of a species, as a way of

identifying which are in trouble and when to help. But a species being listed as "least concern" or "near threatened" doesn't mean its populations are stable.

African lions, for example, have been listed for decades as "vulnerable," but their numbers dropped 43% in 1993-2014, when the last population data was available. Dugongs, the chubby marine mammals also known as sea cows, are listed globally as "vulnerable" even as their plummeting populations in East Africa and New Caledonia were updated to "endangered" in December.

The decline of one or more populations of a species can mark the start of a trend toward extinction.

As sobering as the situation may seem at a global scale, there are reasons for hope. The newly adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in December will guide global conservation efforts through the decade to 2030. Among other things, the deal envisions putting 30% of the planet's land and sea areas under protection by decade's end.

"It's so overwhelming to think there are these species right on the edge," O'Brien said. "But then the conservationists I work with remind me of how much people care."

Between 1993 and 2020, conservation measures such as habitat restoration or captive breeding helped to prevent the extinction of up to 32 bird species and as many as 16 mammals worldwide, according to conservative estimates in a 2020 study published in the journal *Conservation Letters*.

"Science is democratizing the information for every country to know what it needs to do where," said Ehrlich of the Wilson Foundation, which works to identify the best places in the world for protecting biodiversity and prioritizing nature. Before he died last year, Edward O. Wilson advocated putting half the planet under conservation and estimated that would save 85% of the world's species.

"We humbly need to do the best that we can to protect them now," Ehrlich said. "We understand more about the intricate web of life that sustains nature - and us, as a part of nature."



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Venture into organic farming to win market abroad, researchers tell Tanzanian farmers

By Guardian Reporter

RESEARCHERS have suggested the need for farmers to venture into agroecology—the food system that has a myriad of opportunities at the time when the weather is not friendly.

Addressing journalists, editors and media owners at a capacity-building workshop in Arusha recently, Ayesiga Buberwa, the Islands of Peace (IDP) programmes manager urged Tanzanian farmers to embrace agroecology, which is key in transforming food systems.

“This kinds of farming provides food system solutions by producing enough, safe, and nutritious food, distributing it through shorter value chains,” she said, noting that farmers are assured of good yields, reliable and income. By getting into this farming venture assured health of the end users,” Ayesiga said.

The expert also noted that agroecology offers more opportunities in light of the failure of the global food system, rising nutritional demands, and increasing climate change effects.

It comprises a set of principles and practices that enhance food resilience and sustainability as well as farming systems that allow the preservation of social integrity.

She said a radical transformation of the food systems requires stronger measures to enforce the right to food and other human rights, noting that transformation is important for sustainable and resource-efficient food practices and additional diverse food production and distribution channels.

“The fact that 811 million people are chronically hungry worldwide suggests that food systems are not meeting the needs of large sections of society,” she said.

She added: “When our food systems fail, they put our education, health, economy, human rights, peace and security at risk. We are all part of the food system, so we must all come together to bring about the transformation that the world needs.”

According to her, the shift to agroecology is important due to the current food system’s inability to produce greater quantities of food to feed the growing global population.

She also said that the food system’s failure to meet nutritional needs and inability to equally and equitably benefit every stakeholder with both over- and under-consumption is rife in the current systems.

“Other factors are the negative impacts of food systems on the environment and natural resources, as well as the increasing challenges of climate change on food systems. The food systems are themselves part of the problem as they, directly and indirectly, because increasing emissions,” she observed.

Between 702 million and 828 million people were adversely affected by hunger in 2021, which is equivalent to 103 million more people between 2019 and 2020, and 46 million more in 2021. One in five people in Africa, equivalent to 20.2 percent of the population, were affected in 2021.

“If the current trend continues, the number of people facing the plight of hunger will surpass 840 million by 2030, or 9.8 percent of the global population,” she said.

Around 2.3 billion people globally were moderately or severely food insecure in 2021, with an estimation of two billion people in the world lacking regular access to safe, nutritious, and, sufficient food in 2019.

Buberwa said moderate or severe food insecurity increased in Africa in 2021, which is the region with the highest prevalence at all levels of severity.

“In 2020, an estimated 22 percent of children under the age of five were stunted, 6.7 percent were wasted, and 5.7 percent were overweight. The prevalence of undernourishment jumped to 9.3 percent in 2020 from 8.0 percent in 2019. Numbers continued to rise globally last year,” she said.

Tanzanian youth benefit from projects’ supervision training

By Guardian Reporter

TWENTY Tanzanian youths specialized in civil engineering and architecture have completed a 30-day capacity building training on construction and supervision of major projects’ execution.

The training was organized by the Chinese companies—Group Six International Company and Chongqing Vocational Institute of Engineering (CVIE).

The purpose of the training was to increase skills, knowledge, trust and patriotism among the youth especially in implementation and supervision of development projects executed locally.

Closing the training held in Dar es Salaam between November 25 and December 24, 2022, Group Six International Company chairperson, Jensen Huanme said the training has enabled beneficiaries to increase expertise and experience in implementation of projects.

“In a bid to strengthen the historical relationship between Tanzania and China, a procedure was established to take students from different areas of professions and competence to China for training,” he



John Samwel (R) one of 20 Tanzanian youth specialised in civil engineering and architecture have completed a 30-day capacity building training on construction and supervision of major projects in the country provided by Group six International na Chongqing Vocational Institute of Engineering reads treatise during the closing of training in Dar es Salaam over the weekend.

said.

“Unfortunately, Covid-19 outbreak disrupted the procedure between 2018 and 2022. During this period theoretical and practical training has been delivered locally,” Jansen added.

He further said training partners; CVIE has been

training beneficiaries virtually, noting that practical training involves visiting large projects that are implemented in the country.

He called on beneficiaries to work hard, observe quality and efficiently in executing the larger projects, something that will significantly contribute

to the country’s development.

CVIE Vice President, Prof Tang Ji Hong said beneficiaries are obliged to be patriotic during the implementation and supervision of development projects.

“Beneficiaries should make better use of acquired skills and knowl-

edge. They should also ensure that what have been assimilated is smoothly transferred to other Tanzanians for individual benefit and the country in general,” said Prof Tang.

One of the beneficiaries, John Samwel said during the training, the youth were exposed to modern

technology used in implementation of projects.

“We spent 15 days acquiring theoretical skills and knowledge and the remaining days for practical training including visiting executed projects such as the Mzizima Tower, Mbaga Free Market and Palm Village.

AfDB unveils the African pharmaceutical technology foundation

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank Group has formally introduced its new initiative that will join hands with the African Union to boost Africa’s capacity to produce drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics all along the value chain, to help build its pharmaceutical sector.

The African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation (APTF) was the focus of a forum hosted by the African Development Bank under the theme: “Technology Access for Pharmaceutical Manufacturing: The African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation.” The event was part of the 2nd International Conference on Public Health in Africa in Kigali, Rwanda recently.

According to the African Development Bank, the continent imports more than 70% of the medicines it needs at the cost of \$14 billion annually. Changing the game to enable African countries develop their capacity to manufacture pharmaceutical products has public health, strategic and economic rationales.

“This new initiative comes as a solution, since most [African] countries still face challenges in receiving [medicines] on time,” Dr. Yvan Butera, Rwandan Minister of State for Health, commented. The Foundation, hosted



(L-R) Aissa Toure, African Development Bank’s country manager for Rwanda; Prof. Padmashree Gehl Sampath, Special Adviser to the President on Pharmaceuticals and Health, African Development Bank; Solomon Quaynor, Vice President for Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialisation, African Development Bank; Dr. Precious Matsoso, Co-chair of the International Negotiating Body of the WHO on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response; Prof. Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, Senior Advisor to the President on Industrialisation, African Development Bank; Dr. Yvan Butera, Rwandan Minister of State in the Ministry of Health; Prof. Frederick Abbott, Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor, Florida State University, USA; Nnenna Nwabufu, African Development Bank’s Director General for East Africa; and Dr. Babatunde Omilola Olumide, Manager, Public Health Security and Nutrition, African Development Bank.

by the Government of Rwanda in Kigali, is expected to commence operations in early 2023.

In his opening remarks, Solomon Quaynor, Vice-President for Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialisation at the African Development Bank Group, said Covid-19 had exposed the gaps in Africa’s health care system.

“The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility of global health systems and the gaps in the production of critical drugs on the continent.” He added: “The APTF is a groundbreaking institution that will significantly enhance Africa’s access to technologies that underpin the manufacturing of pharma-

ceutical products.”

Presenting the APTF at the event, Prof. Padmashree Gehl Sampath, Special Adviser on pharmaceuticals and health infrastructure to Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group, stressed that the Foundation was designed to help African countries bridge the technology gaps in sustainable domestic manufacturing.

Prof. Sampath said: “Pharmaceutical companies in Africa have three specific impediments to technology access: access to technology and related know-how for production, mobilization of domestic resources for technological upgrading, and the lack

of possibilities for horizontal and vertical product diversification. Many technological risks need to be indemnified to build Africa’s pharmaceutical sector, including shifting away from a product-by-product approach which puts African companies at risk.”

The co-chair of the International Negotiating Body of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, Dr. Precious Matsoso, reflected on how important technology issues are for future pandemic preparation. She said establishing the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation “would provide the

much-needed support to address technology barriers for equitable access.”

Describing the establishment of the Foundation as “timely,” given the experience of Covid-19, Dr. Richard Hatchett, Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Initiative, stressed that the initiative “will help in saving lives on the continent”.

The Foundation, approved by the African Development Bank’s Board of Directors in June 2022, is expected to boost Africa’s access to technology for manufacturing the full range of pharmaceutical products, focusing on building supply chains and expanding access to

building block technologies of various kinds.

The Foundation will also serve as a transparent intermediary advancing and brokering the interests of the African pharmaceutical sector on the global stage, to enhance access to proprietary technologies, know-how, and related industrial processes, through licensing and other market-based and non-market mechanisms.

The WHO, the Coalition on Epidemic Preparedness, the South Centre, Geneva, and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany have expressed keen interest in working with the Foundation in the coming year.

Another panelist, Prof. Carlos Correa, Executive Director of South Centre, Geneva, said it was important for Africa to have its own framework that will allow its pharmaceutical industry to develop. He said: “Intellectual property confers monopolies, and these monopolies give rights to property owners to control the sharing of technologies. Creating the capacity to facilitate timely technology transfer to Africa is important.”

Panelists stressed the need to establish partnerships between African pharmaceutical companies and their counterparts in other continents, such as Europe.



Finance Minister Matia Kasajja at Parliament this year

Government tables 49.9trillion/-budget

KAMPALA

THE government yesterday tabled the draft budget estimates for the Financial Year 2023/2024, increasing projected expenditure by Shs1.8 trillion.

The budget is projected to increase from Shs48.1 trillion in the current financial year to Shs49.9 trillion in the coming one.

Finance minister Matia Kasajja yesterday tabled the Budget Framework paper for the financial year 2023/2024 on the floor of Parliament in line with the Public Finance and Management Act (PFMA as amended).

The law mandates the Finance minister to table the Budget Framework Paper by December 31.

The Budget Framework Paper (BFP) is the overall strategy document for the budget, and provides

the link between the government's policies and the annual budget.

It outlines revenue projections; the overall resource envelope for the medium-term; priority interventions; and proposed sectoral expenditure plans. But these estimates have been known to change over the past years, signalling that the budget could hit the Shs50 trillion mark.

The BFP for the current fiscal year had put the budget at Shs43 trillion, but rose to Shs48.1 trillion.

The Shs49.9t budget will be funded through domestic revenues (Shs28.8 trillion), budget support (Shs2.4 trillion), domestic borrowing (Shs1.5 trillion), external project support (Shs8.7 trillion), domestic refinancing (Shs8.7 trillion) while revenue from local governments will amount to Shs238 billion.

While the resource envelope has increased, the funds available for government expenditure reduced from Shs37.4 trillion to Shs37.2 trillion.

About Shs8.5 trillion of the budget will go to debt repayments, up from the Shs7 trillion estimates of the 2022/23 BFP. Uganda currently owes Shs80 trillion.

"Over the medium term, external debt payments are projected to increase due to the increase in commercial loans over the last few years. Going forward, governments financing strategy is to reduce borrowing on commercial terms and focus more on concessional borrowing," the BFP states.

Like the current budget, the government says the budget will focus on creating wealth among the people, and will run under the theme

"Full monetisation of the Ugandan Economy through commercial agriculture, industrialisation, expanding and broadening services digital transformation and market access, same as one of the current financial year.

The documents indicate that the government will focus on, among others, import replacement, job creation, infrastructure investment, green growth and debt sustainability.

The government projects that the economy will grow at six percent from the current 4.7 percent, while inflation is expected to fall to 7.2 percent. The shilling is, however, expected to depreciate due to the global strengthening of the US dollar.

Deputy Speaker of Parliament Thomas Tayebwa yesterday sent the paper to the Committee on Budget for scrutiny.

Eastern province embraces technology to foster real evidence based planning

KIGALI

A digital tool called the Digital Information System (DIS) has been established to be used by digital information centers in the Eastern province.

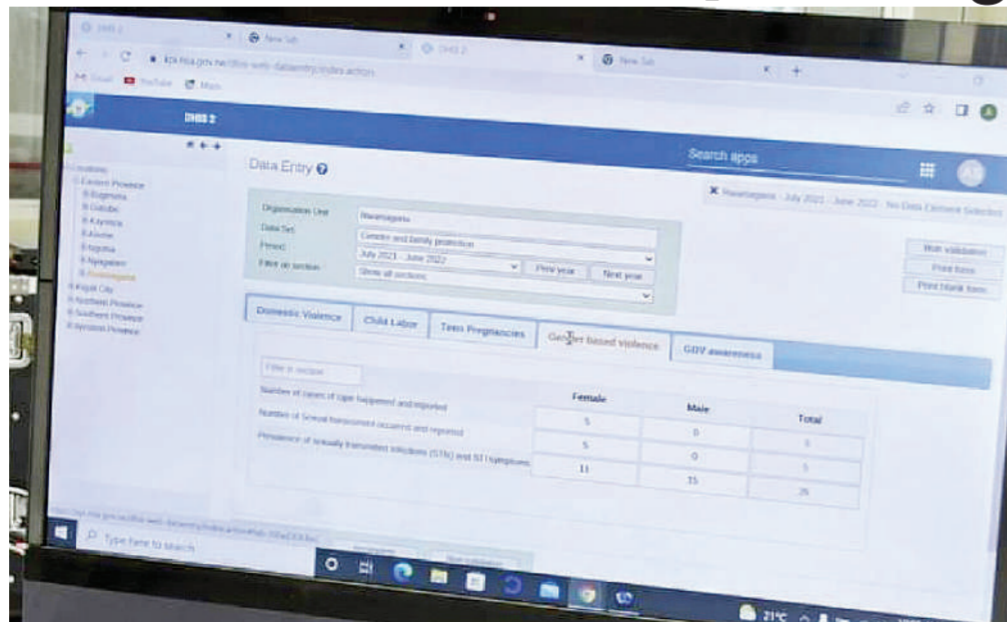
The initiative is in line with the country's vision of increasing ICT's contribution to development and it will play an important role in informing, planning, evaluation and monitoring.

The first of its kind, this pilot phase will enhance storing and analyzing important information in the province, districts, sectors and cells in real time as the Eastern Province Governor CG Emmanuel K Gasana said.

Speaking to The New Times Governor Gasana said, "We observed that the tool will help us in disseminating more than 1000 activities run in the province but more importantly the major 315 on a daily basis.

The portal will have entries on performance contracts, reports from youth volunteers, school dropouts, disasters, security concerns among others, all these will help the province in evidence based planning," said the Governor.

The portal is made up of two parts, the data entry



part and the data analysis part. The system launched with 592 key performance indicators that will be updated on a daily, weekly or monthly basis depending on the nature of the data.

Upon accessing the data, data entry users in the province will have the same rights in accessing the system but entry will be done on district level.

Transformation from paper based reports to a digital centered module will enhance information distribution in all sectors of the province, be it governance, and social

development, fostering evidence based planning in the province.

The digital data center is a dedicated room established at the Province headquarters, fed with data from seven districts that make up the Province, equipped with ICT facilities and electronic systems developed in partnership with RISA.

Challenges

As of now, there is still a loophole in the system as there are some missing components like aggregation of data from cells, sectors, and districts. The system does not also

have approval level for data validations hence a gap in ensuring data quality.

The province said that there is need for extra skilled personnel who have advanced knowledge of the functionality of the software used because the staff availed by RISA and MINALOC are not full time employees to fully maintain the portal.

So far the province has recruited nine new staff members, one per district and two at the province level responsible for the system updating, thanks to World Vision the Province's partner in this initiative.

New CBN policy: Our fears over new notes—Nigerians

LAGOS

OVER one week after the new naira notes went into circulation, some Nigerians are still reluctant to accept them.

The newly-redesigned N1,000, N500 and N200 bills became legal tender on December 15, 2022. The Central Bank of Nigeria Governor, Godwin Emefiele, had on Oct. 26 announced policy to redesign the denominated notes, saying the old notes would cease to be legal tender by Jan. 31, 2022.

Emefiele said the reason for the currency redesign was to stop counterfeiting and hoarding.

Alhaja Sherifat O. Lateef, a fashion designer at Osi Ota, Ota, Ogun State said that she fears to accept the new notes just yet.

"People say that the money is not fine and they that it is not everywhere yet, I will not accept it until I see that it is fully in circulation. I do not want to start accepting it and when it's time for me to spend it, it will be difficult for me. And secondly, I watched on the social media a video of a fake new note of N1000 and this makes me even more afraid to accept it," she said.

Mrs. Emmanuella Nwagbo, a food vendor in Alakuko, Lagos said the reason she refused to accept the money is because the notes are too light. I prefer the old notes because it is very durable, no matter how you handle it, it will still remain strong unlike this new one. The moment I saw it, I told my children not to accept it, even in my absence."

According to Mr. Sunday Onye, a PR expert, "The apex bank should do a proper awareness on why they should accept the new notes. I do not have a problem accepting the new notes, the CBN should however, sensitise the people because so many are not aware that there's a new note, that is why it is not accepted."

Casual visits by this reporter to some ATMs in Ota, Ogun State and some along Oba Akran and Obafemi Awolowo streets in Ikeja, Lagos, revealed that the some of the machines were dispensing the new notes of N500 and N200.

Some customers, who saw the new notes for the first time, expressed mixed feelings as they passed the N500 bill from one hand to another in curiosity.

Last Friday it was reported that banks are not

dispensing enough of the redesigned Naira notes the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, Mr Godwin Emefiele, has said that a total of 500 million units of the newly redesigned currency notes were ordered from the minting company.

Meanwhile, the apex bank has explained that its research has shown that operators of mobile money services, otherwise known as Point-Of-Sale, PoS, were comfortably accommodated within the revised withdrawal limits.

It also allayed the fears that the new cashless policy of the Bank would impede job creation.

Emefiele spoke through the deputy governor of the apex bank in charge of the Financial System Stability at the CBN, Mrs Aisha Ahmed, yesterday when appearing before the House of Representatives plenary session in Abuja at the instance of the lawmakers to brief them on the new monetary policies that had become controversial in some quarters.

He said that the timing for the implementation of the monetary policies especially the cash withdrawal limit not was neither here nor there, adding that the 90 days notice in the estimation of the bank was enough to get Nigerians sensitized.

He, however, informed that CBN was partnering the National Orientation Agency, NOA, and other similar bodies to fully create the needed public enlightenment on the new policies.

It will be recalled that the House had through a motion last week mandated Emefiele to cause appearance on the seemingly vexatious policies of the banker's bank.

Ahmed, who took a barrage of questions from the lawmakers, said: "You asked a question. We ordered 500 million pieces of currency from the Mint. That is what has been ordered."

"You said this will mean that people will start losing their jobs because people would stop going to the banks. No, I think this will create more opportunity, not just for people working in the banks to retool. Technology change and innovation is a phenomenon happening all over the world. Of course, it is changing the types of jobs that people are doing.

But it is also opening up new opportunities for them to do other things. So, I don't

see this as going to limit that. Indeed, the examples of agents (mobile bank agents) is a strong example that says that we created something, a platform, a business that was not there 10 years ago because we needed to solve a problem around ensuring that all areas in Nigeria were covered financially.

That is just a small example of what technology can do. So, I don't see this policy as making people lose their jobs.

Benefits outweigh risks
"You talked of fear of online banking and the issue around fake alerts. The truth is that for any initiative, there will be challenges. What matters is that the benefits must outweigh the risks. The CBN has an active consumer protection department that is looking at issues of fraud, issues of cyber security and issues of bank conduct in terms of how they charge customers and every time, we hold the banks to account when they flout those rules.

"You talked about the e-Naira and the regulatory backing. The e-Naira is a digital representation of the physical Naira. And so, it does have backing in law from our perspective. That is our answer to that.

"On counterfeiting, the question was if the sensitisation is not late. I think sensitisation is something that has to happen through it all. You cannot start with sensitisation and then leave it. Before the new note came out, we did inform the public and we started our sensitisation. Now that it is out and it is being used side by side with the old notes, we are continuing that sensitisation.

"I can quickly address the question about the National Orientation Agency. We are trying to partner the NOA in order to deliver the messages that we want to deliver to the grassroots. And we are not only partnering them. We are partnering many other stakeholders.

"In terms of timing, it is neither here nor there. I think we felt that 90 days based on what we know of official access points, availability of points for people to go and pay in their funds and the fact that we actually released the new notes earlier than planned, we felt that we were in a good position to conclude at the timelines that we gave. We are open to feedback and people's views on that."

CURRENT NEWS



Central Bank of Nigeria

Zedmobile and Zambia's fourth MNO launched

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA's fourth mobile network operator Beeline telecom, trading as Zedmobile, has officially launched.

Once fully operational, the company plans to invest US\$400-million and create 450 direct jobs.

Speaking at the launch held recently in Lusaka, Science and Technology Minister Felix Mutati urged Zedmobile to "roll out robust and effective mobile data and voice services" and help drive a network that will ensure Fintech inclusion.

Mutati said, "I'm optimistic that the new operator will come with services that will cater for those who have been unconnected."

Zedmobile chairman Kelvin Hambwezya said the company will ensure its objectives are aligned to the government strategy of promoting innovation, digitisation and utilising mobile networks to support sustainable development.

According to Hambwezya the company has invested US\$130-million to date, with approximately US\$20,000 put aside towards the company's marketing and HR silos.

He said, "A three-year conceived concept to establish an indigenous mobile network has been actualised and founded on a vision to sustain a quality and paramount digital Zambian telecom with a service delivery of inclusiveness in all aspects of society."

The company will invest in 4G LTE and 5G network infrastructure. It was supposed to launch operations in June last year, six months after having received the licence, but was forced to postpone due to COVID-19 related complications, according to the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA).

Zambia's mobile market is currently dominated by South Africa's MTN Zambia, India's Airtel Africa and state-owned Zamtel.



Potential seen for technological collaboration through green endeavours

HUZHOU CITY

CHINA and the European Union should work more closely together on climate change and green technology in tackling climate change, experts say.

In recent years China and the EU have bolstered their collaboration on long-term emissions reduction strategies, the emissions trading market, low-emissions transport, low-carbon cities and climate-related clean technology.

China's Vice-Premier Han Zheng and the European Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans met for the third China-EU High-level Environment and Climate Dialogue on July 8, a mechanism established in September 2020 during the China-EU leaders summit.

During the meeting, Han said China is ready to work with the EU to further strengthen policy coordination, enhance technological innovation collaboration, and work more closely together on energy use so as to contribute to green and low-carbon transformation, climate change response and protection.

"There are many opportunities for the EU and China to work more closely together," Timmermans, in charge of the EU's Green Deal, said after the meeting.

The former Dutch foreign minister cited areas for collaboration in carbon markets, clean energy and green hydrogen, reducing methane emissions, stopping biodiversity loss and halting deforestation and land degradation.

The meeting was held six days before the first anniversary of the establishment of China's national emissions trading system. The EU, which launched its own ETS in 2005, provided technical expertise in the China endeavor.



Xi urges faster steps on rural vitalisation

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping has called for accelerated steps to build up China's agricultural sector and vigorously promote rural vitalization.

Xi, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while addressing the annual rural work conference, which was held on Friday and Saturday in Beijing.

Analysts said Xi used the two-day meeting to chart the direction for boosting China's agricultural sector and map out next-phase priorities for the work related to agriculture, rural areas and farmers.

Agricultural development is essential to meeting the people's demand for a better life, attaining high-quality growth and harnessing the foundation for national security, Xi said at the conference.

It is important for China to follow its own path, refrain from blindly borrowing the model of other nations, and rely on its own strength to ensure food security, he said.

Xi stressed that the nation must build up its eco-friendly and low-carbon agriculture, carry forward its farming civilization and take solid steps to promote common prosperity.

He called for solving practical issues that are most urgent for agricultural and rural development and are of the most pressing concern to farmers, saying that projects that are out of touch with reality should be avoided.

The president reiterated that ensuring the steady and safe supply of food and key agricultural produce will always remain the top priority for the nation's agricultural sector.

Despite impacts from extreme weather conditions and COVID-19, China secured another bumper grain harvest this year, with total grain output reaching 686.53 billion kilograms this year, up 0.5 percent compared with 2021, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. This is the eighth consecutive year that China has registered a grain harvest of over 650 billion kg.

Tang Lixia, a professor at China Agriculture University's National Institute for Rural Vitalization Studies, said that Xi has again underlined the fundamental role of the agricultural sector and the importance of food security to the nation two months after the 20th National Congress of the CPC.

"China was able to ensure its food security despite gridlocks in the international supply chains and fluctuations in global food prices. That was largely due to the extraordinary measures the nation adopted to beef up grain production," she said.

In his remarks, Xi highlighted the imperative to implement another round of actions to bolster grain production capacity, saying that farmland and seeds are two crucial factors that the nation must focus on to lift production.

He urged efforts to keep the country's farmland area above the red line of 120 million hectares and effectively vitalize the seed industry, including steps to ensure self-reliance on key varieties.

It is important to make parallel efforts in lifting food production and reducing food losses, keep moving forward with efforts to reduce food wastage, and establish a diversified food supply system, Xi said.

The president said it is necessary to shift manpower, material resources and fiscal support to rural vitalization, highlighting that vitalization of rural industries is the top priority.

He also spoke of the importance of consolidating and expanding achievements in poverty alleviation, a campaign that saw the nation lift close to 100 million rural residents out of absolute poverty.

Xi called for steps to ensure the smooth transitioning of aid policies targeting groups and regions that have shaken off poverty and to prevent the recurrence of poverty on the scale of villages or townships.

He pointed out that China must rely on science, technology and reform to build up its agricultural sector, saying that the nation must focus closely on the forefront of global agricultural technology and accelerate steps to attain a high level of self-reliance on this front.

The president also outlined steps to build a more habitable, harmonious and beautiful countryside, including steps to beef up public services and infrastructure for rural



President Xi Jinping

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The president also outlined steps to build a more habitable, harmonious and beautiful countryside, including steps to beef up public services and infrastructure for rural

demographic response, eldercare, education and healthcare. The goal is to develop sound public infrastructure, deliver more convenient public services, improve the level of comfort in the living environment, he said.

Xi also emphasized the significance of upholding the Party's leadership, improving the quality of farmers across the board and encouraging more college graduates, migrant workers and entrepreneurs to explore opportunities in rural areas.

Huang Jikun, head of Peking University's New Rural Development Research Institute, said that Xi has put forward a vision to transform the nation's agriculture and rural areas, with strong emphasis given to science and technology and institutional innovation.

"This vision will help the nation to transform its agricultural sector toward a modern, efficient and green farming sector," he said.

Govts tasked on provision of adequate electricity, telecomms infrastructures

LAGOS

An economist, Dr Chiwiuke Uba, has urged Federal and state governments to invest in the provision of stable electricity and telecommunication infrastructure for Nigerians to maximize the gains of a cashless economy.

"Without the provision of these infrastructures, Nigerians and indeed the country will find it hard to reap enormous benefits from the cashless economy as observed in developed countries," Uba, Board Chairman of Amaka Chiwiuke-Uba Foundation (ACUF), said.

He spoke to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Enugu on Sunday on the sidelines of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) redesign of the naira, limiting cash withdrawal and encouraging electronic/cashless payment systems.

Uba, who is the Lead Researcher of Afri-Heriatge, an economic-political research and analytic institution, said that the infrastructures necessary to effectively implement the policy, "are not currently in place in an adequate manner".

The economist noted that in most



cases, it takes months for banks to solve and reverse failed transactions due to very poor banking networks and inter-bank connectivity issues.

According to him, the redesign of the naira and cash withdrawal limits

are, without any doubt, good policies geared towards the migration of transactions from physical money to electronic money.

He noted that the short transitional period for the redesigning of the

currency, while not the best strategy, could help prevent asset bubbles by slowing the flow of black money into the sector.

He said: "If well managed, digital and electronic transactions will create a better audit trail for tax, accounting and security."

"The infrastructures and platform necessary to effectively and efficiently implement the policy are not currently in place in an adequate manner."

"Market frictions and distortions and disruptions to electronic banking services (poor banking networks, unreliable electricity and telecommunications services) have not been addressed."

The economist called on the CBN, banks and their agents to get involved in an immediate, aggressive and wide-spread awareness and education on the cashless policy and its enormous gains in rural localities in the country.

"This is imperative given the large and growing army of illiterates in Nigeria, appropriate awareness and education should have preceded the launch and implementation of the policy," he added.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Italy in midst of warmest holiday season in 50 years

ROME

ITALY is expected to have its warmest holiday season in at least 50 years, according to meteorologists, more anomalous weather in a year filled with unusual weather patterns.

According to Daniele Cat Berro from the Italian Meteorological Society, a warm weather current from North Africa is hovering above much of Italy, pushing temperatures to record highs.

All throughout central and southern Italy, temperatures are expected to surpass 50-year highs. Daily high temperatures will remain hotter than normal through the end of the new year, Cat Berro said.

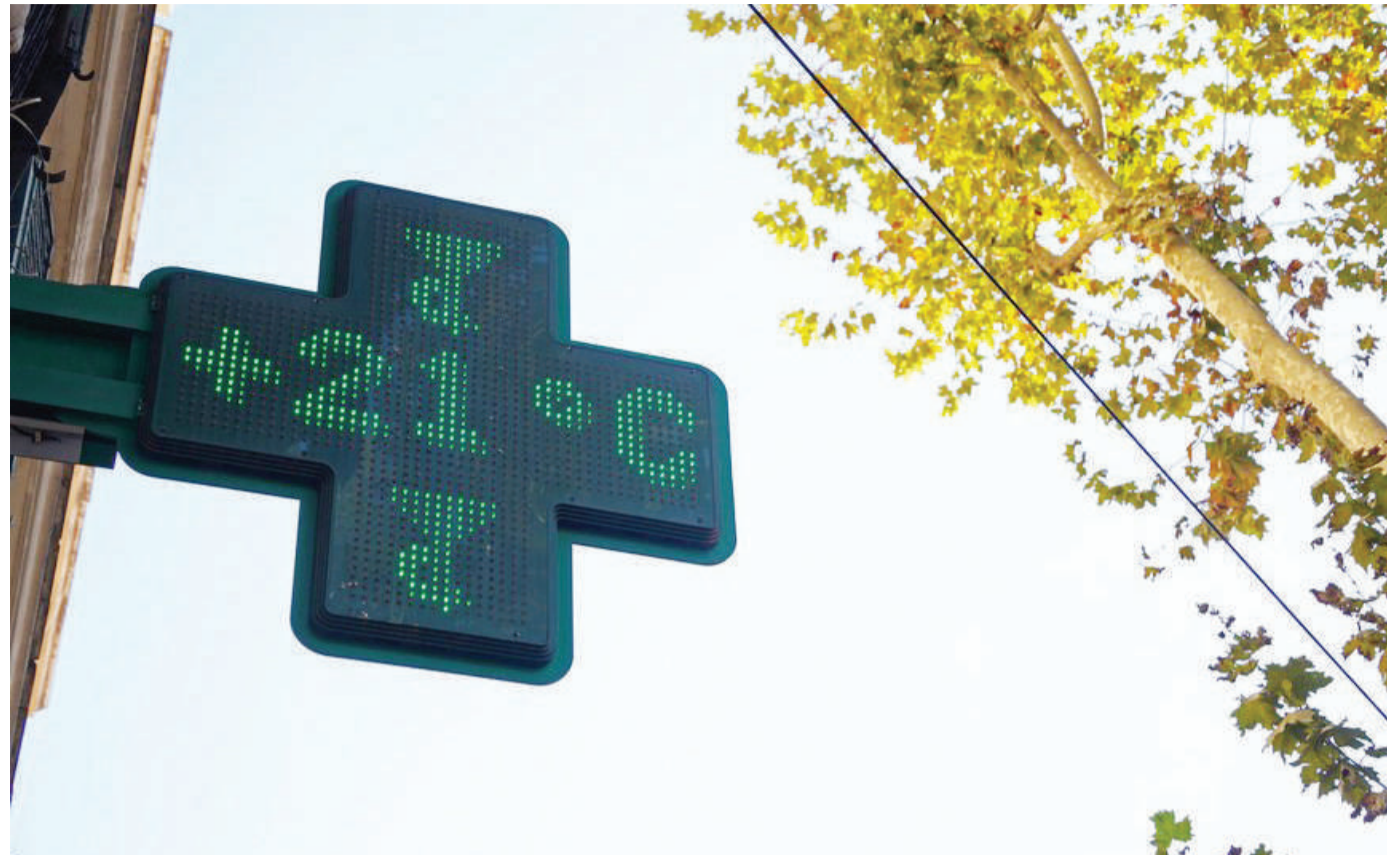
"This anticyclone phenomenon from North Africa is raising temperatures to high levels," Cat Berro told Xinhua.

"It's the same kind of influence we saw in the summer when temperatures were above 40 degrees (Celsius, or 104 degrees Fahrenheit) except that now the tilt of the earth is greater and the sun is lower and so the actual high temperatures are lower."

This year is on pace to be the hottest in Italy since record keeping began in the early 1800s, following an unusually hot and dry summer that left hundreds dead, set records across the country, and slashed the country's overall agricultural output by as much as a third.

Low rainfall left major river basins in northern and central Italy dry, and the lack of rainfall combined with unseasonably high temperatures caused a major glacier in northern Italy's Dolomites range to collapse, killing 11 hikers.

The hot and dry summer then gave way to extreme weather in the fall, including severe rain, flash flooding, strong winds, and mudslides. The canal city of Venice was threatened by potential flood waters and saved only due to the "Mose" system of flood gates that



This photo taken on Nov. 11, 2022 shows a thermometer displaying real time temperature as 21 degrees Celsius in Rome, Italy. (Xinhua)

went into operation last year.

The European Severe Weather Database (ESWD) said with a month to go in the year, Italy had already recorded five times more extreme weather events than a decade ago.

According to Cat Berro, while it is diffi-

cult to tie any single weather event to climate change, the frequency and severity of weather events is tied to the changing global climate.

"Weather events that used to take place once in a decade now take place every year,

even multiple times per year," Cat Berro said. "Things will not go back to the way they were before. We have to get accustomed to this new reality and be prepared and adapt."

Xinhua

France places Paris shooting suspect under formal probe

PARIS

THE man suspected of shooting dead three Kurdish people in Paris last week has been placed under formal investigation, according to the city prosecutor's office.

Monday's development came as the suspect appeared before an investigating judge.

The 69-year-old man was arrested on Friday after two men and a woman were shot dead at a Kurdish cultural centre and nearby Kurdish cafe in Paris' busy central 10th district.

The suspect's name has not been officially released though he is identified by French media as William K.

Under French law, being put under formal investigation means there is serious or consistent evidence pointing to the implication of a suspect in a crime.

The investigation carried out by a dedicated judge will look into charges of murder, attempted murder and unauthorised possession of a weapon, the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

It added that it suspected there was a racist motive behind the shootings.

Kurdish representatives have called for the shooting to be considered "a terrorist attack", saying that police should have done more to protect them.

They have organised a silent protest for Monday afternoon where the shootings took place.

The killings prompted protests that led to clashes with police over the weekend.

Antiracism activists and left-wing politicians have linked the shooting to a climate of hate speech online and anti-immigrant, xenophobic rhetoric by far-right figures.

French authorities have reported a rise in race- or religion-related crimes and violations in recent years.

(Agencies)

China's defense ministry protests China-related content in US defense act

BEIJING

A CHINESE defense spokesperson on Saturday voiced strong dissatisfaction with and firm opposition to the China-related content of a new U.S. defense act.

The newly-adopted National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 includes a number of negative provisions related to China, which not only undermine China's sovereignty, security and development interests but also harm relations between the two countries and militaries, said Tan Kefei, spokesperson for the Ministry of National

Defense.

The provisions of the act groundlessly paint China as a threat and recklessly interfere in China's internal affairs to find excuses for the United States to increase military spending and maintain hegemony, Tan said.

China is firmly committed to the path of peaceful development, pursues a defense policy that is defensive in nature, and always takes concrete actions to safeguard world peace, promote common development and build a community with a shared future for humanity, he said, stressing that China's

armed forces have always been a staunch force for world peace and stability.

For a period of time the United States has tried to obscure, hollow out and distort the one-China principle, frequently sold arms to Taiwan, leveled up its military collusion with the region, and concocted Taiwan-related bills and documents that undermined China's sovereignty, Tan said.

He said these moves will only harm peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and raise the risk of military confrontation between China and the United States.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army will resolutely defend the reunification and territorial integrity of the motherland, he said.

China urges the U.S. side to have an objective and rational view of the development of China's national defense and armed forces, respect China's core interests and major concerns, and jointly implement the consensus between the two heads of the state, Tan said.

Xinhua

Hezbollah 'supporter' detained in probe of UN peacekeeper killing



Private Sean Rooney was killed on December 14. (Agencies)

SIDON, LEBANON

THE Lebanese army has detained a suspect in the recent killing of an Irish United Nations peacekeeper in a move coordinated with the powerful armed group Hezbollah over the weekend, two security sources and a Hezbollah spokesperson said.

The man is a supporter of the Iran-backed armed group and heavyweight political party, but not a member of the group, a Hezbollah spokesperson told the Reuters news agency on Monday.

The security sources said the man was suspected of firing shots at a United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) vehicle that was travelling through south Lebanon on December 15.

Private Sean Rooney, aged 23, was killed and three others injured - one in critical con-

dition - on December 14 when their UNIFIL vehicle was attacked near the village of al-Aqbiya in the country's south.

It was the first fatal attack on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon since 2015.

"The main shooter has been arrested by security forces after Hezbollah handed him over hours ago," a security official said, declining to be identified because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

Hezbollah has officially denied involvement in the incident, calling the killing an "unintentional incident" that took place solely between the town's residents and UNIFIL.

The two-vehicle convoy was carrying eight personnel and was travelling to Beirut as two of the members were returning to Ireland on compassionate leave, Irish Defence Forces Chief of Staff Seán Clancy said. The remaining

four personnel from the other vehicle were not injured.

Witnesses said villagers in the al-Aqbiya area blocked Rooney's vehicle after it took a road along the Mediterranean coast not normally used by UNIFIL.

Al-Aqbiya is just outside UNIFIL's area of operations, the force has said.

The three passengers were injured when the vehicle hit a pylon and overturned.

On December 16, Ireland's then-foreign and defence minister Simon Coveney told Irish state broadcaster RTE that he did not accept Hezbollah's assurances that it had no involvement.

"We don't accept any assurances until we have a full investigation concluded to establish the full truth," he said.

REUTERS

South Korea fires shots, sends jets after invading North drones

SOUTH Korea has scrambled aircraft and fired shots after five North Korean drones crossed into its territory for the first time since 2017, marking an escalation in already taut relations between the neighbours.

A South Korean official described Monday's violation of the country's airspace as a "clear act of provocation". In response, South Korea has sent its own spy aircraft across the border over the North's territory.

The drones were first detected in the skies over the north-western city of Gimpo at around 10:25 a.m. (01:25 GMT), South Korean officials said.

Reporting from the capital Seoul, Al Jazeera's Eunice Kim said the drones appeared to have been "flying for several hours" and that "choppers and fighter jets were deployed in response, including a KA-1 light attack aircraft, that apparently crashed some 140 kilometres [87 miles] east of Seoul".

A defence ministry official confirmed a South Korean KA-1 fighter jet was involved in an accident while flying to counter North Korea's drones after departing its Wonju base in the country's north. Its two pilots escaped before the crash and are now in the hospital.

One of the five North Korean drones flew near the South Korean capital, Seoul, and the others flew near the west coast.

Lee Seung-o, a South Korean official with the country's Joint Chiefs of Staff told a media briefing that the military "operated assets to shoot down" the drones but did not state if they had been successful. Lee said South Korea initially fired "warning shots" when it first detected the drones.

Yonhap news agency later said South Korea's military fired about 100 shots but failed to shoot any down. It is unclear whether the drones managed to fly back into the North's territory.

South Korean reconnaissance aircraft flew into the North to take photographs in action corresponding to the North Korean drone flights, Lee said, suggesting the North Korean

drones were also meant for spying.

Several commercial flights at Incheon and Gimpo airports "were grounded for about 50 minutes at the request of the South Korean military," Kim says, adding that "it is unknown if they (the drones) are carrying any weapons".

It is the first time North Korean drones have entered South Korean airspace since 2017 when a drone believed to be on a spy mission crashed and was found on a mountain near the border. South Korean officials estimate that North Korea has about 300 drones.

North Korea had also fired two short-range ballistic missiles on Friday after a joint air drill by South Korea and the United States a few days earlier.

Pyeongyang has been flexing its military might in recent weeks, test-firing a barrage of missiles that have sparked concern in South Korea, Japan and their Western allies.

(Agencies)



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The
Guardian

SPORT



This combination photo shows Tory Lanez performing at the Festival d'été de Québec on Wednesday July 11, 2018, in Québec City, Canada, left, and Megan Thee Stallion at the premiere of "P-Valley" on Thursday, June 2, 2022, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Trial in shooting of Megan Thee Stallion exposes misogynoir

LOS ANGELES

MEGAN Thee Stallion is a three-time Grammy winner and hip-hop superstar, but her success wasn't enough to shield the 27-year-old artist from the power of widespread misinformation and social media vitriol leveled against her after she was shot in 2020.

The Houston-born rapper, whose legal name is Megan Pete, was shot multiple times in both feet after leaving a Hollywood Hills party in 2020 with rapper Tory Lanez, whose legal name is Daystar Peterson, and former assistant Kelsey Harris. Megan needed surgery to remove the bullet fragments from her feet. On Friday, a jury found Lanez guilty of all three felonies with which he was charged, which could lead to up to 22 years in prison.

Three months after the shooting, Megan accused Lanez of wielding the gun. The ensuing onslaught of criticism reached a fever pitch this month during Lanez's assault trial. Experts say it stems from misogynoir, a specific type of misogyny experienced by Black women.

Tia Tyree, a professor at Howard University, described misogynoir as "contempt, dislike" or mistreatment of Black women.

Tyree, whose research focuses on representations of Black women in mass media, social media and hip-hop culture, emphasized that misogynoir has been part of the Black female experience in the U.S. for centuries, dating back to the beginnings of American slavery.

"Many people see the term, and they're intrigued by it. They think, 'Wow, what is this new thing happening to Black women?'" she said. "And that's the most disappointing part of the narrative about misogynoir. There's nothing new about the mistreatment and disrespect of Black women in the United States."

Megan said she did not tell Los Angeles police responding to the scene until three months after the shooting because she was afraid for her safety.

The shooting happened on July 12, 2020, less than two months after George Floyd died at the hands of Minneapolis police.

Fear of police violence could have played a role in her reluctance to share specifics with officers, Tyree said, adding that Black women are expected to protect Black men in society.

A cycle of silence prevents many Black women from sharing their experiences, explained Melvin L. Williams, a professor at Pace University who studies hip-hop feminism, Black male rappers and hip-hop culture.

"They face industry blackballing and fewer professional opportunities when they speak out," Williams said.

Megan alleged that Lanez and his team spread misinformation about the shooting. Social media users have claimed that Lanez never shot her and have posted about her sexual history to discredit her.

Lanez, who has now been convicted of all three felonies and awaits sentencing, has maintained his innocence. In closing arguments this week, his lawyers argued that Harris was the shooter and that Megan tried

to create a more sympathetic narrative by blaming Lanez.

Harris' attorney has declined to comment on her involvement.

"Tory came out and told so many different lies – about me not being shot, about him not being the shooter and making this all about a sex scandal," Megan testified last week.

When jury deliberations began Thursday, misinformation claiming that Lanez had already been acquitted abounded. Social media platforms have also played host to intense scrutiny of Megan's story – specifically her credibility.

Rappers Drake and 21 Savage mentioned her in their joint album with specific lyrics that attempted to discredit her allegations. 50 Cent posted memes mocking her interview with Gayle King as well.

Megan is "infiltrating what is a very hypermasculine space," Tyree said, referring to hip-hop culture. "And just as any other hypermasculine space, there are bro codes that exist, and she is at the point bumping up against them, and you see the response for it."

She is a part of a chorus of Black women – including #MeToo founder Tarana Burke and U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters – who have spoken out about violence against women. Burke and Waters signed an open letter supporting Megan.

Social media attacks against Megan have drawn comparisons to television coverage in the 1990s of Anita Hill's congressional testimony and, more recently, to online racist hate targeting Meghan Markle. Another recent example was Johnny Depp's defamation lawsuit against Amber Heard, which drew many social media posts that spread misinformation and cast doubts on Heard's credibility.

Northwestern University law professor Deborah Tuerkheimer, the author of "Credible: Why We Doubt Accusers and Protect Abusers," noted that these trials came five years after the #MeToo movement sparked a global social reckoning, followed by a backlash.

"We can look at this outpouring of stories as being really significant and meaningful, and it is, but until we can have figured out how to fairly judge credibility, and how to hold perpetrators to account in a meaningful way, then I think there's just a lot of work left to be done," Tuerkheimer said.

Race is a key difference in the treatment of accusers, said Izzi Grasso, a doctoral candidate at the University of Washington who studied misinformation around the Depp-Heard trial.

Grasso's research concluded that people with marginalized identities are disproportionately targeted for harassment, online misinformation campaigns and discriminatory content moderation. The online world reflects the "systems of power and domination that we see in the real world," Grasso said.

Moya Bailey, a Northwestern University professor who coined the term misogynoir, found that social media platforms such as TikTok and Twitter perpetuate harmful stereotypes about Black women because it's profitable.

AP

Attitude shift as observers start seeing hope in women's soccer

By Correspondent John Kimbute

CONSENSUS is gathering pace among local soccer analysts and pundits that there is hope for Tanzania to consolidate its position in global soccer through women's soccer, at club championship level and then with the national sides.

The reason is not far to seek, as Tanzania booked a place in the finals of this year's FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup and even won a match there, drew and lost, whereas it has never stood a chance of making it to African finals for men, save once in several decades.

The difference is now taking effect and observers see 'comparative advantage' for us in women's soccer.

One illustration of this feeling was the holding of a keenly contested city derby between traditional rivals Young Africans SC, and Simba SC via their women's sides, Yanga Princess and Simba Queens.

Some of us at the start felt that the venue selected, the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, or to some the Mkapa National Stadium and still 'Estadio Lupaso,' was rather high flung for that encounter, similar to an oversized shoe.

True enough most of the stands were empty but there was a solid presence of fans in the more comfortable parts of the stadium, highly motivated.

What was important there wasn't the number of fans but the motivation, as it wasn't a crowd of girls clapping for other girls on the pitch but regular fans of the two sides seeing their women's sides contesting in what was actually a competitive fixture.

Right from the moment the Under-17 Girls side (usually talked of as women's side, though 'women' ought to refer to actual adults, not teenagers as in this case) reached their version of World Cup finals ahead of the 'real thing' in Qatar, the momentum for a rethinking has been building.

It was partially visible as limited crowds in offices, roadside bars etc. chatted out during the Qatar bonanza.

One question that kept coming up was when it will be possible for Tanzania to scale the heights of the World Cup tournament, reach the finals and even 'obtain results' (in local analytical parlance) as some African sides did in the recent finals.

The standard answer, at least for this reviewer, was 'forget it,' as it is not possible to project by any available means, Taifa Stars becoming an African powerhouse, setting foot on the finals.

By contrast, the youthful women's side (to speak in official designation) has already attained world class mark, and as the rule indicates, crowds will usually go with the winners.

We are all fans of Messi now,

and of the Under-17 women's national side that attained global citation in the Women's World Cup finals played in Mumbai.

Not many analysts are seeking to sort out why Tanzania is spectacular in teenage women's and completely ordinary in relatively adult men's soccer, though it has had occasion to shine in teenage men's soccer continental fixtures as well.

Whatever the case, it must be said that on the whole the country has made some advances in youthful soccer whether it is for girls or boys, and noticeable success are there for all to see.

The difference though is if we are real leaders in Africa so we even attain World Cup finals in the teenage women category, ahead of others.

While none of us can crack that knot for once, it remains nevertheless valid that we have plenty of reason to believe that if we work hard enough around the teenage soccer scene, we may continually shine at the continental and global level as it happened in the course of the outgoing year.

One can say that our successes in that sphere during 2022 were next to gratuitous, as we made the same preparations that we usually do, and are used to attaining honours ranging from outright winners to runners up by habit in the Southern Africa circuit. The world stage was a surprise.

Seeing the likes of Morocco at-

tain acclamations approaching paroxysm in various capitals - and not only in North Africa and the Middle East - the chance that we have a team that has already made a mark at international level was plausible as a source of expectation, for want of saying inspiration, that we can attain similar heights.

The difference definitely is that women's soccer (all categories together) has scarcely a substantial portion of the fame attached to men's soccer (most of us would say soccer as such, without an auxiliary gender epithet). It is a long journey.

Not surprisingly, the sort of suggestions coming from the fans and a few pundits on how women's soccer should be cultivated and developed were next to bemusing in their simplicity.

One significant observation was that prominent clubs like those in the city derby seek outside professionals to elevate play ability at the local level, when our players are exposed to players whose tactics they wish to emulate and who they find it hard to tackle.

It was a welcome note of realism compared to the 'pampered child' sentiment on recruiting professionals for the real Premier League, where as far back as four or five years ago, a minister was saying three be the cap.



Simba Queens player (L) and Yanga Princess player fight for the ball during their Women's Premier League match at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. The match ended tied 1-1. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

Singida Big Stars set to reveal new signings at Mapinduzi Cup

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Big Stars, through their information officer Hassan Massanza, have confirmed to introduce players who will be registered in the mini transfer window during the Mapinduzi Cup that will be held in the Zanzibar islands.

Singida Big Stars are said to have registered several players since the opening of the mini registration window on December 16, including Yusuph Kagoma and Nickson Kibabage from Mtibwa Sugar, but so far

the club's management has not officially confirmed and remained silent.

Massanza has said that it is true that their club is in the process of adding some players in order to add strength to their squad, but it is too early to mention the names of the players who have completed the registration or who are continuing the negotiations with the leadership in this period.

He said that what is required is for the fans to continue to have patience, as the players

who will be registered during the transfer window will all participate in the Mapinduzi Cup that will officially start in January 2023.

"We have done a good registration according to the recommendations of the technical bench and we expect those players to appear officially in the Mapinduzi Cup.

"We have made secret signings to avoid the deals to be hijacked. We are protecting our targets so that we can succeed in finding them, sealing deals and introducing them

during the Mapinduzi Cup," he said.

Another player mentioned to be targeted by Singida Big Stars in this registration window is Egypt's Al Masry striker Francy Kazadi from DR Congo.

Singida Big Stars had won three of their last five games, drawing one and lost one before their later yesterday's game against Dodoma Jiji.

The Singida based side is in the fourth place in the NBC Premier League log with 31 points from nine wins, four losses and four draws.

Favorite photos from AP staff at the 2022 World Cup



FILE - Denzel Dumfries of the Netherlands celebrates scoring his side's 3rd goal during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between the Netherlands and the United States, at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022. (AP Photo)



FILE - Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates with the trophy in front of fans after winning the World Cup final soccer match between Argentina and France at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, Dec. 18, 2022. A World Cup that ended with Lionel Messi finally holding the golden trophy in his hands produced some unforgettable images from the staff of Associated Press photographers at the tournament in Qatar. Through the 64 games over nearly a month of soccer, the AP deployed dozens of photographers to the eight stadiums in and around Doha. (AP Photo)



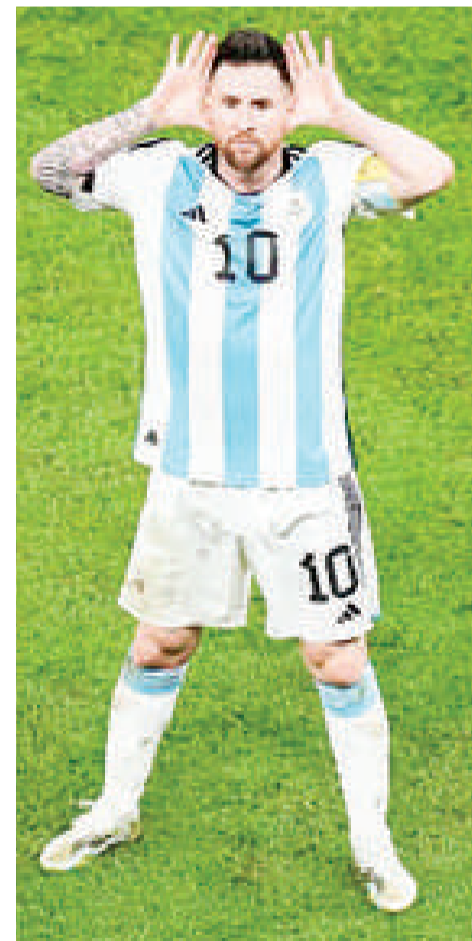
FILE - France's Olivier Giroud celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between France and Poland, at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022. (AP Photo)



FILE - Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates with Argentina's goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez at the end of the World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between the Netherlands and Argentina, at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022. Argentina defeated the Netherlands 4-3 in a penalty shootout after the match ended tied 2-2. (AP Photo)



FILE - Poland's Bartosz Bereszynski, left, and Mexico's Hirving Lozano battle for the ball during the World Cup group C soccer match between Mexico and Poland, at the Stadium 974 in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022. (AP Photo)



FILE - Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates with Argentina's goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez at the end of the World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between the Netherlands and Argentina, at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022. Argentina defeated the Netherlands 4-3 in a penalty shootout after the match ended tied 2-2. (AP Photo)



FILE - France's Kylian Mbappe sits on the bench at the end of the World Cup final soccer match between Argentina and France at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022. (AP Photo)



FILE - South Korea's Son Heung-min reacts after sustaining an injury during the World Cup group H soccer match between Uruguay and South Korea, at the Education City Stadium in Al Rayyan, Qatar, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022. (AP Photo)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Favorite photos from AP staff at the 2022 World Cup

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Tanzania's cricketers settle for runners-up spot in East Africa T20 Cup showdown



Players making Tanzania's national cricket squad in a group picture with a section of Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) officials once the cricketers made their way back to Dar es Salaam last weekend. The squad had battled it out in 2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier Group B that took place in Rwanda recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's national cricket side has finished as a runner-up in the 2022 East Africa T20 Cup showpiece which climaxed in Rwanda last weekend.

The showpiece that involved three teams, namely Tanzania, Uganda, and hosts Rwanda, served as a platform for the trio to prepare for their respective assignments slated for next season.

Each of the three squads participated in 12 matches, with all ties taking place in Kigali.

Tanzania's cricketers brought their campaign to an end with a seven-run loss to tournament favourite, Uganda, last weekend.

The clash saw Uganda race to 183/5 in the allotted 20 overs after having started to bat.

Needing 184 runs from 20 overs to register victory, Tanzania's cricketers, in response, put spirited performance but could not live up to expectations.

The chase witnessed Tanzania's cricketers notch 176 runs, losing all wickets in 19.4 overs.

According to the Tanzania

Cricket Association (TCA) information officer Atif Salim, the duel turned out to be a crowd puller, keeping spectators entertained throughout.

Salim noted Uganda eventually came on top in what was a brave chase by Tanzania, which showcased a few weaknesses which are to be addressed to improve the side.

Tanzania had begun its campaign in the event with a 66-run drubbing of hosts Rwanda on December 13.

The duel, which was reduced to 13 overs because of downpour, witnessed Tanzania amassing 147/4 in the scheduled 13 overs.

Rwanda, in response, could not chase the 148-run target in the allotted 13 overs, given the squad notched 81 runs for the loss

of four wickets.

Rwanda went on to suffer a five-wicket loss to Tanzania in the second tie that was held the same day.

The clash, scheduled for 15 overs, witnessed Rwanda notching 110/6 in the 15 overs, setting up a modest 111-run target for Tanzania.

In response, Tanzania's cricketers smoothly downed the hosts having notched 114/5 in 14.1 overs.

Tanzania's first clash against Uganda took place on December 14, with the match ending as a no result.

Tanzania was on the brink of facing a humiliating defeat, given the squad had recorded 48/9 in 15.2 overs of the 20-over match when heavy rain forced the game's abandonment.

The most memorable feat in the East Africa T20 Cup

showdown was Tanzania's five-wicket victory over Uganda on December 19.

Uganda had recorded 132 runs losing all wickets in 17.4 overs once it went in to bat first.

Opener Simon Ssesazi posted 36 runs, fellow batsman Paschal Murungi notched 24 runs as Uganda ended its innings with the respectable figure.

Tanzania bravery got down to successful chase as the squad posted 137/5 in 19.1 overs with five balls remaining.

Promising all-rounder Salum Jumbe deservedly walked away with the Man of the Match prize for his thrilling all-round exploits.

Jumbe had stellar bowling figure having notched 4-24 in 3.4 overs when Tanzania fielded and later re-

corded 12 runs as Tanzania mounted successful chase.

Uganda ultimately emerged as champion, having ended with a 2.731 net run rate following its victory in nine clashes and loss in one.

Tanzania took second place having posted a 0.956 net run rate. The runner-up had garnered victory in six ties and suffered defeat in four ties.

Bottom-placed Rwanda managed to end with a -3.155 net run rate, notching victory in one match and succumbing to loss in 11 duels.

The East Africa T20 Cup showdown was played a few days after the culmination of this year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier Group B played in the same country and won by Tanzania.



Murtanza Mangungu

Mangungu now set to defend his chairman seat in Simba general election

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Simba SC election committee has released a list of 14 candidates approved to compete for various positions towards the general election of the club which is expected to be held on January 29.

The committee led by chairman Boniface Lihamwike has revealed the names of those who have met the criteria while the chairman position has two candidates, and 12 candidates have been approved for the club's board of director positions.

Lihamwike also insisted that they have gone through all the steps correctly considering the wider interests of the club.

"When you talk about the interests of the club, it should be looked at more broadly. The interests are not only to give money to help the club or in any other way, but also not to cause a conflict within the club that will bring a rift to the members.

"For any candidate who does not go through our initial stages, he will be given the opportunity to appeal to the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Election Appeal Committee, if he deems it appropriate to do so," Lihamwike was quoted saying.

As for those running for the position of chairman, the candidates are Advocate Moses Kaluwa and Murtanza Mangungu, who is defending his seat.

Those vying for the club's board of directors who were approved are Dr. Seif Ramadhani Muba, Seleman Said, Iddi Kitete, CPA(T) Issa Iddi, Abubakari Zebo, Abdallah Mgomba, Eng. Elisomy Mweladzi, Eng. Rashid Mashaka, Rodney Makamba, Aziz Mohamed, Asha Baraka and Pendo Aidan.

The chairman will be elected by members while in terms of directors there are four who will be elected by members and there are also two who will be appointed by the chairman.

There were five candidates for the position of chairman and each one paid Tsh. 300,000, giving Simba Tsh. 1.5 million, while for the position of board of directors, each candidate paid Tsh. 150,000 and there were 26 in total, giving the club Tsh. 3.9 million.

Coach Nabi pours praise on the impact shown by his substitution

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans head coach Nasreddine Nabi has congratulated his players who came from the bench to change the game in their NBC Premier League tie against Azam FC at the Benjamin Mkapa stadium on Sunday.

The defending champions won 3-2 against Azam in the exciting match held in the Christmas Day.

Abdul Suleiman 'Sopu' scored the brace for Azam FC to notch his first goals of the season while Yanga goals were scored by Fiston Mayele, Stephane Aziz Ki and Farid Mussa.

Coach Nabi says that Azam's quality in the first half and 15 minutes of the



Nasreddine Nabi

second half forced him to make changes due to the speed and high possession

of the ice cream makers.

"I had to bring in Tuisila Kisinda along with Farid

Mussa. I used their speed playing on the flanks to make Azam's wingers unable to attack, and also to increase the number of players in the midfield because Azam dominated the game.

"Azam created a lot of chances but they couldn't use them, but that is soccer. We made mistakes in the defense department, but due to the quality of our substitutions we got good results. But from my point of view Azam deserved at least a point.

"We look forward to correct our mistakes from this game ahead of our upcoming fixtures in order to achieve what we have intended this season and that is to win the league," he said.

Yanga move further on top of league with 47 points

from 18 games while Azam, who failed to win in their last games, remain with 37 points from the same number of matches.

Meanwhile, Nabi has suggested the names of seven players to be given short break after playing many games while insisting that Stephen Aziz Ki will be the one who will lead the team in the 2023 Mapinduzi Cup.

Yanga expect to start the first match of Mapinduzi against KMKM on January 4.

Nabi has named Fiston Mayele, Yanick Bangala, Khalid Aucho, Dickson Job, Kibwana Shomari and Jesus Moloko as the players who have been used the most so far, so they need to be rested in order to keep their bodies in shape.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

