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TARI improving old cashewnut trees to increase productivity

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) is improving old cashew trees in all major producing regions to increase productivity.

Dr Geraldina Mzena, the TARI national coordinator for the cashew research programme said the project will involve grafting and budding techniques, joining parts of old plants with new high-yield ones so that they grow as hybrid plants.

Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma regions are main targets of the programme, with the revitalization process being taken up via an agronomic procedure of 'top working,' already conducted among farmers in 26 locations in the three regions.

When implemented, the project will boost production and tree productivity of the cash crop, as top-working grafting techniques enables established trees to combine with another variety. Existing tree stock is cut back, leaving just one or two limbs (nurse limbs) to supply the tree with energy, the expert noted, elaborating that short sticks of one-year-old wood of the new variety (the scions) are inserted (grafted) into the cut surface.

The robust initiative has the underlying motto, 'remove forests, increase productivity,' with impressive results registered already as hundreds of farmers in the targeted regions were responding positively.

Most farms within the regions were traditionally cared for using domestic varieties with no good harvests, she affirmed.

TARI has so far researched, invented and introduced more than 50 improved cashew seed varieties in concerted efforts to improve production and productivity of the pivotal cash crop in the southern regions.

The grafting is being organized in conjunction with local authorities and individual farmers, she said, pointing out that after revival of the trees, the farmers will have to wait for at least eight months before the tree starts bearing again.

With the improved varieties, a cashew tree's yield is expected to double in comparison to its usual productivity for that age, where a 20 year old tree can yield 40kg of cashews in a season instead of the usual 10kg optimally per season.

Adopting improved varieties for the betterment of the crop was essential to TARI vision for the crop, also applied to coffee which has a specialized research institution and a coordinating board as in the case of cashewnut, she said.

Dr Mzena said that during the last season the country produced at least 230 tonnes of cashews, but the set expectations were to fetch about 389 tonnes of the crop. The sub-sector was experiencing low yields due to climate change in particular, she added.

Parastatals pay out 540bn/- to Treasury in dividends, levies



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, Kagera regional commissioner Brig Gen Charles Mbugu (L) and Rubare Forest Chief Conservator Mandalo Salum (3rd-L) in jivial mood yesterday during the VP's tour of Kyamunene waterfalls and caves located in the forest, some 10 minutes' drive from Bukoba municipality. Photo: VPO

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Treasury Registrar collected 539.39bn/- in non-tax revenues from March 2021 to February 2022 from large public organisations, more than double the 262.99bn/- collected in the same period the previous year.

Mgonya Benedicto, the registrar, made this observation when outlining milestones registered during President Samia Suluhu Hassan's one year in office, noting that the collections are part of responsibilities of the department.

Collections have been improving year after year, increasing non-tax income which involves dividends, the levied 15 percent of raw proceeds, and other income categories, he said, noting that the registrar oversees 287 public institutions and organizations.

Effective government supervision and firm guidance from President Samia had enabled the vast increase in collections, where the registrar's office in collaboration with the office of the Attorney General (AG) managed to rescue public funds and assets of the Tanzania Fertilizer Company (TFC) held as a guarantee at the Exim Bank (T), he stated.

The company failed to repay a debt of \$6.7m and after discussions the government paid \$2.7m, thus managing to rescue \$4m and TFC assets including warehouses and office buildings put up as loan collateral or bona fide guarantee.

The registrar facilitated the TIB DFI bank to be repaid non-performing loans from the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), the Tanzania Electric Supply Corporation (TANESCO), and

It is clear that this investment is huge and the government will get a stable and sustainable return

Bouygues lands contract to renovate JNIA Terminal II

By Guardian Reporter

FRENCH construction group Bouygues Bâtiment International (BBI) is being solicited to start the renovation of Terminal II of the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), which it built in the early 1980s.

FINANCE and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba yesterday held talks with representatives of the French firm in Dodoma, assuring the firm of sufficient groundwork for it to speedily undertake the work as agreed in the contract

The company was contracted to renovate

the airport building, after prior deliberations and an accord signed in France last month and witnessed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan and host President Emmanuel Macron.

A ministerial team of experts was ready to work with Bouygues for technical documentation especially in the architectural stage for implementation to start forthwith, he said noting that it the French firm that will draw up the needed architecture and financial proposals.

"We will be together through the Department of Debt Management and the Planning Commission to find out where you have

reached, so as to complete all the procedures and avoid delays in the project," he stated.

All procedures including those of finances will be completed on time so as to facilitate smooth implementation of the project, he emphasized, underlining that the president had issued clear directives in that regard.

BBI executive director Eric Fleurisson said the rehabilitation of the JNIA Terminal II shall engage local companies, and once completed it will boost ability to serve local flights, open up more opportunities at the airport and increase revenue collection, he added.

Erratic rains hamper Kiteto villagers' wildlife tie

By Francis Kajubi, Kiteto

VIABLE conservation efforts via wildlife management areas among villages in Kiteto District in Manyara Region face huge impediments owing to erratic rainfall and thus lack of sustainable water sources.

Interviewed villagers in the area say that reduced rainfall was one among effects of

An active human-wildlife conflict reached a high level last September to late January this year when rains started and alleviated the problem somewhat, a period of an especially severe drought

unstable patterns of climate over the past decade, with

stability of wild animals populations at issue unless permanent water supply infrastructures are built. The problem is acutely felt at the Makame Wildlife Management Area (WMA) as it has no permanent water sources but temporary ponds that are ineffective to maintain animal populations during the dry season. This calls for what experts say are climate change

adaptation and mitigation measures for the area, where village authorities and some civic groups are campaigning for the measures to be taken. The WMA is located at Makame ward, 110 kilometers away from Kiteto district offices, facing drought for most of the past year,

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MNH -Mloganzila launches oxygen production plant worth \$300,000

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MUHIMBILI National Hospital (MNH) -Mloganzila has launched the oxygen production plant worth US\$ 300,000 from South Korea to serve intensive care ward patients, and all those with breathing complications.

Speaking after launching the plant yesterday at the facility premises, the Minister for Health, Ummu Mwalimu said the new plant will greatly reduce the treatment the government used to procure oxygen cylinders.

Mwalimu also inspected the Neonatal intensive Care Unit (NICU) and maternal ICU wards that were under refurbishment, where she said that the government spent up to 175 m/- per month to procure between 250 - 300 oxygen cylinders per day.

"It is a great achievement for the government since the plant will reduce cost and become a source of revenues to other neighbouring health facilities," she said.

Mwalimu thanked for the grant to support two projects from the Korea Foundation for International Health Care (KOFIH).

"On behalf of the government, I would like to thank the government of South Korea for the support," she said, adding that MNH-Mloganzila will start functioning as an independent health facility effectively from July 1 this year.

"Four years of operation are enough. It is time to stand alone, get prepared," the minister said.

MNH-Mloganzila Deputy Executive Director Dr Julieth Magandi said in the 2021/2022 financial years, the facility implemented two projects, naming them as the oxygen generating plant and rehabilitation of the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) including installation of gas piping.



Hhau Sarwatt (L), a community development officer with the Wami-Ruvu Basin Water Board, and her workmates get set to plant trees in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi River on Thursday as part of a drive aimed at saving water sources. Second right is W-RBWB hydrologist Dorothy Semiono. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Kiswahili strengthens unity in Africa - Mwinyi

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

KISWAHILI has been an important step in strengthening ties and cohesion in economic development, trade, politics and diplomacy in the East African region, Africa and the world at large, hence need to be honored, Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has stressed.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks here yesterday at the closing of the Second World Kiswahili Channel Symposium held for five days, at the ICC Confer-

ence Hall, Arusha City organised by National Kiswahili Council (BAKITA) and Zanzibar Kiswahili Council (BAKIZA) and attended by more than 200 participants with the motto entitled "Information Industry for Kiswahili Development in the World".

He said that the situation has been compounded by the efforts of the government in promoting the Kiswahili language, explaining that as a result Kiswahili continued to be successful as the first African language to be set on a special day.

"This language has been adopted as one of the working languages in the East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC) together with the African Union," he said.

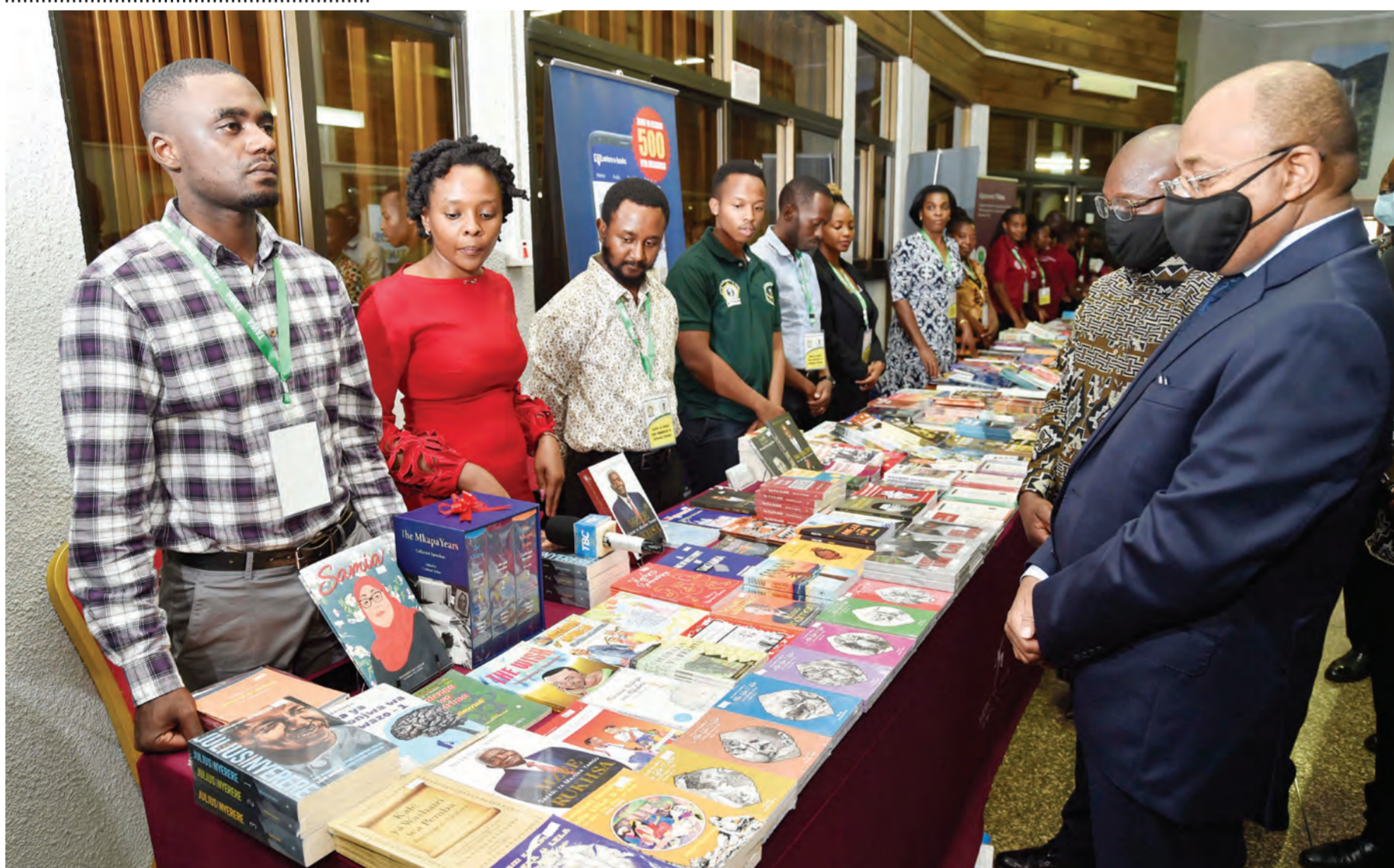
He explained that another factor contributing to the increase in Kiswahili speakers is due to the contribution and increase in the number of radio stations broadcasting in Kiswahili and citing the number of radio stations broadcasting in that language in Tanzania has now reached 183.

He added that despite the increase in Kiswahili-language channels in Tanzania, there is also a significant increase in foreign channels broadcasting in this noble Kiswahili language where, by the end of 2021, the number of foreign channels broadcasting in Kiswahili language was over 39.

He explained that the number of television stations in the country broadcasting in Kiswahili has also been steadily increasing, with more than 45 channels now available, with only six newspapers existing in the

country before Independence and now at 283.

He said that there is a significant contribution to the development of Kiswahili speakers through the reading of textbooks and several articles on Linguistics and Literature where Kiswahili dictionaries and magazines of various disciplines have been developed in the post-independence period and greatly support the development and growth of Kiswahili here in Tanzania as well as foreign countries learning this language.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (R) pictured in Arusha city yesterday viewing Kiswahili books on display at an exhibition held in tandem with the just-ended Second Congress of World Kiswahili Services. Photo: State House

Parastatals pay out 540bn/- to Treasury in dividends, levies

FROM PAGE 1

Similarly, the Mngeta-Kilombo Plantation Ltd (KPL) farm was retained by the sugar firm with a \$7.40m purchase, whereas the Chief Government Valuer put Mngeta farm value at 152.19bn/-, he stated.

"It is clear that this investment is huge and the government will get a stable and sustainable return," he further noted, citing government decision to hand over these assets to SUMA JKT Co., engaged in various investments including commercial farming, and agricultural

activities have already begun.

In companies where the government has a minor share, the registrar was negotiating with the shareholders and monitoring unnecessary expenditure, which saw an increase in dividends for shareholders, he stated.

The success of these efforts was reflected in NBC Bank, increasing its pre-tax profits from 7bn/- in 2020 to 60bn/- in 2021, a vast increase.

Airtel Co. revenues increased from 34.66bn/- in 2020/21 to 70.22bn/- over the eight months of 2021/22, he specified, noting that payment included dividends,

the sale of communication towers, and the implementation of special shareholders' agreements.

Referring to initiating the budget system for public institutions, he said as part of its efforts to discharge its responsibilities more effectively, the registrar's office has established a planning and reporting system.

Significant progress in operating this system in government agencies and public entities has been attained where all institutions have submitted their budget statements for analysis, approval and implementation from July 2021, he

stated.

The budget statements for the financial year 2021/22 were analysed and continue to be followed up, as this oversight is integrated with the government payment system, he elaborated.

The registrar, as the chief investment officer for the government, will continue to closely monitor the performance of public bodies and institutions to ensure that the government benefits from its investment in line with increased non-tax revenue in development projects for wider public benefit, he added.

Erratic rain patterns undermining Kiteto villagers' wildlife tie

FROM PAGE 1

thus placing wildlife survival at risk.

The WMA has three hunting blocks adjacent to it, namely the Maasai open area (to the west), Irkushbor open area in the north, and Talamali open area to the south east.

Naisujaki Lesikarr, a local resident who chairs the women's wing of the ruling party in the ward, said wild animals at the WMA had through 2021 been ravaging homes in the neighbourhood in search of water.

This leads to human-wildlife conflict and random animal killings that raise biodiversity concerns in the WMA and beyond. The management area is located southeast of Tarangire National Park, which to a considerable extent also faces water availability challenges.

An active human-wildlife conflict reached a high level last September to late January this year when rains started and alleviated the problem somewhat, a period of an especially severe drought. Buffalo herds and elephants pushed to drink from narrow water sources, where ward residents were also dependent on them she said.

Rains ended back in April last year, leaving ponds behind that were gradually thinning out. The vegetation was also drying up, opening up a grazing problem in the zone, she stated, recalling a similar drought in 2017.

Maria Lucas (30) another

Makame resident, said scrambling for water against wild animals saw villagers' maize farms invaded by the large beasts searching for something to eat. Drought pushed villagers into adapting daily routine to the challenge of finding and conserving water, she said.

Women had to walk long distances to nearby villages in search of water not just for household needs but for providing calves, along with weak or sick livestock. Walking long distances repeatedly affects women's health, and the size of the problem can be grasped as we in this village witnessed buffaloes dying from lack of water, the resident narrated.

People would stay for up to a month without taking a bath, while children's school uniforms were being washed once a week, despite the area being dusty and windy. A family of eight people would use a ten litres bucket or drum of water for drinking instead of a drum twice that size as was usually the case, she explained.

Later the villagers hired a three wheeled motorcycle to fetch water from farther afield, a distance of nearly 50 kilometers, paying 150,000/- for 30 buckets of 20 liters each. The water all the same scarcely lasts for two days serving family members and the livestock, she added.

Full story on page 11

Training to equip women with more essential leadership skills

By Getrude Mbagu

THE Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) has launched an 8th cohort of the "Female Future Programme," which is aimed to get more women into management positions, decision-making processes and on corporate boards.

The programme which will take 14 days in class and nine months of practical assignments will see over 70 women from various public and private organisations being equipped with essential leadership skills to enable them deliver well in their organi-

sations.

Speaking during the launch in Dar es Salaam yesterday, ATE's executive director Suzanne Ndomba said that the training programme will be provided in partnership with the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI)

"This programme is going to be beneficial and will connect the ladies strategically to improve their performance, personal and organizational success and we believe this will enhance productivity at workplaces and an organization will feel the importance of grooming talents they wish

to motivate," she said.

She added: "ATE and ESAMI are ready to make sure that we train more ladies each year and we will make sure that each lady gets the best out of the programme. In total we have 73 Ladies joining us for this Cohort from 34 organizations of different sectors, we also have ladies from government parastatals and a District Commissioner, and this will create a challenging learning environment and develop exposed leaders for business development."

Ndomba further said that the training is further meant to enhance the inclusion of women in leadership posi-

tions in the corporate world, putting in place a knowledge base for best practices.

She said the programme has experienced a huge growth this year which saw launching of the Female Future Programme for Women Parliamentarians and Members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives.

"This year, we are planning to strengthen the Alumni by having more session within the national and International Alumni which will widen the ladies' network across nations which already have the programme. We will also continue to work with other stake-

holders in policy advocacy aimed at increasing the number of women in top leadership positions and on various boards as well as working with companies in ensuring that their policies are in alignment with the same," she added.

Prof Bonard Mwape, Director General of ESAMI said the Institute and ATE have been running the course since 2016. We have done 7 cohorts so far.

He noted that various studies have proved that having more women in top leadership positions, speeds up the pace of development, so investing in them should be reemphasized.

He said this training ESAMI undertakes will play its part in addressing gender stereotypes at top positions, so that the talk that women are not capable will no longer be true. This training will provide competencies to these ladies so that they can bridge gender biased leadership in organisations.

The Female Future programme was launched in 2016 and it is still the most relevant and successful program which has been shaping women from different industries within middle management to be able to take up top positions as well as take their seats on various boards.

'Small miners lack EFD machines at Nyamishiga'

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

SMALL miners at Nyamishiga gold mine in Shinyanga District have appealed to the Ministry of Minerals to provide them with EFD machines for collection of revenue from the minerals.

They made the appeal Wednesday this week at a public meeting called by small entrepreneurs in around the mining area to discuss various challenges facing them.

One of the miners, Harouni Mrema said they have been charged various fees by the mine's officials, but instead of being given EFD receipts they receive ordinary receipts.

He said each week they are being charged 5,000/- as health charges and another 5,000/- for security services and given paper receipts, the practice that raises suspicions that probably the money does not enter government coffers.

"We do not refuse paying government taxes and other charges for our own development, but what worries us is that we are given ordinary paper receipts instead of EFD receipts," he said.

Another entrepreneur at the mine site, Mariam Julius said during the selling of the gold ore and government royalty is charged; they are not given EFD receipts, the practice that worries that probably the money they pay does not enter government coffers.

Responding to these claims, the mine's secretary, Hilda Jackson said the mine was recently handed to them by the ministry for Minerals for women miners, hence they were still creating able environment for its operation.

She added that still men miners do not believe whether



women can manage small mines and bring development to the surrounding villages.

He said in the short time they have been at the mine, they have been able to collect 400m/- royalty and expect to complete the construction of Nyamishiga dispensary in order to bring health services closer to the villagers.



We do not refuse paying government taxes and other charges for our own development, but what worries us is that we are given ordinary paper receipts instead of EFD receipts



Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Congratulations

Chief Executive Officer, Managing Director, General Manager and all Staff of Sateki Trading Ltd congratulate the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, on her completion of ONE successful year in office.

We wish you good health, prosperity and the very best as you continue to lead the nation

KAZI IENDELEE

"MAZINGIRA SAFI NI AFYA"
"SAFISHA PENDEZESHA DAR ES SALAAM"

ILALA BUNGOMI, P. O. Box 9003, DAR ES SALAAM,
Tel: +255 677 350179, Email: satekitrading.tz@gmail.com

Congratulations

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Tanzania International Container Terminal Services wish to congratulate the President of the United of Tanzania, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, in completing ONE successful year in office.

We wish you a good health, prosperity and the very best as you continue to lead the nation.

Tanzania International Container Terminal Services (TICTS) operates the specialized Container Terminal at the port of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania under Lease Agreement with Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA). As Tanzania's leading container handling facility, TICTS is committed to moving ahead and to strengthening its role as the country's premier maritime gateway to Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (SADC) Region.

TICTS is a member of Hutchison Ports, the port and related services division of CK Hutchison Holdings Limited (CK Hutchison). Hutchison Ports is the world's leading port investor, developer and operator with a network of port operations in 52 ports spanning 26 countries throughout Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, the Americas and Australasia. Over the years, Hutchison Ports has expanded into other logistics and transportation-related businesses, including cruise ship terminals, airport operations, distribution centers, rail services and ship repair facilities.

Security firm's female employees donate medical devices to ORCI

By Guardian Reporter

PRIVATE Security Company (SGA) female employees donated several medical equipment to the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) as part of marking the International Women's Day (IWD).

The day is marked annually on March 8th, in recognition of the role and contribution of women in development process all over the world. This year's IWD was celebrated under the theme "BreakTheBias", focusing on the individual and collective biases

against women that increase gender inequality.

The team of over 60 SGA female staff, led by sales and marketing manager, Faustina Shoo, presented several wheelchairs, colostomy bags, and sunscreen cream for children with albinism to cancer patients hospitalized at the cancer institute in Dar es Salaam.

"We have dedicated the 2022 Women's Day to patients and spent our time with them at ORCI as all of us know that patients need love, hope and proper medical care," Shoo said.

SGA courier manager, Stella Chiwango also said that medication for cancer is very expensive and most of the patients suffering from cancer cannot afford costs of travelling from upcountry regions to access medical treatment at the ORCI.

"As mothers, sisters and daughters, we have decided to donate medical items to ease the burden on the hospital and facilitate the movement of the patients within the hospital," Chiwango added.

The donation of medical equipment was received by the ORCI's ma-

tron, Jesca Kawegere who appreciated the renowned security firm for remembering them, wheelchairs will simplify the movement of the cancer patients hospitalized at ORCI. "Cancer has a huge impact in the society and we appreciate SGA Security for this huge donation that will ease our challenges in serving the patients here at ORCI," Kawegere added.

SGA Security, the first private security company to operate in Tanzania, has committed to continue offering equal employment opportunities, with women and those with disabilities encouraged to apply.

SGA managing director, Eric Sambu stated that SGA prides itself in equal opportunity with regard to gender, tribe, colour, religion, pregnancy, nationality, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or any other basis.

"We've 40 percent of the women in SGA management level that I may say

they have done well their tasks and contributed to the growth of our business here in Tanzania," Sambu added.

SGA has a programme to mentor women for managerial roles and recently conducted high level leadership training on emotional intelligence. "To be frank, SGA women have demonstrated better leadership in key roles and resulted into positive contribution toward company's growth, and we are very much proud of their hard working, and we are encouraging more qualified female to embrace bigger roles," Sambu said.

ORCI social welfare officer, Justin Chambo, expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Institute for the donated medical items in celebration of IWD he gave the team the knowledge on cancer and encouraged to go for medical checkups which is free of charge at ORCI.

He also explained that ORCI is the

only specialized and oldest health facility for cancer treatment in Tanzania. ORCI offers numerous patient services including laboratory services, diagnostic imaging, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, palliative care services, cervical cancer screening among other services.

SGA has continued their corporate social responsibility programmes with similar donations to the society, sponsoring many marathon events, blood donation drives, environmental clean-up, emergency response services with their ambulances and fire response services and support to police in maintaining law and order in the country. SGA recently won a top award in Mining Local Content Performance in 2021 amongst other accolades, including commendation from police for adhering to high standards. SGA is the only ISO 18788 certified company in Tanzania.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan

Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Management and staff of Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), we join all Tanzanians in congratulating the President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan for marking remarkable one year of presidency with great success in the Investment Promotion and Facilitation.

Certainly, you have done a lot in the past one year and we have seen the fruits of it. Congratulations H.E. President; TIC is committed to champion the Investment Agenda for the growth of our Nation.

Tanzania Investment Center (TIC)

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Tigo device manager Mkumbo Myonga (L) and Samsung Tanzania resident manager Suleiman Mohamed show journalists a newly introduced smartphone of the Samsung S22 model shortly after launching it in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Chairman urges all councils to implement land planning and surveying programme

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

PARLIAMENTARY Committee of Land, Natural Resources and Tourism chairman, Ally Makoa has called on all councils in the country to emulate the efforts to implement the programme of land planning and surveying made by Ilemela Municipal Council in Mwanza Region.

Ilemela Council is implementing the project following a loan provided by the government through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Development to enable councils in the country to plan, measure and own land with the aim of adding value, revenue and avoiding arbitrary settlements.

Makoa said his committee has seen and is largely satisfied with the way they have planned, surveyed and owning land as implemented by Ilemela Council. "If this plan is implemented across the country as Ilemela MC did, it will be a great achievement for national development," he said.

Makoa, who is a Kondo MP also said: "If the whole country succeeds in having such a project we will surely have done justice to the current government led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan."

Special Seats MP, Asia Halamga congratulated the implementation of the project, but noted that the project is a lesson for officials in the councils across the country.

She also noted that the land officers in the municipality are doing a good job of involving the people in executing the project, who have shown understanding on the matter, citing people of Singida as successful ones as they have clarified to members of the committee on the best use of land after participating in the survey exercise.

Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister Dr Angeline Mabula said civil servants including teachers and nurses who joined the groups had already been provided with plots of low-cost plots, adding that the response of the staff had already given huge revenue to Ilemela Council.

Dr Mabula said, employees who were late to join the scheme will not benefit from the original price as the value of the land rises differently from the previous one where teachers benefited by getting a plot of 1.6m / - and made it clear that those who will now join the plots can reach more than two million.

According to Dr. Mabula, the staff groups started out as about 500 teachers mixed with nurses who have already been awarded certificates and building permits at the same cost and are now reaching out to persuade bodaboda groups to join the programme.

The Land, Natural Resources and Tourism Committee is on a working visit to visit various programmes implemented by the Ministry and has already made a similar visit to Singida Region when it visited and inspected the land use planning project in Ntondo and Nkwea villages, which are also reviewed by the oil pipeline project.

According to Dr. Mabula, the staff groups started out as about 500 teachers mixed with nurses who have already been awarded certificates and building permits at the same cost and are now reaching out to persuade bodaboda groups to join the programme



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
ZANZIBAR PETROLEUM REGULATORY AUTHORITY-ZPRA



Congratulations

Board of Directors, Managing Director and other staff of ZANZIBAR PETROLEUM REGULATORY AUTHORITY-ZPRA congratulate the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, on her completion of ONE successful year in office.

We wish her good health, prosperity and the very best as you continue to lead the nation.

KAZI IENDELEE...

Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Email: info@zpra.go.tz Tell: + 255 24 22 31876/ 4 Maisara, Zanzibar

WIMA announces awards for year 2022 to honour inspiring women leaders in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN In Management (WIMA) has announced the Women In Management Awards for 2022 marking the third year of honouring inspiring senior women leaders in Africa.

The move marks the third year in a row that the awards have been hosted by the organisation, which recognises and celebrates women who have excelled in their careers, businesses, and everyday lives while inspiring others.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, Naïke Mushi, founder and CEO of Women In Management Africa (WIMA), stated: "We saw a huge gap in Senior Level Women applying for Senior Level roles and even low placement rates for Senior Women. While both genders look for jobs in the same way, they apply for them in different ways. According to research, women believe they must meet 100 percent of the criteria in order to apply for jobs, whereas men typically apply after meeting about 60 percent."

"To combat this, we created the Women in Management initiative to promote and increase visibility of Senior-Level Women in Management. The concept of highlighting 50 Senior Women in Management on our Social Media Pages "Career Women Wednesday" arose. This generated a lot of buzz and traction by inspiring emerging leaders and demonstrating to them that it is possible for them to advance in their careers, particularly for female professionals and to date we have a total of xxx Alumni's listed under the Top 50 Women in Management initiative."

The Women In Management Awards were created to recognise outstanding women in various fields and the organisations that support them. The annual awards recognise and applaud outstanding leadership, inspiration, vision and innovation, in organizations that

contribute to women's economic advancement. Covering all major economic sectors and awarding business at all levels, from SME- to national. Women in Management Africa awards aimed to create a large database of highly qualified female professionals from a variety of industries to serve as board members and C-Level executives in the private sector.

These awards also assist career women in developing leadership capacity, increasing their visibility and representation in the marketplace, and providing data and research services to investors, regulators and other institutions interested in gender diversity", Naïke explained.

"UNDP is delighted to support the 2022 WIMA Awards. UNDP is committed to making gender equality, a basic human right and a necessity for a sustainable world, a reality," commented Christine Musisi, UNDP Resident Representative.

"Women's empowerment and gender equality are vital. To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which envisions a world "of universal respect for human rights and human dignity" in which "every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed. Ms. Musisi further added, "As we celebrate these women, we believe their voices will give a big push for other women to have a voice, stand up to what they believe in and not be afraid to soar higher no matter the barriers they face every day."

Executive Director of the European Business Group in Tanzania, Cikay Richards, stated: "Women In Management Africa initiative opened many closed doors for women as well as corporates to find best talents and it has delivered profitable results to the country's economy. "We believe recogniz-

ing women who have excelled in their chosen fields leaves a legacy that inspires others. These awards challenge traditional views of women's roles as business leaders and encourage companies to take action to create more gender equal workplaces, and it is for this reason that we have chosen to join hands and support the Women In Management initiative."

The 2022 WIMA awards ceremony will be held on March 26,

2022. The heartfelt gratitude goes to our supporters European Business Group, UNDP, National Bank of Commerce and CV People Tanzania for their contributions to this initiative, there's no doubt WIMA will continue to be the Pan African most prestigious awards and most reputable recognition of senior Corporate female leaders across the African continent.



Biko Tanzania "ambassador" Kajala Masanja (L) hands over 10m/- to Nuru Mikikadi (C), a winner in the grand draw of the firm's raffle lottery held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Right is CRDB Bank Plc's Premier Palm Beach Branch public relations manager, Flamiana Msilu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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Bank donates desks to schools in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

EXIM Bank Tanzania has donated 100 desks worth 20 million in Mbeya region as a continuation of the bank's commitment to provide 1000 desks in various regions aiming to support the provision of quality education in the country through its CSR programme known as Exim Cares.

The desks were handed over by Exim Bank's Head of Marketing and Communications Stanley Kafu to Mbeya Regional Commissioner Juma Zuberi Homera during a brief handover ceremony held at the Regional Commissioner's office earlier today. The event was also attended by other senior leaders of the Region including Angelina Lutambi.

Speaking immediately after receiving the aid, Homera thanked Exim Bank for the assistance, saying it was in line with the government's efforts to improve the quality of education in the region and that the move would further help reduce the need for desks resulting from ongoing classroom construction projects in the region.

"The support will help combat the challenge of shortage of desks in some of our schools... we are very grateful to Exim Bank for this support and we ask you to continue supporting us in other areas as well including the health sector.

Madam President is struggling to raise funds for major ongoing projects in the country so it is encouraging for her to see other stakeholders including banks continue to support her" he said.

Speaking at the event, Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary Angelina Lutambi mentioned that some of the schools that will benefit from the support are Mwenge Primary School and Jitegeme Primary School located in the city but facing a severe shortage of desks.

For his part, Kafu said that the bank is committed to helping improve social welfare including education and that they are deeply touched by the reported shortage of desks among schools in some parts of the country.

It is a pleasure for us to be a part of solving challenges in such an important sector. This is just a continuation of what we have been doing in other regions as the aim is to donate a total of 1000 desks in a number of regions as we promised the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa when we launched this initiative in Mtwara Region late last year," said Kafu while mentioning other regions that have already benefited from the initiative as Mtwara and Mwanza.

He also advised students and teachers who will benefit from the support to take care of the desks so that they can be used for a long time and thus help more beneficiaries.



Rotary e-Club of Masaki president Akshay Vithlani (R) with Sharik Choughule (2nd R), councillor for Dar es Salaam's Kivukoni ward, with other members of the club grace the presentation of 372 pairs of shoes to pupils of the city's Bunge Primary School yesterday. The school's head teacher, Leonida Mulekuzi, also attended the event. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Stakeholders resolve to spur productivity in farming, fisheries and livestock sectors

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A Two-day meeting that drew 170 delegates from the public, private sectors and non-governmental agencies that discussed ways of making Morogoro Region a food basket, ended here with touching resolutions that seek to stimulate productivity in farming, livestock and fisheries sectors.

The meeting was jointly organised by regional government and the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT).

To achieve good goals for raising productivity and create employment in this region and countrywide it is

inevitable to review, for the better, policies, laws and regulations that are a barrier to agro-industrialization and growth, says one resolution and while another called for strong cooperation between government and non-state actors to build physical infrastructure, empower smallholders and generate employment for young people and women.

In response, Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigela promised that the government shall do all in its power to implement the resolutions and called on other parties to play their part to increase the amount of agricultural products and pull farmers from pov-

erty.

"These are our resolutions. Every stakeholder should implement what we have agreed on in order to increase the pace, amount and quality of products in the three sectors. These resolutions are likely to bring about big reforms in agriculture, livestock and fisheries in our region because we are endowed with good land and climate," the RC said, calling on district commissioners to cooperate with stakeholders in implementing the resolutions. The government will build requisite physical infrastructure, he pledged.

SAGCOT said while coordinating

the efforts in implementing the resolutions, the agency will simultaneously enter into agreement with the private sector and other non-state actors to implement initiatives that will ensure commercial farming takes off in the region and ensure the region's resources and environment are strictly protected. The private sector was tasked to create jobs for youths and women.

SAGCOT's Kilombero cluster manager, John Nakei, said the meeting and its resolutions sought to increase co-operation between the government, the private sector and non-governmental organisations in order to in-

crease agricultural production in the region.

"The thrust is to help smallholder farmers engage in modern farming, paying great attention to preservation and protection of environment," he said.

The Public Relations Manager of Kilombero Sugar Company, Ephraim Mafuru, welcomed the resolutions saying they aim to make smallholder farmers a good producer of quality products for local industries and have a guaranteed market.

"I think SAGCOT has done a good thing in initiating this meeting. SAGCOT wants to see our small farmers

produce quality products for industries and get good prices. To us SAGCOT is doing a good job for us," he said.

In the two days of deliberations, delegates explained the bottlenecks in existing policies, laws and regulations that work against the national thrust for agro-industrialisation and efforts to pull small producers out of poverty.

Morogoro Region is well-placed to feed Tanzania's strategic cities of Dar es Salaam and Dodoma and provide the urbanites with quality dairy, beef and fisheries products at affordable prices.



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SATURDAY 19 MARCH 2022

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

International Day of Mathematics is a push for clarity in all decisions

TACHERS of the maths subject in Tanzania have traditionally had a thought for the International Day of Mathematics, habitually marked as 'Pi Day', in the romantic affinity with the formula of the relationship between half diameter and circumference in round bodies. This is something that captivated scientific imagination in the West down the centuries from antiquity to modernity, hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus. Later there were other formulas like that of Albert Einstein underlining the modern age.

A chronicler with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) says that greater global awareness of mathematical sciences is vital to addressing challenges in areas such as artificial intelligence, climate change, energy and sustainable development. Improving the quality of life in general, UNESCO in its 40th general conference in November 2019 proclaimed each 14th of March as International Day of Mathematics. It evicts Pi day, an iconic mathematical constant given as 3.14, justly.

UNESCO says the International Day of Mathematics aims to showcase the fundamental role played by the mathematical sciences in the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also links the day with reinforcing African development and gender equality themes, it says, underlining that the day "invites us to celebrate the joy to be found in mathematics as well as the plethora of vocations it offers to girls and boys, through festive and diverse activities taking place around the world." It is

quite true but it understates the value of the pointed mathematical vectors of 3.14 or $e=mc^2$.

One area where mathematical imagination is helpful is to figure out why Asia as a whole and especially the Far East has developed fast during the past half century, while at independence we were at par, and in some respects Africa had a better economic outlook than South Asia in particular. There are plenty of explanations given by economists since 'structural adjustment' started in 1981 but fall short of a formula that captures the matter in its generality and particularity. That is where mathematical formulas matter.

But one doesn't arrive at a mathematical formula just like that without having identified what is to be measured, and that once this 'diameter' is measured, the rest can be understood. So, what is the 'diameter' and 'circumference' in Africa's poverty - and can 3.14 help anything? Put differently, can Asia's rapid growth be expressed in a simple formula like pi, that when this is set right things become more dynamic? We are taking minute measures each passing day that sorts out the 'diameter' for development in Africa.

Local researchers inviting experts from South Korea in a 2013 REPOA research conference focused on education and building of skills, and now we hear of digital economy and even 'blue economy.' Looking at South Korea and the coastal part of China, we find that peasants entered into long term land lease contracts with global firms led by Chinese nationals abroad, with dual nationality. The rest is history, the 'multiplier effect' as they say.

World Water Day: Global environmental pollution and control measures necessary

WORLD Water Day is an annual United Nations (UN) observance day held on 22 March that highlights the importance of fresh water. The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The theme of each day focuses on topics relevant to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), which is in line with the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6. The UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) is released each year around World Water Day.

UN-Water is the convener for World Water Day and selects the theme for each year in consultation with UN organisations that share an interest in that year's focus. The theme for 2021 was "Valuing Water" and the public campaign invited people to join a global conversation on social media to "tell us your stories, thoughts and feelings about water".

In 2020, the theme was "Water and Climate Change". Previous themes for the years 2016 to 2019 were "Water and Jobs", "Why waste water?" "Nature for Water", and "Leaving no one behind". World Water Day is celebrated around the world with a variety of events. These can be theatrical, musical or lobbying in nature. The day can also include campaigns to raise money for water projects. The first World Water Day, designated by the United Nations, was in 1993.

The intention is to inspire people around the world to learn more about water-related issues and to take action to make a difference. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an additional focus on hand washing and hygiene. Relevant issues include water scarcity, water pollution, inadequate water supply, lack of sanitation, and the impacts of climate

change (which is the theme of World Water Day 2020). The day brings to light the inequality of access to WASH services and the need to assure the human right to water and sanitation.

The World Water Day website announces events, activities and volunteer opportunities. In 2020, featured stories are about adapting to the water effects climate change and using water more efficiently.

UN-Water coordinates activities with UN member organisations who share an interest in that year's theme. UN-Water mobilizes organizations of all kinds to action, whether globally or locally.

Non-governmental organisations active in the WASH sector, such as UNICEF, WaterAid and Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), use the day to raise public awareness, get media attention for water issues and inspire action.[13] Activities have included releasing publications and films, as well as organising round tables, seminars and expositions.

End Water Poverty, a global civil society coalition with 250 partner organisations, sponsors Water Action Month each year and offers an event-planning guidebook.

The UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) is released each year on World Water Day. Information related to the annual theme gives decision-makers tools to implement sustainable use of water resources.

More and more initiatives in schools and universities are educating people about the importance of conserving and managing water resources. For example, Michigan State University held a contest for "best World Water Day poster" in 2017. Primary school children in the Philippines participated in a "My School Toilet" contest in 2010.

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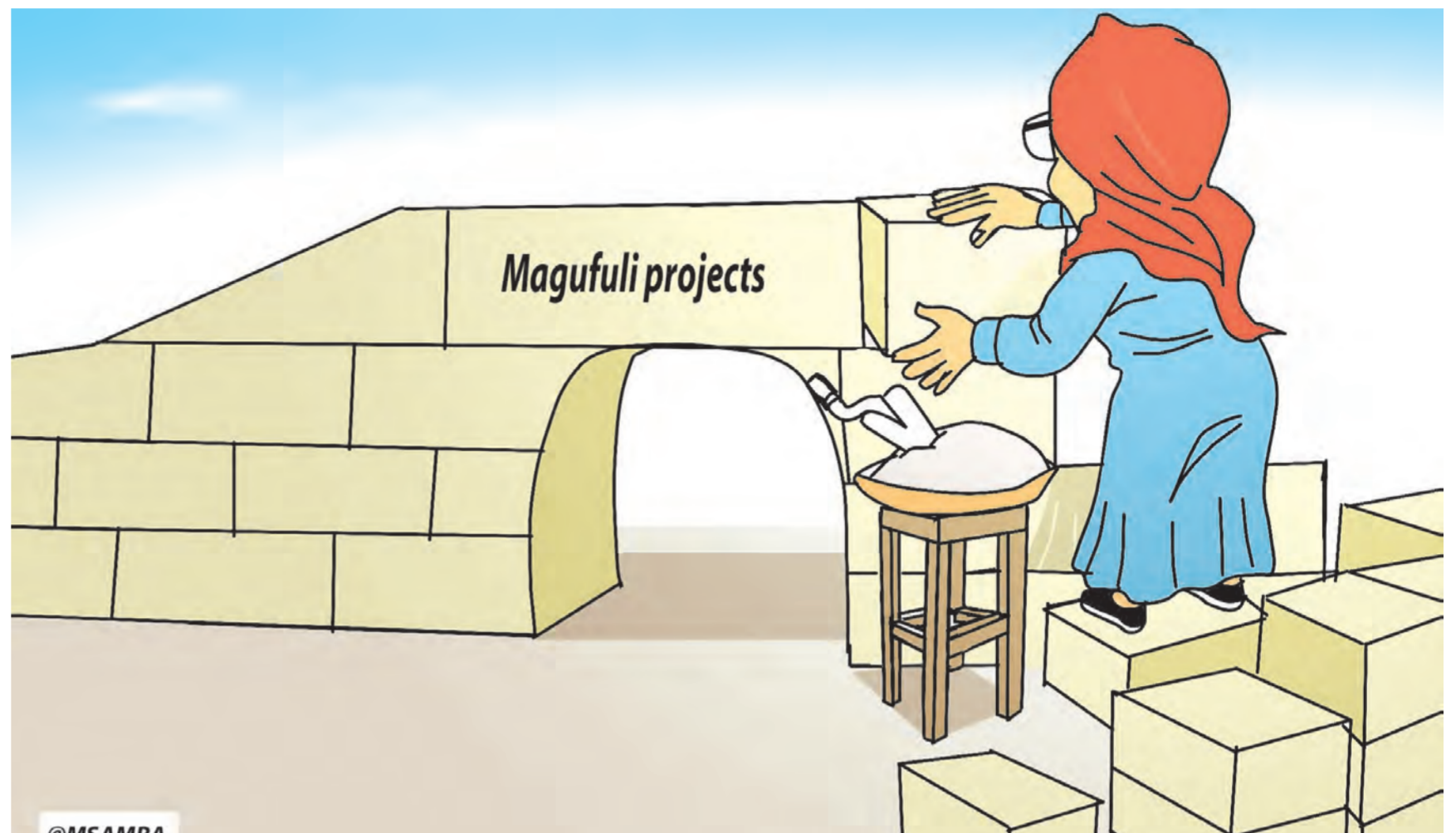
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Compulsory vaccination of civil servants justified

By Special Correspondent

COVID-19 is a long way from being beaten and will be with us for some time to come. As a result, we all need to work around this, learn to cope and figure out what can be done to maintain a normal economy and normal services without filling hospitals and seeing more people die.

At the same time, the measures besides keeping the economy functional should be part of the effort to beat back COVID-19, Zimbabwe joining the rest of the world in doing its share to end the pandemic.

It only needs one hold-out country and it can flame up again easily, probably with new variants.

The Zimbabwean Government has been determined to accept the findings of reputable scientific consensus from the very beginning, both from its own medical experts and from the World Health Organisation, and has wanted our own experts to be continually updating their knowledge and be in constant contact with the global scientific community, so the advice they offer is the best available.

But the Government has to also deal with practicalities that people need to earn a living, need to go to school, need to travel, need to buy food and other supplies and need to deal with State institutions and Government officials almost daily.

So it allowed almost all the productive sectors of the economy to go back to business fairly early, although not business as usual. The agricultural, mining and industrial sectors have little direct contact with the general public, so they were required to enforce basic health measures like masking, social distancing and decent hygiene on farms and in mines and factories.

The commercial sector had to ensure the same within the working environment, and because they exist for the shoppers to go further and ensure that their customers observed the same requirements and were temperature checked and sanitised as they came in, wore their mask the whole time they were in the shop, and did not crowd each other.

Many shopkeepers also put in screens for till operators and others with a lot of customer contact to protect their own staff.

The same measures have governed the Government's relations with the public. The State and the Government are there to provide services that are their reason to exist.

But at the same time they need to protect their own staff, and need to protect the people whom their staff deals with. The Government enforced the same measures it had laid out for the private sectors, but went a little further, both to ensure the lowest possible risk and set an example to others.

Where possible numbers were limited to ensure decent social distancing. This saw those offices that could function on lower staff, at least for a short while, doing this and places like the courts minimising the numbers that could be admitted to watch the court proceedings.



These were short term solutions, since people are hired to do certain duties and a department cannot be below maximum efficiency for very long, without intolerable delays and a totally unacceptable standard of service.

So other measures are needed. The other area where the Government took the lead was with vaccination. The total scientific consensus around the world is that vaccination is the only permanent solution to Covid-19.

Vaccines are not yet perfect and have to be used with other measures, but they do limit the risk sharply against infection and do in almost all cases where there is infection limit the severity of the symptoms, as the body has a flying start in using its natural defences.

This is why our Government, and every other government on the planet, has been encouraging people to get vaccinated and while all governments, including ours, have been scraping up the extra money needed to buy and distribute vaccines.

It is such an obvious measure, and one with the backing of the entire reputable scientific and public health community.

While it is surprising that some people hang back and do not get vaccinated, and this is fed by ignorance and by some social media platforms with political and other agendas, it is a fact.

More and more governments have moved towards compulsory vaccinations of those they employ, their own civil servants and others

in the State system that provide public services.

And this has been backed up by suspension and disciplinary action when a State worker does not accept vaccination orders.

Zimbabwe is not doing anything that other countries have not already done when the Public Service Commission at the end of last week gave out the order that all unvaccinated civil servants now have to be sent home on suspension without pay with disciplinary action initiated.

The instruction was given many months ago to ensure everyone had time and access to vaccines.

While some argue that medical decisions should rest with the individual, it is accepted everywhere, including in the Zimbabwean constitution, that this can be overridden by the need to protect the public as a whole.

An infectious disease can only be fought by everyone having to follow the rules, rather than by people choosing whether they kill or not kill other people.

With civil servants there is an additional requirement, not just creating a safe working environment. We all have to deal with officials at some stage, even if we are not keen on being summonsed to court or paying taxes or standing in line for a permit of some kind or even going to school.

We are entitled to do these sometimes unpleasant face-to-face meetings in maximum safety, and we all rather like the fact that the person we have to deal with is vac-

inated. Several countries have now gone further and insisted that groups in the private sector must also be vaccinated.

Zimbabwe so far demands that only those in the hospitality industry, and their customers, are fully vaccinated but the time has now come when we need to consider others.

Some companies have already made it clear that they want their staff vaccinated or tested regularly, to ensure the safety of the people they work with and the customers they serve.

While there have been objections none has prevailed, but there are many employers who would welcome a public health regulation that they are entitled to demand vaccination.

The one exception the Public Service Commission made was to allow those certified by a reputable licensed doctor that vaccination could make a health condition worse to be exempted.

This is very rare since most doctors want most patients with pre-existing conditions vaccinated as quickly as possible to minimise the danger from other conditions.

We have now accepted we need to live with Covid-19 and manage the risks. Compulsory vaccination plus the other measures do indeed allow us to do this, but only if we all follow the best measures; any exceptions do not only impact on the hold-outs, but everyone they have to deal with.

THE LAW & YOU

Judging Russian invasion of Ukraine in light of international law

By Telesphor Magobe

IF we look at the plight of multitudes of Ukrainians fleeing their home country, we cannot say with clear and honest conscience that what is happening in Ukraine is simply a "special military operation" as claimed by Russian authorities.

Neither can we say that repeated missile attacks in the towns and cities of Ukraine are in conformity with the United Nations (UN) Charter. They are not. We may use political excuses not to condemn the appalling situation in the country, but international law is very clear on what ought to be done and not to be done with regard to international relations.

If we remain undecided, then we are not honest with ourselves and with those suffering the consequences of repeated missile attacks in beleaguered towns and cities from February 24 to date, which has so far taken four weeks. Both Russia and Ukraine, being member states of the UN Charter, are bound by the UN Charter in their international relations and dispute settlement so that they may together live in peaceful coexistence.

Article 2(4) of the UN Charter states: "All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations." Invading another country the way Russia has done in Ukraine is clearly a violation of Article 2(4) of the UN Charter.

All member states of the UN Charter are obliged to conduct their affairs in conformity



with the principles of justice and international law. Various international law pieces of literature define international law as "the body of legal rules governing interaction between sovereign states (public international law) and the rights and duties of the citizens of sovereign states towards the citizens of other sovereign states (private international law)."

The extent of fatalities, casualties and the awful destruction of infrastructure and buildings, including civilian homes, and the fleeing of multitudes of citizens to seek refuge in other countries can hardly be equated with the so-called "special military operation".

If this finds justification, then we are

living in a world in which some world leaders successfully attempt to capture the moral high ground, but deep down in their hearts they have weak moral fibre.

Describing the despicable situation in Ukraine, Pope Francis last Sunday said "there is no military operation [there], but a war which sows death, destruction, and misery." During his address, he commended journalists for providing information on what was happening in Ukraine amidst risking their lives, stressing that "your service allows us to be close to the tragedy of that population and enables us to assess the cruelty of a war."

According to Catholic News Agency

(CNA), which covered Pope Francis' Angelus address on Sunday, a law passed by the Russian Parliament "threatens those who spread 'fake news' with 15 years in prison, including those who speak of 'war' or 'aggression against Ukraine' and not of a special military operation."

It sounds criminal and immoral too to claim there is nothing bad done to the people of Ukraine and that the special military operation does not target civilians. We have seen on TV screens some damaged civilian buildings in Ukraine and some civilians, including older persons and children, being rescued from blasted buildings and others have lost their lives as reported by various media outlets.

Civilians (the civilian population and civilian objects) are protected under international humanitarian law and must not be subject to military targets during armed conflict. Only those involved in hostilities may be targeted. Certain categories of people protected include women, children, journalists, medical and religious personnel and nationals of neutral states.

Yet, on March 14, 2022, the UN Human Rights Office said 636 civilians had been killed since the Russian invasion in Ukraine, but it had the view that the number could be higher than that. Some churches and mosques, and even hospitals, have also been blasted.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that more than 3 million refugees have fled Ukraine by March 14 to other countries and Poland by far hosts the largest number of refugees. If the deadly blasts are not stopped the number of fatalities, casualties and refugees will increase. Other refugee host countries include the United Kingdom, Romania, Moldova, Hungary and Slovakia.

According to CNN, President Vladimir Putin claims that Ukraine is part of Russia culturally, politically and linguistically. Other sources have it that Putin's key demands before the invasion were to block Ukraine from joining NATO, whose members comprise 28 European countries and two North American countries, and assure Russia security guarantees.

Russia and Ukraine have been engaging in peace talks, but consensus has not been easy to reach. As of March 16, no consensus had been reached. While Ukrainian President Volody-

myr Zelenskiy was quoted by the media as saying "the talks are becoming more realistic", Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said "there was some hope for compromise" as Russia was pushing for the neutral status of Ukraine, a "major Russian demand".

Peace talks focus on Ukraine to acquire a neutral status similar to that of Austria or Sweden, members of the European Union that are outside the NATO military alliance, according to Reuters. Now the disturbing question is, if this is possible and if both parties agree that Ukraine acquires a neutral status - that is, if it decides to be outside the NATO military alliance - couldn't it be reached without causing all that trouble to Ukrainians?

But even if there were no war in the world, which is not possible, the mere fact that there is accumulation of weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear and chemical weapons, including biological ones, is indicative of spiralling tension and conflict, which puts all of us in a rather uncertain and precarious situation.

Frequent testing of ballistic missiles in some countries arouses in others a spirit of militarism and spending on armament. This is simply a way to destruction and not to development because it clearly shows how monstrous we are to one another.

Today's proverb: "He goes long barefoot, he who waits for a dead person's shoes."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tma-gobe@gmail.com

China's sound governance has strong democratic foundations

By He Yin

THE annual "two sessions" of China's national legislature and top political advisory body offer the world an important opportunity to gain a better understanding of the essence and practice of Chinese democracy.

During this year's "two sessions", namely the fifth session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) and the fifth session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), NPC deputies and CPPCC members actively performed their duties and turned people's voices and ideas into general consensus on state governance.

The annual meetings have showed the international community how China's democracy is an extensive and true democracy that works and China's sound governance has strong democratic foundations.

Democracy starts with the full expression of the people's wishes. The Chinese government has solicited public opinions and suggestions via multiple channels for drafting the 2022 Government Work Report, and received thousands of opinions and suggestions from all walks of life. More than 1,100 pieces of representative suggestions from netizens were selected, and some key advice has been taken by the report.

Chinese netizens actively participated in the suggestion solicitation campaign called "share your ideas at the 'two Sessions'", which enabled different kinds of suggestions from the people to be directly fed to NPC deputies and CPPCC members before and during this year's "two sessions".

Through the "two sessions", the world sees clearly that the Chinese people are showing greater interest in democratic participation, which is expanding in scope and depth and diversifying its forms and channels.

Democracy can only be truly implemented through the fulfillment of the people's wishes. Last year, offices and departments under the State Council handled 8,666 pieces of suggestions submitted by NPC deputies and 5,718 proposals submitted by CPPCC members during the 2021 "two sessions", which accounted for 96.4 percent and 93.4 percent of the total numbers of motions and proposals, respectively, announced the State Council Information Office (SCIO) right before this year's "two sessions".

All the suggestions and proposals submitted by national lawmakers and political advisors during the "two sessions" last year have been handled on schedule, according to the SCIO.

After careful consideration of the suggestions from NPC deputies and CPPCC members, relevant departments adopted more than 4,300 pieces of advice and subsequently introduced over 1,600 policies and measures.

The detailed data has fully proven that China has ensured that its people have channels to express their aspirations, wishes and demands on issues ranging from important national strategies and policies to social governance and basic necessities of life, enabling their voices to be heard and their requests to be answered.

Discussions on the effectiveness of democracy have been mounting in the international community.

People are well aware that in some countries,



The closing meeting of the fifth session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, March 10, 2022. (Photo by Lei Sheng/People's Daily)

practice of democracy has increasingly become empty promise—the people are only called upon to vote and then are forgotten once they have cast their votes; the people only hear high-sounding promises during an election campaign but have no say whatsoever afterwards; and they are wooed when their votes are wanted but are ignored once the election is over.

China always holds the belief that democracy is not a decorative ornament, but an instrument for addressing the issues that concern the people. A democracy that only provides people with channels to express their wishes but not ways to fulfill them is not a true democracy.

In China, the people's status as masters of the coun-

try is the essence of people's democracy. The country's whole-process people's democracy ensures that the people's voices are heard and their wishes are represented in every aspect of China's political and social life.

China's democracy is a true democracy that works. It ensures that the people's demands can be freely expressed and effectively fulfilled and that the Chinese people are both the builders and beneficiaries of democracy.

In recent years, China has achieved major strategic achievements in the fight against COVID-19, historically eliminated absolute poverty, and built a moderately prosperous society in all respects and resolved a series of major risks. The country has embarked on

a new journey to fully build a modern socialist country and is marching toward the goal of common prosperity.

These achievements couldn't have been made without the efforts of the Chinese people empowered by the Chinese democracy.

China's tremendous achievements in development have proved that its whole-process people's democracy is reasonable and effective, and has promoted the development and progress of the country and stimulated the creativity of the people, pointed out famous Egyptian jurist Shuki Said.

High-quality democracy in China has improved the system, capacity and efficiency of national governance.

China's whole-process people's democracy, created and developed in line with the country's national conditions, contributes a new model to the international political spectrum. It's believed that Chinese democracy will surely show stronger vitality and make greater contributions to the progress of human civilization.

NSSF reports flourishing under President Samia

By A Correspondent

THE National Social Security Fund (NSSF) has said it has increased its membership size by 19 per cent during the one year of Samia Suluhu Hassan's presidency.

The Fund has registered 185,288 new members in the year compared to 155,192 enrolled in the one-year ended February 2021.

NSSF Director General Masha Mshomba has said most new members came from the private sector and the remaining from the informal sector, pushed up by technology and public awareness of pension payments.

He elaborated: "This success is due to measures taken by the Fund to strengthen its system that integrates employers and members through Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

"Also, the success was the outcome of providing public awareness on social security, the positive response of employers and the cooperation of various government institutions."

Mshomba the year has seen NSSF achieve great success including ably managing social security activities by expanding its reach to the private and informal sectors through education and sensitisation on the importance of pension for their present and future lives.

Another factor that contributed to increasing membership size was the review of the Voluntary Contribution Scheme to attract new members from various informal sector groups especially, farmers, fishermen, pastoralists, women, motorcycle taxi riders (bodaboda) and Bajaj operators.

"The aim of this review is to increase the membership size and to have benefits that meet the needs of those groups," Mshomba said.

Commenting on contributions, he said the Fund has increased its collection capacity where over the past one year they have collected 1.13tr/- equivalent to a five percent increase of 1.07 tr/- which had collected over the one year ending February last year.

As of February 28 this year, the value of the Fund increased by 10 per cent to reach 5.6tr/- compared to 4.9tr/- realized by February last year.

Mshomba said despite the impacts of Covid-19 member's contribution increased by 54.1bn/- due to a number of steps taken to improve employers' audit systems through ICT as well as collection and contributions remittance through the Government e-Payment Gateway (GePG).

"These measures have made it easier for employers and members to submit their contributions and enable the Fund to increase the collection by 5 per cent," he noted.

The DG said NSSF paid various benefits to members and other beneficiaries worth 579.2bn/- equivalent to an increase of 19 per cent compared to 488.3bn/- paid in the year ended February 2021.

He added that during the one-year term of the sixth phase government, the Fund's revenue from various sources of investment was 228.9bn/- equivalent to an increase of 48 per cent compared to 154.6bn/- collected in the one year ended February 2021.

"Success in this area has been largely attributed to the steps taken by the Fund to prioritize investment in safer and more profitable areas such as Treasury Bills as well as strengthening revenue collection and control systems for revenue loss," he said.



HE. Samia Suluhu Hassan



MASHA J. MSHOMBA - DIRECTOR GENERAL, NSSF

Mshomba said over the past one year, the Fund has made various improvements to ICT systems that have helped to facilitate access to customer service. Some of the improvements have been made is the introduction of the Employer Portal system,

the Member Portal system and the Inspector Portal system.

"These systems have enabled employers, members and Fund auditing officers to carry out their duties without having to visit the employers' offices or NSSF offices," he said.

However, he said that in order to improve services for members, the Fund has evaluated the expansion of its services in the Dar es Salaam Region due to customer congestion in some of the regional offices where two new Ubungu and Kigamboni offices have been established.

He urged public institutions to create a conducive environment for investment, noting that NSSF granted general amnesty to private sector that is employers with outstanding arrears of contributions and penalty to alleviate the burden and the inconvenience to citizens, especially NSSF members, so that they can receive their benefits on time for retirement or other cause of leaving employment.

The general amnesty which started on 1 October to 30 November, 2021 privileged to the private sector employers who paid their outstanding arrears of contribution benefited by 100 per cent.

For employers who paid outstanding arrears from 1 to 31 December, 2021 benefited by 75 per cent and those who paid their outstanding arrears in the month of January 2022 benefited by 50 per cent. The DG said during President Samia's one year in office, the Fund has successfully resolved disputes between itself and contractors who were implementing housing projects in Mtoni Kijichi, Dunga and Toangoma in Dar es Salaam.

Out of the 15 contractors who had not completed their projects in 2018 when they were suspended, ten projects are expected to be completed by December 2022.

"The completion of these projects will increase 1,426 houses in the housing market in Dar es Salaam which will reduce the housing shortage by taking in over 8,500 residents," said Mshomba.

During the one-year, NSSF implemented the Mzizima hotel projects in Dar es Salaam and the Mwanza tourist hotel which is expected to be completed by December 2022.

According to the Fund's (actuarial valuation) assessment conducted in 2021, the Fund is stable and sustainable for the next 40 years.

The measure guarantees security to members on their benefits and the assurance of receiving benefits for beneficiaries including retirees who receive a monthly pension.

The Board of Trustees and NSSF staff have congratulated President Samia for stimulating performance within the Fund and thus achieve great success in the one year since she came to the power.

The DG has assured NSSF members the best possible services based on the strategies devised for the private and informal sector so that more citizens can enjoy social security benefits.

NSSF was established under the NSSF Act of 2018 with the aim of providing social security services to employees in the private and informal sectors.

It performs four core functions: enrolling members from the private and informal sectors, collecting contributions, investing and benefits payment.

According to the law, the NSSF members required to be registered are those from the private sector, foreign nationals working in Tanzania, employees of international institutions operating in the country and self-employed in the informal sectors.



Some of the NSSF houses as part of its investment

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Drought upsets harmony between people, wildlife in northern Tanzania

By Francis Kajubi, Kiteto

MARIA Lucas, a 30-year-old resident of Makame village in Manyara Region, holds up a glass of yellowish water and issues a challenge. "We have been sharing water from ponds with wild animals and livestock," she says. "Can you people from the cities drink this kind of water?"

The surrounding Makame Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was set up to conserve and sustainably use local wildlife while improving lives in Makame and other nearby villages.

Controlled hunting by fee-paying tourists provides revenue to the local government and communities. But, as Maria explains, drought increasingly threatens the people, their livestock and the wildlife they live with. Conflict over water resources is rising.

The problem is not confined to Makame. An investigation by The Guardian reveals that nearly all of Tanzania's 22 WMAs lack permanent water sources to serve for dry seasons.

There are concerns that wildlife in these areas will struggle to survive future prolonged droughts unless tourism investors, the government and local communities jointly set up water supply infrastructure. As the climate changes, increasing drought threats, people are calling for urgent action to enable communities and wildlife to adapt.

Wildlife and communities

Under Tanzania's Wildlife Conservation Act No 5 of 2009, villagers can set aside some of their land as a WMA for the sustainable conservation and utilization of wildlife resources. The Wildlife Conservation (Wildlife Management Areas) Regulations, 2017, and its 2019 minor amendments, outline roles and responsibilities.

Villagers must manage their WMAs through 'authorized associations' formed by village councils. These associations can enter into agreements with private investors regarding the management of parts of their WMA, with revenues contributing to conservation and socio-economic development.

District Councils monitor enforcement of wildlife laws, participate in the process of negotiation of agreements between the authorized associations and investors, and monitor investment in the WMAs.

The Makame WMA began this journey in 2003 but did not start operating until 2012, when it received its user rights. The area comprises 331,171 acres of open woodland and shrubland. It is home to diverse species of mammals from elephants, buffaloes and antelopes, to pangolins, leopards and wild dogs.

The abundant wildlife is a source of revenue, thanks to the high fees tourist hunters are willing to pay.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania earns about 20 billion/- a year from tourism hunting in areas under the custody of the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority. In 2014, after conducting the necessary surveys, the Makame WMA decided to gain a share of these revenues by creating three tourism hunting blocks. Two of these have now been leased to companies called Sunset Tarangire Limited and PH Asma that operate hunting safaris.

The WMA is managed by the Indema Authorized Association, whose name is an abbreviation of its three founder villages: Irkuishbor, Ndedo and Makame. Its ten members represent the five villages that now participate in the WMA.

They act to ensure that the WMA is helping to address the priorities of the communities by, for example, improving health, education, economic empowerment and infrastructure.

Makame WMA Manager, Supuk Olekao, says that 80 percent of the money it collects from tourism hunting is dedicated to social issues in the five beneficiary vil-



lages. The remaining 20 percent pays for the WMAs operational costs.

Olekao says the revenues have so far enabled at least 600 individuals to benefit from the Community Health Insurance Fund and, as of 2020, had supported 80 students to complete higher education.

"Between 2014 and 2019, the five villages earned 225 million/- [per year on average] from Makame WMA," says Olekao. "In 2020/21 they earned 334 million. With this amount, at least 60 students are currently being facilitated to pursue their studies in different colleges and universities."

Revenues rose sharply last year because the two hunting blocks received more hunters of diverse wild animal species than before, says Olekao. This included uncommon antelope species, such as gerenuk, lesser kudu and oryx, which cost hunters between US\$3,000 and US\$3,500 per individual killed.

Drought strikes

When drought struck in 2021, local people and wildlife suffered. Rain stopped in early April, but according to the Tanzania Meteorological Authority the drought did not officially begin until October.

This was followed by the warmest and driest November since 1970. December was third warmest on record and, overall, 2021 emerged as the fourth driest year recorded since 1970. For women like Maria Lucas, the lack of water became a daily struggle.

"We women were forced to walk at least 40 kilometres to other villages [and back] in search of water for household needs and for providing calves and weak or sick livestock water to drink," she says. "Drought really affected women's health due to walking long distances."

Maria said the drought forced men and women to go at least 25 days without having a bath. Eventually, she says, villagers had to hire a person with a three-wheeled motorcycle to fetch water from villages at least 50 kilometres away.

From September 2021 to early in January 2022, the villagers were paying 150,000/- for 30 buckets of 20 litres. Unfortunately, this amount of water could not last two days because both people and livestock needed it.

"Last year's drought was very extreme," says Makame resident Naisujaki Lesikari, who is also the ward chairperson of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi ruling party's

women's wing (UWT). "It pulled us into poverty following the deaths of hundreds of our livestock."

While the people and their animals suffered, wildlife went thirsty too. The severe drought dried out ponds and led to a scarcity of grasses for grazing wildlife. Noah Sitati, Wildlife Species Expert from World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in Arusha says the loss of grass poses additional risks.

"When severe drought hits, wild animals are forced to eat short growing grasses," he says. "As a result, they sometimes feed grasses with soil, thus they suffer from anthrax. Official figures are yet to be released but many wildlife died from the disease through 2021."

In Makame, antelopes, zebras and other animals moved out of the WMA and into villagers' land in search of water and pasture. "Villagers' maize farms were invaded by buffaloes and elephants searching for something to eat," says Maria.

Kiteto District Commissioner Mbaraka Batenga, adds that sometimes as many as four buffaloes were rescued in a single week at the peak of the drought in November 2021 from muddy ponds where they had become trapped in their search for water.

Other buffaloes were not so fortunate. Makame Village Chairman, Isaya Tutala, a member of Indema Authorized Association, says at least eight buffaloes died in the village between September and December last year.

The drought triggered a scramble for drinking water between the Makame ward residents and wildlife from the WMA. Local people say human-wildlife conflict peaked between September 2021 and January 2020, when residents were forced to share insufficient water from ponds with wild animals and livestock.

A way forward

"Drought kept us on our toes," says District Commissioner Batenga "And invited stakeholders and conservators to set a way forward."

In November 2021, the District Council and the two investors Sunset Tarangire Limited and PH Asma agreed that the companies would each build and fill two water-retaining dams within the WMA as an urgent adaptation measure. Meanwhile longer-term plans to address the implications of drought for wildlife will be discussed through consultations by the central government.

PH Asma Manager, Mathayo

Mkwatia, says the company completed construction of its two dams, in its Masai hunting block, in January 2022. Sunset Tarangire Limited has completed one dam in Katikati village.

Construction of the second dam, in Irkuishbor ward, was postponed due to rain that started in early February. Both dams have a capacity of 20,000 litres, and will be kept full with water transported from new wells.

Sunset Tarangire Limited had taken over the Irkuishbor hunting block from another hunting safari company in August 2021, on a ten-year contract with Makame WMA. Raymond Mdoe, the company's Operation Manager for the Irkuishbor block, says the need to improve water resources was obvious.

"We had found the block very dry, with no water for wild animals," says Mdoe, adding that the company had immediately started drilling two deep wells within the block.

"The company is building another six extra dams and drilling another six deep wells altogether, outside of the WMA investment contract terms. This

is because two dams alone cannot meet the demand of wild animals in the WMA."

Wider challenges

Makame WMA is not alone. According to the Tanzania Meteorological Authority, in a report released on 3 March, there has not been such a severe drought for 20 years. Throughout 2021, temperatures were 0.5 degrees Celsius above the long-term average recorded between 1981 and 2021.

Dr Maurus Msuha, Director of Wildlife Unit in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, says the ministry is taking measures in national parks and WMAs to mitigate drought, through the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) and the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), respectively.

TANAPA's Conservation Commissioner, William Mwakilema, acknowledges that the drought had disturbed wildlife in some national parks and wildlife management areas through 2021.

"Initially, we believed in a saying - 'let nature decide its own

plans for constructing water dams are in the pipeline. Besides, TAWA is considering procurement of water well-drilling rigs."

Misungwi says the 12.9 billion/- that TAWA has been allocated for infrastructure development in all 22 WMAs, in the current fiscal year, is not enough. He says TAWA needs to be allocated 150bn/- for it to be comfortable with its operational activities including infrastructure development in WMAs and Game Reserved Areas.

Rising risks

The Tanzania Meteorological Authority has not yet declared the drought to be over. But in mid-February it said that most parts of Tanzania that receive rains twice a year should receive normal to above normal rainfall in the long rains season, from late February to the end of May.

The rains will offer respite to people and wildlife in Makame WMA. But in the longer-term, climate change will bring increasing threats of drought.

In October 2021, the World Meteorological Organization's '2021 State of Climate Services' report presented a grim reminder that Africa's 1.3 billion people remain in extreme poverty as the continent warms. Last year, Africa warmed more rapidly than the world average, the report said.

As temperatures rise, already arid and semi-arid regions face more frequent and longer-lasting droughts, increasing the threats to vulnerable communities, livestock and wildlife.

In Makame, the villagers The Guardian spoke to are calling for action. Isaya Ole-Kilae, a Makame Ward Councillor, suggests that every village should be supplied with tap water from deep drilled wells to ensure a water supply during extreme dry seasons.

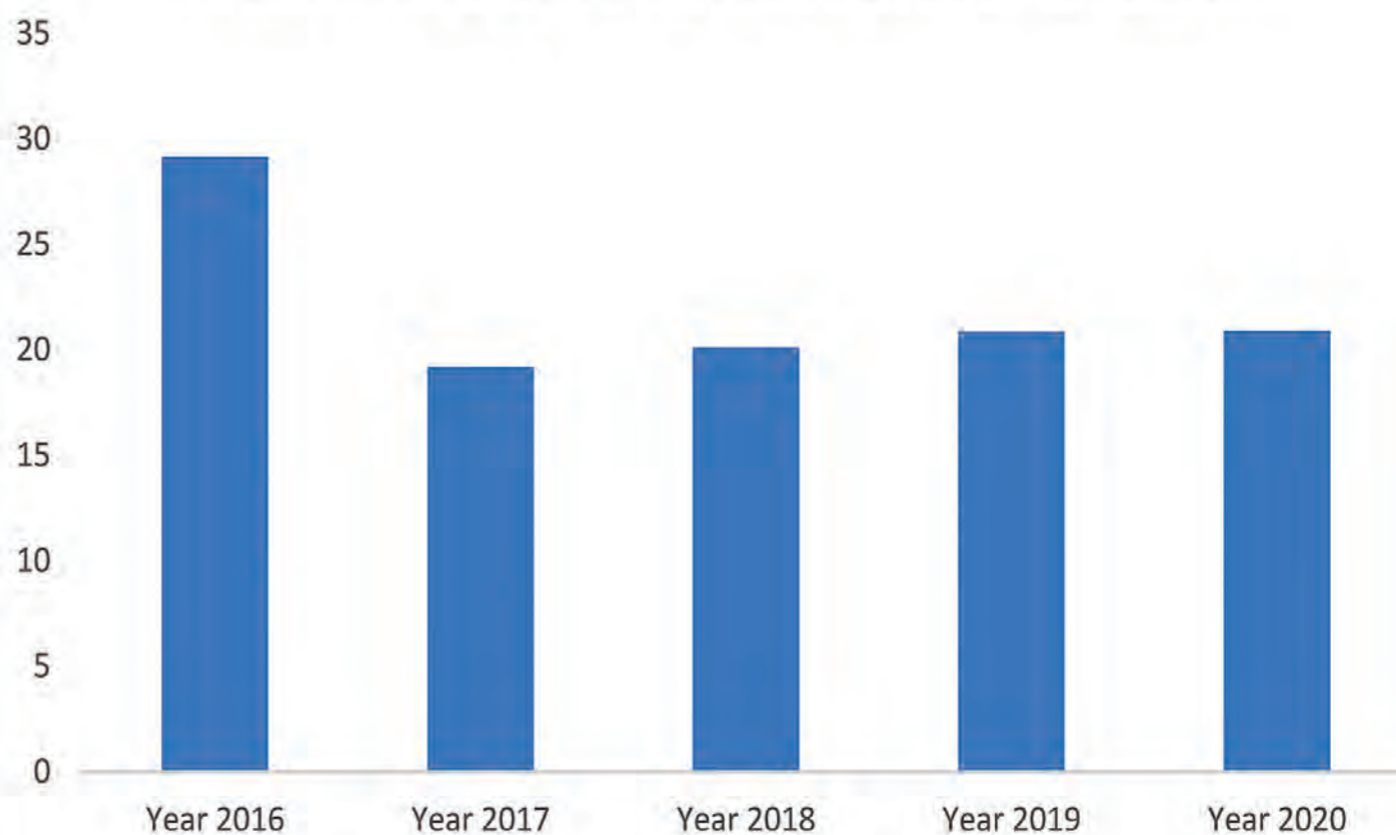
"The whole world has tasted the bitterness of climate change effects," he says. "It is high time for the central government to bring forward policies and strategies regarding climate change resilience. A well-organized survey should be conducted in semi-arid places like Makame to initiate water well drilling projects."

Some, like Makame Village Chairman, Isaya Tutala, are speaking for the animals too.

"Think of all these struggles by humans in search of water in relation to wild animals that can't make their own source or pay for accessing the utility," he says, pointing out the remains of a dead buffalo. "Something must be done and the time is now."

This piece is written with support from Internews' Earth Journalism Network.

Annual Revenues Generated By TAWA Through Tourism Hunting From 2016 To 2020 In Tsh Billion



SOURCE: National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

Cold war divisions and Soviet Union nostalgia may be clouding African nations' attitudes to war in Ukraine

By Peter Fabricius

UKRAINE has withdrawn an important contingent of peacekeepers from the United Nations (UN) Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Monusco) to defend their homeland. The move symbolises wider concerns that Europe may retreat from Africa as it confronts a growing threat from Russia that so blatantly manifested itself on 24 February.

Like climate change, Africa may have done very little – or indeed nothing – to cause the war in Ukraine, but is nonetheless feeling the impact. Fuel, cooking oil and wheat prices have risen rapidly, the latter particularly affecting dry North African countries like Egypt that depend heavily on imports. And rising global inflation has consequences for Africa like everyone else.

Amid the general economic gloom, there could be some glimmers of opportunity, as Jakkie Cilliers, Head of International Futures and Innovation at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Pretoria, notes. South Africa, for example, is a net exporter of maize and some of the same minerals – like platinum – that are being hit by Western sanctions against Russia. It may be able to take advantage and fill some of the vacua.

And he observes that Africa more broadly could and should try to fill the gap in oil and gas supplies to Europe that will open up as it reduces its vast dependence on Russian energy. Cilliers says this creates an opportunity to exploit and export the Sahara's huge solar energy potential to Europe.

He told ISS Today that Africa's many gas producers should also be gearing up to replace Russian gas supplies. Of course, both would be long-term projects, considering that Europe aims to stop buying Russian gas in around 2030.

What does the Ukraine war mean for Africa politically? As ISS Senior Researcher Priyal Singh points out, the war has been sharply divisive in statistical terms by the UN General Assembly vote on 2 March to condemn Russia for its 'aggression' and demand a withdrawal from Ukraine, respecting its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Twenty-seven African states voted for the resolution, just one – Eritrea – voted against, while 17 abstained and the rest were absent. Globally, the resolution was overwhelmingly supported, with 141 votes in favour, five against and 35 abstentions. So the proportion of African countries not supporting the decision was disproportionately high.

Part of the reason, Cilliers points out, was the nostalgia that South Africa and several other Southern African states still feel for the Soviet Union's support of their liberation struggles. Part was probably also African states' reluctance to be drawn into an apparent resurrection of the Cold War in which many African countries were mere proxies.

And a new element was also Russia's recent growing influence in Africa. The country has consciously attempted to make up for the lost intervening years by reviving the old Soviet-era relations with the continent. This was formalised in the first Russia-Africa summit in 2019 in



Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) speaks with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at the first plenary session as part of the 2019 Russia-Africa Summit at the Sirius Park of Science and Art in Sochi, Russia, 24 October 2019. File photo

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 247 00--

WORD-FIT

3 LETTERS: CAB, INN, MOB

4 LETTERS: SAVE, EDEN, ROAR, VEER, RIDE, TENS ALOE (7 WORDS)

5 LETTERS: RAIDS, NIGER, NOVEL, SOBER ORIBI (5 WORDS)

6 LETTERS: ARDENT, REASON, RIDERS, BRAZIL PLEASE (5 WORDS)

7 LETTERS: MINERAL

8 LETTERS: CAMBODIA

10 LETTERS: SWEET BRIAR

CROSSWORD

Clues: Across

1 Deepest lake in Tanzania

5 dough made from maize flour and used to make tortillas, tamales

7 a picture in the mind

8 marks left on the skin

10 a mischievous child

11 the ability to appear effortlessly suspended while performing movements during a jump

13 as soon as possible (abbrev)

15 gas used to control riots

17 a week

19 call given by a court officer to command silence and attention

20 the choice sth must be done

Down:

1 minutes, hours, days

2 a headland

3 sweet potatoes

4 Rwanda's President

6 a commonly used British system of bidding designed to enable partners with weaker hands to find suitable contracts

7 eirenic

9 a master key

12 evaluate

14 Grasshopper in Kiswahili

16 Turkish footballer

17 plant seeds

18 acquire as clear profit

SOLUTIONS

WORD-FIT

SUGARCANE, SKIN, NOISE, MITSU, FOREVER, ROSETT, TOES, CRAWLER, POOL, BEACON

CROSSWORD

1 VICTORIA, 2 HEADLAND, 3 SWEET POTATOE, 4 RWANDA, 5 TORTILLA, 6 AUCTION, 7 EIRENIC, 8 SCAR, 9 KEY, 10 MISCHIEVOUS, 11 SLEIGHT, 12 EVALUATE, 13 ASAP, 14 GRASSHOPPER, 15 GAS, 16 MUTLU, 17 SEEDS, 18 ACQUIRE

Sochi. Russia has also been expanding its military footprint, largely through proxy, supposedly private, military companies like Wagner, in countries like the Central African Republic, Libya, Mali and perhaps beyond.

As Cilliers notes, Russia is essentially playing the spoiler here, seemingly motivated by a desire to frustrate Western powers such as France. And it's offering little more than succour to putschists and other authoritarians and no sustainable model for Africa to follow.

South Africa no doubt spoke for many of the abstainers when it emphasised the need for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) to take greater account of Russia's security interests – and even blamed it for the war – while also demanding Russia's withdrawal from Ukraine.

This contrasted with the speech that Kenya's ambassador to the UN, Martin Kimani, gave to the Security Council on 22 February in which he gave Putin a pertinent history lesson. Addressing Putin's nostalgia for that greater Russia that disappeared in 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union – and which the invasion of Ukraine seemed designed to resurrect – Kimani said most African states had been created by imperial powers, paying no heed to ethnic affiliations.

But if African states had chosen at independence to try to reunite their ethnic, racial or religious groupings, "we would still be waging bloody wars these many decades later." Instead, Kimani advised Putin, "We must complete our recovery from the embers of dead empires in a way that does not plunge us back into new forms of domination and oppression."

Singh laments that Africa couldn't adopt a united position on the Ukraine war. African

Union Commission chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat and current African Union chair Senegal's President Macky Sall outlined a possible common stance in their joint statement on 24 February.

They called on "the Russian Federation and any other regional or international actor to imperatively respect international law, the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Ukraine." They urged negotiations "to preserve the world from planetary conflict" – an evident reference to the concern that the war could go nuclear.

Yet even Sall couldn't align Senegal behind a vote for the General Assembly resolution, preferring to abstain. Sall might have been trying to remain neutral to help mediate the conflict, as suggested by his call to Putin last week.

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa also talked to Putin – perhaps in part not to be upstaged by Sall – and tweeted that he had been approached by an unnamed third party to mediate. But there was no credible evidence of a serious mediation effort as the Ukrainians said they hadn't been contacted. So this looked more like an effort to justify South Africa sitting on the fence for other reasons, including its BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) economic allegiance.

These sharply varied responses show that the Ukraine war is resurrecting some Cold War divisions between African states and within them. But more concerning than Africa's lack of unity was that only 27 of its states stood up to condemn a major nuclear power for invading its much smaller neighbour on implausible grounds such as 'denazification'.

DM

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

BUSINESS

Samia applauded for achievements made in economic diplomacy record

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

As President Samia Suluhu Hassan marks one year since she assumed office, it is widely believed that she has succeeded in strengthening economic diplomacy.

This was stated by the Chairman of the Tanzania Institute of Good Governance and Development (CEGODETA), Thomas Ngawaiya, while evaluating the one-year institution of President Samia in power.

"In his efforts to boost the country's economy, he has used international platforms to put Tanzania on the tourism map through a program called Royal Tour," said Ngawaiya.

The chairman said that over the past one year, the President has participated in various international forums that can bring investors to the country and stimulate Tanzania's economic growth.

"But also within this year, his government has facilitated the signing of an investment agreement worth 19trn/- in United Arab Emirates (UAE), which is expected to generate more than 200,000 jobs," he said.

He explained that the jobs will be created by both UAE government and private investments in Tanzania, as CEGODETA is interested on the taken action and performance.

In a statement, Ngawaiya said, when President Samia came to power on March 19 last year, economic growth had dropped from 7 percent in 2019 to 4.8 percent in 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, he said, for poor countries like Tanzania, the only way to take action is to use economic diplomacy, and that is what the President is doing.

"I heard the Ministry of Finance saying that, between July last year and last month, the government has received 3.1trn/- from development partners as soft loans," he said.

He said, the ministry noted that the amount of money is equivalent to the efficiency of 119.2 percent of the expectation to receive Shs. 2.6 trillion as a result of economic diplomacy headed by President Samia.

Ngawaiya said, in an effort to boost the country's economy, President Samia is working with the slogan: 'If you want to go fast, walk alone and 'If you want to go far, go with others.'

He said, recognizing the importance of cooperation with other nations, since his inauguration, he has visited various African, European and American countries, in an effort to strengthen economic diplomacy.



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TPC chief executive officer, Jafary Ally (in white shirt) briefs Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Steven Kagaigai on how the factory operates. (Photo by Correspondent Mary Mosha)

Distributors warned against hoarding of sugar in Moshi

By Correspondent Mary Mosha, MOSHI

DAYS are numbered for distributors of sugar in Moshi who are holding the commodity in their warehouse, to create artificial scarcity and increase profit.

This follows an increased sugar prices in the region as the commodity is somehow not found in various outlets. The Kilimanjaro regional commissioner Steven Kagaigai made the caution recently, saying the government will not turn blind eye of the created problem.

He says traders who do this should stop immediately as a special task force has been formed, to investigate

the source of the problem.

Kagaigai said the government is satisfied with the sugar production, especially TPC Moshi sugar factory, saying those who will found holding the commodity will be dealt accordingly.

"I have witnessed the production here but I can assure you that the government has set up a special task force to investigate this problem, which seems to be being manipulated by the traders," he during his official tour at TPC to see the state of production.

He says the government is committed to ensure no sugar shortage is happening and has put mechanism to monitor the supply chain.

"Arbitrary rise in prices must be stopped. I strongly urge traders what

you are doing this," he says.

The Moshi Sugar Factory (TPC), has increased its sugar production from 108,000 tones per annum to 108,800 tones. The factory's Chief Executive Officer and Administration Officer, Jafary Ally, says they have enough sugar and what is happening is not their fault, but unscrupulous traders who want to maximize profits.

"For the past five years since 2017 the TPC sugar factory has never raised the price of sugar, from 2017 to-date sugar price increased only by 100/- per kilo," he says.

According to Jaffary, TPC sells 450 tons of sugar per day, but by the time they have stopped production for repairs to their plants, more traders have

emerged and now the factory sells 600 tons of sugar per day.

Figures show the actual demand for sugar in Tanzania is 690,000 tons per year, but its production is approximately three hundred thousand tons thus having a deficit of 350,000 tones.

Although the government has been making efforts to increase productivity including ensuring that industries and farmers practice productive agriculture.

According to figures from the Ministry of Agriculture, sugar production in the country has been increasing over the past five years, with production increasing by 78.3 percent from 295,775 tons in 2015/2016 to 377,527 tons in 2020/2021.

Kenya to lift ban on scrap metal business

NAIROBI

THE State now plans to lift a ban it imposed on export and dealings in scrap metal in a move set to offer a sigh of relief to traders whose businesses closed since the directive in January.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i on Wednesday said the ban will however be lifted only if scrap metal dealers apply for fresh licences and join associations before being allowed to ply the trade.

In the proposed regulations, Mr Matiang'i said that licensed dealers, millers, and smelters will be charged Sh250,000 in annual fees while agents and jua kali collectors will fork Sh150, 000 and Sh50, 000 respectively.

"We are not going to allow the sector to continue operating in an unlicensed manner and no amount of political intimidation or pressure will make us abandon the resolve," said Mr Matiang'i.

"We are not building infrastructure for scrap metals vandals. We'd rather the scrap business died but we managed to protect our critical infrastructure."

President Uhuru Kenyatta in January imposed a ban on exports



and dealings in scrap metal, hitting hard traders who were operating in the sector.

Mr Kenyatta put a moratorium on the export or the buying or selling of any scrap material until proper guidelines are put in place to regulate the sector.

He said the moratorium will ensure that materials are not coming from the hard-won investments that the Kenyan people have made.

The ban followed the van-

dalism of transmission lines and critical road and rail infrastructure.

In one of the incidences in January, a breakdown at Kenya Power's transmission line caused a blackout that affected customers across major cities in the country such as Nairobi.

The electricity distributor said then that the outage was caused by a collapsed tower on the Kiambere-Embakasi high voltage transmission

line.

Regulations in the sector were needed to implement the Scrap Metal Act of 2015.

The law will among other things require scrap metal dealers to keep track of the source of their metal in a bid to guard against vandalism of infrastructures like bridges, railways, roads, and electricity transmission lines.

The Scrap Metal Act was enacted in 2015 but is yet to take effect due to the absence

of regulations to govern the scrap metal trade.

Most dealers in the sector are not licensed, making it hard for authorities to hold players accountable to losses in the country's strategic investments.

"Only 20 scrap metal dealers are officially licensed in the country while 91 others have their applications pending," said Trade Secretary Betty Maina.



Nationwide blackout as power grid collapses again

By Emmanuel Addeh and Udora Orizu,

Nigeria's national power grid collapsed yesterday, causing a nationwide outage as the entire system crashed due to the loss of 1,100 megawatts from a 3,700mw peak generation earlier recorded.

This was just as airline operators in Nigeria yesterday warned that they have only three days left to shut down operations over lingering scarcity of aviation fuel.

For the power sector, as at yesterday afternoon, the system was yet to pick up load, according to a grid operations report, which showed

that just three Generation Companies (Gencos) were trying to restart, but were yet to generate any energy.

Minister of Power, Abubakar Aliyu, called an emergency meeting yesterday to resolve all outstanding issues with the stakeholders in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) as a result of the worsening power situation.

According to the grid operation trend, of the active 25 Gencos on the grid, 19 were producing power as of 6am, when the grid had 3,867.60MW, but that began to reduce gradually until it dropped to 2,761.20MW by 10am after six Gencos went down, leaving just 13, before

crashing to zero at 10.40 am.

THISDAY learnt that at least 1,100MW was initially lost from the 3,867MW peak generation before the Gencos started shutting down.

The analysis showed that the affected plants included Azura-Edo IPP (Gas), which was generating 447MW earlier, and Shiroro hydropower, which had 300MW earlier and later went off. Trans-Amadi (Gas) lost 92MW, Alaoji NIPP (Gas) lost 75MW, while Ihovbor NIPP (Gas) lost 101MW.

As of yesterday, the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), which manages the power grid, had yet to comment on the immediate cause of

the collapse, although, it was the first in the year.

The blackout had worsened throughout the country around 10:40am, after the national grid collapsed, with the Eko Electricity Distribution Company, confirming the incident in a text message to its customers.

The text message read, "Dear esteemed customers, a system collapse occurred on the national grid at 10:40am today, leading to outages across our network. We are working on the situation with our TCN partners and will keep you updated."

"We sincerely apologise for the inconvenience this may have caused."

Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) also pleaded for the understanding of its customers, noting that it is taking appropriate steps to ameliorate the effect.

The Disco stated, "Dear esteemed customer, we experienced general outage across AEDC network at 10:40am today due to a system collapse which occurred on the national grid."

"Appropriate measures are now being taken to restore normal supply as quickly as possible. We sincerely apologise for the inconvenience."

While confirming the system collapse yesterday, Kaduna Electricity assured its customers that power would soon be restored.

Walkabout Resources scoops 2022 Mining Elites award

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

AUSTRALIAN Stock Exchange (ASX) listed Walkabout Resources that operates the Lindi Jumbo graphite project in south-east Tanzania emerged winner for the Mining Elites in Africa 2022 Award after scooping the Greenfields Projects Developments Award category.

The 2022 edition of Mining Elites in Africa was geared towards shining a spotlight on companies, projects and individuals making a sustainable difference to the mining industry in Africa.

According to a statement issued by the company's CEO Andrew Cunningham, since the company began working on the Lindi Jumbo Project in 2015, it has taken every step to conscientiously develop the graphite mine that adheres to local requirements and exemplifies the relatively untapped potential for successful, ethical graphite production in Tanzania.

"We are proud to receive the Mining Elites in Africa 2022: Winner - Greenfields Projects Developments Award. We commenced work on the work on the Lindi Jumbo graphite project 2015, making the discovery which is the foundation of the project in the same year. Today, roughly, six years later, it is on the brink of bringing the deposit to account with first production," he said.

He noted that development of the company's flagship Lindi Jumbo Graphite Project Tanzania is on track, maintaining that production at the site will commence in the second quarter next year.



TNR Engineering kicked off work for the Lindi Jumbo graphite project in late August last year beginning with a bridge required for crossing a river crossing to the site. The work was undertaken under the supervision of the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS)

Walkabout in April last year announced that it had secured a US\$20 million debt funding facility from CRDB, the largest, wholly owned private bank in Tanzania that was used to make substantial progress over the past several months, with a key

milestone being the recent appointment of Tanzanian company TNR Engineering as the bulk earthworks and civil engineering contractor.

The scope of TNR's work includes all the earthworks, concrete works and building in preparation for the

construction and installation of the modular processing plant, which is being supplied by Jimpeng Engineering of China, Walkabout's EPC partner on the project.

Jimpeng, which is also a shareholder in Walkabout, will ship the plant to

Tanzania in approximately 90 containers.

Although it is not a big project, Lindi Jumbo will mine a deposit which is said to have the highest-grade graphite reserve of any undeveloped graphite project in Africa.

CBE embarks on apprenticeship studies to reduce unemployment

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE College of Business Education (CBE) has embarked on apprenticeship studies after research they conducted in 2016 realized that 60 percent of its graduates employ themselves in different field of work.

This was revealed this week in Dar es Salaam by the College Deputy Rector, (Academic, Research and Consultancy), Professor, Edda Lwoga, during a breakfast meeting with human resource managers (HROs), from various companies.

She said the breakfast meeting aim is to aligning business education with labor market and they need feedback of performances of the CBE graduates and do curriculum changes where necessary.

She said in 2016 the college conducted survey and came with the fact that 60 percent of its graduates are self-employed and that is the reason they have decided to embark on apprenticeship studies as a move to reduce employment problem in the country.

"In 2016 we conducted survey and we traced all of our graduates where they are and we found that 60 percent of them have employed themselves in different field of works and the results of the survey made us to review our curriculum according to market demands," she said.

Either, she added that currently they came up with teaching module where by a student in the programme use half of his time in class and half of the time to the employer where he will gain experience to employ himself on completion of his studies, the move which aim is to reduce the number of job seekers in the country.

"We have also introduced incubation program whereby a student bring business ideas and we give a mentor from our college to groom the idea so that the student can use to do business after completing their studies here at CBE," she said.

Deputy Rector (Planning, Finance and Administration) Dr Emmanuel Munishi, meanwhile said due to the increase in demand for business education they have decided to spread their wings to Zanzibar, Lindi and Iringa.

"We have invited you because you are the ones who decide whom to employ and by which criteria. You are the ones who put in place company plan but on our part we are concern with teaching so we need feedback from you which kind of people you need from us," he said.

He said they invited human resource managers and marketing personnel to visit the college so that they can witness the environment which their hopeful workers are natured so that they give their views for improvement where necessary.



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New initiative to support small-scale producers in sub-Saharan Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed) has partnered with Elanco Animal Health to launch a new initiative to manage ticks and tick-borne diseases in Africa, according to a statement issued by the alliance.

MAHABA (Managing Animal Health and Acaricides for a Better Africa) aims to support small-scale producers in Nigeria and Uganda by defining and implementing strategies to effectively control tick infestations in cattle.

Elanco brings a comprehensive acaricide portfolio in affordable small pack sizes together with expertise on tick control to local livestock producers.

Additionally, Elanco commits to bringing its comprehensive product portfolio for cattle and poultry to Nigeria, opening a new market for the company.

GALVmed on the other hand, will leverage its practical knowledge and understanding of the small-scale livestock producer sector to contribute to the initiative's outcome of increasing uptake of improved products, services and practices by small-scale producers.

"We are excited to collaborate with Elanco to enable access and proper use of high-quality acaricides and innovative tools that empower small-scale producers to successfully tackle the impact of ticks as well as prevent tick-borne diseases," said Carolin Schumacher, GALVmed's Chief Executive Officer.

She said will help farmers raise healthier animals, grow their farms' efficiency and output and eventually allows them to make better returns on their investments.

Building on the success of Elanco's first shared value initiative in East Africa, East Africa Growth Accelerator, the



new initiative will provide local cattle farmers with innovative solutions that help address current acaricide resistance issues.

The initiative is supported by the

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"We are proud to continue delivering an important contribution to African livestock communities, improving animal health and food

security for local families," said Ramiro Cabral, executive vice president and president of Elanco International.

Livestock farming is an important

part of securing the livelihoods of communities in Sub-Saharan Africa, providing nutritious food for growing populations and an essential source of income.

EcoGraf mulls demerger of some Tanzanian assets

PERTH

DIVERSIFIED battery anode materials company EcoGraf has unveiled plans to demerge its battery cathode materials subsidiary, Innogy.

The ASX-listed EcoGraf told shareholders that it would separately list Innogy on the ASX to provide shareholders with direct exposure to a nickel-focussed battery minerals company, in Tanzania.

EcoGraf currently holds the largest nickel exploration tenement package in Tanzania, covering 4 600 km², with the company saying on Tuesday that the demerger would unlock shareholder value in the company's extensive nickel database comprising geological mapping, geophysical surveys, geochemical analysis and exploration drilling acquired over the last 10 years.

The company noted that the new

nickel focussed battery mineral business provided EcoGraf shareholders with unique exposure to both anode and cathode battery minerals required by a global battery market forecast to expand at more than 30 percent per year to 2030.

EcoGraf will retain a cornerstone shareholding in Innogy, with shareholders to receive a priority offer of new Innogy shares.

In February this year, EcoGraf (EGR) representatives met with the Tanzanian Government to discuss the proposed development of its Epanko graphite project in Tanzania.

The company said its Tanzania-based project development company TanzGraphite held a number of meetings with several government officials and described progress as "encouraging."

Epanko was showcased at Tanzania's fourth International Minerals and Mining Investment Conference in Dar es Salaam on February 22-23.

EcoGraf said TanzGraphite presented to government officials who attended the conference including Vice-President Dr Philip Mpango and Minerals minister Dr Doto Biteko.

The company said there was "significant interest" in the Epanko project in

its capacity to potentially deliver long-term benefits for Tanzanians through access to "new industries, export markets, employment, training and community development programs."

EcoGraf said it was continuing to advance its Epanko debt financing program on the back of the positive Tanzanian investment climate and an increase in demand and prices for battery graphite.

Standard Bank halts new coal-power funding, but backs gas



JOHANNESBURG

THE Standard Bank Group has become the latest South African bank to confirm that it will no longer finance new coal-fired power plants or support the expansion of existing coal-fired power plants as part of its newly unveiled commitment to achieve net-zero carbon emissions from its portfolio of financed emissions by 2050.

The group has also pledged, in a climate policy released by CEO Sim Tshabalala on March 16, to achieving net-zero carbon emissions from its own operations by 2040.

While there is no consistency among South African banks in the way climate policies are drafted, the release of a policy statement by Standard Bank means that only Absa is yet to publish a formal climate change statement, with Nedbank, First Rand and Investec all having adopted positions.

Corporate and Investment Banking CEO Kenny Fihla tells Engineering News that the bank's halt on new coal investments extends to so-called clean-coal technology plants, which he describes as a "misnomer".

The bank will, however, support any refurbishment of existing coal-fired power stations that has the specific purpose of improving efficiency and reducing carbon emissions using carbon capture, usage and storage.

Such refurbishment should form part of a clearly defined decarbonisation plan, aligned to net zero by 2050.

The policy, Fihla highlights, also significantly narrows the bank's financing focus for new coal mines, which will be funded only when there is an overall positive environmental impact.

Citing coal supply to Kusile as an example, he explains that the bank will still finance a new mine located next to an existing coal-fired power

station if it can be proved that its development will reduce transport-related emissions.

Finance could also be provided for mines that provide a superior quality of coal that could help reduce an existing power station's emissions.

Overall, Standard Bank has committed to reducing its thermal coal exposures to 0.50 percent by 2030 from 0.70 percent, while its financing of clients generating power predominantly from coal will be reduced from 0.18 percent of total group advances in 2021 to 0.12 percent from 2030.

The decision to support so-called 'brown' energy and mining projects in Africa, Fihla says, is based on the bank's broad-ranging analysis of the energy needs of the continent in a context where 43 percent of the citizens of sub-Saharan Africa lack access to electricity.

It also follows intensive internal and external engagements to define a "pragmatic" response by the

bank to the aspiration for a just transition towards a low-carbon economy in Africa.

The policy also makes specific commitments in the areas of agriculture, oil and gas, with the bank's approach to gas set to receive significant attention given its prominent role in several African projects, including those under way or stalled in Mozambique.

Standard Bank says it will continue to finance gas "over the medium to long term" but has committed itself to developing a 'transition finance product framework' to support the use of gas in its specific role as a "transition fuel".

Fihla says gas-fired power plants that provide support services as part of an integrated renewable energy power solution will be prioritised, as will the conversion to gas of existing coal- or oil-fired power plants.

Finance for standalone gas-fired power plants will be capped at 0.75% of total group advances after 2026.

Diamond market recovery contributes to good cash flow, earnings for Gem

JOHANNESBURG

LONDON-listed Gem Diamonds saw continuing recovery of the diamond market in 2021, as evidenced by the robust prices achieved for its large, high-value diamonds and smaller diamonds alike.

The company ended the 2021 financial year on solid financial footing thanks to positive cash flows.

Gem, which operates the Letšeng mine, in Lesotho, generated an attributable profit from continuing operations of \$18.5-million for the year under review, compared with attributable profit of \$16.9-million posted for 2020.

An ordinary dividend of \$0.027 apiece was declared, while earnings a share from continuing operations amounted to \$0.132.

Underlying earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) of \$57.4-million reported in 2021 compares with underlying Ebitda of \$53.2-million posted in 2020.

Gem recovered 115 335 ct in the reporting year, compared with 100 780 ct recovered in the prior year, albeit at a lower average value

of \$1 835/ct, compared with an average value of \$1 908/ct achieved in 2020.

A notable recovery in the year was the 367 ct Letšeng Princess, which sold for \$9.6-million in June 2021.

CEO Clifford Elphick comments that Gem delivered positive operational and financial results in the year under review, notwithstanding the continued challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic on the availability of skills, equipment, spares and other aspects of the supply chain.

Gem is nearing a 100 percent workforce vaccination rate and donated 20 000 vaccines to the Lesotho government.

The company also sponsored a new 4x4 ambulance capable of reaching remote communities.

The group has continued with its climate change journey and believes its science-based approach will stand it in good stead over the coming years in managing physical and transition risks.

"We are also continuing to explore the opportunities that climate change might bring to our operations," Elphick concludes.



Energy costs to reach record 13pc of global GDP this year

JOHANNESBURG

ENERGY costs are poised to hit an all-time high of more than 13 percent of global gross domestic product this year as the price of keeping the world running surges.

Primary energy expenditure as a share of output is set to double from 2021's level of just 6.5 percent, according to analysis by consultancy Thunder Said Energy. Soaring commodity costs are pushing up inflation and adding to bills for households and industry alike.

"Curtailling demand is the only short-term option to alleviate shortages," wrote Rob West, a former Redburn analyst and the founder of Thunder Said Energy. "There are no good options here, only 'less bad' ones."

Energy commodity costs have soared on supply concerns and the Ukraine war, with natural gas prices in Europe up more than 500 percent from this time last year.

Russia's lower oil production might also add to price inflation, as the International Energy Agency said on Wednesday that output could slump by about a quarter next month.

The 13 percent level for 2022 just matches the proportion of GDP in 1980, a period when oil prices were soaring.

West's report assumes ranges of \$250-300 a ton for coal, \$125-150 a barrel for oil and \$40-45 per thousand cubic feet for gas. "So this is not an 'oil shock' or a 'gas shock' but an 'everything shock'," he wrote

UZALO

MONDAY - FRIDAY

STARTING 7:30 PM

<p>ITV</p> <p>TUESDAY 15 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Jagina rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afiya ya jamii 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt: Shika Bamba rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW rpt 19:30 Uchumi na biashara Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF 21:45 Chetu ni chetu 22:20 Soap: Love to Death 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 16 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Uchumi wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:45 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF 14:15 Soap: Love to Death</p> <p>THURSDAY 17 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Shamba lulu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The base 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue sheria rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 13:30 Igizo: Rebeca 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Jagina 18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Women Mean Business 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Malumbano ya hoja H abari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>FRIDAY 18 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Usafiri wako 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Soap: Uzalo 12:00 DWTV</p>	<p>14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mzengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Albu Yako 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:35 Ripoti Maalum 22:10 Soap: Love to Death 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>THURSDAY 17 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Shamba lulu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The base 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue sheria rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 13:30 Igizo: Rebeca 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Jagina 18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Mwaka 1 wa Mh. 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Rais 22:00 Samia Suluhu 22:00 ITV TOP 10 22:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:45 Soap: Uzalo rpt 01:15 DWTV</p> <p>SUNDAY 20 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt 11:35 Bongo Movie rpt: Tamasha la Michezo 14:00 Kipindi Maalum: Mwaka 1 wa Mh. Rais 15:30 Samia Suluhu rpt 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:20 Kipindi cha krikisto 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi</p>	<p>18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Rebeca 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology 21:15 Mzengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie 00:00 Soap: Love to Death rpt 02:05 Al Jazeera</p> <p>CAPITAL</p> <p>Tues 15 March</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Deutsche Welle 08:00 Al Jazeera 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Ilohan 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Our Earth 20:00 Series: Ilohan 20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Wed 16 March</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Deutsche Welle 08:00 Al Jazeera 12:00 Our Earth Rpt 12:30 Innovation rpt 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Ilohan 16:30 Culinary delight rpt 17:00 Innovation rpt 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Sports Gazette 19:30 Chetu ni chetu 20:00 Series: Ilohan 20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Dakika 45: 22:45 The Décor 23:15 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Thurs 17 March</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Deutsche Welle 08:00 Al Jazeera 12:00 Our Earth rpt 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Ilohan 16:30 Business edition rpt 17:00 In good shape 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Turning the spotlight 19:30 Tanzania yetu 20:00 Series: Ilohan 20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt</p>	<p>23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Frid 18 March</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Deutsche Welle 08:00 Al Jazeera 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt 12:30 Dw News Africa rpt 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Ilohan 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Rev 19:30 Eco@Africa 20:00 Albu Yako 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition 20:45 Telenovela Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sat 19 March</p> <p>08:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 Rev rpt 09:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n' about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt 12:30 Our Earth rpt 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Sling Shot 14:30 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 17:15 Eco@Africa 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mzengwe 19:30 The Décor 20:00 Korean Drama: The Sling Shot 21:00 Out n' About 21:30 Movie : Music : Club 101 rpt 23:00 Series rpt: Ilohan 01:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sun 20 March</p> <p>08:00 Aljazeera 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Sling Shot 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: Ilohan 15:15 Albu Yako 15:30 Rev rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mzengwe rpt 17:00 The Décor rpt 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama: The Sling Shot 21:00 Dw News Africa 20:45 Capchat rpt 22:15 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 00:00 Al Jazeera</p>
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WORLD

Macron unveils re-election manifesto

PARIS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron presented on Thursday his program for the presidential elections to be held in April.

At a press conference, Macron laid out his reform plans that cover a broad range of sectors: the economy, culture, agriculture, defense, education, the workplace, gender equality, welfare, households, seniors and the country's institutions.

"We must make France a more independent nation within a strong Europe," he said.

To achieve this goal, he said the government would have to invest 30 billion euros (\$33.3 billion) in various high-growth sectors.

Macron's goal for the next five years is "to develop 100 percent French sectors" to wean the country off its dependence on imported energy and in-

dustrial goods.

He said that his aim would be to increase the share of renewable energy at the national grid level, build more nuclear reactors and promote investments by public institutions and private companies.

His government, he said, would aim to turn the country greener by ensuring broad access to affordable electric vehicles, including through leasing programs.

Over the next ten years, Macron plans to invest 25 billion euros in research.

His public administration reform plans aim to improve social and labor welfare, he said.

He said that pensions reform will be one of his government's priority projects if elected to a second term. He plans to raise the legal retirement age to 65 and to propose a minimum pension of 1,100 euros.

Xinhua



France's President Emmanuel Macron

AU hosts high-level continental forum on unconstitutional changes of govt in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) has convened a high-level continental forum on unconstitutional changes of government in Africa, focusing on finding solutions in addressing the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa.

The Reflection Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of Government, which was held from March 15 to 17 in Accra, Ghana's capital, envisaged continental response for the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa, shared perspective on Africa's governance deficits, the AU said in a statement on Thursday.

Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo said while addressing the forum that "coups have never been and will never be the solution to Africa's problems," as he emphasized the need for effective deterrence, bold actions and adequate preventive measures.

"This Forum offers a platform to engage in deliberations on a disturbing development on the continent -- unconstitutional changes in governments in Africa," the AU statement quoted Akufo-Addo as saying.

The Ghanaian President stressed that the significant interest of the forum is an indication of the unequivocal, unwavering commitment to constitutionalism and the rule of law, and the outright rejection of all forms and manifestations of unconstitutional changes in governments in Africa, as well as of the manipulation of national constitutions.

AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Bankole Adeoye underscored that the high-level forum will have an eye on some of the aspirations of the AU's 50-year continental development Agenda 2063.

The forum, in particular, envisaged an Africa of good governance; respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law; a peaceful and secure Africa; as well as an Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partners, among others, Adeoye emphasized.

The three-day forum, hosted by the AU's Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, reflected on the phenomenon of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa with the aim of proffering enduring solutions to the problem.

According to the AU, the forum will be concluded with the adoption of Accra Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa, which will feed Extraordinary Summit on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government, scheduled to take place in May this year in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

S. Korea: Yoon's pledge to close gender ministry stirs debate

SEOUL

SOUTH Korean president-elect Yoon Suk-yeol's decision to use the country's gender wars as a campaign platform for his successful

Yoon, who won an unprecedented tight March 9 election, had promised to abolish the government's gender ministry, a pledge that helped engage young male voters spearheading a backlash against feminism in South Korea.

Fulfilling the pledge, however, requires approval from parliament, which is controlled by the Democrats, who currently oppose the idea. Opinion within his own People Power Party (PPP), meanwhile, is split amid concerns about further alienating women ahead of key local elections in June.

Cho Eun-hee, a newly elected female PPP lawmaker, is among those calling for the Ministry of Gender Equality & Family's mandate to be boosted, via the creation of a new agency if necessary.

"Despite its numerous positive functions, the ministry has been criticized for fuelling gender conflicts ... but it's not all or nothing, we need to gather wisdom to find a forward-looking alternative," Cho said.

The ministry has become a lightning rod for an increasingly acrimonious gender debate in the country of 52 million where several inequalities remain - the women's labour market participation rate is below the OECD average and it has the worst gender pay gap in the same group.

However, in a post-pandemic cutthroat job market, some young men feel that attempts to redress the balance have gone too far. Mandatory military service for young men - and not women - has come under the spotlight, while measures such as financial subsidies for women living alone have been dubbed "reverse discrimination."

Yoon, who also vowed to raise wages for military conscripts and scrap gender quotas for public sector jobs after he takes office in May, was backed by around 60 percent of male voters in their 20s.

On the flipside, just 34 percent of women in their 20s voted for Yoon, defying pre-election polls projecting much higher support among that demographic.

Agencies

BRI criticism rings hollow in Sri Lanka

INDIA

PROJECTS carried out under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative have boosted Sri Lanka's economic development, with their success putting paid to false claims that the assistance is trapping countries in high debt, analysts said.

Contrary to the narrative peddled by Beijing's critics of a so-called debt trap, China's help has become a driver for the long-term economic growth of countries that are participating in the BRI, the analysts said. In Sri Lanka, the Colombo Port City and Hambantota Port projects, as well as the construction of the Southern Expressway, are among the major undertakings associated with the infrastructure-boosting program.

The Colombo Port was placed 22nd in a global ranking of ports this year. It posted 6 percent growth in the volume of cargo handled, to a record 7.25 million twenty-foot-equivalent units in 2021, media cited the Sri Lanka Ports Authority as saying on Monday.

The ports authority's chief, Prasantha Jayamanna, told the Daily FT, a Sri Lankan newspaper, that the increased activity was encouraging, and that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has said he wants the port to enter the top 15 in the global rankings by 2025.

Colombo Port City is envisaged as a premier residential, retail and business destination in South Asia, with China Harbour Engineering Company carrying out works,



This undated photo displays a panoramic view of Colombo Port City in Sri Lanka. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

including for an artificial island.

"This reclaimed land gives Sri Lanka a chance to redraw the map and to build a city of world-class proportions and functionality and compete with Dubai or Singapore," Saliya Wickramasuriya, a member of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission, told the media.

Major advantage

As for the Hambantota Port, its proximity to major sea lanes means it is a major

advantage for the project.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has thanked China "for its long-term and enormous support for the country's economic and social development."

With the country seeking to recover from the effects of the pandemic, critics of China have once again claimed Sri Lanka is being saddled with costly loans, with some calling the Chinese-assisted projects white elephants.

Sirimal Abeyratne, an economics professor at the University of Colombo, told China Daily that Sri Lanka opened its bond market to foreign investment in 2007, and about the same time started commercial borrowings, "which have nothing to do with Chinese loans".

China accounted for 10 percent of the island nation's \$35 billion in foreign debt in April 2021, according to data from Sri Lanka's Department of External Resources, with Japan also accounting for about 10 percent. China is Sri Lanka's fourth-biggest lender, behind international financial markets, the Asian Development Bank and Japan.

The fact that China has been singled out in the critics' debt-trap narrative shows the extent to which they are trying to discredit China and BRI projects in the Asia-Pacific region, said Wang Peng, a researcher at the Center for American Studies with Zhejiang International Studies University.

According to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, a nation goes beyond the danger mark if its external debt exceeds 40 percent of gross domestic product.

"Sri Lanka's ability to develop as a regional logistics and a shipping hub to reap BRI benefits was very much highlighted," Samitha Hettige, an adviser to the National Education Commission of Sri Lanka, wrote in a commentary in Ceylon Today.

UN scales up support in Mozambique in response to Cyclone Gombe

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations and partners are scaling up support in response to Tropical Cyclone Gombe, which struck the Mozambique coast yesterday, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The cyclone has caused widespread flooding, displacement and damage to infrastructure and homes. Nampula and Zambezia provinces have been most severely impacted, said OCHA on Thursday. The Mozambican government's Institute

for Disaster Management and Reduction indicates that more than 400,000 people have been affected by the cyclone, with 51 people dead and 80 others injured.

More than 45,000 houses have been destroyed and close to 21,000 people have been displaced, said OCHA.

Tens of thousands of people previously displaced due to the crisis in the north of the country are among those affected, as are at least 9,000 refugees from other countries.

Needs assessments have been ongoing since earlier this week, alongside initial

response activities and search-and-rescue operations.

The United Nations and partners are deploying more personnel in Nampula and other affected provinces, and are mobilizing priority assistance, including food, shelter and household materials, water and sanitation items and health care support, it said.

Further scaling up of the response is critical. Several districts remain inaccessible and available stocks within Mozambique can only support up to 100,000 people.

The numbers affected may continue

to rise as new areas are reached, warned OCHA. After making landfall, the system weakened into a tropical depression, but continued to cause heavy rains and flooding, including in southern Malawi, where the government reports that at least five people have died, said OCHA.

The United Nations and partners are also working with the authorities in Malawi to assess humanitarian needs.

The weather system remains active and is expected to strengthen again to tropical storm strength as it tracks back into the Mozambique Channel, it said.

China's top legislature receives 487 motions during annual session 2022

DEPUTIES to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, submitted a total of 487 motions by noon on March 8, the deadline for the submission of motions during the fifth session of the 13th NPC set by the presidium of the session, according to the secretariat of the session.

The secretariat has received about 8,000 pieces of suggestions and criticisms from national lawmakers during this year's annual session of the NPC, which was held from March 5 to 11 in Beijing.

The Standing Committee of the 13th NPC attaches great importance to the role of deputies, and has increased the

involvement of lawmakers in the work of the NPC Standing Committee by inviting them to attend the meetings of the NPC Standing Committee, take part in discussions, and play a role in legislation, law enforcement inspection, special investigation and other activities, according to Guo Zhenhua, deputy secretary general of the NPC Standing Committee and head of the working group responsible for handling motions at the secretariat of the fifth session of the 13th NPC.

It has supported and encouraged lawmakers to enhance ties with the people and better understand social conditions and public opinions by carrying out such activities as investigations, inspec-

tions, field surveys, discussions and activities held by lawmakers' groups, and making good use of multiple platforms established to facilitate interaction between legislators and citizens, including local legislators' liaison stations and grassroots-level contact stations, Guo said.

By facilitating the communication between deputies and the people, the NPC Standing Committee tries to improve the quality of lawmakers' proposals and motions, ensure efficient handling of them, and bring into full play the role of lawmakers in the country's whole-process people's democracy, he added.

Among the 487 motions submitted by national lawmakers during this year's annual session of the NPC, 474 are related to the making and amending of laws.

Some motions call on the national legislature to formulate laws on public health emergency response, food security, and energy, as well as laws that promote the realization of China's goal of peaking carbon dioxide and achieving carbon neutrality and the sound development of digital economy, big data, social credit, etc.

Focusing on responding to the concerns and aspirations of the people and improving the country's legal system to satisfy the people's expectations for a

high-quality life, some motions highlight the necessity of introducing new laws on preschool education, social aid, anti-telecom and online fraud, childcare and elderly care services, as well as revising the laws on vocational education and the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women, aiming to solve prominent problems concerning people's wellbeing that have been frequently complained by the people.

Based on a good grasp of the priorities and annual legislation work plan of the NPC Standing Committee, a good number of motions are designed to help speed up legislation while ensur-

ing the quality of relevant work. Deputies proposed making new laws on rural collective economic organizations, compulsory execution of civil judgment, and protection of fertile black soil, as well as revising such laws as the Company Law, Anti-monopoly Law, Enterprise Bankruptcy Law, and law on penalties for administration of public security. Formulation and revision of these laws have all been listed among this year's key tasks of the NPC Standing Committee.

NPC deputies have also submitted motions for revising the Criminal Law and starting the compilation of statute book for fields with the right conditions.

People's Daily

Standing Committee of Political Bureau of CPC Central Committee convenes meeting on COVID-19 situation and better and more stringent epidemic prevention and control

BEIJING

THE Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee convened a meeting on March 17 to analyze the new development of COVID-19 and arrange for better and more stringent epidemic control. Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, presided over the meeting and delivered an important speech.

Xi pointed out that China has maintained the policy of "preventing imported cases and domestic resurgences" since routine prevention and control measures were adopted. Xi said that differentiated and targeted prevention and control approach has been improved in accordance with situations in different regions and the levels of sporadic resurgence, and as a result, clusters of infections in certain regions have been swiftly brought under control and people's health and safety have been protected to the utmost. He said that China has done better than most countries in both economic development and COVID-19 containment, which has demonstrated the country's solid strength and capacity in the prevention and control of the epidemic and the advantages of the leadership of the Communist Party of China and of China's socialist system.

Victory comes from perseverance, Xi stressed. All local authorities and government departments must be fully aware of the complex, arduous and enduring nature of COVID-19 control both at home and abroad, further social mobilization, build consensus, proceed with greater confidence and perseverance, and carry out all the epidemic control work in a more solid and meticulous manner. He urged them to always put people and their lives first, adhere to the dynamic zero-COVID approach with science-based and targeted measures, and contain the spread of the virus as soon as possible. Efforts must be taken to make epidemic response more science-based and targeted, keep optimizing our response measures, and step up the research and development of vaccines, rapid testing reagents, and medicines, so that the epidemic control work will be more targeted. Xi also called for maintaining strategic focus, pursuing progress while ensuring stability, coordinating COVID-19 response with economic and social development, adopting more effective measures, striving to achieve the best results in epidemic control with minimum costs, and minimizing the epidemic's impact on the economic and social development.

The Standing Committee pointed out at the meeting that the country has recently seen cluster infections spreading widely and occurring frequently in multiple regions. It required that the local governments, epidemic control authorities, all organizations and individuals must fully take on their responsibilities, comply with the principle of "early detection, early reporting, early quarantine and early treatment" and conduct prevention and control work strictly and earnestly. Guidance for epidemic prevention and control in key regions must also be strengthened to bring local outbreaks under control as soon as possible.

The Standing Committee stressed that we need to keep people's normal work and life stable and orderly, guarantee the production and supply of daily necessities, and meet people's needs for medical treatment. We need to accelerate reforms on the disease control and prevention system, expand monitoring coverage of key groups, and improve the mechanism for monitoring and issuing early warnings through multiple channels so as to comprehensively boost epidemic monitoring, early warning and emergency response capabilities. We will see that port-of-entry areas fulfill their responsibilities for COVID-19 control, increase the resources at their disposal, improve the mechanism for routine epidemic control, and shore up weak links. With all these efforts, we will reinforce the line of defence against imported cases.

We need to strengthen routine epidemic control in schools and other key places. We will see that these key places shoulder their primary responsibilities and keep epidemic containment measures and contingency plans effective and meticulous. We need to work to get our officials and people fully understand the importance of epidemic control and grasp the knowledge about COVID-19 response, so that they can take the initiative in following epidemic prevention rules, strengthen self-protection and work together with the Party and the government to deliver good outcomes in their work. We will increase publicity to raise vaccination awareness, step up booster vaccination efforts and further raise the overall vaccination rates. With all these efforts, we will reinforce the line of defence featuring society-wide prevention and control. We need to take coordinated efforts to better our information publishing and communication work so as to keep the public informed in a timely manner on the latest epidemic situation and progress in COVID-19 response, and actively respond to public concerns.

The Standing Committee requested that all localities and all departments align their thinking and action with the decisions and plans of the Party Central Committee, both Party committees and governments assume responsibility, all sectors work together, and everyone holds the ground and meets one's responsibility, so as to bolster our epidemic prevention capability. While strengthening organization and leadership, we must not drop our guard, lose drive, take chances or slacken efforts, and we must seize every moment to carry out all epidemic control work in a solid and meticulous manner. Wherever the epidemic situation is serious, the principal leaders of the Party and the government as well as officials at all levels must give top priority to epidemic response and put in their utmost effort to secure the final victory. Party organizations at all levels and all their members and officials should fully play their role, go to the frontline of epidemic control, communicate with the general public, and take active measures to help resolve problems and difficulties for our people. Accountability inspections will be strengthened. Anyone who fails to perform their duties and responsibilities and thus leads to a drastic escalation will be investigated and held to account right away in accordance with discipline and regulations.

Other matters were also discussed at the meeting.

Xinhua

Zelensky lists 6 priorities in peace talks with Russia

KYIV/WASHINGTON/ANKARA/
UNITED NATIONS

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky has listed six priorities during peace talks with Russia, the presidential press service reported.

"My priorities in the negotiations are absolutely clear: the end of the war, security guarantees, sovereignty, restoration of territorial integrity, real guarantees for our country, real protection for our country," Zelensky said while addressing the nation on Thursday.

The negotiations between Ukraine and Russia are continuing, Zelensky said.

Ukrainian and Russian delegations started their fourth round of negotiations on Monday via video link. On Wednesday, Ukrainian Presidential Advisor Mykhailo Podolyak said that Zelensky might hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the coming days.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that Moscow is prepared to continue high-level trilateral negotiations with Ukraine mediated by Turkey.

"If such initiatives appear, we would only be happy to continue communicating in this format," Lavrov said at a press conference following his talks with Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in Moscow.

He explained that Moscow would only be interested in talks with Ukraine if these would lead to concrete results and solve existing problems.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks to the US Congress by video to plead for support to help Ukraine defend itself against the ongoing military operation by Russia, at the Capitol in Washington, on Tuesday. AP

Yesterday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that a meeting between Putin and Zelensky is possible.

Earlier Wednesday, Russian presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky said Russia and Ukraine have achieved some progress on a number of issues during the new round of talks, "but not all." "The positions of the parties are quite clear, we are moving slowly," local media reported, citing Medinsky, who is also the head of Moscow's delegation.

"The preservation and development of Ukraine's neutral status, Ukraine's demilitarization along with a whole range of issues related to the size of the Ukrainian army are being discussed," Medinsky said.

More diplomatic efforts

Turkey and Poland agreed to step up diplomatic efforts to end the Ukrainian crisis, Turkish President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday.

"We mainly discussed the developments in Ukraine and Russia, as well as our bilateral relations. As two NATO allies, we had a detailed exchange of views. In this process, we will continue our consultation and cooperation with Poland," Erdogan said at a joint press conference with his Polish counterpart Andrzej Duda in the Turkish capital Ankara.

Duda visited Turkey on Wednesday to discuss with the Turkish president ways to defuse the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Erdogan welcomed the Polish president in Ankara as part of Turkey's mediation efforts to secure a ceasefire in Ukraine.

"We continue our attempts to achieve a ceasefire," Erdogan said, adding that Cavusoglu will continue "shuttle diplomacy" visiting Ukraine on Thursday after his talks with his Russian counterpart in Moscow on

Wednesday.

US urged to 'do more'

Zelensky on Wednesday asked the United States to "do more" to help Ukraine defend itself against the ongoing military operation by Russia.

In a speech delivered via video-conference to the US Congress, he also asked the US to champion the establishment of a no-fly zone over Ukraine, or, alternatively, to provide fighter jets to his country, requests that have both been rejected by the US administration thus far.

Zelensky also urged Washington to double down on sanctions against Russia, including asking all American companies to end their business associations with Russia and punishing all Russian politicians "who remain in their offices and do not cut ties with those who are against Ukraine."

Electricity network integration

Ukraine has integrated its electricity transmission network into the European energy system, Zelensky said on Wednesday.

"Ukraine has become a member of the European Energy Union. The unification of Ukrainian and European energy systems has been completed," Zelensky tweeted.

Ukraine, which was importing electricity from Russia and Belarus, last year set a target to integrate its energy system into the European network of electricity transmission system operators by 2023.

According to media reports, 15 nuclear units at four Ukrainian nuclear power plants generate about 55 percent of Ukraine's electricity needs. Thermal power plants produce 29 percent of Ukraine's electricity, while the rest is powered by other sources or imported from abroad.

Conflict's toll on food security

The chief economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Maximo Torero, on Wednesday warned of the possible heavy toll of the Ukraine conflict on world food security.

To assess the potential impact on international food prices caused by a conflict-induced reduction in cereal and vegetable oil exports from Ukraine and Russia, simulations have been carried out, he said.

On the basis of their already elevated baseline values, wheat price would increase by 8.7 percent in a moderate-shock scenario and by 21.5 percent in a severe-shock scenario, he told reporters at UN Headquarters in New York.

For maize, the increase would be 8.2 percent in the moderate case and 19.5 percent in the severe scenario. For other coarse grains, prices would rise by 7 to 19.9 percent, and for oilseeds by 10.5 to 17.9 percent, he said.

Globally, in terms of impacts on food security, in the moderate scenario, the number of undernourished people would increase by 7.6 million people, while this level would rise to 13.1 million people in the severe-shock setting, said Torero.

UN chief highlights 5 lifelines for recovery, development of LDCs

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday highlighted five lifelines that will help the least developed countries (LDCs) recover in the short term, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the medium term, and prosper over the long term.

The first lifeline is the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, he told the fifth Least Developed Countries Conference. Manufacturers are producing 1.5 billion doses per month, but nearly 3 billion people – mostly living in LDCs – are still waiting for their first shot.

This failure is the direct result of policy and budgetary decisions that prioritize the health and wealth of people in advanced countries over the lives of people in poor countries, he said.

"Our world cannot afford a two-tiered recovery from COVID-19. Despite the numerous other crises facing our world today, we must reach our goal of vaccinating 70 percent of people in all countries by the middle of this year."

The second lifeline is a global financial system that puts the needs of LDCs first, he said. More than ever, developing countries need to invest in sectors vital to reducing poverty and increasing resilience.

But they are up against a morally bankrupt global financial system that stands in the way. LDCs require urgent debt relief, restructuring and cancellation in some cases. They should be able to borrow at a low cost and be protected in times of crisis, including through integrating measures like hurricane clauses into debt contracts.

There is also a need to increase liquidity available to LDCs and to create a fair tax system and combat illicit financial flows, he said. The third lifeline is supporting structural transformations across LDCs, said Guterres.

Most economic growth in these coun-



tries is linked to natural resources or extractive sectors, which are highly volatile in the short term and vulnerable to fluctuating commodity prices, marketplace whims, and the impacts of climate change. These sectors are further inhibited by poor education and training opportunities for workers, weak physical infrastructure, and lack of access to productivity-enhancing technologies, he said.

LDCs need structural transformation support. They need support to increase their participation in global value chains. This means investing in a healthy, educated and skilled workforce.

It means modernizing infrastructure and transportation networks and facilitating trade flows to reduce costs and increase efficiencies. It means realizing the benefits of universal digital connectivity so businesses can compete and flourish in the global economy.

It means transforming extractive sectors and creating greener jobs and greener economies. And it means promoting open and fair

trade rules so all countries can compete on a level playing field, no matter their position on the development ladder, he said.

The fourth lifeline is climate action, said Guterres. Least developed countries did not cause the climate crisis. But they are living with its worst impacts, he said. "We have a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to hold warming to 1.5 degrees and secure a liveable future. Scientists tell us that we must cut global emissions by 45 percent this decade.

But we are nowhere near this target. Current national plans would see emissions rise by a disastrous 14 percent in 2030. We cannot let this happen." LDCs need a massive boost in technical and financial support to spark a just transition to renewable energy and green jobs. They also need a massive boost in support to build resilience against the impacts already battering them, he said.

The fifth lifeline is peace and security, said Guterres. Today, the world faces the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945. And LDCs represent the lion's share of these hot spots, he said. Peace and security cannot take hold in an absence of development.

Nor can development take hold in an absence of peace and security, or in countries where historical injustices, inequalities and systematic oppression have locked generations of people in cycles of disadvantage and poverty, or where basic services like health, education, security and justice are lacking, he said.

Across these five lifelines, the LDCs can count on the total commitment of the entire UN system, said Guterres.

US House votes to suspend normal trade ties with Russia

WASHINGTON/KYIV/PARIS

US House of Representatives on Thursday voted to suspend normal trade relations with Russia, paving the way for the US government to impose higher tariffs on Russian goods.

The lower chamber approved the measure by vote of 424-8, with a few Republicans voting against, sending the legislation to the Senate.

The House vote came just a few days after US President Joe Biden announced that the administration would revoke Russia's most-favored nation trade status amid the Ukraine crisis, along with Group of Seven countries and the European Union.

Biden also signed an executive order banning Russian seafood imports, as well as alcohol and certain diamonds. In addition, it bans the sale of US luxury goods to Russia, including high-end vehicles, luxury watches and top-shelf jewelry.

The United States also recently banned oil and gas imports from Russia, although they accounted for less than 10 percent of US energy imports.

Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and senior United Nations advisor, recently told Xinhua that sanctions, which cause considerable damage, are "unlikely" to succeed in their political aims.

"The US and EU are very energetic in the imposition of sanctions, trade barriers, technology barriers, and financial barriers towards Russia... I do not agree with this," Sachs said.

Negotiation and compromise would be "much wiser", he said. Peace deal within week and half

Also on Thursday, Ukrainian Presidential Advisor Mykhailo Podolyak said it would take between a few days and a week and a half for Ukraine and Russia to reach a peace agreement, the Ukrainian online media outlet Liga.net reported.

Kyiv wants to fix in detail a specific plan for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine in the peace deal, said Podolyak, who is also a member of the Ukrainian delegation to the peace talks with Russia.

If the agreement is inked, it would allow Ukraine and Russia to end the acute phase of the conflict, he added.

On Wednesday, Podolyak said that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky may hold talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in the coming days.

Mars mission cooperation with Russia halted

The European Space Agency announced on Thursday it is suspending its collaboration with Russia on a mission to investigate life on Mars.

The ESA said it will no longer be working with the Russian space agency Roscosmos on the ExoMars rover mission due to the crisis in Ukraine.

According to its website, ESA's Director General Josef Aschbacher has been authorized by the ESA member states to carry out a fast-track industrial study to find alternative options for implementing the ExoMars mission.

The ExoMars Program comprises two missions: the first - the Trace Gas Orbiter - was launched in 2016. The second, comprising a rover and surface platform, was originally planned for 2018 but has been put off till 2022.

Israel approves budget for building air defense laser system - minister

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Defense Minister Benny Gantz said on Thursday a budget has been approved for building a laser-based air defense system against attacks by rockets and drones.

Gantz tweeted that "hundreds of millions" of shekels were allocated for the development of the so-called "Iron Beam" system. "We are taking a dramatic step to change the battlefield and upgrade the se-

curity of Israeli citizens in the wake of threats from Gaza, Lebanon and Syria," Gantz said. He said the system will be integrated into Israel's air defense array alongside the anti-rocket Iron Dome system.

Meanwhile, Israeli Defense Ministry said in a statement that the system will be developed by the state-owned defense company Rafael Advanced Weapons Systems and Israel-based defence company Elbit Systems, adding that the contract would be signed "in the next

few days."

In February, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett told the annual conference of the Institute for National Security Studies, an Israeli security think tank, that Israel was speeding up the development of the "Iron Beam" system. The system will be first deployed in southern Israel and later in other parts of the country to provide "a wall of lasers" against missiles, rockets, drones and other threats, Bennett said.

Xinhua



Ukrainian negotiator Mykhailo Podolyak speaks to media after talks between delegations from Ukraine and Russia in Belarus' Gomel region on Feb 28, 2022. File photo



Luiza Mbutu

African Stars Band will hardly plunge into oblivion, says Luiza

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAR ES SALAAM'S African Stars Music Band's Director, Luiza Mbutu, has said that it is not easy for the band to plunge into oblivion due to the departure of some of its musicians.

Luiza insisted the troupe instead becomes stronger each passing day.

The famous musician disclosed yesterday when she was talking about the challenges that the band, popularly known as 'Twanga Pepeta', has faced.

Twanga Pepeta for several years witnessed some of its prominent musicians resorting to leaving the troupe seeking to either form a new band or join another band.

"You know in normal life, one has to go through a lot of challenges, that's the way it is even in dance music in which our band is used to losing performers but it has not lost steam," Luiza disclosed.

The vocalist cited the reasons for the troupe's steadfastness as its long-term sustainability.

She disclosed Twanga Pepeta was the first band in Tanzania to launch a modern dance movement and garner enormous popularity that still exists.

The director mentioned some of the popular musicians who have left the band as singers Ally Choki, Saleh Kupaza, Khalid Chuma, Charles Gabriel 'Chaz Baba', rappers Msafiri Said 'Msafiri Diouf', and Saulo Ferguson, and keyboardist, Victor Mkambi.

"I have mentioned a few, but there are others, but if you follow our troupe, you will find that they have all returned to the group after realizing that 'Twanga Pepeta' is unique," Luiza said.

Luiza said no one will deny that for a long time now the band has been doing well to the extent that it dominates other bands including those made up of several musicians from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"I can say that Twanga Pepeta is still very much alive in dance music, raising and nurturing the talents of young artists some of whom are now serving it," Luiza said.

The vocalist pointed out the band has a schedule of entertainment shows taking place from Wednesday to Sunday.

She disclosed that a large number of shows is a clear indication that Twanga Pepeta is acceptable and has many fans.

"If you follow other bands, you will find that they only do shows on weekends, but our shows start in the middle of the week because we are accepted and we have a lot of places to do our stuff," she said.

The singer revealed she could not detail the band's success without mentioning the troupe owner Asha Baraka 'Iron Lady'.

Luiza stated that Asha has been at the forefront of pushing the wheel of the African Stars Entertainment (ASET) Company that owns the band, to ensure Twanga Pepeta Band continues to stand firm.

Wrong interpretation on offside still rife among soccer referees

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S representative in the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup, Simba SC, has set its sights on qualifying for the tournament's knockout stages after commanding a 1-0 win over RS Berkane of Morocco in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The game was full of excitement and competition and led to several controversial incidents brought about by decisions that referees from DR Congo, assigned for the fixture, made in the tie.

It was a duel that forced The Guardian to shed light on some of the rules of football including offside which has led to criticism from fans.

Such criticism is, at times, in view even if the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) is put to use for clarity.

The first incident was related to a goal scored by midfielder Pape Ousmane Sakho in the final minutes of the first half.

It was scored whilst there was a violation of football rules.

The referees' decision has come to divide football fans on various social networks regarding the legitimacy of the goal.

A large percentage of Simba SC fans to this day say that it is a legitimate goal and support the referee for the good decision he made.

There are also many football fans criticizing the call saying the referee allowed Simba to score a goal that should not have stood.

Many arguments have been made regarding the requirements of rule number 11 which is focusing on offside according to the international governing body of association football, FIFA.

The rule has many elements but for Simba's match against RS Berkane the fea-



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Pape Ousmane Sakho (2nd L), shoots whilst under pressure from Morocco's Renaissance Sportive de Berkane defenders in a CAF Confederation Cup Group D match which took place in Dar es Salaam on March 13. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASC

ture mentioned is the act of interfering with the game.

The second incident involves Simba goalkeeper Aishi Manula who allegedly fouled one of RS Berkane's players in the 63rd minute of the game, with DR Congo referee Jean Jacques Ndala refusing to award visitors a penalty kick.

There was also an incident in the 82nd minute of the game when the number one assistant referee disallowed a goal scored by Berkane player, Hamza Regragui, who according to the official was offside.

In the first incident, which resulted in the only goal of the game, before Sakho scored there were two Simba players, Meddie Kagere and Rally Bwalya, who were in the offside position.

Bwalya was next to RS Berkane goalkeeper Hamza Hamiani Akbi and did not appear to interfere in the game.

The incident caused the RS Berkane goalkeeper to lose focus on Bwalya and focus on the ball in front of Kagere and the scorer, Sakho.

According to rule 11 which is off-

side as per FIFA regulations, Bwalya did not interfere in the game.

Kagere is judged to have been offside for several reasons, first, preventing the goalkeeper from seeing directly (preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision) and

The second reason is interfering with the game (by jumping up) and making the goalkeeper fail to see (making an obvious action that impacts the ability of an opponent to play the ball).

However, the referee possibly used the criterion of the distance between Kagere and the Berkane goalkeeper.

It is clear that the goalkeeper was able to see the ball and that is why the referee allowed Simba's goal.

So some fanatics can say that it was not a legitimate goal in terms of FIFA rules as well as a legitimate goal for the referee's vision especially considering the distance between the goal scorer, Kagere, and the goalkeeper.

Referee Ndala was criticized by RS Berkane officials for denying them

the penalty in the 63rd minute and sparking an uproar.

The incident involved Simba goalkeeper Manula who went to block the ball in a dangerous position with the Berkane attacker falling because of the contact.

If a football enthusiast takes a look at the references, it is clear that Manula was the first to reach the ball and play it before the Berkane player tripped and fell behind Manula.

So it was not a penalty as claimed by the players and officials of RS Berkane.

With eight minutes to go, RS Berkane scored a goal that was disallowed by the first assistant referee.

If a football lover takes a look at the references, the goal was legitimate as the scorer was not in the allotted area and some RS Berkane's players were offside.

The assistant referee number one focused on the players who were on the offside line.

The players, nevertheless, did not interfere with the game and were further away but the referee's decision is the last on the pitch.

'Wagosi wa Kaya' troupe seeks to reorganize

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

ARTISTS who form a prominent new generation music troupe in Tanzania, 'Wagosi wa Kaya', have said their long silence should not be interpreted as abandoning the music genre.

The group, based in Tanga, is made up of two artists John Evans 'Dr. John', and Fredy Malick 'Mkoloni', who earned a lot of praise for singing in the accent of some of the Tanga ethnic languages.

'Mkoloni' revealed the troupe had already gained popularity in the community through art, so it cannot opt-out of the industry given its members are planning to make music that suits demand.

The singer was for that matter adamant their silence is merely natural change.

The performer stated: "It's



'Wagosi wa Kaya' troupe's musicians, John Evans 'Dr. John' (L), and Fredy Malick 'Mkoloni'.

been a long time since we've been silent, but we can't stop doing music because it's connected us to society."

"If we let it go, it would be the same as leaving that connection with so-

ciety, and we don't want it to be that way," he said.

He said some people claim that their group has lost touch.

'Mkoloni' was nevertheless adamant such notion is not true at all, adding

that he and his colleague, 'Dr. John', have details on what is going on.

"The bottom line is that our group keeps on reading the signs of the times to ensure that when we release new songs, they will

dominate the charts as was the case with our previous songs including 'Tanga Kuanani Paleee'," he said.

He said in 2014 the group made its way back into the music industry with 'Bao' and 'Gahawa' songs.

The songs were released within a day, with videos done by talented video director, Mecky Kaloka, the songs' audio was done at Tongwe Records studios.

He said the songs targeted to show the fans that 'Wagosi wa Kaya' can still dominate the domestic music scene.

The artists revealed they can do well even though they are not in the limelight as was the case in the past due to focusing on their respective activities.

Curry injures left foot in Warriors blowout loss to Celtics

SAN FRANCISCO

STEPHEN Curry went down with a left foot injury late in the first half and Golden State coach Steve Kerr didn't like Marcus Smart's lunging move at the reigning NBA scoring champ.

Smart got an earful from Kerr, then they chatted again after the Boston Celtics beat the Warriors 110-88 on Wednesday night.

"I thought it was a dangerous play. I thought Marcus dove into Steph's knee," Kerr said. "That's what I was upset about. Lot of respect for Marcus, he's a hell of a player, gamer,

competitor. I coached him in the World Cup a few summers ago. We talked after the game, we're good. I thought it was a dangerous play, just let him know."

Curry was injured with 4:19 remaining in the second quarter along the sideline while scrambling for a loose ball as Smart made a diving lunge on the play and landed on the reigning scoring champion's leg. Curry grimaced in pain and got up but hobbled along before exiting on the next dead ball moments later.

That came when Smart made another aggressive play, receiving a

Flagrant 1 foul 4:09 before halftime when he leapt and caught his leg on Klay Thompson's shooting arm.

Kerr said Curry, who had three points on 1-for-4 shooting, was having an MRI exam. Rookie Moses Moody also injured his right shoulder.

Warriors forward Juan Toscano-Anderson said Smart wanted the ball but might have been able to use more caution.

"I don't think it was a dirty play," Toscano-Anderson said. "... We all know that's Marcus Smart, though, that's how he plays, he's gritty."

Draymond Green was whistled for

a technical for arguing a foul called on Thompson against Smart at the 1:48 mark, with Green throwing his arms up in the air in disgust and yelling.

Jayson Tatum had 26 points and 12 rebounds to lead Boston, while Jalen Brown scored 14 of his 26 points in the first half. Smart wound up with 20 points on 8-of-12 shooting and eight assists.

The Warriors couldn't keep up in their fourth straight home defeat to the Celtics and sixth of seven matchups in the Bay Area.

Boston's stingy, top-rated defense

held Golden State to a cold 29.3% in the first half and 37.2% overall as the Warriors were limited to 19 assists. Jordan Poole was 1 of 8 but recovered to score a team-high 29 points.

This was a tough blow for Curry two days after he dazzled for 47 points on his 34th birthday in a 126-112 win against the Wizards on Monday.

Green came off the bench for a second straight game as he regains his strength from a back injury, his minutes increased from 20 to 22.

Second-year center James Wiseman returned from his assignment with the G League Santa Cruz War-

riors and will continue to build up his conditioning. He started all three games and averaged 17.3 points - going 22 of 42 for 52.4% - 9.7 rebounds and 1.67 blocks over 20.7 minutes.

He hasn't played since April 10 last year while recovering from right knee surgery.

"The main thing is he's healthy and he's moving well and that's the biggest thing," Kerr said. "That was our biggest concern going in. Can he build the momentum, sustain it and continue to work on his conditioning, timing and so far, so good. Happy to see him out there."

Barcelona look for proof of progress against runaway leaders Real Madrid

BARCELONA

THE Clasico tomorrow will likely have very little bearing on the current season for either Barcelona or Real Madrid -- but it should set the tone for the next one.

Atletico Madrid's limp title defence, Sevilla's late fade and Barca's miserable start have all helped endear Real Madrid, now 10 points clear at the top of La Liga, will almost certainly be crowned champions in May.

Those hoping for a dramatic finish have wondered if a comeback could yet be possible given Barca's recent surge and Carlo Ancelotti has been trying to play down the idea the league is already won.

Asked on Monday, after their victory over Mallorca, how Real Madrid could ever lose the league from here, Ancelotti said: "How do you lose a Champions League final when you are 3-0 up? It happened to me once. I hope it doesn't happen again."

All logic, though, suggests the league is over, regardless of the result on Sunday. Even if they beat Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu and win their game in hand, Barcelona would be nine points behind Madrid, with nine games left to go.

To close the gap would require both Barca having a faultless finish and, more improbably, Madrid suffering a collapse, that for a solid and experienced outfit seems entirely inconceivable on the basis of what has gone so far.

"Winning La Liga will be very difficult," said Xavi Hernandez last weekend after Barcelona's win over Osasuna. "You can't rule it out but we can't be optimistic."

The more tangible rewards on offer for the victor this weekend will be either Real Madrid tightening their grip on the trophy or Barcelona entrenching their place in the top four, with their chances of pipping Sevilla to second already growing by the week.

- Transformed the mood -

More significant, though, will be the impact the result has on how this season is viewed, which could in turn be hugely influential on how both clubs approach the summer.

For Barcelona, a win at the Bernabeu would put some substantial evidence behind the theory this team is ready to challenge again, certainly in Spain, even if not yet with the richest and most powerful clubs in Europe.

AFP

Messi left to pick up pieces at PSG after jeers and Champions League failure

PARIS

A SEASON that started with such feverish excitement is turning out to be nothing short of a fiasco in Paris for Lionel Messi, who suffered the ignominy of being booed by his own supporters last weekend.

Unhappy Paris Saint-Germain fans targeted the Argentine as well as Neymar during the 3-0 win over Bordeaux that followed the club's spectacular Champions League elimination at the hands of Real Madrid.

"We understand their disappointment, their feeling of hatred," admitted PSG defender Presnel Kimpembe.

Adored in Barcelona, from where he made a tearful exit last August, the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner suddenly found himself in a position he had never previously experienced during his remarkable club career.

The 34-year-old still has 10 games left with PSG this season, including Sunday's trip to Monaco, but he could be forgiven for wishing the campaign were already over.

In some respects it is, given PSG have again failed to win the Champions League.

When Messi was unveiled at the Parc des Princes at the start of the season he admitted winning another European Cup was his "dream" and said he felt he was in the "ideal place" to do it.

It was not to be, at least this season, and Messi will be 35 by the time the next campaign begins. Instead all he can look forward to for now is winning the Ligue 1 title.

Mauricio Pochettino's team are currently 15 points clear of Marseille and Nice, and surely PSG cannot throw that advantage away.

In any case, reclaiming the domestic title will be a very hollow victory for a club who enjoy such an enormous financial advantage over their rivals -- Messi's salary alone is reported to be around 30 million euros (\$33.4m) net in his first season in Paris.

The player who is arguably the best of all time has failed to come remotely close to the form he produced so regularly in Barcelona.

He has just seven goals in all competitions this season, only two of which have come in Ligue 1 -- in contrast he scored at least 31 goals in each of his last 13 seasons at the Camp Nou.

AFP

With Benzema doubtful, Real Madrid hosts new-look Barca

BARCELONA, Spain

THE last time that Real Madrid played Barcelona, it brushed aside a team struggling to find its way after being orphaned by Lionel Messi.

Madrid's 2-1 win in October ignited ugly scenes of furious Barcelona fans banging Ronald Koeman's car as the beleaguered coach sped away from Camp Nou.

Fast forward to Sunday when Barcelona with Xavi Hernandez in charge of a new-look squad will head to the Santiago Bernabeu to test how far it has closed the gap with its fiercest rival.

Most "clásico" matches have an impact on the Spanish league title race. Not so much this time. Madrid enjoys a comfortable lead at the top of the standings and only a major collapse will stop it from adding to its record 34 league titles.

With 10 games left, Madrid

leads Sevilla by 10 points and both Barcelona and Atlético Madrid by 15.

The main question for coach Carlo Ancelotti is whether Karim Benzema will be available to play.

The France striker is doubtful after he injured his left leg in the final minutes of a 3-0 win at Mallorca on Monday. He had to leave the game after scoring twice to take his league-leading tally to 22 goals.

The 34-year-old Benzema is playing the best soccer of his long career this season. He has scored eight goals in his last five matches, including his second-half hat-trick to oust Paris Saint-Germain from the Champions League last week.

If he is not fit to play, Madrid will turn to winger Vinicius Júnior to lead its attack. His 14 league goals are second only to Benzema in the entire competition. Ancelotti could also play Marco

Asensio as a "false nine" and perhaps give Federico Valverde a second straight start as a romping midfielder.

The Barcelona that Madrid faced at Camp Nou on Oct. 24 has undergone a profound overhaul. In that loss, Ansu Fati, Memphis Depay and Sergio Dest started as Barcelona's front three and Philippe Coutinho and Sergio Agüero came off the bench as substitutes.

Now, thanks an impressive effort by the club to bring in new players in the January transfer window, Barcelona's attack features newcomers Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Ferran Torres and Adama Traoré. And while Coutinho and Agüero are no longer on the team, 38-year-old Dani Alves has returned to play at right back. Ousmane Dembélé, who was injured when they played in October, is also

providing a spark to Barcelona's attack.

Aubameyang and Torres have made an immediate impact since joining from Arsenal and Manchester City, respectively. Aubameyang has scored six goals in just nine appearances, with Torres adding another five goals. Depay has also scored twice recently, after being sidelined for two months with a hamstring injury, giving him a team-high 10 goals for the season.

After struggling to score before it got its winter reinforcements, Barcelona has scored four goals five times over the past two months.

"(Barcelona) has undergone a big change since Xavi arrived and has improved its play and is winning games easily by a big difference, so we will have to be careful," Madrid's Valverde told Cadena SER on Wednesday.

Aubameyang has been particularly impressive given that he was benched at Arsenal before the English club let him go.

"The truth is, I kind of expected this because I have been working hard and wanted to make a good start (at Barcelona)," Aubameyang said on Wednesday.

Aubameyang said that he was flourishing as Barcelona's pure striker, as compared to at Arsenal where "I played a lot better on the left."

"Coach already knew what I could do when I arrived and we have worked hard on the pressure that I must put on defenders (to recover the ball) and knowing how to play in tight spaces that is characteristic of this team," the Gabon international said.

Sevilla, which has lost ground to Madrid in recent weeks, hosts Real Sociedad on Sunday.

AP

Even at 36, Modric is still Real Madrid's key player. Just ask PSG

MANCHESTER, England

THERE are those at Manchester United who would quite like to sign Harry Kane if he was to become available in the summer -- but with the Tottenham striker watching on, Cristiano Ronaldo once again showed everyone that he is not ready to be replaced just yet.

The 37-year-old striker s By Sid Lowe, ESPN Spain writer STOP the tape and you still can't see the pass. But then you're not Luka Modric, Real Madrid's veteran midfield maestro, and nor is anyone else.

Press pause, and it isn't really possible. Modric stands outside the penalty area, on the edge of the D. Rodrygo is just to the right of him, but that's not the ball he wants to play ... although he lets the defence think it is. It's Karim Benzema he's trying to reach. The trouble is, there are six blue shirts between him and his destination; a seventh nearby, too. Have a good look, trace a line with your finger. Take your time. Nah, can't see it.

Press play again. Oh, there it is. Through Presnel Kimpembe's legs. In the middle of all that, when you can't ask everyone if they wouldn't mind just standing still for a minute while you work this out, when all around people are losing their heads, Modric saw the pass and played it. And then: pandemonium. With one flick of the foot, he had taken out seven men.

Again. Modric had done that before, too. Nine seconds before.

Freeze the frame and it's hard enough. Now imagine doing that in real time, having just run 80 yards. Because it's not just the last pass -- it's the first pass too. It's everything.

Real Madrid's second goal on Wednesday started with Modric winning the ball just outside his own team's penalty area, and it ended with him passing it on from just outside Paris Saint-Germain's. There's something cartoonish about the scene as he sets off, dashing between Neymar and Lionel Messi, leaving them behind first. Like this is a race and they're the starting gate, everyone running in the same direction. There are four blue shirts on Modric trying to keep up, another just behind and two more fractionally to his left. It's



Luka Modric

7-on-1, and none of them can catch him.

Modric knows this means that someone, somewhere, is on his own. It's just math. He releases Vinicius Junior to the left, everyone drawn to him now bypassed. The ball goes through Presnel Kimpembe, legs open, and Madrid are away. Vinicius runs and Modric does too, ready to join in again. Forty metres, 50 metres, 60 metres. When the Brazilian puts on the brakes, surrounded by PSG's rapidly retreating players, defensive positions taken up again, he returns it to Modric.

Poor Kimpembe; it's happening again. Poor Achraf Hakimi, playing Benzema onside. Madrid's No. 9 is standing alone. But still, that ball shouldn't be getting through there to him.

Commentating the game for British television, Glenn Hoddle sums it up nicely, the awe expressed in the simplicity of what he says: "That was great, wasn't?" Then he adds: "That nutmeg pass is absolutely beautiful."

Hoddle knows a thing or two about passes, and about running with the ball: He understands vision, touch, genius. While you're spending the day watching Modric videos on YouTube -- and what better way to spend it, although maybe turn the volume down -- take a little detour to look some of them up. Put it this way: The day former Tottenham Hotspr player Ossie Ardiles wanted to underline how good he thought Modric was, he could come up with no better way than likening him to his ex-Spurs teammate Hoddle.

That was 11 years ago, which brings us to the other thing. Luka Modric is 36. Not long ago you wondered if it was over, which was natural: time was against him. Except

that time is always on Modric's side, bent to his will. Madrid weren't sure he would, or should, continue when his contract ran out in 2021. He could have felt the same with nothing left to prove: Ballon d'Or won, three consecutive Champions Leagues, too, football completed. It was time to rejuvenate the team.

But he was so good that it was a no-brainer. Madrid had to ensure that he continued, with any succession plans put on hold. There had been no fuss, no noise and no whining about getting only a one-year deal, just the performances that would see him get offered another one, all in good time. On Wednesday, it wasn't just that pass, which might not even be your favourite moment. Maybe the slide tackle on Messi is, a moment that says something as well. For all the class, there is a competitor, too.

One first-division player admits to really crashing into him in an attempt to put him off his game. Modric didn't even flinch. Look at his calves, like a pair of cannon balls inside

his skin.

There have been discussions, internally and externally, about how to manage him; a suggestion that he should be rotated, rested and protected, used in small doses. He didn't agree -- he just wanted to play. So what if he was older? He was better off with continuity, and he was having too much fun to sit out.

As was everyone else: There is a generosity about Modric, an effort, and he is all about the collective, the game itself. Admirably lacking in ego, he is a man who, in Jorge Valdano's words, "never allows himself a single act of demagoguery," and "doesn't feel the pull of populism."

Valdano says: "He doesn't do impossible things. When he plays a pass, you see it and think: 'That's what I would have done.'" Yeah, afterward. Once he has shown us. And that ball on Wednesday was the perfect example. Valdano adds: "And we should not believe that [that's the pass I would have done]. In fact, what Modric does, only Modric does. When the ball passes by his feet, the play

flows like it was the easiest thing in the world."

Modric said in January: "I'm enjoying it like never before. I always have, but now more than ever because you never know how long you're going to last at this level. I'm doing all I can to continue like this a few years more." That level was as good as ever -- better maybe -- so they let him get on with it, game after game, left to do what he does.

There was a neat line lately when Carlo Ancelotti said that Casemiro, Toni Kroos and Modric surprise him, that they move intuitively. That they just know. They don't need telling. "They do things I don't ask of them," the coach said -- and that was a good thing. "Madrid fans can relax: I'm not going to interfere," he said. They could relax, aye. Another extension is now being prepared for Modric, taking him to 37 and maybe beyond.

"I have maybe two, three more years good football in me," he said 18 months ago, which sounded bold then and conservative now. "What level, we'll see, but I think I still can give a lot, because I take care of myself, I still work hard, I still have the desire to do big things, and as long as I have that feeling in me, why not continue playing?"

Well, quite. And please do.

In the end, it's about how you feel. And for all the footage of Modric on the pitch on Wednesday, for all the things he did -- 69 passes, 100 dribbles, that spell when suddenly Madrid smelled blood and he was everywhere, driving them on -- for all that you can marvel over him find-

ing a way through that you can't even see with the tape paused, maybe the best moments came as he left the pitch after his side had eliminated PSG 3-1 from the Champions League.

When he hugs Ancelotti, the manager's eyes close and a big, gentle, blissful smile covers his face. He holds Modric tight, like he would happily never let go. The look is ... well, it's love.

And then comes that tour of his team, that journey inside. You might have seen this by now, but it's worth watching again, and again and again. Reach the end, and it's impossible not to be moved by it, a video that speaks volumes and explains so much.

Modric heads into the tunnel shouting, bounding like a little kid. He leaps onto David Alaba. He slaps Eder Militao on the back. He embraces Vinicius, heads touching, eyes meeting. He tells Rodrygo: "F---ing brilliant; it has to be like this always." "Kroos!" he shouts. "It doesn't hurt; it doesn't hurt at all!" he tells Nacho, whose every muscle screams. He kisses Dani Carvajal's head.

He goes around the whole dressing room, approaching them all. In the back, the staff await: kit men, staff and physios. "Luki!" they shout and leap about. "Amazing!" he shouts at Federico Valverde in English. He finds Benzema again, and hugs him. And then, at last he sits, slumping on to the bench, and puts his head in his hands, covering his face, exhausted.

"Asi," he says: This.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

With Benzema doubtful, Real Madrid hosts new-look Barca

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The varied architects of a hard-fought West Indies win

MOUNT MAUNGANUI

AFY Fletcher was into her sixth straight over - and West Indies into their 13th since their last wicket, defending 140 - when she got the better of Fargana Hoque. It was not the generous flight by the legspinner which enticed the well-set Hoque into a false shot that grabbed the spotlight, but what played out after that.

Fletcher ran towards covers, took out an imaginary phone from her pocket to mock-dial her seven-month-old on a video call to say, "Hi baby!" with a wave and a gleam in her eyes. Irrespective of where your allegiance lay, it was a moment that would have brought a smile to your face.

Fletcher returned to international cricket after maternity leave during the home series against South Africa in February but played just one match.

In the two warm-up matches ahead of the Women's World Cup, she remained wicketless. It then took West Indies five games to get Fletcher into the playing XI, but now here she was in the thick of the action.

"I thought Afy was brilliant (in her) first (World Cup) game back after giving birth," captain Stafanie Taylor said after the match. "She has been working hard in the nets. Pleased she came out on top."

In the over after she dismissed Hoque, Fletcher showed why she is rated highly. First, an authentic legbreak got the better of Rumana Ahmed as she was caught behind before a wrong "un left Ritu Moni clueless next ball. Though she couldn't get the hat-trick, her ten overs - bowled at one go - resulted in three wickets for 29 runs and, more importantly, broke the back of the chase.

"You look at women in sport nowadays and you see so many changes happening," Hayley Matthews said later. "It's been fantastic that she's been able to go out, become a mother and come back. It speaks for her dedication at her age - being 30-something at this point."

"It is becoming more of a regular happenstance that women can leave the game, give birth, and come back to it, knowing that they have that support around her. It's brilliant to have her back, we saw the class that she is and we expect only good things from her going forward as always."

Matthews herself delivered a Player-of-the-Match performance, with career-best ODI figures of four wickets for 15. She is currently the joint-leading wicket-taker at the tournament, with ten scalps, and among the top five run-getters as well.

"Over the last year or so, I was able to understand a lot about bowling offspin in certain situations," she said.

"(I have been) working on my technique, getting my hand coming from a bit higher, trying to get as many revs as possible. What's more important for me is to control where I am pitching the ball. As a tall girl, helps me get a bit more bounce as well."

That Matthews bowled the opening over in West Indies' defense of 140 speaks about Taylor's faith in her and she backed it up with a wicket off the fifth ball, trapping Shamima Sultana in front.

"Looking at the wicket, we saw how well their spinners bowled," Matthews said. "The conditions suited spin. So we figured that if we get a spinner therein as early as possible, it would be really helpful and hopefully pick up some early wickets. I am just the one the team went for and it worked pretty well."

Matthews, Fletcher, and Taylor picked up all ten wickets between them, making it the first instance of spinners claiming all ten in a Women's World Cup match. It perhaps wouldn't have got to a stage where the trio could put pressure and inflict damage on Bangladesh, had it not been for Shemaine Campbelle's gritty innings.

West Indies were 48 for 3 when the wicketkeeper-batter walked in and soon found themselves 70 for 7. At that time, Campbelle was on 15 off 63 balls, 52 of which were dots. However, she stayed put and scored her second half-century in this competition, in the process helping West Indies get to a total that had looked way beyond their reach at one point.

"At that point, we really needed our batters to stand up and she did well," Matthews said, heaping praise on Campbelle. "She's the type of person who can catch up and get the runs towards the end of the innings. She realized what was more important and that was her spending time in the middle, and she did exactly that. Some people will say the strike rate was pretty low but at the same time, we were in a bit of trouble. She just did what we needed her to do."

AGENCIES

African Sports keen on performing well in 2021/22 Championship



African Sports

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari,

Tanga

AFRICAN Sports leadership has stated that despite the outfit being placed 12th in this season's Championship standing, it hopes the outfit will perform well in the rest of the matches.

On March 26, the Tanga-based club will face JKT Tanzania FC in the Championship's round 22 match at Isamuhyo ground in Dar es Salaam.

On the Championship's standing, African Sports Club sits 12th after battling it out in 21 matches.

The squad has notched 21 points, having recorded victory in five outings, draw in six duels, and defeat in 10 fixtures.

African Sports Club has scored 22 goals, leaked 26 goals to remain with a -4 goal difference in the games played.

Speaking in Tanga, African Sports Club secretary-general, Hatibu Enzi, said his team has yet to give up, as it is making efforts to perform well in the remaining matches.

Enzi revealed: "African Sports Club has not lost hope, it is not disappointed with being placed in the position in the league standing."

"We are making sure we will do well in the remaining home and away matches."

Out of 16 outfits in the 2021/22 Championship, JKT Tanzania FC is placed sixth with 29 points after battling it out in 20 matches.

African Sports is above bottom-placed Gwambina FC,

Pan African FC lately placed 15th, 14th placed African Lyon FC, and Ndanda FC sitting 13th.

Championship's favourite, Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) FC,

is positioned top with victory in 15 games, draw in four, and loss in two matches, amassing 49 points.

Ihefu FC happens to be the tournament top side's closest challenger, notching win in 15 fixtures, draw in two, and loss in four.

The third and fourth spots are owned by Kitayosce FC and Mashujaa FC followed by Ken Gold FC and Green Warriors in the fifth and sixth places respectively.

Clubs finishing in the top two places are guaranteed participation in the 2022/23 Premier League.

Competitors ending third and fourth are to compete in this season's promotion/relegation playoffs.

The playoffs will pit them against sides that will be placed 13th and 14th after the conclusion of the NBC Premier League.



Junior runners participate in a recent East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Dar to host East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships next month

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

ATLETICS Tanzania (AT) leadership has disclosed that the country will, from April 7-8, host East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships set to take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The showpiece, which will attract athletes aged below 17 and 20, will involve about 500 runners from around the region.

According to AT Information

Officer, Rogath John Steven, the East African countries that will participate in the tournament include Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and hosts, Tanzania.

Central African countries that have been confirmed to participate in the tournament are Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan.

Steven revealed: "About 10 East and Central African countries will from April 7-8 participate in the championships for

youths aged below 17 and 20 which will take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam."

The official noted: "About 500 athletes are expected to participate in the tournament."

The East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships (EAAR), also just called the East Africa Junior Athletics Championships, is a track and field competition for junior athletes in East Africa and Central Africa.

The championships were held for the first time in Amaan Stadium, Zanzibar in 2013.

They were then hosted by Dar es Salaam, Mainland Tanzania in 2016.

They consisted of athletes from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Mainland Tanzania, and Zanzibar.

Kenyan athletes won 10 gold medals at the 2016 Championships.

Athletics coaches graduate course in Dodoma

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

ABOUT 28 participants who attended a preliminary athletics coaching course in Dodoma had, on Friday, graduated after doing their final examinations.

The participants who attended the short course come from all regions across Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

According to information issued by Athletics Tanzania (AT) on its social media platforms, a trainer from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Hamad Ndee, took charge of the course.

The participants congratulated AT for organizing the course by pointing out that the course has sharpened their skills for training athletes at all levels.

"After the end of this and other upcoming short courses, we expect to receive medals because this course has shaped our skills," one of the participants, Deodatus Boniventura, noted.

The coach stated: "now we can train athletes from grassroots to national level."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

DO YOU KNOW THAT CHANGE CHANGES?

HOW?

