



National Pg 3 JKC: Embrace healthy lifestyles



National Pg 4 British firm invited for investment



National Pg 6 Songwe River Basin CEO named



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President Samia Suluhu Hassan welcomes her visiting Hungarian counterpart, Katalin Éva Veresné Novák, to State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

Tanzania eyes more tourists, investment lift from Hungary

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

TANZANIA received 7,188 tourists from Hungary in the past year and the number could increase in the near future after the Hungarian president's visit to the country, President Samia Suluhu Hassan said yesterday.

"This working visit will increase our relationships with a country that will leave you memories especially when you visit our tourist attractions like the Serengeti, Ngorongoro in Arusha region and Kilimanjaro," the president said when hosting the visiting Hungarian President Katalin Novák at the State House in Dar es Salaam.

She extended a welcoming hand to investors from Hungary to look at opportunities in renewable energy, tourism, information and communication technologies (ICT), mining and agriculture.

The Hungarian leader is on a three day official visit, landing in Dar es Salaam on Sunday night and scheduled to depart on Thursday after touring attractions in the northern tourism circuit.

Discussions between the two leaders focused on promoting economic opportunities and how to increase the scope of relations, he host president noted.

"We have agreed to strengthen diplomatic relations to facilitate mutual exchange of views, promote trade and investment," she said, noting that for the year 2022 the trade volume was valued at \$4.2bn, with chances of widening this scope.

The government will create an enabling environment for Hungarian firms wishing to invest in Tanzania, she stated in assurance, highlighting education sector exchanges as positive.

Hungary has been a good partner especially in higher education, pursuing discussion on how to benefit from different educational programs, with a memorandum signed and set to be implemented.

A number of Hungarian students will be attending courses in our universities and for this year five students are listed to attend, while Hungary has taken 30 students from Tanzania, she said, projecting that the

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Govt hands NFRA 50bn/- for Mbeya Region grains

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

THE National Food Reserves Agency (NFRA) has received 50bn/- from the government for purchase of rice and maize in Mbeya Region.

Mbeya regional commissioner Juma Homera (pictured) made this observation here at the weekend when launching rice purchasing at the NFRA warehouse at Uturo village, Mapogoro ward in Mbarali District.

Noting that the move assures farmers of a market for their crops, he said 37bn/- has been set aside for rice and 13bn/- for maize purchasing, with 31,000 tonnes of rice and 14,000 tonnes of maize expected to be purchased in the region.

He called upon farmers to emerge to sell their crops at appointed centres, as NFRA agents will go to village and ward centres starting with Uturo, proceed to Ubaruku and then Madibira. Farmers must grab this opportunity, he said.

Purchasing the crops is meant to store the food stocks for placing on the market at a later period, distributed to areas experiencing shortages, he said, asking NFRA officials to pay farmers whenever they bring their crops to sell to avoid tensions between the farmers and the government.

Eva Kwavava, manager for the Songwe zone



covering Mbeya and Songwe regions, said the agency expects to buy rice at 1,000/- per kilo, "which is concurrently its current market price."

Col (rttd.) Denis Mwila, the Mbarali district commissioner, said that before NFRA stepped in, a 100kg bag of rice sold at 80,000/- but now fetches 110,000/-.

Chances are that the price will rise, especially if other buyers step in to compete with the government by offering higher prices to farmers, he said, urging farmers to do more farming.

The government is improving the conditions in the farming sector especially in providing subsidies on farm inputs, he stated.

Daima Kilongo, a farmer present at the event, told this paper that the price offered by NFRA "shows that farming is a job just like any other" as there is a promise to increase farmers' earnings.

EWURA blames oil firms for shortages in Songwe

By Guardian Reporter

SOME oil firms are hoarding the commodity in anticipation of price changes, the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has declared.

Dr James Andilile, the managing director, said in a statement yesterday that for a whole week people in Songwe Region have been complaining of fuel price hikes that put in difficulties a whole section of consumers.

EWURA figures out that some oil firms were hoarding fuel for extortion purposes, he said, citing claims that certain oil firms say they purchased their fuel from warehouses and not from fuel station operators.

EWURA has received reports of delay of fuel deliveries in remote areas, he said.



People should know that the problem cannot be blamed on fuel traders as each year during this time fuel becomes scarce in the region

underlining that the country has enough fuel in its fuel storage facilities, while oil tankers from outside periodically offload fuel.

Up to Friday (July 14) the quantity of fuel available stood at 169.8m litres of petrol, 209.6m litres of diesel and 34.5m litres of aviation fuel, kerosene, the statement indicated, cautioning that oil firm that hoard fuel must stop doing so at once.

Hoarding is illegal in the fuel oil business and jeopardises conditions of issuance of operating licences, he stated, alerting that in-depth inspection will regularly be conducted at oil storage facilities and fuel stations.

Legal measures will be taken against

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Wildlife project to protect Kitendeni corridor mooted

By Guardian Reporter, Longido

A WILDLIFE credit project has been mooted by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to provide motivation for protection of Kitendeni Wildlife Corridor linking the Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA) and Amboseli Game Reserve across the border with Kenya.

Prof Noah Sitati (pictured), the WWF coordinator for the southern Kenya and northern Tanzania project, said that Irkaswa,



Kitendeni, Lerang'wa and Kasmwanga in Longido District of Arusha Region, part of the Endowment Wildlife Management Area (EWMA) are part of the 18-month project.

He said Irkaswa and Kamwanga residents who are mostly EWMA members want the project movers to "provide the true picture of results thereof" before its implementation in other wildlife management areas (WMAs).

The Kitendeni Wildlife Corridor is important since elephants in particular use it from Amboseli to graze at KINAPA.

The team leader said WWF created the project to benefit the four villages to safeguard the corridor as project endowment will be a reward.

"We are looking into ways the community

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Finance ministry permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba pictured at the United Nations headquarters in New York yesterday addressing a high-level political forum of the world body on behalf of the African Union. Tanzania is AU Chair for the current calendar year. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

EWURA blames oil firms for shortages in Songwe

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hoarders, including revocation of their licences in accordance with section 6 of fuel prices regulations, GN 57 of 2022, said.

Acute fuel shortage in Songwe Region started late last week where various fuel station operators in Vwawa and Mlowo towns said they had not received fuel deliveries of late. At the Tunduma border town one or two fuel stations were serving vehicles, survey indicated.

A number of motorists had to park their vehicles, while middlemen used the opportunity to sell fuel at 4,000/- to 5,000/- a litre, nearly doubling current indicative prices.

Mashaka Mwamlima, a motorcycle taxi operator, expressed surprise at the fuel shortage in the region, a few days after the government announced a slight drop in prices.

Suke Ringa, a manager at Manyanya fuel station in Vwawa, Mbozi District said the problem regularly appears at mid-year, noting that fuel stations get their supplies from one fuel depot in Dar es Salaam.

People should know that the problem cannot be blamed on fuel traders as each year during this time fuel becomes scarce in the region, he added.

Wildlife project to protect Kitendeni corridor mooted

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will benefit and that is why we devised this small project on a trial basis," he said.

A village succeeding in safeguarding the corridor is one that ensures stopping human settlement, farming and game poaching, he stated.

"There are people who cut down and burn trees for charcoal or timber," he pointed out, noting that they are in effect taking away village natural resources. "I hear in

the Kenya side poachers kill wildlife that bring in tourists into EWMA," he remarked.

The village meeting enabled villagers to express their satisfaction with the likelihood that the project will raise their living standards, while Juma Mohamed, the Kamwanga village chairman, cautioned the residents to stop the habit of killing wildlife for food.

In so doing, they will be denied the opportunity to benefit from funds to be provided in the wildlife credit project, he added.

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numbers will be increased in the future.

President Novak said that it is a big step for her to come to East Africa, "especially as those who met are national leaders, female presidents."

Their meeting as presidents motivates girl students in both countries not to give up, either as to becoming a mother or to achieve educational success.

"We all believe that being a mother is an important event in life. It doesn't matter how

Tanzania eyes more tourists, investment lift from Hungary

much we erase our professional differences, but we must not give up on our ways. We encourage all women in the world not to give up towards success," the visiting leader declared.

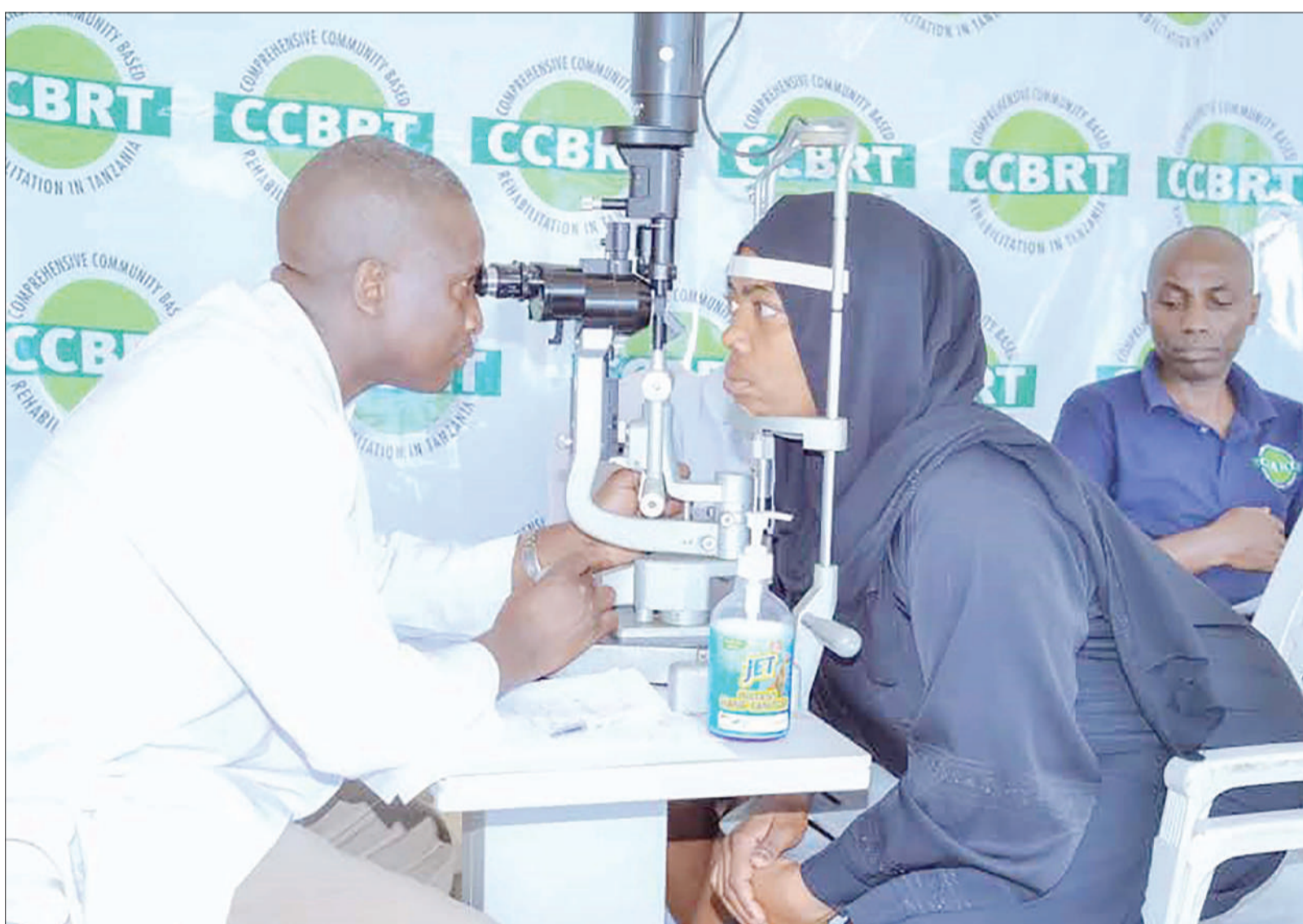
Noting that Hungary has about ten million people, she said her trip to Tanzania is geared at earning Tanzania respect as

a nation, as well as to promote cooperation.

"We talked to the president about the situation we are going through as a country because Hungary borders Ukraine and the ongoing war has also affected us," she said, citing the fact that Hungary has received more than two million refugees from Ukraine.

"We have economic challenges; we have also lost civilians in the war," she stated.

President Novak referred to opportunity for education with about 12,000 funded scholarships being extended to study in Hungary from different countries around the world, including Tanzania.



Joseph Sungura (L), an ophthalmologist (eye care specialist) with Dar es Salaam's CCBRT Hospital, pictured on Saturday attending to a resident of the city at a free health camp organised jointly by the regional commissioner's office and Clouds Media Group. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Newly created: Embryo of nearly extinct rhino species

NAIROBI

SCIENTISTS have created a new embryo they hope will contribute to a return of the near-extinct northern white rhino.

The artificially made embryo is just the third viable example. All three were created in vitro by combining frozen sperm taken from male rhinos before they died with eggs harvested from one of the two remaining northern whites in the world, which are both female.

Sudan, the last known male of his subspecies, died in 2018 aged 45.

Researchers now plan to implant the three embryos they have created into surrogate southern white rhino females, a species which is more numerous.

"It's amazing to see that we will be able to reverse the tragic loss of this subspecies through science," said Kenya's wildlife minister, Najib Balala, in a statement released by the Kenya Wildlife Service and conservationists from Kenya, the Czech Republic, Germany and Italy.

The three embryos were made from eggs taken from Fatu, Sudan's granddaughter. Fatu lives at Kenya's Ol Pejeta conservancy with her mother, Najin - under 24-hour armed guard.

"Now the team will make every effort to achieve the same result for the 30-year-old Najin before it is too late for her," said Thomas Hildebrandt with the Leibniz Institute for Zoo & Wildlife Research in Germany.

Scientists created the first two embryos last autumn. They hope to build a herd of five northern white rhinos that could eventually be returned to the wild, a process likely

to take decades.

Kenya, which was home to as many as 20,000 rhinos in the 1970s, now has about 650 mostly black rhinos.

The northern white subspecies was once found in a number of countries in eastern and central Africa. Conservationists estimate that there are about 18,000 of its southern white cousins left in the world, and 5,000 black rhinos.

Southern whites have already made their own remarkable comeback, thanks to the efforts of rangers dedicated to protecting them.

In 1897 there were only about 50 left on the planet. The number rose past 400 in the 1950s and in the mid-1960s the subspecies was upgraded from critically endangered status.

Rhinos are hunted for their horns, which are used as a carving medium and in traditional Chinese remedies, without any evidence for their effectiveness.



Now the team will make every effort to achieve the same result for the 30-year-old Najin before it is too late for her

Former DRC leader rejects accusations of harbouring Islamist rebels

KAMPALA

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo's former president Joseph Kabila (pictured) has rejected accusations from neighbouring Uganda that he gave sanctuary to an Islamist rebel group and allowed it to expand and exploit mineral resources.

Kabila led Congo from 2001 to 2019 when he was succeeded by current president Felix Tshisekedi.

Last week, Ugandan leader Yoweri Museveni said Kabila had allowed the Allied Democratic

Forces (ADF), which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State (IS), to set up large camps and also mine gold and sell timber, among other economic activities.

"The gratuitous false accusations of President Museveni, who is one of the main destabilizers in the region, are simply ridiculous and aim to distract the Congolese people and divide them," Kabila's spokesperson Barbara Nzimbi said in a statement.

Founded in 1996, the ADF was originally a Ugandan rebel group, carrying out attacks around the Rwenzori region in western Uganda.

The insurgents were eventually routed and remnants fled across the border into the jungles of eastern Congo, where they have since been operating.

Fighters from the group frequently carry out killings in Congo both against civilian and military targets and also occasionally carry out attacks in Uganda.

In one of the most grisly attacks, last month, ADF rebels crossed the border into Uganda, stormed a secondary school and massacred 42 people, mostly students. Some were burned alive.

Kabila's government had recognised the ADF as a terrorist organisation and kept the international community including the United Nations well informed "on the abuses perpetrated by the ADF and the need to intervene," Nzimbi said.

"These international organizations rejected this qualification by the Congolese government of the word 'terrorist'. It is long overdue that it is recognised that Joseph Kabila was right and that it was necessary to urgently intervene."





Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority director general Dr Jabiri Bakari updates journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on developments at the agency, heading in earnest into financial year 2023/2024. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

JKCI: Members of the public need to have healthy lifestyles

By Guardian Reporter

THE Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) has advised the general public to embrace a healthy lifestyle by exercising and eating a balanced diet to reduce chances of developing cardiovascular risk factors and ultimately heart disease which are affecting thousands.

Speaking when addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam, JKCI managing director Dr Peter Kisenge said the public should be mindful of what to eat and drink, keep a healthy weight, stay physically

active, monitoring cholesterol, blood pressure, diabetes and frequent health checkups.

Dr Kisenge said the institute has set aside 66.3bn/- in the 2023/24 financial year to implement various programmes including training experts and purchasing medical equipment. He said priority areas in this financial year include expanding the offering of cardiovascular services and providing public awareness to the public on how to live a healthy life.

He said the institute has also embarked on taking services to the

people through the Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan outreach programme especially those with cardiovascular complications instead of following them to Dar es Salaam.

"This is has been a game changer because it has intensified early screening as most of the patients come to JKCI when the problem is at an advanced stage hence making the medication difficult," he said.

He added that the hospital has been engaging the media and other platforms to disseminate knowledge to the general public on how to avoid heart disease risks.

International community urged to help Africa in addressing challenges due to effects of COVID-19 and climate change

By Guardian Correspondent, New York

THE International Community has been tasked to help Africa deal with various challenges caused by the effects of Covid-19, climate change and armed conflicts.

These issues threaten the prosperity of various countries economically and socially and hinder the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance made the call yesterday in New York, USA, when addressing the members of the High Political Forum of the United Nations on behalf of the United Nations of Africa, where Tanzania is the chairman of the Union for this year.

The PS said that these challenges have become an obstacle in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and pushed many people into the depths of poverty and called for effective and immediate measures to be taken to deal with the situation.

She said that the African continent is endowed with many resources of sun, wind, water and geothermal energy and gave an example of solar energy which has the capacity to generate 10 terawatts of electricity that can meet the needs and enable access to clean energy that will save the environment.

"In this relationship, the African continent emphasizes the importance of ensuring that clean and affordable energy is available for all, where more investment motivation is needed in many areas, including digital investment, innovative technology and other important sectors," said Dr Natu.

She also said that investment in the clean and safe water sector as well as urban and rural sanitation is an important issue in order to build a healthy and prosperous society and called on the International

Community to prioritize programs that aim to strengthen the water service for citizens.

On industry, Dr Natu said that the sector is important for promoting the production of goods and services as well as being a source of guaranteed employment especially for young people and called on various international organizations and companies to invest capital and technology in Africa.

"Economic opportunities provided by the industrial sector stimulate entrepreneurship and business development, technological change, and increase productive efficiency, promoting development and self-driven economic reform," she said.

She also said that it is important to improve the free trade zones in the African continent to increase the production of products that will be added value but also to increase sales abroad, the availability of foreign currency and to promote the economy of the countries of the continent.

On Tanzania, Dr Natu said that the government has strengthened itself by ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are successfully achieved by the year 2030 where great efforts have been directed at strengthening the economy; community services including social security.

"The government will continue to prioritize investments in social welfare sectors, the skills and abilities of its citizens to get rid of themselves economically, especially for young people, to develop the rights of women and girls and to promote meaningful participation for all groups of people, including the most vulnerable" he added Dr Natu.

Dr Natu also stressed that the government properly recognizes the important role of digital technology and innovation in promoting economic growth and ultimately achieving the expected results of the SDGs.



PUBLIC NOTICE

CUSTOMS DECLARATIONS OF VALUE OF THE SOFTWARE IMPORTED THROUGH MEDIA CARRIERS/DEVICES

Dar Es Salaam, 17th July, 2023.

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) wishes to remind the general public and importers on the legal and procedural requirements to follow during importation of software. Kindly be made aware that, software imported using media carriers are to be declared under **H.S Code 8523.80.10** and should be cleared through customs using normal procedures including declaration of customs value. The value should be based on the price actually paid or payable for both the carrier medium (the hardware) and the software as per requirement of Section 122 read together with the Fourth Schedule of the East African Community Customs Management Act, 2004 (as revised).

TRA wishes further to inform that, import documents such as Invoices and Tanzania Single Administrative Documents (TANSADs) should be maintained as evidence for the purpose of input tax credit as stipulated under section 68 of the Value Added Tax Act, 2014 or other tax matters stipulated under other tax laws.

All importers are hereby enjoined to comply with the requirements of this notice in order to avoid the consequences that may arise out of breach of the provisions of the tax laws

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TAXPAYERS EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



WWF for a living planet

Supply of Rangers Field Equipment

1. INTRODUCTION

World Wide Funds for nature (WWF) Tanzania country office is an international non-governmental organization which is working to ensure that humans live in harmony with nature. In Tanzania WWF performs various projects and programs in the priority landscapes i.e., SOKNOT, Water Tower, Ruvuma, and RUMAKI Seascape. In programs and projects execution WWF is working with various stakeholders i.e., governments at different tiers which includes local, regional and central, communities, private sectors, media and civil society organizations.

WWF Tanzania Country Office has received funds to implement the projects in the SOKNOT landscape that stretches from Lake Victoria to the Indian Ocean, the Southern Kenya - Northern Tanzania (SOKNOT) transboundary area covers some 134,000 square kilometers. SOKNOT is famous for its wildlife, indigenous cultures and the variety of internationally renowned and iconic conservation areas, including among others the famous national parks of Serengeti, Masai Mara, Mkomazi, Tsavo, Kilimanjaro and the Ngorongoro crater, two UNESCO world heritage sites (Serengeti, Kilimanjaro), one RAMSAR wetland (Lake Natron), one UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (Amboseli), important bird habitats (Lake Natron, Loita, Amboseli, West Kilimanjaro) as well as 39 communal conservancies and four wildlife management areas.

WWF Tanzania for this tender, it aims at procuring Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation equipment to reduce HWC with the ultimate goal of ensuring that people and wildlife live and flourish together by finding sustainable solutions to wildlife conservation in the SOKNOT Landscape.

WWF Tanzania invites eligible Tanzanian Suppliers/Contractors registered by relevant Authorities/Bodies to bid for the tender.

Application Procedure & Submission of Applications

WWF TCO invites applications from competent, qualified and experienced bidder(s) through the following address:

Secretary, Procurement Committee WWF Tanzania
Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikocheni
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077

All applicants should direct their electronic copy to the procurement e-mail at procurement@wwftz.org Interested applicants may access the Full Detailed Tender Document through the following website:
https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/

All applications should reach us by or before 09:00am Tanzania local time on Tuesday, 1st August, 2023.

WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such incident, report by sending an email to fcci@wwftz.org

Consult TIC before buying land from villagers, investors advised

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INVESTORS have been urged to avoid purchasing land directly from villagers without consulting Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), to prevent unnecessary conflicts that may occur between them and local authorities.

Twahil Bishanga, Senior land officer from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development (Investment Land Desk) made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking at a joint discussion between members of European Business Group (EUBG) that involved about 50 people, officials from TIC and 11 government institutions.

They met to discuss and showcase joint facilitation services for investors provided by the TIC namely "One Stop Facilitation Services for European Businesses."

Bishanga said some investors have created a habit of going directly to people and negotiating with them and buying land without consulting TIC, something which is dangerous and was a major cause of various land conflicts.

He said TIC is the only one who knows the land specially allocated for investors and which has been equipped with basic infrastructure such as water, roads, electricity so that it is easier for the investor to proceed with his mission instead of starting over.

"The challenge we have is when investors want land, some of them go directly to the villages or other respective areas to purchase land without involving the relevant authorities that coordinate investment issues, the consequences are that often the projects they want to put doesn't match with the land use plan of the areas they have taken," he said.

He said: "Therefore, we have advised them that it is wise before buying those areas they go to TIC and Economic Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) to coordinate whether the projects they want to invest in are acceptable for the planned land use in those areas."

He said there are many benefits of

taking land that has been approved by TIC as this becomes easier for the government to deploy important infrastructure such as electricity, water and roads.

Executive Director of European Business Group, Emma Urlo, said the group represents more than 125 investors and businessmen from the European continent from various sectors such as agriculture, industry and business.

She said the aim of holding the meeting is to bring European businessmen closer together so that they understand about the One Stop Facilitation Center of TIC and its benefits.

Netherlands ambassador, Wiebe De Boer, said the investors have enjoyed the discussion held together with government officials about common services for investors from the European continent.

He said that they have received information from 12 institutions that work closely with TIC about the services that they can get together and facilitate investment unlike previous years.

"The transparency of the public institutions makes investors happy and they have continued to improve the investment environment in this country and records show that investors tend to come due to the good investment environment," the envoy said.

John Mmari, TIC director of investment promotion said the aim of the meeting was to bring together the investors from Europe and officials of government institutions that provide joint services.

"These European businessmen have their union here called EUBG, we wanted them to know the common services provided by our institutions under one roof so that when they encounter any challenge, they know which TIC officer will solve their problem, the meeting has been good, they have asked several questions and they have been given a good explanations," Mmari added.

He said investors have been benefiting from timely services such as residence permits and investment licenses once they enter the country.



Jenista Mhagama (in head-cloth), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), extends humanitarian assistance at Michenjeje in Tandahimba District yesterday to Abdallah Mbwana. He was confirmed as among the needy residents of the village. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TFRA to distribute 850 tonnes of fertiliser, seeds in 2023/24

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) has said that in the 2023/24 FY, a total of 850,000 tonnes will be distributed countrywide, as it establishes five zones to boost fertiliser, seeds and pesticides inspections.

Dr Stephan Ngailo, TFRA Managing Director named the five zones as including Central, Southern Highlands, Northern,

Lake and Eastern Zones.

Dr Ngailo said in the coming financial year, the Authority will coordinate sourcing and distribution of the fertiliser as well as to supervise the distribution of subsidized fertiliser, quality control, mobilise for the establishment of fertiliser factories and collaborate with stakeholders to educate farmers on the correct use of fertiliser.

In regard to inspections, he

said the number of fertiliser dealers being inspected has been increasing each year from 1,000 in 2021/22 to 3,081 in 2022/23, or 84 per cent of the set goal of 3,649 dealers earmarked for inspection.

He added that the establishment of the national laboratory to control fertiliser quality has been completed and the task for analyzing fertilisers began this month.

However, he said political

imperatives by President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the development of the country's fertiliser industry showed that by June 30 this year fertiliser availability hit 1,115,841 tonnes or 139 per cent, surpassing the set target of the CCM 2020/25 Election Manifesto.

He further said mobilising for building new fertiliser and pesticides factories and investment thereon has shown that 17 fertiliser factories are producing fertiliser.

He also said fertiliser business in the country has increased from 543,043 tonnes (2018/19) to 1,115,841 (2023/24), as well as the increase of fertiliser dealers from 51 (2012/13) to 4,562 (2022/23).

1.2 million farmers set to benefit from World Vision Tanzania programme

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 1.2 million farmers in the country are set to benefit from an empowering programme under the government collaboration with other stakeholders, it has been revealed.

Through the collaboration, the Ministry of Agriculture and World Vision Tanzania is expecting to spend at least \$11.4 million to implement the second plan aimed at empowering farmers by assisting them to get capital, modern equipment and reliable markets for their produce.

World Vision Tanzania director, James Anditi said here recently that farmers are still faced with various challenges including lack of access to farm inputs and unreliable rainfall.

Speaking during the launch of the plan, he said, "Through this programme some 1.2 million farmers help them get capital, markets and modern equipment so that they can produce profitably".

The World Vision boss added that some \$11.4 mn/- is budgeted for the programme aimed at helping transform agricultural production in the country.

On his part, the Director for Better Land Use from the Ministry of Agriculture, John Mdeke said that his docket has reached an agreement aimed at collaborating with the World Vision Tanzania to help farmers find markets for their crops so that they can do commercial farming.

Mdeke said that agricultural production has been increasing due to good strategies implemented by the government, but the issue of lack of markets is still a challenge to farmers.

He argued that the World Vision Tanzania should ensure that it also

focuses on motivating farmers to change their thinking and shun traditional farming and instead focus on commercial agriculture which will be beneficial to them.

Mdeke said that in order to ensure that agricultural activities are improved, the government has started a soil testing programme to help farmers understand the nature of the soil.

"When farmers know the nature of their soil, it helps them understand the type of seeds and other inputs to be used in the area, thus boosting production," he said.

He added: "the move will also help farmers to know the amount of fertiliser they should use, because without knowing they can use too much or too little."

Chamwino District Commissioner Gift Msuya said that it is important to have a database for farmers in order to facilitate loan provision.

Msuya thanked World Vision Tanzania for their effort to collaborate with the government to achieve farmers' objectives, especially in value addition to their crops and ensuring reliable markets.



When farmers know the nature of their soil, it helps them understand the type of seeds and other inputs to be used in the area, thus boosting production



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (C) has an audience in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Simon Cheung (L), chairman of a UK-based infrastructure institute. Right is the institute's investment director, Ope Onibokun. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Minister Nchemba invites BII to invest in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

DR Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance Minister has invited British International Investment (BII) to invest in various development sectors in the country including the energy sector.

Dr Nchemba issued the invitation when he met with and held talks with the BII delegation in

Dar es Salaam yesterday where the two announced various plans for development cooperation.

He cited important investment areas in the energy sector including energy transmission, gas and oil as Tanzania is among countries with huge reserves of hydrocarbons that contain natural gas and oil.

He said the development of infrastructures for these sectors

is a huge priority for Tanzania economic growth and anticipated to have huge and fast results in employment creation.

He added that other important areas which the government has put its efforts on include the Public Private Partnership (PPP) in the production sectors that have an important responsibility for the country's sustainable

development.

The minister also called on teams of experts to make sure they conduct in-depth negotiations in regard to investment in which BII has shown intention to invest.

For his part, BII director, Simon Cheung said his institution was ready to discuss with the Tanzania government and accord investment priorities in various sectors.



Umyy Nderiananga (R, in head-cloth), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), pictured in Moshi municipality yesterday having a feel of items made or otherwise produced by a cluster of people living with HIV and Aids. Photo: PMO

PPRA cites corruption as main hurdle in public procurement

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

PUBLIC Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has identified eight hurdles facing public procurement in regard to procurement institutions and tenderers including rampant corruption and inadequate transparency during tender processes.

In the circumstances, the government plans to make improvements to the Procurement law and will not tolerate any public official who will be found to go against tender procedures.

Addressing reporters here yesterday, PPRA chief executive officer, Eliakim Maswi said inadequate transparency contributes to lack of tender details, the value of the agreement and lack of trust.

Maswi said public procurement faces a big danger from acts of

corruption owing to public officials being accused of corruption by awarding tenders to unqualified firms.

"There is a hurdle regarding the tender process taking a very long time, this is a legal requirement in adhering to tender procedures and regulations including competition.

"In many instances these legal steps call for more time hence unfaithful government officials become the cause for the delay," he said.

In addition, Maswi said other hurdles include the provision of unsatisfactory goods or services, or those of substandard, the hiking of prices of goods that do not conform to market prices and firms without ability who also apply.

Speaking about the government guidelines against these hurdles, he said PPRA plans to make improvements to the PPRA Act including removal of unnecessary

bureaucracy and enhancing accountability to all those involved in public procurement.

"It is also planned to reduce the time for tender processes and enhance achievements in implementing public projects as well as investing in protecting diligence in the procurement systems via special public procurement guidelines.

"In addition, we plan to supervise strategic procurement to make sure the government gets the actual money value, provide education to the public, especially to special groups to understand the procedures to be awarded tenders advertised by the government," he said.

Maswi said the government direction in regard to public procurement will stress the use of technology whereby in collaboration with other stakeholders, it plans to prepare

a national strategy on online public procurement and issue indicative regulations on the digital transformation in the area.

Speaking about the new National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) Maswi said beginning July 1 2023 the system has started to be used officially and procurement institutions are supposed to use it during FY 2023/24.

He added that by October 1 this year all government procurement institutions will not be able to invite tenders through TANEPS and instead they will start using NeST system.

"For the period July 1 to September 30 2023, TANEPS system will no longer receive payments in regard to new registration fees from tender applicants, the payment that will be entertained during the period will be tender advertising fees and tender fees," he said.

'African nations should write their own history'

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AFRICAN leaders have agreed to charter the cause of writing the continent's own history. It is among the several resolutions reached during the three-day sessions of the African Drive for Democracy Conference held in Arusha, involving various experts, activists, heads of institutions and youth from around the continent.

Speaking after the initial sessions, the chair of the conference, who is the former President of Sierra Leone, Ernest Koroma, said it is high time Africa worked to change the way the world sees the continent and this can only be achieved through making Africans write their own history and narrative.

"We must write our own chronicles, that will change how other people outside Africa see our continent," he insisted.

In another development, Tanzania is now set to become the permanent seat for the center of 'African Drive for Democracy,' something which delegates want hosted in the Northern City of Arusha.

Retired President, Jakaya Kikwete said it has been agreed among participants that from now henceforth Arusha will be the venue of all annual conferences for the Africa Drive for Democracy.

The city has so far hosted these continental democratic events for two consecutive years now.

This year, the retreat has brought to Tanzania former top African leaders, such as the retired Mozambican President, Joachim Chissano, and former Sierra Leone Head of State, Ernest Koroma and the retired Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe.

They all expressed concern on how things are going in many parts of Africa.

"While Africa has made strides in democracy, the continent is still facing challenges, some countries are backsliding in good governance and the precinct keeps experiencing coups, protests and destructive demos," they jointly stated.

But as far as Former Mozambique President, Chissano is Concerned, Democracy is not a destination but rather a process which needs to be sustained by all means necessary.

The conference running under the theme of 'Social Movements and Democratization in Africa,' has brought together the various democratic communities from around the continent, including scholars, religious leaders, NGO leaders, donors, trade unionists, students, professionals, artists, women leaders, farmers' associations and political formations.

The conference is the flagship event of the Africa Drive for Democracy network which is co-convened and hosted by the MS Training Center for Development Cooperation, the Institute for Security Studies and the Center for Strategic Litigation.

Delegates will be taking stock of the state of democracy on the continent, highlight and celebrate the achievements of the African democratic movement, learn from the challenges encountered, and craft forward-looking approaches towards promoting vibrant and tolerant democracies.

The event will also deliberate on the state of social movements on the African continent as well as reflecting on the historical role of social movements on the continent and take stock of current efforts including the successes and failures registered in order to subsequently chart pathways for strengthening the pro-democracy movement on the continent.

Tunisia, EU sign 'strategic' deal on economy, migration issues

BRUSSELS

with North Africa."

THE European Union and Tunisia signed a "strategic partnership" in Tunis on Sunday, focusing on the fight against illegal immigration, but also designed to support the North African country in the face of serious economic difficulties.

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, welcomed the agreement, which will enable Tunisia to "invest in shared prosperity," citing "five pillars," including the all-important question of migration.

Along with Libya, Tunisia is the main point of departure for thousands of migrants crossing the central Mediterranean to Europe.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte accompanied the European leader after the trio's first visit a month ago, during which they proposed this partnership.

The five pillars are "macro-economic stability, trade and investment, green energy transition, people-to-people links, migration and mobility," says the Commission in a press release.

The Memorandum of Understanding marks "another important step towards tackling the migration crisis in an integrated way," said a delighted Meloni, who has invited Tunisian President Kais Saied to attend a summit on migration in Rome next Sunday.

Among other things, they agreed to extend the Erasmus exchange program to Tunisia and to provide €65 million in aid for 80 schools.

On the energy front, the European leaders recalled that Tunisia is involved in projects for an undersea fiber-optic cable and an electricity cable to link the two shores of the Mediterranean.

Von der Leyen stressed that the EU was keen to support the development of renewable energies in the Maghreb country, which has "enormous potential."

According to Ms Meloni, the partnership between Tunisia and the European Union (EU) "can be seen as a model for the establishment of new relations

As for immigration, Rutte felt that the agreement would enable "better control of irregular immigration".

President Saied addressed this issue to his counterparts, calling for "a collective agreement on inhumane immigration and (forced) displacement operations by criminal networks."

"Tunisians have given these immigrants everything that could be offered with unlimited generosity", pleaded Mr. Saied, strongly criticized for the way in which hundreds of migrants were arrested in Tunisia, then "deported," according to NGOs, to inhospitable areas on the borders with Algeria and Libya.

Testimonies given by telephone sent to NGOs in Tunisia showed women and children abandoned in the middle of the desert without water, food or shelter.

Libyan border guards said that they had rescued at least 70 migrants wandering in unbearable temperatures and without any help in a border area between the two countries.

An increasingly openly xenophobic discourse has spread in Tunisia since Mr. Saied, who took over full power in July 2021, denounced illegal immigration in February, referring to "hordes of sub-Saharan migrants" who, he claimed, had come to "change the demographic composition" of the country.

In concrete terms, the agreement between Brussels and Tunis provides for 105 million euros in aid to combat illegal immigration.

The EU has also promised direct budgetary aid of 150 million euros in 2023, at a time when Tunisia, strangled by a debt representing 80% of its GDP, is running out of cash, causing regular shortages of basic necessities purchased directly by the state.

During its first visit, the European troika had referred to "macro-financial assistance of 900 million euros", in the form of a loan that would have been provided to Tunisia over the next few years.



Water ministry deputy permanent secretary Cyprian Luhemeja (R) briefs journalists yesterday shortly after an assessment tour of progress in the implementation of a Tarime-Rorya project involving the pumping of a daily 29 million litres of water from Lake Victoria. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Mikumi conservationists hail SUA for churning out experts

By Getrude Mbagu

CONSERVATIONISTS at Mikumi National Park in Morogoro Region have hailed the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) for its investment and efforts to produce well-skilled and competent experts in the environment and wildlife sector.

An ecologist at the park, Nicas Nguma made the appreciation recently when first year students pursuing Bachelor of Science in Wildlife visited Mikumi to undertake ecological and botanic surveys.

The tour organised by the SUA's College of Forestry Wildlife and Tourism (CFWT), meant to help the students to understand the ecology of the Park and its biodiversity.

According to Nguma, a robust relationship between SUA and the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) which has lasted for years, greatly helps students to get enough practical training for them to serve well in their areas of profession.

Upon successful completion of the Forest Botany and Fundamental of Ecology course, the student will be able to: "If you conduct an assessment in our parks and reserve areas, you will find 75 percent of our conservationists are products of SUA, this shows clearly how this university has well invested in human resources and tools to train its students well so as to become competent workers after graduating," he said.

Nguma said the Park has been receiving a number of students who are taking various courses at SUA coming for both practical learning and tourism, saying that the spirit greatly contributes to the development of the tourism sector.

Some of the first year students from the SUA's College of Forestry Wildlife and Tourism said that within a few months of being in class, they have been able to know a number of things which attract them to continue loving the course.

Yassin Jafari, one of the students said the practical field has helped them to understand a number of terms and things which they have learned theoretically in class.

Ester Tairo commended the strong relations between SUA and TANAPA which has helped the students to visit various parts to learn more about animals and wildlife.

"After the field practical, we are now able to define well key concepts and terminologies used in Forest Botany and Fundamental of Ecology, identify and describe important plant families in forestry and wildlife management areas, collect plant specimens and prepare herbarium as well as prepare botanical and ecological reports and present them to professional and non-professional audiences," she explained.

Apart from Mikumi, the students conducted tours in various national parks including Tarangire.



If you conduct an assessment in our parks and reserve areas, you will find 75 percent of our conservationists are products of SUA, this shows clearly how this university has well invested in human resources and tools to train its students well so as to become competent workers after graduating

Kyazuri becomes new executive secretary for Songwe River Basin

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

COUNCIL of Ministers of the Joint Songwe River Basin Commission (Songwecom) has appointed Dr Ladislaus Kyaruzi as a first executive secretary of the Commission with effect from July 2023.

Dr Kyaruzi is a professional engineer holding PhD in climate change and sustainable development from the University of Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

He has vast experience of over 18 years with in-depth experience in environment, energy, climate change, forestry, water resources, disaster risk reduction, negotiations and energy.

For a period of October 2016 to June 2023, he was the Head of Environment and Natural Resources at East African Community (EAC) secretariat.

Among others, he was responsible for providing overall coordination of the implementation of Chapter 19 (Environment and Natural Resources Management) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

Dr Kyaruzi was the EAC focal point to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) including those related to the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, waste management, climate change, pollution control, disaster risk reduction and management and biosafety.

He also has the qualification related to programmes and projects development and management.

In 2008 and 2010, he attended training and got certificates of projects development and implementation for climate change mitigation (Clean Development Mechanism) from the University of Twente, the Netherlands.

From August 2004 to March 2005, Dr. Eng. Kyaruzi worked for the private sector (Caspian Mining in a senior level as an engineer.

He has worked with the Government of the United Republic

of Tanzania as Engineer from 04 April 2005 to August 2012, Senior Engineer from September 2012 to 01 May 2016 and Principal Engineer from 02 May 2016 to 04 October 2016).

In 2011-2021, he led negotiator of the African group negotiating on climate change to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process and member of the Global Technology Executive Committee to the UNFCCC (2018 to date).

Dr Kyaruzi coordinated the revision of the EAC Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management in the East African Community.

He coordinated the development of the National Climate Change Strategy of the United Republic of Tanzania.

In terms of leadership and linkages with similar regional and international agencies/institutions, from 2016-2017 he was the Chair of the Global Facilitative Branch of the Compliance Committee of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Vice chair of the Global Facilitative Branch of the Compliance Committee of the Kyoto Protocol since 2014 to 2015.

From 2013-2014, Dr Kyaruzi was a Member of Tanzania's expert team to the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) when Tanzania coordinated CAHOSCC.

He provided linkages between EAC, EAC countries and other organizations providing coordination roles to the MEAs.

He has experience on programmes and projects development and implementation for example supervising/providing guidance on design, annual work plans, procurement, reporting, monitoring, budget performance of regional and national programmes and projects related to environment, natural resources and energy.



Edmund Enugu, the coordinator of Vocational Education and Training Authority short-term training in Iringa Region, pictured yesterday giving tests to measure the understanding of 257 bus and truck drivers who had just enrolled for the course. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

Dodoma RC commends Msalato school for outstanding performance in Form 6 exams

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

DODOMA regional commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule has commended the Msalato Girls secondary school for outstanding performance in the 2023 Form Six examination results (ACSEE) released by the National Examination Council of Tanzania (Necta).

In the exams, students at Msalato performed well where 139 got division one and only 6 got division two.

In her tour to inspect construction of dormitories, classrooms and toilets at the school

as well as Bihawana secondary school on Monday here, Senyamule commended teachers and staff for their efforts to ensure that students learn well thus making Dodoma region proud.

She said that the government has issued funds to construct four dormitories, seven classrooms and 10 in the two schools so as to improve the teaching and learning environment.

"The government issued 428m/- for the first phase and an additional of 260m/- for the second phase for the construction of the buildings, Bihawana secondary school received 227.2bn/- for the same

purpose," she said.

RC Senyamule wanted contractors implementing the projects to increase pace so as to ensure that the projects are completed on time so as to accommodate form five students who are expected to join the schools soon.

"You must strive to increase pace and creativity within these remaining days, quality should be your first priority, increase the number of technicians and increase working hours, speed and accuracy are needed here because form five students will be joining the schools soon," she insisted.

Headmaster at the Bihawana

secondary school, Liberatus Nkilema said the construction of the building at the school was in final stages and is expected to be completed before the end of July.

Dodoma District Commissioner Jabir Shekimweri insisted on contractors to ensure that the buildings meet all required quality standards which will last long.

Shekimweri said the region has performed well in the 2023 Form Six results (ACSEE) where among top ten national schools, five are from Dodoma.

Gloria Frank, head girl at Msalato secondary school commended President Samia for her efforts to continue improving the learning and teaching environment in schools, something which enables the students to learn smoothly to attain their educational dreams.



Fishermen pictured yesterday afternoon heading to Dar es Salaam's International Fish Market in a hunt for customers for fish they had just caught in the Indian Ocean waters. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Councillor for Sirari hails TASAF scheme for disbursing funds on time

By Correspondent Ambrose Wantaigwa, Tarime

SIRARI Ward Councillor in Tarime District, Mara Region Amos Sagara has commended the Tanzania Social Action Funds (TASAF) programme for disbursing funds on time and other supporting tools for its beneficiaries something which help them to engage in various income generating activities.

He also assured that development projects implemented in the ward involving the beneficiaries were going well and leaders will continue supervising to ensure that they bring intended outcomes.

He said that in recent days, councillors in the ward have held

several meetings and approved the implementation of projects including the construction of small bridges and the improvement of natural wells.

Sagara was speaking at a public meeting in the border town of Sirari where he also listened to people's concerns in the ward.

He explained that with the beneficiaries from more than 150 households receiving subsidies, they are also engaged in the construction of projects where they get extra income.

Currently, the TASAF programme has been greatly improved where apart from the beneficiaries receiving subsidies every two months, the beneficiaries are involved in the implementation of various projects in their areas

voluntarily where they are paid additional funds," he said.

He said the implementation of the TASAF programme wants citizens living in difficult circumstances to be identified in public meetings at the grassroots level where after verification they are enrolled into the programme. "We are aware that there are many residents who are eligible to join the programme but all of them will be enrolled as per government's budget, so we need to be patient on this," he urged.

Some citizens pointed out the challenges facing the implementation of the programme as delay in payments for the beneficiaries who participate in the implementation of development projects.

Jay Mwita, one of the residents said that the implementation of the projects under TASAF programme were too slow due to delay in payment of the beneficiaries who are basically unable to support themselves economically.

Since its commencement in the year 2000, TASAF programme has contributed immensely to the reduction of income poverty among poor households in the country.

Through its Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) programme, TASAF focuses more in providing poor households with prerequisite entrepreneurship skills and income-earning opportunities to enable them establish small-scale business and projects for poverty alleviation.



Dr Mohamed Maguo (L, gesturing), Open University of Tanzania's communications and marketing director, makes a briefing in Dar es Salaam yesterday to visitors at the university's pavilion at the ongoing 18th Science and Technology Exhibition featuring institutions of higher learning. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

BoT plans to let tourist hotel clients make payments in foreign currency

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has established new regulations aimed at putting in place procedures that will enable tourist hotels in the country to provide foreign currency transaction services to their customers.

The step stems from the surging numbers of visitors at the hotels who pay for their services in foreign currency, hence the planned procedures will enable the government to have the correct statistics of foreign currency.

BoT governor Emmanuel Tutuba disclosed this in Dar es Salaam on Monday at a meeting with bureau du change stakeholders.

Tutuba said BoT, in collaboration with the Zanzibar government, met with tourist hotels stakeholders in

January this year and discussed how to improve foreign transaction services at tourist hotels.

He said it was found out hotel owners receive a lot of foreign currency from their visitors as payment for hotel services, the situation that denies the government of the correct foreign currency statistics.

"After the hotel owners receive the foreign currency, he changes it to local currency for paying salaries and purchase of supplies."

"Hence after the new regulations become operational, after the hotel owner receives the foreign currency he will be required to register it and in form the government after which will deposit it in the hotel's bank account where the government will be aware of," said Bot Governor

Tutuba.

He said in addition to the new regulations, BoT continues to mobilise banks and other financial institutions to improve their foreign currency transactions.

He said by June this year, 37 commercial banks with more 900 branches countrywide continue to provide the services, and added that a total of eight bureaux du change with 35 branches nationwide were licensed.

He also mentioned the reason behind the scarcity of the US dollars, saying it stems from the increase of the currency's demand owing to the opening up the economy after the Covid-19 pandemic period.

He named another reason as the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war that has forced price rises of various

goods and services including transport costs.

The Central Bank Governor mentioned yet another reason as the effects of climate change that has necessitated huge demand of the currency, and the US financial policy to raise interest rates that wooed many investors to invest in US dollars thereby causing worldwide scarcity.

He said BoT continues to closely monitor the situation in regards to the US dollars' scarcity and other foreign currencies and takes appropriate steps to make sure the country's economy is not adversely affected by the challenge.

He said by July 14 this year, the country's foreign reserve stood at USD 5.55 billion that can cover five month's imports of goods and services.

Kenya's Ruto pleads for stronger, financially liberated African Union

NAIROBI

AFRICAN leaders gathered Sunday in Gigiri, Nairobi County for the African Union's fifth mid-year coordination meeting.

The summit sought among other things to address critical issues of African integration and division of labour.

The meeting was led by Kenya's President. William Ruto called for a reform of the AU focusing on the body's financial autonomy.

"The pan-African movement has always been about sovereignty and agency," the leader said.

"First and foremost, chronic dependence even on well-meaning partners is inconsistent with the aspiration of independence, sovereignty and agency. And I therefore believe that we must take seriously the recommendations that have been made towards making our organization an organization that stands on its feet, and an organization that is funded by us."

According to A.U. figures, less than 40% of Member States pay their yearly contributions to the institution.

A piece on the body's website titled "African Union sustainable funding strategy gains momentum" broke down the institution's 2020 budget as follows:

US\$157.2 million to finance the operational budget of the Union; US\$216.9 million will go into the program budget and US\$273.1 million will finance peace support operations.

"Peace support operations will be funded by member states and international partners. Of the total budget, 38% is to be

assessed on Member States while 61% will be from partners. The operating budget will be fully funded by Member States while the programme budget will be funded 41% by Member States and 59% solicited from international partners," the document read.

President Ruto pointed to the burden of debt many countries on the continent carry, championing a fairer financial system.

A UN report found that African nations are disadvantaged borrowers compared to the wealthiest European nations.

"The UN secretary general himself has said that our continent pays anywhere up to 8 times more than our brothers and sisters elsewhere do. It is only fair that we have a financing mechanism that treats everybody equally."

The focus of the 5th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting was the AU theme of the year "Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation."

The Regional Economic Communities, the Regional Mechanisms and AU Member States attended the meeting which ended on Sunday. They convened under the AU theme of the year Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation.

The President of Comoros Azali Assoumani, who currently chairs the Union, was also in attendance.

Also present were Bola Tinubu (Nigeria), Abdel Fattah (Egypt), Macky Sall (Senegal), Ismail Guelleh (Djibouti) and Ali Bongo (Gabon) among others. The summit had been preceded by the Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

Uganda, DRC among African states now facing extreme heat - report

KAMPALA

UGANDA, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo are among African countries likely to be hit by extreme temperatures if climate targets are missed, a new Oxford University report, says.

The global analysis concluded that African countries not only had the highest cooling requirements historically, between 2009 and 2018, but will also face the highest surge in heat exposure if the planet warms by 2°C.

Besides Uganda, the other African countries at risk include Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Mali, South Sudan, Nigeria, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, and Cameroon.

According to the report, Africa will see the most extreme increase in temperatures overall if the world overshoots climate targets, experiencing the highest need for cooling in a 2.0°C scenario.

For their analysis, the authors used the concept of "cooling degree days," a method widely employed in research and weather forecasting to ascertain whether cooling would be needed on a particular day to keep populations comfortable.

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For their analysis, the authors used the concept of "cooling degree days," a method widely employed in research and weather forecasting to ascertain whether cooling would be needed on a particular day to keep populations comfortable.

They modelled the world in 60 km grids every six hours to produce the temperature averages in the study, a process that makes the results some of the most reliable globally.

According to the study, other countries that are not traditionally prepared for increasing heat will also be severely impacted by rising temperatures if climate targets are missed.

"These conditions will pose further stress to the continent's socio-economic development and energy networks, issues that require much additional research given the limited studies of this rising threat in the African context," Dr Radhika Khosla, Associate Professor at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment and leader of the Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Cooling, said.

"It is also a clear indication that Africa is bearing the brunt of a problem they did not create, which should further strengthen calls for climate justice and equity. Cooling demand can no longer be a blind spot in sustainability debates," he added.

Likewise, Dr Nicole Miranda, Senior Researcher at the University of Oxford and member of the Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Cooling, said: "Our findings show that nations already facing heatwaves and extreme temperatures like those in the tropics will see a major increase in extreme temperatures if the global mean temperatures rise from 1.5°C to 2.0°C. This is particularly true for Central African countries, with the Central African Republic, Burkina Faso and Mali suffering the highest increase with more than 250 additional cooling degree days."

Extreme heat can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, and even death, especially in vulnerable populations.



These conditions will pose further stress to the continent's socio-economic development and energy networks, issues that require much additional research given the limited studies of this rising threat in the African context



Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Jumanne Muliro pictured yesterday having a word with traders operating from Mchikichini in Ilala municipality shortly after accompanying Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Albert Chalamila on a tour aimed at creating conditions making it possible for business to be conducted in the area around the clock. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

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Tide of coups, civil strife painful experiences, call for big reforms

A PORTION of the cream of Africa's political and civic leadership is this week lodged in Arusha for the 2023 Africa Drive for Democracy Conference, an annual event hosted here this time. President Samia Suluhu Hassan used the occasion to extol democracy and express regret or disdain for military coups, seeking threads to weave sociopolitical reality healed from intense demands on the state that lead to strife or coups. It is a complicated issue finding formulas.

While President Samia appeared to lay trust in democracy that if improved it can help Africa heal from chaos, well-meaning international civil servants are actually giving up. The way Sudan descended into outright civil war as soon as the army was about to restore civilian rule or a proper transition to democracy, and the seeming lack of concern from its leaders for mass suffering, upends hopes that crafting a democratic constitution is a viable recipe. It may falter.

While it is true that Africa has experienced 21 military coups in the past eight years it will be noticed that the zone is within the traditionally coup prone Francophone zone, within the Sahel region in particular. The crisis from Sudan on the east (and Ethiopia is still smouldering from a debilitating civil war) to the Atlantic coast, virtually unabated, ought to compel strenuous thinking as to what the problem is, and how to solve it. It isn't one of writing a constitution.

The president laid out the continent's woes as unrest, declining democracy and economic challenges, driving the waves of public uprisings. She urged African leaders to find ways to meet popular

demands and rapidly address their countries' needs, all of which is a tall order, when credible reports affirm that up to 19 administrative regions in Tanzania need some sort of food support, even though Tanzania can't be said to be in any strife whatsoever. Africa crumbles on its feet on the basis of its economic structures, rising population and drought.

What is also apparent is that no gathering of statesmen or experts will be able to arrive at workable ideas on Africa unless there is a change among development partners. It is from them that Africa rulers and experts in government or civil society are cushioned in what they think and in policies they draw up, but fear is rising that they may soon run out of answers. While the Congo (DRC) is big enough to swallow most of Europe, Africa relies on wheat exports from war-ravaged Ukraine, and we have thousands of agro-sector experts in each state.

There is no dispute, as the president said, that a working democracy is a key instrument for solving problems facing the continent. She was realistic that democracy is not exactly a perfect tool of governance but there is no better option, which is true but as usual it is confined to the politics. The whole of international public civil servants don't touch economic policy, what formulas can work, as they are bent on a distributive economy rather than seek efficient structures. The chaos results from failed cycles of redistributive development, which shall end if we take rational models of mass production for cheap prices, not subsidized seeds that seek to uplift traditional producers, as it won't work.

Air pollution and climate change mean massive harm for the world

AIR pollution is the greatest environmental threat to human health and is responsible for about 7 million deaths each year globally and one million in Africa alone. As Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change, air pollution and climate change must be tackled together and are often interlinked.

As of today, 99 per cent of the world's population breathes air that exceeds WHO air quality limits. Many vulnerable groups in Africa, such as women, children, the elderly, and the poor, are most at risk from the combined negative health impacts of air pollution and climate change. However, the new integrated assessment of air pollution and climate change for sustainable development in Africa launched at COP27 brings hope for the future by identifying five key areas that are crucial for African leaders to address in order to fight climate change, prevent air pollution, and protect human health.

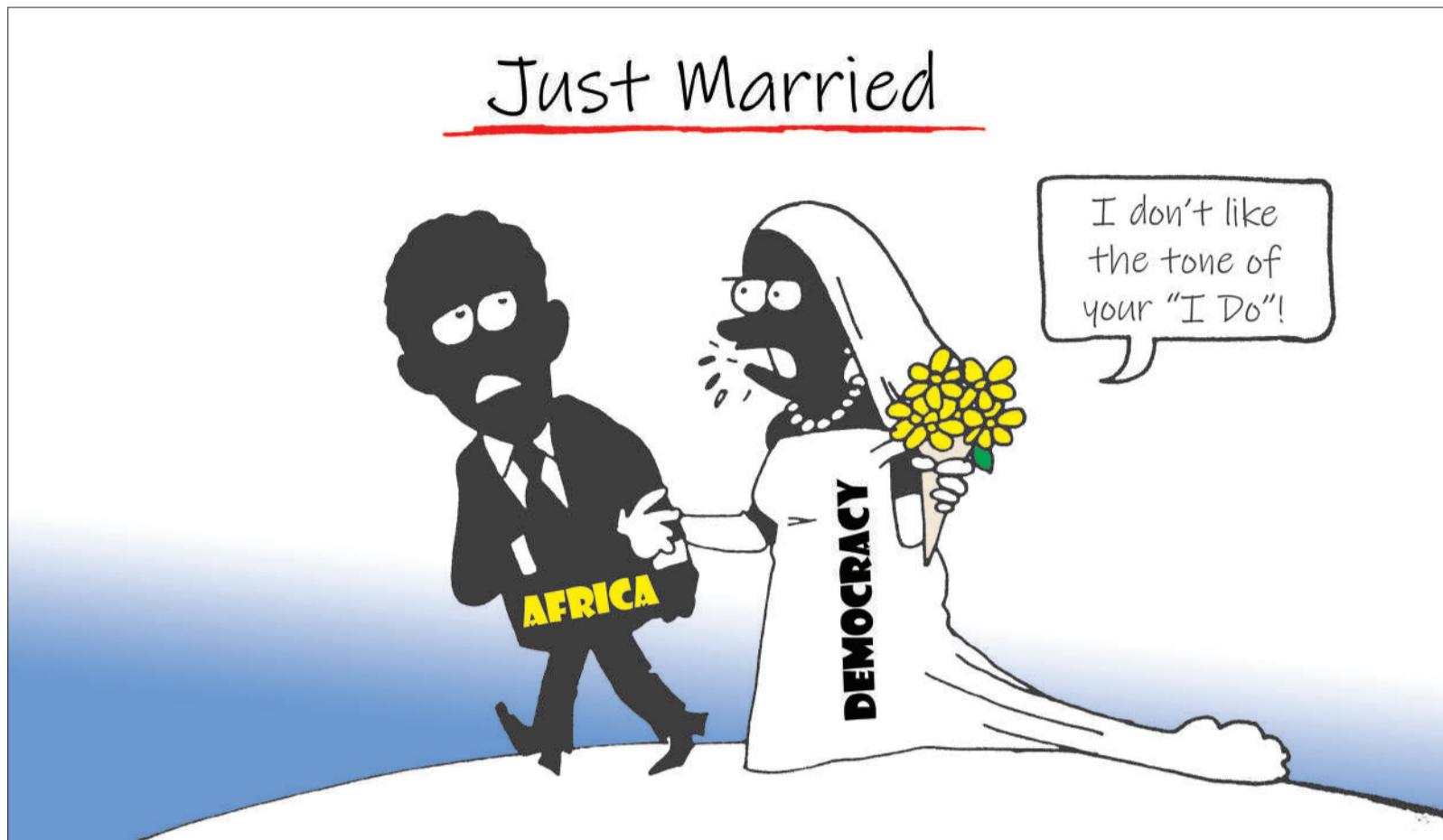
The assessment, made by the African Union Commission, the climate and clean air coalition and the UN Environment Programme, developed by African scientists is the first of its kind integrated assessment of air pollution and climate change for the continent and provides a robust scientific basis for action towards clean air in Africa. It shows how African leaders can and should act urgently on the following key areas: transport, residential, energy, agriculture, and waste, to reduce air pollution and benefit through premature death prevention, a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, improved food security and significantly contribute to the global efforts to keep global

warming below 1.5°C and limiting the negative effects of regional climate change.

By 2063, Africa's population, as well as its economy, is predicted to have proliferated, with Africa's population increasing by 2030. The substantial population growth will be accompanied by a massive demand for transport and food, two key areas identified in the assessment and of importance for African governments to address, to lower GHG emissions and air pollution. With such a giant increase in transport and food production, it is imperative that air pollution and emissions from these industries must be clean and sustainable, as ensuring zero hunger by 2063 will require almost three times more food than today.

Clean cooking options are increasing across Africa, many African countries have committed to reducing oil and gas methane emissions. Africa has massive solar energy potential and countries have begun setting ambitious targets for renewable energy expansion under their nationally determined contributions. The agriculture and waste sector are also becoming more sustainable with innovative public-private partnerships.

Despite the disturbingly high death rates linked to air pollution on the continent, Africa is responsible for merely a small fraction of global greenhouse gas emissions but bears an outsized burden of adverse climate impacts. Hence, the African continent needs help in tackling air pollution. All countries outside of Africa must drastically reduce their emissions to help limit warming to help Africa avoid the worst impacts of climate change and reduce the cost of adaptation.



Zimbabwean legend Thomas Mapfumo retires in exile

By Percy Zvomuya

AFTER five decades on the stage, one of the continent's great musical innovators, and an outspoken critic of corrupt politics, takes his last bow - in exile, because it was too dangerous to go home.

Of all my records by Zimbabwean musicians, the one I treasure the most is Thomas Mapfumo's crackly musical innovators, and an outspoken critic of corrupt politics, takes his last bow - in exile, because it was too dangerous to go home.

On the single, Mapfumo is direct and confrontational - as if seized by the spirit of chimurenga (the Shona word for revolutionary struggle) - eschewing coded political lyrics that, if called in by the Special Branch of the Rhodesian police, he could plausibly deny. Employing a key tenet of Shona metaphysics, in which the ancestor-dead watch over the living, Mapfumo sings:

Here, he is invoking the dead nationalists Samuel Parirenyatwa, the first African doctor in then Southern Rhodesia and deputy president of the Zimbabwe African People's Union at the time of his death in 1962; and Herbert Chitepo, the University of Fort Hare-trained lawyer (he was only the second African lawyer) and nationalist, and Zanu's chairman at the time of his assassination in March 1975.

Varoyi vekuno varipi vatipa zvitsinga, kutipa zvitsinga tiwane kutsinga mhandu.

In this verse he calls on the country's witches and wizards to bewitch the enemy which, in those charged times, was unambiguously the white settler government. "What's the use of your witchcraft if you can't use it against the enemy?", he seems to be saying.

It's not a surprise that he was indeed called in by the police and imprisoned for several months.

Mapfumo was only released after he agreed to play at a rally for Bishop Abel Muzorewa, co-leader (with Ian Smith) of a sham compromise state called Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. As the Zimbabwean poet, Musaemura Zimunya wrote in an essay on Mapfumo: "He explained he has no regrets because he went on to play the same music that prompted his arrest. What difference would it make if the bishop tried to hijack his

music?"

Mapfumo had abandoned doing covers of Western music only at the turn of the 1970s: this journey, from Elvis Presley impersonator to prisoner of conscience in Smith's jail in just under a decade, is a phenomenal trajectory. One day, as he told me in an interview in 2011, he sat down and had a moment of introspection.

"We've played all this music - rock, soul, rhumba. Yet when I grew up in the rural areas with my grandparents I was listening to traditional music - the drum, the mbira. And then I remembered some of the songs we used to sing as children and I thought: 'This music is not inferior to other forms of music. What it needs is instruments.' And from this point I started infusing snatches of traditional songs into my music." Mapfumo (drums and vocals), together with the guitarist Joshua Hlomayi-Dube, guitarist Elisha Josamu, trumpeter Daram Karanga, bassist Robert Nekati, had formed the Hallelujah Chicken Run Band, a group that sang in local languages, including Chewa, a language widely spoken in Zambia and Malawi.

In 1975, on winning a talent contest for his song "Torayi Mapadza", an exhortation to go farm, Mapfumo told African Parade: "Before, we were carried away by pop, soul and Motown ... now we want something different, something that identifies the African with his kind of music. It's just a beginning, mind you, but the future for this kind of music is great!" So it was that chimurenga music was born.

After 1980, Mapfumo and Sithole, his musical soulmate and long-time collaborator, perfected the mbira-to-guitar sound, a transposition African musicians in Rhodesia had been attempting ever since western instruments started making their way into Rhodesia in the 1930s. It was realised only in the 1970s. Although it was with Sithole that the sound was achieved, the experiments had begun with the guitarist Joshua Hlomayi Dube in the Hallelujah Chicken Run Band.

A string of albums followed, including the 1985 Chimurenga for Justice, an album notable for reggae on the song "Mugarandega" - the first Zimbabwean musician to include Jamaican dancehall-style chanting. Other notable albums include the 1987 Zimbabwe-Mozambique, a dirge call for the recently slain Mozambican president, Samora Machel.

The title track Zimbabwe-Mozambique is a sonic triptych that begins with martial cacophony of the cymbal hit, before it slows down to the slow riddims of rock-steady tune, then gathers speed, fired up

by ska-like horn sounds, before concluding with a drum-based jit sound.

Arranged together with the late mbira player and saxophone player, Chartwell Dutiro (a man who, like Mapfumo, had mastered the two traditions of Africa and the West), it's as close to perfection as a song can get. Send arms to the people of Mozambique and Namibia, Mapfumo cries out on the song, urging Africa and the rest of the world to support the besieged government of Machel's successor, Joaquim Chissano, then fighting an apartheid South African-backed insurgency; and Namibia, then occupied by South Africa.

Besides his musical innovations, Mapfumo was a leading voice against graft as heard on his 1988 reggae song "Corruption" (with side B a dub version). That was one of the few songs he sang in English, whose hegemony he would rail against on the tune, "Vanhu Vekwedu" on Hondo, his 1991 album. Noticing the sway the English language and American television held over his compatriots, he sang "Vanhu vekwedu baba havasati vaziva." The chimurenga man was decrying the hegemony of American pop on national radio and the secondary place local languages occupied in the hierarchy of lingos, deftly condensing the polemics of Ngugi's Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature into just over seven minutes.

Mapfumo is the great modernizer. Not only did he reinterpret old Shona mbira standards in Western band formats, but he made it possible for the mbira instrument to stake a claim on the band stage. He felt the mbira's sound was muted and overwhelmed by the sounds of other instruments. The mbira wasn't going to be just a stylised prop on the band stage.

Working with the late mbira maker Chris Mhlanga, they found a way to configure a built-in audio pick and phono jack to amplify the sound and make it an equal to the other instruments in the band, literally running electricity through the instrument. Through this innovation the mbira, the sacred instrument of music of the ancestor-dead, was transformed for secular purposes. He succeeds in combining introspection, drawing deep on the mbira music of his people, with being the most "outrational" musician ever produced by Zimbabwe.

"Ndiyani Waparadza Musha" on the album Chimurenga '98, is based on a Malian folk song. Arranged in collaboration with American guitarist and writer Banning Eyre and mbira player Bezel Makombe, the song sees Mapfumo tapping into the West African griot tradition.

This outrationalism culminated in the 2000 album Manhungetunge, his collaboration with African-American jazz trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith. In the hook-up, the rolling pastoral landscapes of Mississippi meet the savannah grasslands of Zimbabwe to give us a bewitching new sound, mbira blues (what after all is mbira music if not blues for the ancestor-dead?), bridging the Black Atlantic.

By the time of these explorations with the American trumpeter, Mapfumo's relationship with the Mugabe government was becoming fractious. He had put out a string of rebarbative albums (Chimurenga Rebel, Chimurenga Explosion) critical of the social, political and economic meltdown for which Robert Mugabe was responsible. In the early 2000s, he relocated to Oregon, USA. He chose Oregon, where the herb marijuana was already free, so he could continue to inhale and commune with those in the netherworld without bother from American authorities.

Mapfumo returned to perform in Zimbabwe after more than a decade in 2018, following Mugabe's removal from power by his own soldiers. That homecoming concert was memorable. Staged in Harare before thousands of Zimbabweans who had not seen him play live since the early 2000s, it ended as the sun was coming up. But when his brother Lancelot, a long-serving percussionist in his band, died last year, Mapfumo said he couldn't come back to bury him as he feared for his life. The truce he had made with Mugabe's successors was short-lived.

Thus, we have the anomaly of Mapfumo playing his final gig in Leicester, England, not in his homeland of Zimbabwe, closing a career marked by innovation, the fight for justice, and the championing of African culture. Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised that it's ending in England. Russian émigré poet Joseph Brodsky, who himself knew something about exile, wrote, "Displacement and misplacement are this century's commonplace." As a heroic pioneer of what came to be called World (now Global) Music, perhaps it's not odd at all that Zimbabwe's Mapfumo closes his career in metropolitan Britain.

Percy Zvomuya is a writer and critic who has written for many publications, including Chimurenga, Mail & Guardian, Moto (Zimbabwe), Sunday Times (South Africa), The Guardian (UK). He is the editor of When Three Sevens Clash, a hard copy literary magazine published in part to commemorate the life and work of Thomas Mapfumo.

Likely benefits and environmental impact of Liganga steel project

By Prof Raphael B. Mwalysi

TANZANIA is one of the most mineral-rich countries in the world and is planning to become one of the emerging economies in the near future by strengthening its industrialization process. At present, Tanzania has only a few steel-making enterprises which are mainly small steel rolling plants with low production capacity.

Consequently, most of the steel required in the country is imported and the price has remained relatively high for a long time. Thus, Tanzania is exploring the possibility of establishing an Iron ore mining project at Liganga in Ludewa District, Njombe Region, utilizing iron ore deposits estimated at 219 million tones, with a mining capacity designed at 290 x104 tonnes per annum and a service life of more than 60 years.

The actual mining area includes the ore body outcropped on the Liganga and Ngendangurimi mountains that also extends underground. Associated to the mine will be a beneficiation plant for ore dressing, a process that will require a significant amount of water (about 1,821 metric tonnes per day).

The beneficiation process will generate wastes that will be transported to a designated rock storage facility. Also, there will be established a tailings reservoir with a capacity of about 79.22 x 104 tons/annum to store liquid wastes. The total iron ore mining and associated infrastructure area is approximately 635 hectares of which the dump area alone is 193 hectares.

According to the feasibility study on the Liganga Iron Ore Development Project, TANESCO's installed capacity was 839MW in 2002 with an effective capacity of 798MW and a maximum load of 475MW. With the Mwalimu Nyerere Hydropower Project, this capacity will reach around 3900 MW.

Since the installed capacity of hydropower stations is restricted by water seasonality with low output in the dry season, this installed capacity cannot meet the electricity demand including for the proposed Liganga Iron Ore Development and Utilization Project. Hence, there is need to develop the Mchuchuma coal power project also in Ludewa District.

The iron ore mining will comprise of stripping, excavation, perforations, blasting, waterproofing of both the open and deep open pit, ore dressing and transportation (of both processed ore and waste rock) and a full time machine and automobile maintenance warehousing and station.

There will also be a laboratory and facilities for storage of ore and chemicals. Water supply will be from the Lupali River through lateral diversion to the tune of 1821m³



per day. Coal-fired electricity from Mchuchuma will power the iron and steel works at Liganga as well as increase the national grid electricity capacity. Also, coal from Mchuchuma will be used for iron ore mining and steel processing at Liganga.

Several major positive and negative impacts associated with the proposed development would occur. A major significant positive impact would be to open up the otherwise less developed district by attracting a large number of people to the area for employment and related activities thus increasing market access opportunities for farmers and traders for their produce and natural resources for a long time (around 70 years), thereby providing reliable market access and stimulating development not only of Ludewa District, but also the neighbouring districts and spur positive social changes in Tanzania.

The project will generate significant local employment opportunities that will provide incomes to workers and improve quality of their life and their families. This will increase economic benefits to local communities especially by providing opportunities in agro-processing and value addition for agricultural and non-agricultural commodities and enhancing farmers' incomes and sufficient re-

turns for smallholder farmers in maintaining a viable livelihood and poverty alleviation.

However, this will occur only with the anticipation that the local communities will be able to access electricity. More important will be the increase in the economic benefits to the national economy in terms of taxes and royalties from iron ore mining and associated development projects, which would increase the tax base in the country.

These impacts will be long-term and therefore contribute to the national economy significantly as well as contribute to improvement of infrastructure - roads, railway, communication, banking, information technology and social services such as health, education and water supply.

However, the main significant negative impacts of the project would include the dramatic change in the local landscape aesthetics due to levelling down of over 635 hectares of Liganga and Ngendangurimi mountains and mining deep underground to about 300 meters with associated auxiliary facilities and about 500 full time workers.

Project operation will generate large quantities of assorted solid

wastes including garbage, rubbish, soil overburden, cleared vegetation biomass, waste rock and liquid wastes including tailings, sewage, stormwater runoff, and water treatment sludges.

Also, there will be impairment of chemical and physical surface water quality and modification of stream channels morphology due to accelerated soil erosion and sedimentation and over-abstraction of water could significantly change aquatic biodiversity of the Ketawaka and Ruhuhu rivers including disruption of upstream spawning migration of the International Union for Conservation of Nature-listed fish species (mbasa and mbelele) and negatively affect dependable downstream local fisheries including of Lake Nyasa.

Population influx for employment of over 5,000 workers in mining associated projects and other nearby development projects is likely to lead to the development of squatter settlements around the mining area given that there are no existing land use plans making these areas prone to diseases, criminal activities and insecurity.

Significant vibration as well as noise and air pollution would result from mining activities including site clearance, removal, transportation and storage of soil overburden and rock waste and blasting for iron ore.

Noise pollution could affect human beings in ways such as damage to eardrums, cause cardiovascular problems and affect memory and psychological well-being. Major risks and hazards to workers and communities would be associated with iron ore mining due to use of various heavy machines and equipment as well as blasting with dynamite which can affect water quality, human health and aquatic life.

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Africa's journey to self-sufficiency: The power of intra-Africa trade

By Daniel Njiwa

AFRICA, with its vast agricultural resources and untapped potential, holds the key to overcoming food security challenges and achieving self-sufficiency. The continent possesses an immense capacity to feed itself and even become a major player in global food markets. However, the continent has long been dependent on external markets for its food needs. Africa spends approximately \$50 billion annually on food imports. This heavy reliance on imports creates a sense of vulnerability and dependency that hinders Africa's progress towards self-sufficiency and economic prosperity.

Presently, regional trade within Africa stands at just 14.4% of total African exports, indicating an underutilization of trade opportunities within the continent. However, there is immense potential for growth and collaboration through increased inter-Africa trade. According to UNCTAD forecasts, implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) could boost regional trade by about 33% and reduce the continent's trade deficit by 51%. These statistics highlight the urgent need to prioritise and invest in continental trade as a pathway to self-sufficiency and economic growth.

Promoting intra-Africa trade is a powerful strategy that can unlock Africa's agricultural potential, reduce import bills, and strengthen local economies. By prioritizing trade within the continent, African nations can maximise local production and consumption, harness their unique agricultural resources, and create a self-reliant and resilient food system. This shift away from heavy reliance on external markets empowers African nations to tap into their capabilities and address food security challenges.

Intra-Africa trade fosters the development of resilient supply chains capable of adapting to local conditions, reducing Africa's vulnerability to external disruptions. Robust supply chains facilitate the efficient distribution of agricultural products, minimize post-harvest losses, and ensure timely access to nutritious food for all Africans. By incentivizing farmers to produce higher-quality crops and meet market demands, regional trade integration drives innovation, investment, and job creation within the agricultural sector. This enhanced productivity not only benefits local markets but also positions African farmers as key players in the global agricultural landscape.

The AfCFTA presents a unique opportunity to boost regional economic integration, reduce import bills, and drive transformative economic growth. However, the wins under the AfCFTA would be at the back of strong policy measures to improve the trade environment including the removal of non-tariff barriers to trade, improving trade infrastructure and logistics, telecommunication infrastructure for digital trade, and access to productive and trade finance.

Governments, regional organizations, and stakeholders must prioritize and invest in initiatives that promote trade integration. By fostering an enabling



environment, harmonizing regulations, and investing in infrastructure, African nations can create a conducive ecosystem for intra-Africa trade. It is essential to seize this moment and unite, trade together, and pave the way toward a prosperous and self-reliant future.

AGRA recognizes the transformative power of trade amongst African nations and plays a pivotal role in driving policy reforms and institutional support. AGRA's efforts focus on strengthening trade relationships, harmonizing regulations, and addressing cross-border barriers. Through its advocacy, capacity-building programs, and knowledge-sharing platforms, we empower farmers and agribusinesses to actively participate in trading. By creating an enabling environment that encourages investments, innovation, and entrepreneurship within

the agricultural sector, as an organisation, AGRA contributes to the realisation of Africa's self-sufficiency and economic growth.

Our approach also involves promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, investment in public and private trade institutions and companies to strengthen their capacities to participate in trade, generating data and evidence to inform policy and investment decisions, as well as create platforms for knowledge sharing and policy advocacy. For instance, AGRA's market shaping investments aim to strengthen suppliers and off-takers' capacities to comply with food safety requirements such as aflatoxin levels through trainings on post-harvest management including warehouse and storage management, Good Agricultural and Hygiene Practices, etc.

Similarly, to support a more predictable

environment for regional food trade and provide some flexibility in reducing the time and costs of trading, AGRA through the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is implementing the Mutual Recognition Framework/Agreement to remove the need for multiple inspections and testing in the exporting and importing countries thereby contributing to increased trade flow.

To foster evidence-based decision-making, AGRA through its regional food trade flagship and in collaboration with regional bodies such as the COMESA has rolled out the Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) to support governments in their market intervention decisions on the back of food security reasons.

AGRA continues to produce its monthly Food Security Monitor shedding lights on

global and national food security issues, again, to support governments' decisions on food security and investment decisions in the agri-food sector. By fostering collaboration among African nations and supporting policy reforms, AGRA aims to create a conducive ecosystem for regional trade.

AGRA's efforts in driving regional trade integration are invaluable and contribute significantly to Africa's journey towards self-sufficiency and improved livelihoods.

Together, with visionary leadership and collective action, we can unlock Africa's full potential, ensuring food security, reducing poverty, and fostering inclusive development and shared prosperity for all Africans.

The road to self-sufficiency may have its challenges, but the rewards are immense. Africa has the capacity, resources, and determination to chart its path towards a resilient and prosperous future. By embracing the power of intra-Africa trade and investing in agricultural development, Africa can rewrite its narrative and become a beacon of hope, resilience, and self-reliance for the world.

Now is the time for African nations to unite, trade together, and build a continent where food security is a reality, economic growth is sustainable, and the well-being of its people is secured.

Daniel Njiwa is Head of Regional Food Trade and Resilience at AGRA.

'Passion seeds' that fertilise Brazil's semi-arid northeast

By Mario Osava

ZÉ Pequeno cried when he learned that the heirloom seeds he had inherited from his father were contaminated by the transgenic corn his neighbor had brought from the south. Fortunately, he was able to salvage the native seeds because he had shared them with other neighbors.

Euzébio Cavalcanti recalls this story from one of his colleagues to highlight the importance of "passion seeds" for family farming in Brazil's semiarid low-rainfall ecoregion which extends over 1.1 million square kilometers, twice the size of France, in the northeastern interior of the country.

Saving heirloom seeds is a peasant tradition, but two decades ago the Brazilian Semiarid Articulation (ASA), a network of 3,000 social organizations that emerged in the 1990s, named those who practice it as individual and community guardians of seeds. By September 2021, it had registered 859 banks of native seeds in the region.

Cavalcanti, a 56-year-old farmer with multiple skills such as poet, musician and radio broadcaster, coordinates the network of these banks in the Polo de Borborema, a joint action area of 14 rural workers' unions and 150 community organizations in central-eastern Paraíba, one of the nine states of the Brazilian Northeast.

"These are seeds adapted to the semiarid climate. They can withstand long droughts, without irrigation, that is why they are so important," he explained. They also preserve the genetic heritage of many local crop species and family history; they have sentimental value.

"Don't plant transgenics, don't erase my history", is a slogan of the movement that promotes agroecological practices and is opposed to the expansion of genetically modified organisms in local agriculture. "Corn free of transgenics and agrottoxins (agrochemicals)" is the goal of their campaign.

In Paraíba, the name "passion seeds" has been adopted, instead of native or heirloom seeds, since 2003, when the state government announced that it would provide seeds from a specialized company to family farmers.

"If the government offers these seeds, I don't want them. I have family seeds and I have passion for them," reacted a farmer in a meeting with the authorities.

"Passion seeds" spread throughout Paraíba. In other states they're called 'seeds of resistance'," Cavalcanti said.

Agroecology is one of the banners of the Polo de Borborema, as it is for ASA in the entire semiarid ecosystem that covers most of the Northeast region and a northern strip of the southeastern state of Minas Gerais.

Learning to coexist with semiarid conditions

This approach arose from a change in the development strategy adopted on the part of local society, especially ASA, since the 1990s. "Coexisting with semiarid conditions" replaced the traditional, failed focus on "fighting the drought".

Large dams and reservoirs, which only benefit large landowners and do not help the majority of small farmers, gave way to more than 1.2 million tanks for collecting rainwater from household or school rooftops and various ways of storing water for crops and livestock.

It is a process of decolonization of agriculture, education and science, which prioritizes knowledge of the climate and the regional biome, the Caatinga, characterized by low, twisted, drought-resilient vegetation. It also includes the abandonment of monoculture, with the implementation of traditional local horticultural and family farming techniques.

The Northeast, home to 26.9 percent of the national population, or 54.6 million inhabitants according to the 2022 demographic census, concentrates 47.2 percent of the country's family farmers, according to the 2017 agricultural census. There are 1.84 million small farms worked mainly by family labor.

Brazil's semiarid region is one of the rainiest in the world for this type of climate, with 200 to 800 millimeters of rain per year on average, although there are drier areas in the process of desertification.

Borborema, the name of a high plateau that obstructs the humidity coming from the sea, making the territory to its west drier, is the scene of various peas-



A stand at the ecological market in the municipality of Esperança, in northeastern Brazil, is a link between urban consumers and family farmers opposed to agrochemicals, monoculture and transgenic products. CREDIT: Mario Osava / IPS

ant struggles, such as the mobilization for agrarian reform since the 1980s and for small-scale agriculture "without poisons" or agrochemicals, of which the "seeds of passion" are a symbol.

Cavalcanti is a living memory of local history, also as a founder of the local Landless Workers Movement (MST) and an activist in the occupations of unproductive land to create rural settlements, on one of which he gained his own small farm where he grows beans, corn and, vegetables and has two rainwater collection tanks.

Women help drive the expansion of agroecology

Women have played a key role in the drive towards agroecology. The March for Women's Lives and Agroecology is an annual demonstration that since 2010 has defended family farming and the right to a healthy life.

This year, on Mar. 16, 5,000 women gathered in Montadas, a municipality of 5,800 inhabitants, to block the creation of wind farms that have already caused damage to the health of small farmers by being installed near their homes.

Borborema is "a territory of resistance," say the women. About

15 years ago, they succeeded in abolishing the cultivation of tobacco. When the citrus blackfly arrived, the government tried to combat it with pesticides, but "we resisted; we used natural products and solved the problem for our oranges and lemons," said Ligoria Felipe dos Santos, a 54-year-old mother of three.

"That is agroecology, which is strengthened in the face of threats. Farmers are aware, they resort to alternative defenses, they know that it is imbalance that leads to pests," she told IPS. "Agroecology is a good banner for union activity," said Alexandre Lira, 42, president of the Rural Workers Union of Esperança, a municipality of 31,000 people in the center of the Polo de Borborema.

It is also a factor in keeping farmers' children on the farms, because it awakens the interest of young people in agriculture, said Edson Johny da Silva, 27, the union's youth coordinator.

Pulp, added value

Maria das Graças Vicente, known as Nina, 51, along with her husband Givaldo Firmino dos Santos, 52, is an example of agroecological productivity. On 1.25 hectares of land they produce

citrus fruits, passion fruit, acerola (Amazon or Barbados cherry), mango and other fruits, as well as sugar cane, corn, beans and other vegetables.

Grafted fruit tree seedlings are another of the products they use to expand their income, as IPS was shown during a visit to their farm.

Using their own harvest and fruit they buy from neighbors, they make pulp in a small shed separate from their home, with a small machine purchased with the support of the Advisory and Services to Projects in Alternative Agriculture (AS-PTA), a non-governmental organization that supports farmers in Borborema and other parts of Brazil.

"Luckily we have a microclimate in the valley, where it rains more than in the surrounding areas. Everything grows here," Santos told IPS.

But the couple created three reservoirs to collect rainwater and withstand droughts: a 16,000-liter water tank for household use, another that collects water on the paved ground for irrigation, and a small lagoon dug in the lower part of the farm.

But in 2016 the lagoon dried up, because of the "great drought" that lasted from 2012 to 2017, Vicente said.

The fruit pulp factory has grown in recent years and now has seven small freezers to store fruit and pulp for sale to the town's stores and restaurants. The couple decided to purchase a cold room with the capacity of 30 freezers.

"I work in the mornings on the land, in the afternoons I make pulp and my husband is in charge of the sales," she said.

Hiring workers from outside the family to reduce the workload costs too much and "we try to save as much as possible on everything, to sell the pulp at a fair price," Santos said.



Ligoria Felipe dos Santos poses for a photo on her agroecological farm that mixes corn, squash, fruits, vegetables and medicinal herbs. She is part of the women's movement that is trying to prevent the installation of wind farms in the Borborema mountain range, in the northeastern Brazilian state of Paraíba. CREDIT: Mario Osava / IPS

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 KADOGO 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

China-sponsored training programme empowers young drivers in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

DEJEN Gezu, one of the first licensed drivers for electrified trains in Ethiopia, is tasked with dual responsibilities of safely chauffeuring the Chinese-built Ethiopia-Djibouti standard gauge railway and training aspiring young people.

Gezu described himself as an example of China's successful knowledge and experience transfer endeavor toward helping Ethiopia's quest for development and modernization.

"I was just a train driver trainee, and I was trained by the Chinese. Now, I am giving the training to other trainees. We can now teach ourselves by our own experts," Gezu said. He commended China's support for Ethiopia from constructing the state-of-the-art railway infrastructure to empowering locals with railway operation knowledge and skills.

Gezu is one of the top three graduates of a Chinese government-sponsored program that provided courses for about 34 Ethiopians on

driving electrified trains.

Now teaching fellow young Ethiopians what he learned in China, Gezu spoke highly of the Chinese engagement in Ethiopia, with enthusiasm and admiration for China's capacity-building initiative in Ethiopia.

"Knowledge sharing is very crucial for the local people. They (Chinese professionals) share their experience and knowledge with our local people, and we can get the best experience and knowledge from them as it will help us in the future," he said.

Dejen Gezu, one of the first licensed drivers for electrified trains in Ethiopia, works inside a locomotive at the Indode Station of Ethiopia-Djibouti standard gauge railway in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on July 13, 2023.

The 752-km Ethiopia-Djibouti standard gauge railway, also known as the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway, is the first electrified transboundary railway in Africa, a flagship project under the framework of the China-proposed Belt and



Dejen Gezu, one of the first licensed drivers for electrified trains in Ethiopia, works inside a locomotive at the Indode Station of Ethiopia-Djibouti standard gauge railway in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on July 13, 2023.

Road Initiative.

Abdi Zenebe, chief executive officer of the Ethio-Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway Share Company (EDR), said the capacity-building program has been unfolding since the operation of the railway.

"The significance of the skills transfer is quite paramount, especially for us, from the receiving end of the line. The Chinese railway industry is well developed

and is one of the leading industries in the world. To have such a partnership with this caliber, capacity and willingness are very critical," Zenebe told Xinhua recently.

So far, the Ethiopia-Djibouti railway has created 55,000 jobs in Ethiopia and Djibouti and provided training opportunities for more than 3,000 professionals, laying a solid foundation for the development

of the railway industry in the two countries, according to the Ethiopian government.

Local employees account for more than 90 percent of the total staff who are offering passenger and freight services.

Yidnekachew Alemu, a team leader of railway captains, speaks during an interview with Xinhua at the Indode Station of Ethiopia-Djibouti standard gauge railway in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on July 13, 2023.

"Capacity building and knowledge transfer efforts are progressing very smoothly. For the first three years, we were undertaking the training. During the past two years, we were already operating the locomotives together with the Chinese colleagues," said Yidnekachew Alemu, a team leader of railway captains.

The railway has cut the transportation time for goods from more than three days to less than 20 hours and reduced the cost by at least one third, substantially facilitating the import and export of Ethiopia, a landlocked country in the Horn of Africa.

The railway has seen the passing of 1,824 passenger trains carrying nearly 530,900 people and 6,133 cargo trains with about 7,328,500 tonnes of goods since it was put into operation in January 2018, according to official data.

AfDB: It is time to revalue African economies

By Lisa Bryant

THE year 2023 has so far not been a good one for Africa. Conflict has erupted in Sudan, deepened in the Democratic Republic of Congo and spread southward from the Sahel.

Extreme weather, often attributed to climate change, has triggered devastating droughts and floods in places like Kenya and South Sudan, deepening poverty. Many African economies are struggling under massive debt.

But the head of the African Development Bank, or AfDB, prefers to focus on the continent's promise: notably, how to better harness its assets – from its massive natural resource wealth to its large and young workforce – to fight climate change, invest in sustainable development and green and grow economies.

"I've been pushing that we need to revalue our countries based on their natural capital," the bank's president, Akinwumi Adesina, told VOA during a recent trip to Paris.

"This fundamentally for me is how we are going to get a lot of capital going into Africa," he added, "by the greening of African econo-

mies, by the proper valuation of carbon" that contributes to rising emissions but can also be stored and sequestered in areas rich in land and forests.

Adesina spoke after a financing summit in the French capital that drew dozens of developing country leaders, but few from richer nations. Still, many observers note it delivered some concrete results in development and climate financing for poor countries – possibly paving the way for bigger changes.

Among the takeaways: China and other creditors agreed to restructure Zambia's debt; Senegal received financing to develop renewable energy, and rich nations agreed to reallocate \$100 billion in International Monetary Fund money to fight climate change and poverty in developing countries.

For Adesina, the summit, hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron, led to "a new sense of commitment, a sense of urgency of the need to move forward."

He also echoed other critics, though, in calling on rich nations to meet promises of climate financing made about a decade ago to poorer ones. The aim is to be more aggressive in building

a more equitable world – siding with calls made by a group of developing countries led by Jamaica called the Bridgetown Initiative.

A Nigerian economist famous for his bowties – one was firmly affixed during the Paris interview – 63-year-old Adesina was tapped as AfDB head in 2015 and reelected for a second term in 2020. As the son of a farmer from southwestern Nigeria, he understands Africa's development challenges firsthand.

"The global financial architecture is failing," Adesina said, adding the world was also "way off course" in achieving U.N. sustainable development goals that include ending poverty and hunger, and ensuring quality education, along with clean water and energy.

Africa alone will need \$2.7 trillion to tackle climate change between now and 2030, he noted. Yet it gets only a fraction of global financing to cope with a climate crisis for which it is largely not responsible.

"We all live on the same planet," Adesina said. "We are not going to another one, so we've got to save it."

While sustainable financing

may be slow to come, competition for Africa's riches is intensifying. In recent months, top officials from the U.S., China and Russia have crisscrossed the continent, seeking to ramp up diplomatic and economic ties.

China, in particular, is a top lender and Africa's biggest trading partner. Critics, including Washington, have slammed Beijing for fostering debt traps – locking in loans for political leverage – which Beijing strongly denies.

But the Paris summit marked a change. China, Zambia's largest creditor, joined others in agreeing to restructure the country's debt – in what some, like Adesina, hope will pave the way for similar deals.

"There's no way we can solve the challenges of debt in Africa without China at the table," he said, noting Beijing currently holds 14 percent of the continent's debt.

Adesina also denounced loans repaid by depleting Africa's rich trove of natural resources – from timber and oil and gas to diamonds and rare earth metals, like cobalt, that are key for electric vehicles – with often disastrous environmental consequences.

The World Bank estimates such loans represented nearly 10 per-

cent of new borrowing in sub-Saharan Africa between 2004 and 2018. Critics single out China and Russia for especially harmful practices. Russia's Wagner Group notoriously trades its much-criticized military services for opportunities to exploit timber, diamond and gold mines in countries where it operates – but they are not the only ones.

"Natural resource-backed loans should stop completely," said Adesina, without naming any particular country. "They should never be on the table. They are toxic, non-transparent debt, which mortgages the future of countries."

But he also called on African countries to be more active in mobilizing resources for their own development by raising taxes on multinational companies, for example, stopping illicit capital flows out of the continent, and cracking down on corruption.

Africa, Adesina argues, is a good investment. He cited a Moody's Analytics report that found the continent's default rate for infrastructure projects to be the second lowest in the world.

Accounting for Africa resource wealth, or natural capital – includ-

ing the positive contribution of its rainforests and other wild areas in fighting climate change and preserving biodiversity – would also substantially change its balance sheets.

"If that re-estimation were to be taken into account, the debt-to-GDP ratio would fall dramatically," Adesina said, allowing countries like mineral- and forest-rich Democratic Republic of Congo to raise money at a much lower interest rate.

He points to the AfDB's own green investments – including in a vast solar energy project in the Sahel that is aimed at providing electricity to a quarter-million people and the development of at-home skills in solar assembly and manufacturing.

Such investments carry larger payoffs, Adesina added, describing how solar drip irrigation could help green the Sahel, or how parallel investments in development could help address root causes of the region's years-long conflict.

He added that young people would stay in the African continent instead of moving to Europe "because there's economic activity powered by available energy."

Africa embraces new technology in agriculture to overcome climate crisis

By Nontobeko Mlambo, Gaborone

THE agricultural sector should embrace new technologies to overcome climate change-related challenges, panellists including Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa and Mozambique's Filipe Nyusi at the US-Africa business summit said.

The two presidents, who have invited investors from the U.S. and across Africa to invest in the agricultural sectors in their countries, were participating in a high-level dialogue on enhancing Africa's value in Agriculture value chains in the U.S.-Africa Business Summit held in Botswana's capital, Gaborone.

"To investors who are here who would like to come to Zimbabwe, you are assured, barring in mind the issue of the impact of climate change, ease of doing business. We are fully aware that capital goes where it feels safe. Our economic reforms have addressed the issue of the ease of doing business. We must create a situation where you attract global capital where it can go in and out without any constraints and we have made those

political reforms to achieve that and become attractive," Mnangagwa said.

Mnangagwa also expressed pride that his country's agricultural reforms had paid off, making Zimbabwe the biggest supplier of blueberries in the SADC region, supplying Europe, the U.S., and Asia.

The four-day summit brought over 1,000 participants including government officials, private sector executives, and international investors to foster new business partnerships and explore investment opportunities and meet investors.

The summit comes at a time when the African continent's agricultural sector faces challenges related to the climate crisis but the agricultural sector continues to look for solutions in order to produce climate-resilient crops.

Mozambique is one of the Southern African countries that was hit by Tropical Cyclone Freddy in February 2023 affecting thousands of buildings, ruining crops, and displacing 27,000 people. Apart from natural disasters, Mozambique has for a few years faced insecurity



that has displaced millions of people in the Cabo Delgado region. Nyusi said that these factors have slowed agricultural activities despite the country's agricultural potential and fertile land.

Albert Anoubon Momo, Trimble VP, said his organisation uses the precision agriculture method which uses technology sensing techniques that help to monitor crop states

at multiple growth levels.

Momo said in order to fight food security and maintain crop health, the precision agriculture method allows for an estimate to be added on the tractors which estimates the water, fertilizer, and pesticide will be needed. Trimble is an industrial technology company that provides technological agricultural solutions by providing connectivity

and data analytics to improve productivity, quality, safety, and sustainable farming.

Another method Trimble uses is climate-smart agriculture which Momo said is a method used to collect data and allow people to be able to make better decisions when it comes to avoiding climate-related disasters. An example of where climate-smart agriculture was done is in Kenya where farmers face a climate condition called frost which affects tea production.

"We worked with small farmers in Kenya, there is satellite information that comes from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the morning and in the afternoon that allows farmers to predict when the frost is coming. The most important thing is not the prediction but what we are able to do with the information coming out of it. In Kenya, we were able to create crop insurance which is the real result.

He said having crop insurance has been a game changer for farmers as it allows them to have the cash flow for their daily operations throughout the year regardless of weather conditions with the support of banks.

The first Motswana woman to farm in the Pandamatenga farming area Basadi Molelekeng, an award-winning commercial farmer and Bicolor Holdings' Operations manager, encouraged women and youth to take up farming.

"Women are capable, youth are capable. The largest number of farmers in Africa are women in terms of numbers but in terms of value the number is little and the reason is that women are at subsistence level where the hard work is. Women should be supported to move to the highest level of production. They need to be given the confidence because the capability is there."

At the higher level of production, it is easy with organization and technology because there is little manual work and all of this is possible for women if they are sufficiently financed.

Black Sea grain initiative 'paused' but Africa must live beyond foreign dependence

By Oluwafemi Olaniyan and Abigail Van Neely

AS Russia paused the renewal of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres reacted with regret saying the global south would be badly affected.

A Kremlin spokesman, Dmitri Peskov, on Monday, July 18, said the agreement was "suspended."

"As soon as the Russian part is fulfilled, the Russian side will immediately return to the implementation of that deal," Peskov said.

The Russian Federation's decision to terminate the Black Sea Grain Initiative will "strike a blow to people in need everywhere," Guterres said in reaction.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the secretary-general, acknowledged that Ukraine and Russia produce an enormous number of products needed on the global food market. The impact of the deal's termination was immediate, with wheat prices increasing 3 percent when the news broke.

Guterres emphasized that the Black Sea Grain Initiative and Memorandum of Understanding on facilitating exports of Russian food products and fertilizers "have been a lifeline for global food security and a beacon of hope in a troubled world."

"Ultimately, participation in these agreements is a choice," Guterres said. "But struggling people everywhere and developing countries don't have a choice. Hundreds of millions of people face hunger, and consumers are confronting a global cost-of-living crisis. They will pay the price."

Dujarric said Guterres was disappointed his proposals in a letter to President Putin went "unheeded."

"The letter that [Guterres] sent to President Putin was a very clear illustration of his determination to keep this alive for the benefit of people in the global south for the benefit of vulnerable people everywhere, for whom an increase in food prices has a direct impact - and it includes people in rich countries and in poor countries," Dujarric said.

According to Dujarric, Guterres did not receive a formal response to his letter.

The Joint Coordination Centre that facilitates the implementation of the initiative remains available for discussions in Istanbul. A final vessel is being inspected.

In a diplomatic flurry, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa last week discussed the initiative with Russian President Vladimir Putin. But according to reports, Russia said it could not continue with the initiative because promises, which include the export of fertilizer and, according to Reuters, connecting a subsidiary of Russia's agricultural bank to the international payment system SWIFT, which enables payments to be made, had not been fulfilled.

Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of grain. Before the Russian invasion in February 2022, Ukraine supplied around 45 million tonnes of grain to the world market annually. According to the Food

Black Sea Grain Initiative



A data set of countries that benefitted from the Black Sea Grain Initiative. Credit: UN

and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 16 African countries rely strongly on the agricultural produce of Russia and Ukraine. The invasion triggered a shortage of at least 30 million tonnes of food globally, impacting countries like the Horn of Africa, where climate change, conflict, and bad governance have sparked a food security crisis affecting about 50 million people.

Wealthier countries main beneficiary of exports

However, data on the initiative indicates that China and Spain were the two biggest beneficiaries of the grain, although the World Food Programme (WFP) said the initiative was crucial to its support of humanitarian operations

in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen.

Of the 32.9 million tons exported, 43 percent went to developed countries and 57 to developing countries. Exports by World Bank categories show that 44 percent went to high-income countries. Upper-middle-income countries received 37 percent, lower-middle-income countries 17 percent, and low-income countries just 3 percent.

World Food Programme (WFP) Director David Beasley said: "Africa is very fragile right now. Fifty million people (are) knocking on famine's door." He warned that if Moscow should shut down or block the ports, there would be a catastrophe, notably in Africa, where millions of people are facing famine.

"Food prices, fuel costs, debt inflation, and three years of COVID, the people have no more coping capacity, and if we don't get in and get costs down, then 2024 could be the worst year we have seen in several hundred years".

Solutions to Africa's foreign dependence on food products

Steve Wiggins, a food expert at ODI, a global think-tank based in the UK, noted that Africa's dependence on imports was often misunderstood.

"African nations' dependence on foreign aid is very high; African nations are always depending on importation even as far back as before their independence and even after independence. But many African countries do not rely on imports

for their staples, contrary to what many people assert. What Africa tends to import is higher-value food: frozen chicken, canned tuna, packed biscuits, packet noodles, and so on. If you look at imports of the main staples, for most countries, 15% or less, often far less, is imported."

He said rising imports did not indicate agricultural failure.

"This is a common misunderstanding; the idea that Africa is so far from feeding itself that rising food imports means agricultural failure. No, often rising food imports reflect economic growth and the ability of urban middle classes to afford imported food."

Chris Gilbert, a commodity market analyst, says, "The invasion of Ukraine pushed wheat prices up by just 5% - a very small share of the increase in wheat prices seen from April 2020 to May 2022. He points out that the Black Sea initiative has been a key reason why the invasion did not push wheat, maize, and sunflower prices higher and why prices fell back after May 2022".

Steve Wiggins, a food expert based in the UK, noted that "Africa's vulnerability to price rises varies hugely by place and circumstance. Some countries, such as Egypt and Sudan, are heavily exposed to rising costs of wheat imports. In other parts of Africa, hard-pressed working mothers have taken to sliced bread, noodles, and pasta as near-instant food they can prepare quickly for their children when they return from work."

Alex Abutu, the Communication Officer for West and Central Africa at the African Agricultural Technology Foundation, said it was time for Africa to put resources into agriculture to lessen the dependence on imports of basic foodstuffs.

He said African governments are yet to fully follow the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security resolutions, which include allocating 10 percent of national budgets to agricultural development - a trend experts say undermines the growth of African agricultural development.

"Africans should go beyond manual labor if they really and truly want to satisfy themselves. Precision agriculture should be encouraged and inculcated ... Seed buying should be encouraged; grains are meant to be eaten and not replanted; a good seed will surely germinate because it has undergone purification and has been checked well, unlike a grain that might have got infected, and this will affect the yields from it, a seed will surely bring about 99 percent yield but a grain will not. It reduces yields."

IPS UN Bureau Report



The Black Sea Grain Initiative was halted by Russia. Its impact is likely to be felt on food markets across the globe. Credit: Duncan Moore/UNODC

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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BUSINESS

EIB puts 721bn/- on women-led SMEs businesses, blue economy

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN-LED Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and players in the blue economy are expected to benefit from 721bn/- dedicated by European Investment Bank (EIB) as part of growing its investment portfolio in Tanzania.

The statement issued by EIB yesterday said the amount include over 45bn/- (170 million EUR) targeting SMEs with a heavy focus on women led and/owned projects and 276bn/- (100 million EUR) on blue economy. Currently, the EIB investment portfolio in Tanzania is 1.8trn.

Representatives from the European Investment Bank's (EIB) regional hub for Eastern Africa recently concluded a visit to Tanzania's Ministry of Finance and Planning as well as its partners such as the EU Delegation, World Bank and Agence Française de Développement

(AFD) and many more to discuss on avenues to increase investment in the country.

Speaking during the visit, Tanzania's Deputy Permanent Secretary for Public Finance Management, Amina K. Shaaban said: "We welcome the EIB and the fruitful discussions we have had on their support for development projects we can cooperate on with them."

Their current visit is happening at the right time as Tanzania is currently updating its Development Vision 2050 from the current one which will end in 2025."

The ministry official also lauded the work EIB Global is doing around providing investment support to women-led and/or women-owned projects, with EU support.

On his part, Vice President of the EIB, Thomas Ostros said, "I am very pleased



President Samia Suluhu Hassan seated in a group photo with Minister of finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (L) and Manfredo Fanti, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Tanzania after the signing of pacts on EU financing to Tanzania. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

that the EIB team from the regional hub in Nairobi is following up on a pipeline of projects that we wish to support the government in actualising. Our business model looks at ensuring that we work with the government in achieving shared development goals which are also government priorities that improve citizens' lives."

Having invested in over 28 projects to date, EIB has already signed over 1.8trn/- (680 million

EUR) of support to the Government's public sector initiatives, as well as offering credit lines (loans) to the country's commercial banks and microfinance institutions for on-lending to private companies, especially SMEs, as well as to individuals in the private sector.

Some of the notable projects that EIB has supported are the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Program in Mwanza I, Tanesco Power Project, the

modernisation of the Port of Dar-es-Salaam, Kihansi hydro-electric power plant and loans to banks to support SMEs, in particular, the Blue Economy and women-led and/or owned projects.

The Bank is currently preparing several new projects including a solid waste management project in Tanga which is currently at pre-feasibility study stage.

This project is under EIB's

Clean Oceans Project Identification and Preparation (COPIP) which aims at reducing the amount of plastic waste ending up in oceans in the coastal cities of Sub-Saharan Africa. Other examples are direct investments in ICT companies to boost digitalisation.

EIB Global finances projects alongside other African and international development partners.

In Tanzania, the bank works closely with government to support investment in public sector infrastructure, back private sector business investment through local and international banks and cooperate with large scale corporate partners.

The excellent cooperation with partners in Tanzania enables the EIB to combine financial strength and share technical due diligence which is essential for the EIB's successful support for large and small scale life changing investments across this country with a view to increase economic development and support sustainable development.

EIB Global's growing interest in Tanzania was also showcased during the EU-Tanzania business forum that took place in February 2023.

The forum brought together government officials, development partners as well as business people from Europe and Tanzania highlighting the various opportunities for economic partnership.

DSE share indices open the week in green

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) share indices opened the week green, thanks to the share prices gain among cross listed and local companies.

The market report shows the DSE All Share Index (DSEI) closed at 1,837.52 points, an

increase of 1.64 points, when compared with 1,835.88 points on Friday's close while the Tanzania Share Index (TSI) gained by 0.12 point to 4,108.29 points on Monday's close, from 4,108.17 points recorded at the end of last week.

The improvement of the share indices resulted from appreciation of East African

Breweries Limited (EABL), NICO, and Nation Media Group (NMG) amid decrease of Jubilee Holdings Limited (JHL) share price.

According to the market report, the share price of EABL, the cross listed and second largest in terms of market capitalization closed at 2,740/- on Monday, an increase of

0.74 percent, compared with 2,720/- recorded on Friday last week.

NICO share price increased by 1.03 percent, after closing at 490/- on Monday compared with 485/- while NMG share price increased by 3.03 percent after closing at 340/- on Monday, compared with 330/- recorded on Friday last week.

The increase of NICO share price also resulted into the gaining of Banks, Finance & Investment Index (BI), after closing at 3,953.58 points, an appreciation by 0.39 points.

The report shows that a total of 61,044 shares valued 32.42mn/- were transacted during the opening day of the week in 32 deals.

Top mover was NICO, which transacted 38,678 shares valued 18.95mn/- traded in seven deals at a price of 490/- per share, followed by CRDB Bank, which transacted 21,500 shares valued 10.5mn/- transacted in ten deals at a price ranging from 485/- to 490/- per share.

All shares were bought by

local investors as foreign investors emerged through selling shares valued 2.99mn/-.

The report shows that local investors are currently dominating the DSE activity in the current quarter as they account for 61.35 percent of the value of shares bought and 57.09 percent of the value of shares sold.

AfDB projects 5.3 pct real GDP growth for Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania's real GDP growth is projected to rise to 5.3 percent in 2023 and 6.3 percent in 2024, driven by the sustained recovery in tourism and gradual stability in supply and value chains, the African Development Bank's (AfDB) Africa economic outlook for 2023 has said.

According to the outlook published on Monday, Tanzania's inflation is projected to increase to 4.7 percent in 2023 due to higher food and energy prices, before moderating to 4.0 percent in 2024 due to better agricultural performance.

The fiscal deficit is projected to widen to 3.5 percent of GDP in 2023 and 2024 due to higher spending on infrastructure, financed by domestic and external borrowing.

The current account deficit is projected to narrow to 4.8 percent of GDP in 2023 and 4.4 percent in 2024 due to higher

merchandise exports and tourism receipts and is projected to be financed mainly by external borrowing.

Headwinds include the lingering possibility of new COVID-19 variants and the effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which could aggravate food and oil prices.

According to the outlook, the East Africa economy is projected to strengthen from an estimated 4.4 percent in 2022 to 5.1 percent in 2023 and 5.8 percent in 2024.

The outlook shows, with the exception of South Sudan, growth in all countries in this region are estimated to increase in 2023, with seven of them achieving 5 percent GDP growth or higher, driven by fairly diversified production structures and a decline in commodity prices.

"Many countries in East Africa are commodity importers, and lower prices would benefit their GDP growth. However, pockets of drought and insecurity re-

main and may pose a challenge to achieving the projected higher growth," the outlook says.

Meanwhile, the AfDB outlook says despite the confluence of multiple shocks, the African region is expected to experience the second fastest growth rate in the world in 2023-24, demonstrating the resilience of its economies.

In 2023-24, Africa's average real GDP growth - projected at 4.1 percent, compared to 3.8 percent in 2022 - will be higher than the global average of 2.9 percent and that of Eastern Europe 1.1 percent; only Asia's growth of 4.3 percent will be higher.

"This continued resilience will be reinforced by expected improvements in global economic conditions, fueled by China's reopening and a downward adjustment of interest rates as the effects of monetary policy tightening on inflation start to bear fruit," says Dr Akinwumi Adesina, the AfDB President.



Dr Akinwumi Adesina, the AfDB President

"The projected rebound in growth will depend on underlying economic characteristics. For example, growth in oil-exporting countries is expected to benefit from oil prices, which, despite the recent decline, remain elevated. Non-resource-intensive economies will gain from their more diverse economic structures, highlighting the importance of diversification in withstanding shocks."

The growth rates of eighteen African countries, including five of the ten fastest growing economies in the world before the pandemic, are expected to exceed 5 percent in 2023, and the number of countries with growth rates above 5 percent is expected to increase to twenty-two in 2024.

"The dynamics of Africa's macroeconomic fundamentals remain mixed and significant challenges remain," it says.

Africa's fiscal deficit is projected to stabilize at 3.9 percent of GDP in 2023-24, from 4 percent in 2022.

The current account deficit is projected to widen to 2.3 percent of GDP in 2023-24, from 2.1 percent in 2022.

Exchange rate fluctuations continued in most countries in 2022, due to global monetary tightening led by the United States, which advanced economies followed suit.

SBL cmes up with new campaign to foster empowerment

By Guardian Reporter

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) has launched its largest national campaign 'Jibambe Kibabe' aimed at fostering economic empowerment throughout its commercial value chain.

Under this campaign, SBL said in a statement yesterday that will provide huge incentives, cashback & discounts to its business associates whenever they purchase SBL beer and spirits brands.

Beneficiaries of the 'Jibambe Kibabe' campaign from SBL business network include distributors, wholesalers, stockists and retail outlets.

The campaign was launched yesterday at a press conference held at the firm's headquarters in Dar es Salaam where Irene

Mutiganzi (pictured), the Head of Spirits at SBL, stated that the 'Jibambe Kibabe' campaign was created with the aim of empowering SBL's primary & secondary business partners, particularly in the present economic climate where businesses are gradually recovering from economic uncertainties.

Mutiganzi expressed that over the past few years, similar to many other businesses, both SBL and its business partners have encountered challenges due to the current global economic environment.

Acknowledging the shared difficulties faced, she later expressed how proud SBL is of the progress made so far as a result of the remarkable resilience held the company and its partners have continued to exercise.

While elaborating on the campaign mechanics, Mutiganzi highlighted that not only does this campaign, provide discounts & cashbacks to high performing customers but also provides them a market given the trickle-down effect the campaign is expected to have encouraging repurchases.

Furthermore, it also encompasses an element that rewards bar staff with direct cash for every bottle sold upon achievement of their target.

Others who stand to gain from the 'Jibambe Kibabe' are consumers at the bar-level where the campaign has customized bucket deals for consumers to enjoy and share with friends at discounted prices ultimately offering savings to all.



Mutiganzi expressed that over the past few years, similar to many other businesses, both SBL and its business partners have encountered challenges due to the current global economic environment

Ecobank scoops Africa's best bank for SMEs award

By Guardian Correspondent Lomé,

ECOBANK has been named Africa's best bank for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) by the prestigious Eur-omoney awards for excellence for the second year running, having also won the accolade in 2022.

Jeremy Awori, Chief Executive Officer, Ecobank Group, said: "This award reflects Ecobank's absolute commitment to supporting African SMEs and our continuous suite of innovations - financial and non-financial - to spur their growth and success. We aim to be the

bank of choice for Africa's SMEs. Undoubtedly, these SMEs are the key drivers for Africa's economic growth, as they create jobs; generate prosperity while eliminating poverty across the continent."

Ecobank has launched major initiatives for the benefit of SMEs during the last 12 months including the Ecobank Single Market Trade Hub, which supports the AfCFTA's single African market.

The hub is a one-stop shop providing information about the AfCFTA, access to Ecobank's full range of trade facilitation products and solutions (covering trade finance, advisory, pay-



Ecobank's head of corporate and investment banking Fabrice Grog, holds an award soon after the ceremony held recently. Others are editor, Eur-omoney, Louise Bowman (L) and right is LBC presenter Jon Sopol. Photo by ASV Photography

ments and collections) as well as a marketplace for products, services and businesses across Africa.

Another launched initiative is RapidCollect that enables Ecobank's business customers to receive payments from their clients in their home country and across Ecobank's network of 33 affiliates, instantly and at a lower cost than any other cross-border solution.

The bank has also forged a partnership with Mastercard Farm Pass through which has digitised the agricultural value chain for smallholder farmers, simplifying and better securing the process for obtaining a fair price for produce.

According to the statement issued by the bank, another initiative involve elevate, equip leadership programme for our women led or focused business customers.

Modules include emotional intelligence; leading with authenticity; defining strategic leadership; mastering influence, decision-making; and negotiating for results.

The financial literacy series equips SMEs managers and owners with necessary financial education.

The first in the series was 'Preparing SMEs for the Capital Markets' attracted nearly 3,500 registered participants.

In selecting Ecobank as Africa's Best Bank for SMEs, the judges based their decision on Ecobank's longstanding and unwavering commitment to satisfying the needs of SMEs.

Stamico installs briquette-making machines in Kiwira, Kisarawe

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

STATE Mining Corporation (Stamico) is installing two briquettes making machines at Kiwira Coal Mines site in Songwe Region and Kisarawe in Coast Region with a capacity to produce 20 tonnes of Rafiki briquettes per hour to pro-

vide affordable and friendly source of cleaner energy.

Eng. Happy Mbenyange, STAMICO's project coordinator said recently at the madini forum that took place the just-ended 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

"As Stamico we have participated at DITF to promote Rafiki briquettes to reduce

charcoal consumption, help people raise their income through selling these briquettes, promote clean energy, save environment, create employment for people with disabilities as well promote usage of coal mines that we have in Tanzania," she said.

The Installation of the machines officially started on

April, and expected to complete in August this year.

Apart from that, STAMICO has been also ordered new two briquettes making Machines that will be installed in Central and Lake Zone with a capacity to produce 20 tonnes per hour.

She said the state firm will continue to purchase more

machines every year to help 80 percent of the population in Tanzania to use clean cooking energy in accordance with the national energy vision.

For his part Benjamin Mchwampaka, Tanzania Chamber of Mine, executive secretary called on stakeholders engaged in mineral

sector to join the chamber, because they want to make the mineral sector to become backbone of the Tanzania economy.

Tanzania is endowed with a lot of minerals that is not well-known and we can conduct geological research to identify more minerals that will help Tanzania to benefit from what we have and set up more min-

ing plants.

The forum was attended by the Deputy Minister, ministry of minerals, Steven Kiruswa, Executive Secretary, Tanzania Chamber of Mine, Benjamin Mchwampaka, stakeholders engaged in minerals sector, Stamico's staff, and Prof. Idiris Kikula, Chairman of the Mining Commission.

Automark, UpStudio Africa equip young innovators to drive change in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

In an inspiring collaboration, Automark, the Certified Pre-Owned Division of Toyota Tanzania and part of the esteemed Karimjee Group, partnered with UpStudio Africa, a renowned educational organization, to nurture the next generation of creators, innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders in Tanzania.

The recently concluded student expedition to Toyota Tanzania held on July 15, 2023, showcased the powerful potential of the partnership.

UpStudio Africa, a design and innovation studio for children is the leading creator of innovative learning experiences in Tanzania providing a platform for young minds to design, create, and launch innovative solutions that address pressing challenges locally and globally.

Its mission is to nurture creativity and empower children to become change-makers and problem-solvers.

At the expedition, students had the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs), thanks to the expertise and resources shared by Au-

tomark.

Through engaging workshops, interactive activities, and thought-provoking discussions, UpStudio empowered the students to explore the challenges of modern-day vehicles, understand the benefits and mechanics of hybrid technology, and explore marketing strategies for promoting the use of hybrid vehicles in Tanzania.

The expedition inspired them to become drivers of positive change for a better future.

"As a Mechanical Engineer myself, I appreciate being able to involve and expose children to the possibilities within the field at an early age. By giving them challenges and exposing them to real-life innovations and scenarios, our learners start thinking ahead about the world they want to build and live in," said Hilda-Katie Gwebe-Nyirenda, the teaching and innovation associate at UpStudio Africa.

"Partnerships, like the one with Toyota Tanzania, enable us to inspire young innovators not only to comprehend the science that propels today's innovation

but also to enhance their ability to reshape our perception and rethink solutions for the world, surpassing their wildest imaginations! Our goal is to push the boundaries of learning and help nurture their ability to generate ideas and solve problems across various sectors and possibilities," added Shama Kheraj, of UpStudio Africa.

Automark, a pioneer in HEV technology education in the country, showcased a range of pre-owned hybrid vehicles at the expedition, including the 2015 Toyota Harrier Hybrid, the 2011 Toyota Prius, and the 2013 Toyota Aqua.

These vehicles served as tangible examples of how innovative technology and sustainable transportation can coexist harmoniously.

"Toyota Tanzania is passionate about the potential of hybrid electric vehicles for Tanzania. We are also passionate about investing in the education of our youth. We believe they will play a key role in creating a better future by constantly finding better, more efficient ways to reduce carbon emissions, noise pollution, and fuel consumption. Our



The success of the expedition is seen marking the beginning of a long-term relationship between Toyota Tanzania and UpStudio Africa. Photo by Toyota Tanzania

collaboration with Upstudio Africa brings together these two key priorities in a fun and engaging way, fostering an environment for learning, collaborating and idea generation.

We look forward to many more future engagements with Upstudio", said

Cobus van Zyl, Chief Marketing Officer of the Karimjee Group.

The success of the student expedition marks the beginning of a long-term relationship between Toyota Tanzania and UpStudio Africa to empower and support young innovators for a better

future.

Together, they will continue to provide opportunities for personal growth, foster creativity, and nurture a generation of forward-thinking individuals who can make a lasting impact on society.

Twiga Cement records 72bn/- pretax profit in H1

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCPLC) recorded pre-tax profit amounting to 72bn/- during the first half of this year, compared to 65.3bn/- recorded during similar period of last year.

The increase was due to slight increase of operating profit, decrease of finance cost by 50 percent and net gain of foreign currency translation, despite of the slight decrease of finance income.

According to unaudited financial results for the six months ended 30th June, revenue from contracts with customers went up by eight percent to 246.3bn/-, compared with 227.5bn/- recorded in H1, 2022.

"This increase is mainly due to the process improvement of cost control in our production," said Hakal Gurdal, the company's board chairman.

He said plant availability and efficiency played a vital role to the improved performance in the first half of this year.

"On top of the operational excellence, the company continued to improve in the area of Health and Safety, with zero loss of time to injury recorded in 2023," he noted.

Gurdal said TPCPLC continues to focus on customer services, selling new products within the high quality portfolio, while maintaining strong customer relationship to enable the company to consolidate its strength as the leading player in the industry.

"In spite of cement demand



growing slowly this year, we are optimistic about the second half of the year. TPCPLC will continue to work on improving efficiency and operating performance," he said in his statement.

The statement shows that the company subjected to an income tax payment amounting to 22bn/- during the first half of this year, higher than 20.2bn/- paid during similar half of last year.

Total assets increased to 393.1bn/- compared to 364.8bn/- respectively, due to increase of current assets, amid slight decreased non-current assets.

Current assets went up to 252.1bn/- during the first half of this year, compared with 215.8bn/- recorded during the first half of last year, due

to increase of inventories, trade receivables as well as cash and cash equivalent.

However, non-current assets slightly fell to 140.9bn/- compared to 148.9bn/- due to property, plant and equipment depreciation, slight decrease of intangible assets and decrease of right of use of assets as well as decrease of other financial assets.

The statement shows total equity went up to 279.5bn/- from 249.1bn/- respectively, following the increased retained earnings which amounted to 275.9bn/- during the first half of this year, higher than 245.5bn/- recorded during the first half of last year.

Dividend payable during the reported periods increased to 2.89bn/- compared to 2.76bn/- respectively.

African central banks to keep rates tighter for longer

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICAN central banks due to decide on interest rates in the next three weeks are set to keep monetary policy tighter for longer to temper stubborn inflation.

After acting aggressively for more than a year, officials in Nigeria and South Africa may increase borrowing costs, while those in Kenya and Mozambique are likely to stand pat. Ghana was viewed as a toss-up between hike and hold.

The monetary policy committees' deliberations will probably center around the impact higher oil prices, weather affects and the greenback's recent weakness, will have on inflation. The US currency fell after signs of cooling inflation bolstered bets that the Federal Reserve will soon halt its own muscular tightening campaign.

A weaker dollar could ease pressure on African currencies, making import bills and some international debt repayments less costly.

South African policymakers, nearing the end of their steepest phase of monetary tightening since 2006, will probably raise the benchmark for an 11th successive meeting to anchor inflation expectations close to the 4.5 percent midpoint of the target range.

Inflation expectations rose in the second quarter and were above the South African Reserve Bank's average price growth forecasts of 6.2 percent for this year, 5.1 percent for next and 4.5 percent in 2025.

A rate hike may not be strictly necessary because of a stronger rand, easing inflation and a significant deceleration in administered prices since the central bank last met in May. But various factors could persuade Governor Lesetja Kganyago and his colleagues to deliver a final 25 basis-point increase, Barclays Bank Plc's Economist Michael Kafe said in a note.

They include higher inflation expectations and rising oil prices. Another influence is the historically tight spread between South Africa's repo rate and the US Fed Funds rate, at a time when the country's current account is in a deficit, he said.

Of 27 economists surveyed by Bloomberg, a clear majority predict a quarter-point increase, with the rest expecting no change. Market pricing shows traders are betting on a 44 percent chance of such a hike.

Eswatini and Lesotho, whose currencies are pegged to South Africa's rand, may match the Reserve Bank's move by month-end.

After standing pat in May on expectations that a stable cedi and adhering to the conditions of a \$3 billion International Monetary Fund bailout clinched that month would help subdue inflation, views were split on whether Ghana's MPC would resume monetary tightening.

Economists in a Bloomberg poll were divided two versus two between a hike and a hold, with those expecting action seeing price pressures forcing the central bank's hand.



Kenya's new Central Bank's Governor Kamau Thugge

Economists at Absa Bank, however, said that despite the risk of a hike, they are maintaining their view for no change in policy.

The IMF's Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said in a statement when the bailout was sealed that "the Bank of Ghana will continue tightening monetary policy until inflation is on a firmly declining path."

Nigeria's rate-setters, in their first meeting to be presided over by Folashodun Shonubi, who has been acting as governor since Godwin Emefiele was suspended last month, are poised to extend their longest phase of monetary tightening to tame inflation.

Recent price triggers from the removal of costly fuel subsidies, currency pressure from the unification of the exchange rate and a possible rise in electricity tariffs will likely keep inflation elevated near 18-year

highs, CSL Stockbrokers Ltd. analysts including Gloria Fadipe and Sunmisola Ikoli-Oluwo said in a note.

"We do not believe the monetary authorities will be willing to raise the policy rate much higher than current levels given the new administration's perceived bias for low interest rates," the analysts wrote. "Going into second half, we forecast at most a 150 basis-point rise in rates till the end of the year."

Mozambique's monetary authority is likely to keep its borrowing costs unchanged for the rest of the year on concerns that the inflation rate, which fell to a 15-month low in June, may gradually resume increasing once a \$20 billion gas project by TotalEnergies SE is back up and running, said Gerrit van Rooyen, an economist at Oxford Economics Africa.

The project – delayed since 2021 because of an Islamic State-linked insurgency – could restart by early next year, causing the local currency to weaken because of imports needed to build it, he said.

A surge in Egyptian inflation to a record in June has made discussions over a rate increase a shade likelier when policymakers meet next month. But it's the prospects for Egypt's currency that will probably dictate the timing of resuming a monetary tightening cycle that's been on pause since a large rate hike in March.

After recently announcing state-asset sales worth \$1.9 billion and plans to unlock more financing from abroad, authorities may finally be getting on track to secure the cash they need to manage another devaluation – a decision likely to be accompanied by a decision to lift rates.

Egypt's central bank already allowed the pound to lose half its value following three devaluations, while raising rates by 10 percentage points since March 2022. Governor Hassan Abdalla earlier this year indicated higher rates could now do little to contain price growth that he described as stoked mainly by supply issues.

"Despite keeping rates on hold over the past couple months, we still expect another 300 basis points of tightening in the second half, as inflation pressures remain uncomfortably high," Deutsche Bank AG analysts including Christian Wietoska said in a July report.

Kenya's MPC is likely to leave the benchmark rate unchanged after raising it by a 100-basis points at a surprise meeting last month to assess the impact of planned taxes on inflation, Churchill Ogutu, an economist at IC Group said.

The taxes that were due to start on July 1 to finance the government's 2023-24 budget were frozen until a court decides on their legality and could prevent inflation from reverting to the central bank's target range by October as forecasted by its new Governor Kamau Thugge.

"They will be watching to see what the courts say on the taxes, and the potential second round effects that could filter through," Ogutu said.

Oil prices rise on China stimulus hopes

SINGAPORE

OIL prices rose yesterday, steadying from recent losses as markets bet that worsening growth in China will invite more stimulus measures from the government, while focus also turned to readings on US crude supplies.

Crude markets logged steep losses in the prior session after data showed that economic growth in China – the world's largest oil importer – slowed substantially in the second quarter.

Monday's losses pulled oil prices well off recent highs, with both Brent and WTI losing key levels – \$80 a barrel and \$75 a barrel, respectively.

Brent oil futures rose 0.2 percent to \$78.69 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose 0.3 percent to \$74.28 a barrel by 21:42 ET (01:42 GMT) on Tuesday.

The resumption of production at major Libyan oil fields also pressured crude markets, denting some bets that production in the country would be offline for longer.

But weakness in the dollar, which sank to 15-month lows in July, helped limit bigger losses in oil prices.

Data released on Monday showed that China's gross domestic product slowed in the second quarter from a strong performance in the first. A post-COVID economic recovery in the world's largest oil importer now appeared to be running out of steam.

Still, markets are now pricing in the potential for more stimulus measures from Beijing, as the government moves to shore up economic growth.

Local media reports said that the People's Bank of China could potentially cut reserve requirements in the third quarter, unlocking more impactful liquidity to support the economy. The bank had last cut its reserve requirement ratio in March this year, just a few months after the government relaxed most anti-COVID restrictions.

But while crude imports to China have remained strong despite slowing growth, fuel demand in the country has struggled to recover from COVID-era lows amid slowing business activity.

Investors were now awaiting more signals from weekly US inventory data, due from the American Petroleum Institute and Energy Information Administration on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively. The data is expected to show a mild decline in stockpiles after a substantially bigger-than-expected build in the prior week.

A key measure of US fuel demand had disappointed markets last week, showing that gasoline consumption dropped over the prior week, which was uncharacteristic of the demand-heavy summer season.

Extreme weather conditions in the country are also expected to have hurt fuel consumption, as different parts of the country grapple with flooding, wildfires and extreme heat.

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	
TUESDAY 11 July	<p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwajiza wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 KumeKucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:25 Jagina</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>11:35 Igizo: Mizengwe</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Aya ya jamaa</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Ripoti maalum</p> <p>13:35 Shikabamba</p> <p>14:00 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:15 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto wetu</p> <p>17:00 Music: The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapehji rpt</p> <p>18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama</p> <p>19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba</p> <p>21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF</p> <p>21:45 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>22:30 Soap: Uzalo</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 Music: The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p>
WEDNESDAY 12 July	<p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwajiza wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 KumeKucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:25 Jagina</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>11:35 Igizo: Mizengwe</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Aya ya jamaa</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Ripoti maalum</p> <p>13:35 Shikabamba</p> <p>14:00 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:15 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto wetu</p> <p>17:00 Music: The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapehji rpt</p> <p>18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama</p> <p>19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba</p> <p>21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF</p> <p>21:45 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>22:30 Soap: Uzalo</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 Music: The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p>
THURSDAY 13 July	<p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwajiza wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 KumeKucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:30 Shamba lulu</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Ripoti maalum rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT</p> <p>13:30 Kipindi maalum: Brela</p> <p>13:45 Shamsaham za pwanji rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Shamsaham za pwanji rpt</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto wetu</p> <p>17:00 Music: The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapehji</p> <p>18:30 Jagina</p> <p>19:00 Usafiri wako</p> <p>19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi maalum: Brela</p> <p>21:30 Ripoti maalum</p> <p>21:45 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>22:30 Soap: Uzalo</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 Music: The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p>
FRIDAY 14 July	<p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwajiza wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 KumeKucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:25 Jagina</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>11:35 Igizo: Mizengwe</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Aya ya jamaa</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Ripoti maalum</p> <p>13:35 Shikabamba</p> <p>14:00 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:15 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto wetu</p> <p>17:00 Music: The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapehji</p> <p>18:30 Jagina</p> <p>19:00 Usafiri wako</p> <p>19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi maalum: Brela</p> <p>21:30 Ripoti maalum</p> <p>21:45 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>22:30 Soap: Uzalo</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 Music: The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p>
SATURDAY 15 July	<p>5:30 Uwajiza wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO</p> <p>10:05 Shika Bamba 5</p> <p>10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt</p> <p>11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo</p> <p>12:50 Usafiri wako</p> <p>13:20 Art and Lifestyle</p> <p>13:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt</p> <p>15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe</p> <p>16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen</p> <p>17:00 Shamsaham za Pwani</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt</p> <p>19:00 Jungu Kuu</p> <p>19:30 Shika Bamba</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzaka</p> <p>21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen</p> <p>21:40 Art and Lifestyle</p> <p>22:10 ITV Top 10</p> <p>22:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo</p> <p>23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p>
SUNDAY 16 July	<p>5:30 Uwajiza wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p>
MONDAY 17 July	<p>6:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>6:00 EcoAfrica</p> <p>6:00 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>6:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt</p> <p>6:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt</p> <p>6:30 Mwangaza</p> <p>6:30 ITV Top 10 rpt</p> <p>6:30 Kipindi cha kikristo</p> <p>6:30 Jiji Letu</p> <p>6:30 Mapehji</p> <p>6:30 Mabatiko ya wiki</p> <p>6:30 Igizo: Slay Queen</p> <p>6:30 Habari</p> <p>6:30 Kipindi maalum: Biko</p> <p>6:30 Igizo: Mizengwe</p> <p>6:30 Kipindi maalum: Michezo Supa Jackpot</p> <p>6:30 Mjuzi Zaidi</p> <p>6:30 Bongo Movie: Tamasha la Michezo</p> <p>6:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt</p> <p>6:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>6:30 Out & About Rpt</p> <p>6:30 EcoAfrica</p> <p>6:30 Our Earth Rpt</p> <p>6:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt</p> <p>6:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt</p> <p>6:30 Bongo Movie rpt:</p> <p>6:30 Tamasha la Michezo</p> <p>6:30 Mwangaza</p> <p>6:30 ITV Top 10 rpt</p> <p>6:30 Kipindi cha kikristo</p> <p>6:30 Jiji Letu</p> <p>6:30 Mapehji</p> <p>6:30 Mabatiko ya wiki</p> <p>6:30 Igizo: Slay Queen</p> <p>6:30 Habari</p> <p>6:30 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Bongo Movie rpt:</p> <p>6:30 Tamasha la Michezo</p> <p>6:30 Mwangaza</p> <p>6:30 ITV Top 10 rpt</p> <p>6:30 Kipindi cha kikristo</p> <p>6:3</p>

WORLD

Political action urged at UN forum to achieve global goals

UNITED NATIONS

SPEAKERS at a UN forum on sustainable development said on Monday that high-level political action and strengthened national plans must be implemented to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

"The world is crying out for high-level political action – action to make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) a reality – for everyone, everywhere," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at the opening of the ministerial segment of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) at the UN headquarters in New York, urging every government to come to the upcoming SDG summit with clear plans and pledges to strengthen action in their countries.

Noting that almost 600 million people will remain mired in extreme poverty by 2030, greenhouse-gas emissions continue to rise, hunger is back to 2005 levels

and gender equality is 300 years away, the UN chief underscored the need for accelerated action, including through increased investments in sustainable development and climate action.

Csaba Korusi, president of the UN General Assembly, pointed out that the timely implementation of the global goals is being hindered because "the international community inherited accumulated risks as well as old-fashioned policies, market regulations and institutions."

Spotlighting a funding shortfall that has increased to \$4.2 trillion a year now from \$2.5 trillion before the COVID-19 pandemic, he stressed that the transition from these legacies requires "a huge amount of money."

However, the benefits of such changes would exceed investments.

"Let me invite our financing experts to calculate and quantify the benefits of sustainability transformation," he said.



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

Also addressing the opening segment, UN Economic and Social Council President Lachezera Stoeva highlighted the importance of local action.

Aligning national priorities with global goals is paramount to ensuring a coherent approach to sustainable development. "We still have seven years and victories are within our reach," she said, encouraging local governments and communities to take ownership.

Hoesung Lee, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said that the global warming of 1.1 degrees Celsius has already brought about hazards to human life and the environment.

Further warming will increase the likelihood of irreversible changes in the climate system, he warned, stressing that "the deep, rapid and sustained cuts to global greenhouse gas emissions are the best option" for sustainable development.

At the outset, two youth representatives also addressed the forum, with Asma Rouabhia, global focal point of SDG 7 Youth Constituency, underscoring that youth want to contribute and lead, but need to be given the space to make an impact.

Jevanic Henry, a member of the UN secretary-general's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, said youth should not be "merely a sprinkled topping" in the development agenda, but rather part of the core group of governments, the private sector and development partners.

In the ensuing "fireside chat" featuring scientists who author the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023, Imme Scholz said that renewable energies cannot exist in parallel to fossil fuel-based energy systems; they have to remove them.

The task now is to accelerate implementation in the right direction. Jaime Miranda, co-chair of the Independent Group of Scientists writing the Global Sustainable Development Report and head of the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney, Australia, pointed out that the seven years left until 2030 is "not seven years to despair" but can strategically shape the needed transformations.

"Science unites us and can help us find the path that brings us together, so we can work together for the common good," he said, calling on all to work and take informed decisions together.

The HLPF, held from July 10 to 19 under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, includes the three-day ministerial segment from July 17 to 19. The theme is "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels."

Agencies

European countries' position on grain deal should be labeled 'unconscionable' – Kremlin

MOSCOW

KREMLIN Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has characterized the position of European countries on the Black Sea grain deal as "unconscionable."

"In this case, [I think] it would be more fitting to call the position of European countries unconscionable," he said, responding to comments by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who termed Russia's decision to pull out of the grain deal "unconscionable."

Moreover, Peskov (pictured) said that the Kremlin "categorically disagrees" with Blinken's statement. "Russia has fulfilled its obligations and extended the agreement several times, despite the fact that the Russia-related provisions of the agreement were never implemented," the Kremlin spokesman pointed out.

He added that Moscow has high regard for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' efforts and attempts to persuade European countries to fulfill their obligations under the grain deal. "We highly appreciate the role of Mr. Guterres in concluding this agreement; we highly rate Mr. Guterres' efforts to attempt to persuade European countries to fulfill the obligations that they took upon themselves. Yet, unfortunately, this did not happen," the Kremlin official told reporters.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative agreement ceased to function on July 17. Russia refused to agree to a further extension of the deal because the agreement's provisions for lifting obstacles to the export of Russian agricultural products were never implemented.

Additionally, Moscow has repeatedly underscored that the bulk of Ukrainian grain exports ended up being shipped to Western countries rather than to the neediest countries in the Global South, as originally intended under the agreement.

Peskov said that Moscow was ready to resurrect the deal but only after the provisions pertaining to Russian exports were duly implemented.



UK relaxes visa rules to attract foreign construction workers

LONDON

BRITAIN has added a number of construction roles to its "shortage occupation list", allowing the building industry to bring in staff from abroad more easily to help employers struggling to fill positions.

Bricklayers, masons, roofers, roof tilers, slaters, carpenters, joiners and plasterers will benefit from cheaper visas and more relaxed employment criteria under the changes.

Britain is suffering from acute labour shortages in some sectors meaning employers are keen to recruit

workers from abroad.

But, doing so causes a political headache for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's governing Conservative Party, which has been promising to cut net migration for the last decade.

The interior ministry said in a statement on Monday that adding the new roles would "aid the delivery of key national infrastructure and stimulate growth for related industries"

The independent Migration Advisory Committee recommended in March that the construction jobs be added to the shortage occupation list. The list already



People hold British Medical Association (BMA) branded placards calling for better pay, as they stand on a picket line outside University College Hospital (UCH) in central London on April 12, 2023, during a strike by junior doctors. AFP

includes care workers, civil technicians, plus healthcare engineers and laboratory roles.

606,000 last year, data published in May showed, drawing fresh promises from Sunak to reduce arrivals.

Critics of Brexit say the UK's exit from the European Union has exacerbated labour shortages as EU citizens can no longer travel without visas to work in Britain as they could before.

Those working in a shortage occupation can be paid 80 percent of the job's usual rate and still qualify for a visa, the government statement said.

Applicants need a job offer from an employer and must meet an English language requirement.

Idea was to send strong message of trust, friendship - French envoy

NEW DELHI

DAYS after Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded a visit to France where he was a Guest of Honour of the country's Bastille Day celebrations, Ambassador of France to India, Emmanuel Lenain (pictured) said that the two countries have agreed to develop new-generation military equipment.

Termining PM Modi's visit as "very significant," the French envoy said that big outcomes were seen in defence and many other sectors. Lenain said the idea behind inviting PM Modi was to send a strong message of trust and friendship.

The French envoy said that the two countries have always been on each other's side for the last decades and would continue to do so.

Speaking to ANI, Lenain said, "The recent visit was a very significant one. The idea was to send a strong message of trust and friendship to the Indian people. We have always been on each other's side for decades and we will continue to remain partners of trust over the next years."

"Big outcomes in Defence, because we feel that in order to be independent, we need to be secure. You saw some developments obviously in the cooperation on that. We are working on a roadmap for industrial Defence cooperation. We also adopted a roadmap on the Indo-Pacific-both countries want to be the providers of solutions in the region," Lenain said.

"India and France also agreed to develop new-generation military equipment. Discussion on Global issues including elimination of single-use plastic. There were also some decisions to support the green transition in India," the envoy added.

Throwing light on the discussions regarding the space sector cooperation between India and France, French envoy Lenain said, "Space is very important. There are new agreements on cooperation on reusable launchers. As well as extra support to Gaganyaan and work on joint satellites including their protection," and added, "On nuclear energy sector- Progress in Jaitapur, training of Indian engineers and new cooperation on modular reactors."

At Jaitapur, Ratnagiri, there are plans to build six 1,650 MW nuclear power plants. And with a 9,900 MW capacity, these are anticipated to be India's largest nuclear power station once finished.

ANI

Pentagon wanted to test unregistered medicines on African population – Russian top brass

MOSCOW

THE Pentagon planned to use its biolaboratories in Africa to test unregistered medicines on the local population, Chief of Russia's Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection Troops Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov said yesterday.

According to Kirillov, documents that were found in Ukraine indicate that the Pentagon planned to use the US army to test unregistered medical drugs on the local population and then submit them for approval by supervisory authorities "in the interests of the so-called big pharma."

For these ends, it was planned to use its biolaboratories and facilitating agencies, such as Metabiota.

"Take note of Metabiota's commercial offer marked 'confidential,' which was found among documents at one of the biolaboratories in Ukraine.

The offer is addressed to the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and concerns training of specialists in infectious diseases in Kenya and Uganda.

The document demonstrates that the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's (DTRA) and the Department of Home-

land Security were involved in the study of pathogens in African countries, while the US Agency for International Development and a number of European Union structures were engaged to make these activities look like 'humanitarian cooperation,'" he said at a briefing on the analysis of documents concerning the United States' military biological activities.

Apart from that, in his words, evidence was found showing that Metabiota had been involved in the study of the H7N9 bird flu virus and that it had played a leading role in the implementation of the Predict project for the study of new coronavirus types, under which their carriers - bats - had been caught.

"We have repeatedly pointed to the company's ties with the son of the US incumbent president, Hunter Biden, and government organizations. Notably, Metabiota's representatives admit that as a matter of fact they are establishing ties to ensure the Pentagon and other American agencies' work abroad," Kirillov added.

He also said that Ukraine's Science and Technology Center and other Pentagon contractors were taking an active part in these activities. Agencies



Chief of Russia's Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection Troops Igor Kirillov

"If we persist in delaying key measures that are needed, I think we are moving into a catastrophic situation," United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned after many parts of the globe were recently hit by extreme weathers.

However, developed countries have long ignored their responsibilities and failed to deliver on their promises, which undermined the current climate agenda. They have triggered dissatisfaction from the international community, especially the developing world.

Developed countries have historical responsibilities, legal obligations and moral responsibilities for climate change, making

developing countries the biggest victims.

According to a recent study led by the University of Leeds and published in the UK journal Nature Sustainability, almost 90 percent of excess carbon emissions come from developed countries, including the United States.

However, developed countries are just making empty rhetoric and shifting the responsibility to the developing world. This is totally against the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio

Lula da Silva recently said that who polluted the planet in these last 200 years were those who made the Industrial Revolution, and for this, they have to pay the historic debt they have with planet Earth.

Developing countries have not seen enough sincerity from developed countries in coping with climate change. Climate finance remains a key to the global challenge.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement have made clear the responsibilities and obligations of developed countries to provide financial resources, while

developing countries are encouraged to provide such support voluntarily.

The University of Leeds report indicated that developed countries could be liable to pay \$170 trillion in climate reparations to low-emitting countries to ensure targets to curtail climate breakdown are met.

Guterres noted that adaptation needs in the developing world are set to skyrocket to as much as \$340 billion a year by 2030. However, facing such a financing gap, developed countries have yet to deliver on their promise of mobilizing \$100 billion per year for climate action in developing

countries before 2020—a promise made 14 years ago, and to offer a roadmap for doubling adaptation finance.

Climate finance was a focus of the recent Summit for a New Global Financing Pact held in Paris. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, president-designate of the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, noted that there is a huge financing gap in coping with climate change and promoting sustainable development of the world, and the climate finance promise is "barely band-aids, or painkillers, to a problem that requires major surgery."

Over recent years, some developed countries have backpedaled their climate policies. Their fossil energy consumption and carbon emission, instead of decreasing, went up, affecting the global climate governance process.

The US government has repeatedly stressed the importance of transparency, responsibility, and respect for international rules, but it has lacked continuous, consistent, transparent and responsible climate policies. It has failed to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and once withdrew from the Paris Agreement, becoming a saboteur of global climate governance.

Besides, the United States, un-

der the disguise of promoting energy transition, invested hundreds of billions of U.S. dollars in subsidizing its domestic manufacturers via various unfair acts and administrative measures. It also built trade barriers against the green industries of developing countries by cutting their access to green technologies.

These acts blatantly violated the basic rules of the WTO, disturbed the industrial and supply chains of the global green industry, undermined the efforts of other countries to achieve sustainable development goals and went against the joint efforts of the international community to cope with climate change.

People's Daily

Israel recognises Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara

RABAT

ISRAEL has recognized Morocco's sovereignty over the disputed territory of Western Sahara and is mulling opening a consulate there, a statement from the Israeli prime minister's office said on Monday.

The announcement confirmed a statement earlier from Morocco's royal palace, which said Israel's position had been expressed in a letter to King Mohammed VI from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israel was considering opening a consulate in Dakhla, the statement said.

Morocco considers Western Sahara its own territory, but the Algerian-backed Polisario Front wants an independent state there. In 2020, then-US president Donald Trump recognized Morocco's claim to the territory in return for Morocco's resumption of diplomatic ties with Israel.

The Israeli position "will be sent to the

United Nations, regional and international organizations", the statement from Morocco's royal palace quotes the letter as saying.

Twenty-eight other countries - mostly African and Arab - have opened consulates in Dakhla or the city of Laayoune, in what Morocco sees as tangible support for its Western Saharan rule.

Israel's position on Western Sahara was "clear-cut" and adds to the momentum in Morocco's favour, after Washington and Madrid, in addition to other European capitals, supported its plan for the territory, a senior Moroccan government official told Reuters.

The Israeli recognition would not affect Morocco's "principles" in defending the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he added.

Morocco expects the decision to encourage Israeli investments in the territory, he said. As an indication of warming ties, the Israeli military earlier on Monday appoint-



A Sahrawi nomad feeds cattle on the outskirts of Boujdour refugee camp, Algeria, Oct 16, 2021. File photo

ed a colonel as defence attaché to Morocco.

Since the resumption of ties, Morocco and Israel have signed cooperation agreements, including a defence pact.

Israeli foreign minister Eli Cohen said the an-

ouncement by the prime minister would "strengthen the relations between the countries and between the peoples and the continuation of cooperation to deepen regional peace and stability".

Agencies

Indian consulate in New York holds repatriation ceremony for 105 trafficked antiquities handed over by US

NEW YORK

THE Indian consulate in New York on Monday held a repatriation ceremony for 105 trafficked antiquities handed over by the US. The antiquities will soon be transported to India, according to a release issued by the Consulate General of India in New York.

The development comes follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the US in June 2023.

Indian Ambassador to US Taranjit Singh Sandhu while speaking on the occasion, thanked the US side, in particular Manhattan District Attorney, Alvin Bragg and his Anti-Trafficking Unit and the Homeland Security Investigation team for their stellar cooperation and support.

He further noted that for the people of India, these were not just pieces of art but part of their living heritage and culture.

Sandhu on Monday tweeted: "105 Indian antiquities to return home! Delighted to attend a ceremony in #NewYork this morning, marking the restitution of artefacts following PM @narendramodi's State Visit.

Appreciate the cooperation extended in protection & exchange of cultural property."

The repatriation ceremony was attended by senior officials from the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and the Homeland Security Investigation team, as per the official release.

During PM Modi's state visit, India, the US, agreed to work on a Cultural Property Agreement that would help prevent the illegal trafficking of cultural artefacts. Such an understanding will add further value to the dynamic bilateral collaboration between Homeland Security and law enforcement agencies of the two countries.

The 105 artefacts represent a wide geographical spread in terms of their origin in India, with 47 from Eastern India, 27 from Southern India, 22 from Central India, six from Northern India and three from Western India.

ANI

Taliban continues to restrict rights of women and girls - UN

KABUL

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in a new report said that the Taliban continues to restrict the rights of women and girls, Afghanistan-based TOLO News reported.

The seven-page report that covers the period from May to June highlighted the restrictions imposed by the Taliban on women. The report said, "On 3 May 2023, the de facto Ministry of Public Health announced that only male medical students would be permitted to take the 'Exit Supplementary Exam' in order to pursue further specialized medical studies," TOLO News reported.

It further said that the move comes in addition to the earlier bans preventing women from appearing in the medical school exit examinations. The report said that the UNAMA recorded instances when the Taliban took measures to impose previously announced restrictions on women's free-

dom of movement and participation in employment.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) referred to its report of May 27, 2023, about the impact of improvised explosive devices on civilians in Afghanistan from "15 August 2021 - 30 May 2023," TOLO News reported.

According to the report, the UNAMA continues to document significant levels of civilian harm due to deliberate attacks using improvised explosive devices despite a reduction in civilian casualties recorded as a result of armed conflict in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover of the country on 15 August 2021.

The report said that UNAMA continues to record cases of "extrajudicial killing of former government and military personnel across Afghanistan."

It said that Taliban-appointed security forces on May 24 carried out a search operation at a former Afghan National Defence and Security Force official's resi-



dence during which he was shot and killed.

The report said, "On 24 May in Samangan, de facto security forces conducted a search operation at the home of a former Afghan National Defence and Security Force official, during which he was shot and killed," according to TOLO News report.

It further said that "arbitrary arrests and deten-

tions" of former government and security personnel often accused of affiliation with the National Resistance Front are being conducted, particularly in Kabul and Panjshir provinces.

The report noted that killings of individuals accused of affiliation with ISIL-KP (Daesh) were also documented in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces in

May and June, TOLO News reported.

The report slammed the formation of committees by Taliban-led Departments of Information and Culture" which aimed at monitoring activities of the media in their respective provinces. The UNAMA noted that no announcement has been made which reveals the exact mandate of these committees.

Earlier this month, the foreign ministers of six countries jointly called on the Taliban to swiftly reverse policies and practices that restrict women and girls from exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms, TOLO News reported.

The call was made during a meeting of the foreign ministers from France, Germany, Indonesia, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, and South Africa at the Female Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on June 29 and 30. The statement issued at the meeting emphasized the need for full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

ANI

China successfully sends liquid oxygen-methane carrier rocket into planned orbit

CHINA on July 12 successfully launched a new carrier rocket into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.

The Zhuque-2 carrier rocket is the world's first rocket powered by liquid oxygen-methane fuel and successfully entered its planned orbit, as well as the first liquid-propellant rocket entering its planned orbit independently developed by a Chinese private rocket company.

The successful launch marked that China's first high-thrust liquid oxygen-methane engine has completed a flight mission, and a breakthrough in the new low-cost, liquid propellant application for China's carrier rockets.

The Zhuque-2 is a two-stage rocket with a body diameter of 3.35 meters and a height of 49.5 meters. Its takeoff weight is about 219 tons, and its takeoff thrust is about 268 tons.

The stage 1 of the rocket is powered by four Tianque-12 engines each with a vacuum thrust of 80 tons, and the stage 2 by a single TQ-12 engine and four TQ-11 vernier engines.

Carrier rocket, as a launch vehicle, is the foundation of all space activities, and the engine is the "heart" of a rocket, while the propellant decides the key performance of a rocket.

Rocket propellants include liquid fuels and solid fuels. In particular, liquid

fuels include liquid oxygen (LOX)/kerosene, LOX/liquid hydrogen, liquid oxygen-methane, etc. Each of the fuels has its advantages and disadvantages. For instance, the LOX/kerosene fuel features low cost and high specific impulse, but it's prone to carbon deposition and coking.

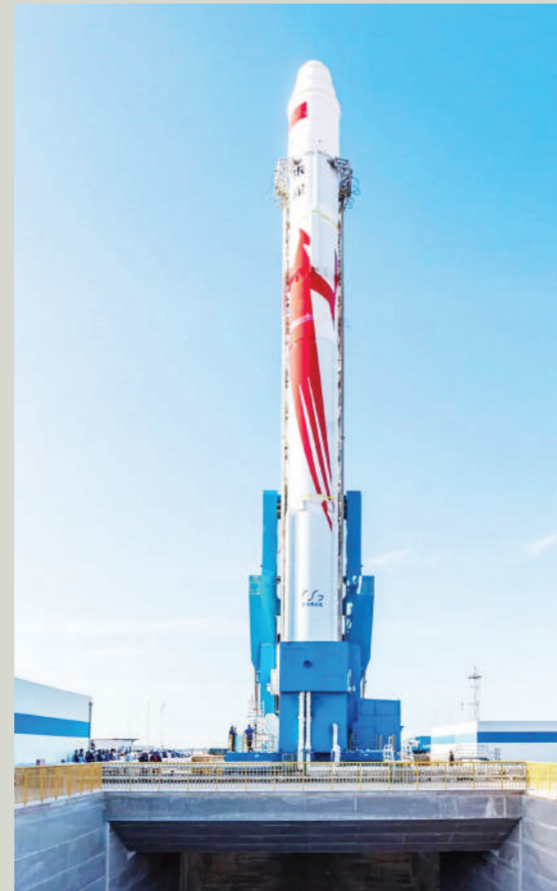
Liquid oxygen-methane is a mixture of liquid oxygen and methane. It is efficient, green, cheap and easily extracted. It comes with less carbon deposition, which reduces the workload in engine cleaning and thus lowers the maintenance cost of reusable rockets. That's why it is considered one of the ideal materials for making rocket propellants.

According to Zhang Changwu, CEO of LandSpace, the company that developed the Zhuque-2, liquid oxygen and methane are widely applied in both the civil and industrial sectors, and they are very accessible and cheap.

The cost of this propellant, which is expected to become an industrial product in massive supply once the technology of liquid oxygen-methane engine matures, will be more controllable, Zhang added.

Aerospace is a technologically challenging industry with high risks. The world today has entered a rapid development phase of reusable liquid oxygen-methane rockets. Multiple such rockets are underway outside China. In the first half of this year alone, two other liquid oxygen-methane rockets were launched, but they both failed unfortunately.

The development of the Zhuque-2 carrier rocket was no plain sailing. At the end of the last year, it failed in its first mission. LandSpace established an investigation group to look into the



The Zhuque-2 carrier rocket blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, July 12, 2023. (Photo from LandSpace)

reasons causing the failure and adopted multiple measures for improvement.

It was not easy for the company to achieve the success today after it experienced the failure in the first mission of the Zhuque-2. The development team did a huge amount of work, including launch tests, ground vibration tests, hydraulic tests and final assembly detection.

"What we achieved this time was not only a successful launch of a rocket, but also the capability of a private aerospace company in developing, testing, manufacturing and launching rockets. We'll keep going toward our goal of massive and commercial rocket development and manufacturing, and prove our value with innovation," Zhang said.

As the first Chinese rocket powered by liquid

oxygen-methane fuel, the Zhuque-2 is expected to lower the cost of commercial rocket launching and bring a revolution to the market of commercial rocket launching.

Zhang said that the company will keep upgrading the Zhuque series to improve its performance and offer the market with low-cost, high-performance and high-thrust rockets.

The private aerospace sector has experienced rapid development over the past 10 years and become an indispensable force in China's aerospace industry. It covers rocket launching, satellite and ground facility development, satellite operation, satellite application and other areas.

According to statistics, China is home to more than 400 private aerospace companies that operate over 350 in-orbit satellites. The private aerospace sector has released considerable economic potential, with a market size of over 1 trillion yuan (\$139.59 billion).

Experts noted that China is seeing a significant increase in the frequency and number of space launches, as well as a huge demand for commercial launches. Private aerospace enterprises, featuring strong innovation capability, flexible commercial operation and clear market orientations, are injecting new vitality into China's aerospace industry. **People's Daily**

'Child vaccination rates start to recover but not everywhere'

LONDON

EFFORTS to vaccinate children worldwide against deadly diseases such as measles and diphtheria began to recover in 2022 after a historic backslide caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to new figures from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

But the recovery remains uneven, with strong bounces in large lower-middle income countries such as India and Indonesia masking ongoing problems in many smaller and poorer countries, the agencies said in a statement released on Tuesday.

In 2022, 20.5 million children missed out on one or more routine childhood vaccines, down from 24.4 million children in 2021. Despite the progress, the numbers are still higher than in 2019, when 18.4 million children were not fully protected.

The numbers are estimated from 183 countries, using data based on the take-up of the three-dose diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) jab, and include children who got no vaccines at all as well as those who missed any of the doses necessary for protection.

Globally, coverage rates were at 86 percent pre-pandemic, and 84 percent in 2022.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the numbers were "encouraging", but there were concerns the most vulnerable were being left behind.

"When countries and regions lag, children pay the price," he said.

Of the 73 countries that saw substantial declines in routine coverage during the pandemic, 34 have seen no improvement since or even got worse. Fifteen have recovered to pre-pandemic levels, and 24 were on the route to recovery, the WHO and UNICEF said.

The agencies also warned that measles vaccinations have not recovered as quickly, with 21.9 million children globally missing their first dose in 2022 - 2.7 million more

than in 2019 - and 13.3 million their second. In low-income countries, coverage rates for measles actually continued to decline last year, to 66 percent compared with 67 percent in 2021, said Kate O'Brien, WHO head of immunization. Measles outbreaks are already on the rise.

"When children are not vaccinated, that means they are not immune to life-threatening diseases," O'Brien told Reuters in an interview. "Children are going to die.

Only rates of the HPV vaccination, which prevents cervical cancer, have recovered to pre-pandemic levels. But they remain below the 90 percent target, at 67 percent in the high-income countries and 55 percent in the low and middle-income countries where the shot has been introduced.

Alongside Gavi, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners, the WHO and UNICEF launched a push earlier this year to help countries catch-up on childhood vaccination.

Agencies



SPORT



Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park women's soccer team players are pictured engaging in training at the center's ground in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Kenyan physiotherapist joins Simba SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC has unveiled Kenyan Wycliffe Omon as the outfit's new physiotherapist ahead of the new season.

Omon, who previously worked with Football Kenya Federation Premier League side, Kenya Police FC, will be taking over the reins from South African Fareed Caseem who recently departed Simba SC.

Police FC and Omon were thought to be in talks over a new contract but it is understood the paramedic was keen for a move out of the club.

Omon's impressive resume includes his involvement with the medical team of Harambee Stars, Kenya's senior national football team.

With his expertise and experience, Omon is expected to play a crucial

role in ensuring Simba SC players' fitness and well-being are top-notch throughout the upcoming season.

Omon said: "Tanzanian football has been on the rise in recent years and Simba SC has played a major role in this improvement, it's a professional club that matches my ambitions and expertise."

The highly anticipated unveiling of Omon took place yesterday in Turkey, where Simba SC is currently conducting a pre-season training camp.

This strategic decision to introduce the new physiotherapist during the training camp underscores the club's dedication to integrating him seamlessly into the team dynamics and familiarizing him with the player's specific needs and routines.

With the appointment, Omon will become the second Kenyan to join Simba SC's technical bench, following the arrival of Michael Igenda as the new team manager.

Igenda, who previously served as the strength and conditioning coach for Kenya's senior national team 'Harambee Stars', brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the club.

His addition, along with Omon's, signifies Simba SC's determination to assemble a diverse and skilled team that can propel the club to new heights.

As Simba SC's pre-season training camp progresses in Turkey, the outfit's supporters eagerly anticipate the impact that Omon's arrival will have on the team's overall fitness and performance.

With his vast knowledge and experience in physiotherapy, Omon is poised to contribute significantly to the players' physical well-being and help them maintain peak performance throughout the demanding season.

The upcoming season holds great promise for Simba SC, as the club strives to maintain the outfit's position as one of Africa's football powerhouses.

Carlos Alcaraz's Wimbledon title shows he is exactly who everyone thought he was

WIMBLEDON, England

NOVAK Djokovic knows a thing or two about the talents and intangibles required to win big matches against the best players.

He's been in 35 Grand Slam finals. He's won 23 of them. He played Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer a total of 109 times, with head-to-head edges against both. He went 9-5 against them in title matches at majors.

So it seemed only natural to ask Djokovic to whom he'd compare the new star of men's tennis – Carlos Alcaraz – after losing to him across five sets and more than 4 1/2 hours brimming with brilliant play and dramatic moments in the Wimbledon final on Sunday.

"People have been talking in the past 12 months or so about his game consisting of certain elements with Roger, Rafa and myself. I would agree with that," Djokovic began, the bitterness of the 1-6, 7-6 (6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 defeat, and the end of his reign at the All England Club, still sharp.

"I think he's got basically (the) best of all three worlds," Djokovic said.

Left there, that would stand out as a rather striking endorsement of the precocious Alcaraz, a Spaniard who won the U.S. Open last year and now is one of just five men to collect multiple Grand Slam trophies before turning 21.

Then Djokovic got into specifics.

"He's got this mental resilience and, really, maturity for someone who is 20 years old. It's quite impressive," said Djokovic, who had won Wimbledon four years in a row and seven times in all. "He's got this 'Spanish bull' mentality of competitiveness and fighting spirit and incredible defense that we've seen with Rafa over the years."

With a smile, Djokovic tacked on what he sees of himself in the youngster.

"He's got some nice sliding backhands that (have) some similarities with my backhands. Two-handed backhands. Defense. Being able to adapt. That has been my personal strength for many years," Djokovic said. "He has it, too."

When the gist of that assessment was relayed to the No. 1-ranked Alcaraz, his eyes widened and he exhaled under the white bucket hat that became his trademark news conference accessory.

Alcaraz was asked how he would describe himself.

"It's crazy that Novak (would) say that, honestly. But I consider myself a really complete player. I think I have the shots, the strength physically, the strength mentally, enough to (handle) these situations," he said. "Probably he's right. But I don't want to think about it. ... I'm 'full Carlos Alcaraz,' let's say, but probably I have some great ability from every player."

Living up to expectations is never easy, and so much has been expected of Alcaraz. Somehow, he is living up to all the hype.

He brings abundant athleticism, quickness, strength and reflexes to the game. He is equipped with a booming forehand and the touch to implement the softest of drop shots.

He produced more than twice as many winners as Djokovic on a windy afternoon, 66 to 32. He broke five times across 23 return games Sunday – something that Djokovic's prior six opponents managed to accomplish just three times across 103 games. He hit serves at up to 135 mph at Wimbledon.

He showed an adroitness at the net. He performed in the clutch against Djokovic, coming back from a set point down in the tiebreaker, winning a 32-point epic of a game in the third set and saving a break point early in the fifth before converting his own chance to assume the lead for good.

SPORTS



Physical education teachers from several primary schools in Korogwe District, Tanga demonstrate batting drills when they attended a cricket coaching course coordinated by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) in the district last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

TCA launches new development center in Tanga

By Guardian Reporter

EFFORTS by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) to develop cricket domestically have garnered a boost as the association recently launched a new cricket center in Korogwe District, Tanga.

The association moreover hosted the beginners coaching course for physical education teachers from various schools in Tanga.

According to a statement issued by the association, the course took place at Manundu Primary School, bringing together participants from 17 schools.

Each of the 17 schools fielded one teacher in the three-day training program which was conducted by TCA Development Officer for Tanga, Riziki Kiseto.

After the completion of the program, cricket equipment for junior cricketers was presented to each school by Korogwe District Sports Officer, Rajabu Dimoso.

The cricket gear is meant to see to it that each of the schools efficiently carries out the development project.

In another development, the DJ Fighters outfit cruised to a 14-run win over the Lions C outfit in this year's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) T20 tournament's tie last weekend.

The DJ Fighters outfit won the toss, elected to bat, and went on to post 150/8 in their scheduled 20 overs of the clash that took place at the Leaders Club venue.

The batting side got the innings off to a good start, thanks to solid knocks that were put to show by openers, skipper Karim Khan and Zakir Ansari.

Ansari eventually returned with 27 runs, which included three boundaries, whereas Khan scored 16 runs, blasting two boundaries and a sixer.

The openers' efforts had DJ Fighters reaching 68 runs in the 10th over and Nizar

Govani, slotted in at number three, somewhat improved the score with his 19 runs.

The batting side faced a wobble following two quick dismissals of top-order performers, Murtaza Musani and Rahim Solanki.

Solanki was five runs short of a two-digit figure, making his way back when he was caught by Lions C outfit's Chetan Borkhataria from Farhaan Mohamed's delivery.

With the DJ Fighters outfit having registered 92 runs in the 14th over, Altaf Khoja laid his hands on the bat and stepped at the crease to significantly improve the outfit's score with his 30 runs.

He pushed DJ Fighters' score to 148 runs with a ball remaining when he was stumped by Lions C outfit's Abdulrazak Sameer from Mohamed's bowling.

Low-order batsman, Rishi Mehta, also has significant contribution with his unbeaten 26 runs, which included three fours, winding up the innings with Amit Charania that also ended with an unbeaten stint, having chipped in with two runs not out.

Mohamed was by far the outstanding bowler in the Lions C outfit's bowling unit, having ended with a six-wicket haul in four overs.

The bowler executed seven dot balls in his four-over spell, gave away 37 runs, and ended with a 9.25 economy rate.

Needing 151 runs to register victory turned out to be a tall order for the Lions C side, given the squad ended with 136/7 in the scheduled 20 overs.

The team's innings endured a wobble early on as the opener, Pradeep Nayak, suffered an early exit as he was bowled clean by DJ Fighters' wicketkeeper, Nizar Govani, off Zia Ur Rehman's delivery.

The fellow opening batsman, Mohamad Shabib, stayed at the crease for a while, executing a series of solid shots which had the performer chipping in with 11 runs.

Top-order cricketer, Salman Yasser, slotted in at number four, stepped at the crease to push the total with his 28 runs, and middle-order cricketer, Rehaan Rafiq, also had a meaningful contribution having scored 26 runs.

Borkhataria attempted to improve the Lions C squad's total, having recorded unbeaten 20 runs, which included two fours, forging an unbeaten partnership with Brijesh Bhadrhresa who as well notched 20 runs not out.

Rahim Solanki led DJ Fighters' efforts to prevent the Lions C squad from mounting a chase, having taken two wickets and given away 17 runs in his two-over spell.

A total of 13 outfits are battling it out in the 2023 DC T20 Cup competition. They are Specialized K&P B, Malabar Cricket Club (MCC), Patel C team, Strikers B, TCA Women Combine, Zanzibar Cricket Club, and Dar Indian Titans.

Patel B outfit, Dar Tigers, DJ Fighters outfit, Lions C outfit, Caravans D outfit, and TCA Women squad wind up the tournament's participating teams' list.

Specialized K&P B outfit leads the rest of the pack in the 2023 DC T20 Cup tournament having notched a victory in seven ties it has taken part in.

The tournament leader has scored a total of 769 runs, giving away 670 runs to settle for the 1.552 net run rate.

Second-placed MCC has emerged victorious in six matches and conceded a loss in two to stay two points adrift of the showdown's leader.

The MCC outfit has scored 938 runs and given away 775 runs to notch the 1.8461 net run rate.

Simba SC in advance talks to sign Mozambican winger

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MOZAMBICAN winger Luís Miquissone, currently playing for Egyptian big gun Al Ahly, is reportedly set to return to his former club, Simba SC, after falling down the pecking order in the Cairo-based outfit.

Discussions between Simba SC and Al Ahly are in progress, seeking to reach an agreement on whether to finalize a permanent deal or a loan deal between the two clubs.

Miquissone had only joined Al Ahly in August of 2021 from Simba SC for a fee of €850,000 after wowing the Egyptian big gun technical bench during the CAF Champions League.

The former Simba SC winger signed a four-year deal with Al Ahly two years ago, with a contract set to conclude in 2025.

The Mozambican player caught Al Ahly's eyes during his 12 appearances in CAF Champions League with Simba SC in the 2020/21 season in which he scored three goals and executed further three assists.

However, Miquissone did not enjoy the best of debut campaigns, since arriving at the home of the record CAF Champions League winners.

The winger has struggled with injuries while netting five times and assisting once in 28 games in a season that saw Al Ahly finish third in Egypt Premier League.

He was still one of the footballers that led the club to the bronze medal in the FIFA Club World Cup featuring in



Luis Miquissone

victories against CF Monterrey and Al Hilal.

Miquissone though still could not live up to expectations, a situation which led Al Ahly to loan him to Saudi club, Abha, on a season-long loan.

The winger made only four appearances in Saudi Arabia before returning to Al Ahly that is keen on offloading the footballer to raise funds for new signings.

According to several club sources, Miquissone is now set for a return to Simba SC after the side had managed to reach an agreement with the player over personal terms.

Al Ahly wants the player to leave permanently, but the club's insiders insist on a loan move that Simba SC has reached an agreement with the Egyptian soccer big gun to sign Miquissone on loan.

It is understood however that Simba SC will need to pay Miquissone's full wages if the club wants to convince Al Ahly of the loan deal.

Tanzania is perhaps where the skillful winger enjoyed his football the most in recent seasons, having scored 12 goals for Simba SC in all competitions during the 2020/21 campaign.

Real-time VAR explanations at Women's World Cup 'more transparent' - FIFA

SYDNEY

MATCH officials explaining VAR decisions live to stadiums and television audiences for Women's World Cup games will make the process "more transparent", FIFA's referee chief Pierluigi Collina said yesterday.

The concept will be used at a major tournament for the first time when the World Cup starts on Thursday, having been trialled at the men's Club World Cup in Morocco this year and the men's U20 World Cup in Argentina last month.

Collina, chairman of the FIFA Referees Committee, told reporters that there had been positive feedback from the trials.

"We want to give more transparency, more understanding of the decision made by the referee," the Italian said.

"The referees here in Sydney have already practised at the training grounds using the PA system and things are going well.

"We are very confident this new tool will be very positive."

Fans have long called for more transparency over VAR (video assistant referee) decisions.

Match officials at the World Cup in New Zealand and Australia will consult a screen on the side of the pitch before relaying their decision, the reason for it, the players involved and a brief description of the incident through the PA system via a microphone on their shirt.

Collina admitted to some trepidation with referees required to explain in English, which is not the mother tongue for many, adding extra pressure.

"In anything there are pros and cons," he said. "After we will discuss and consider what is best for the future."

Referees are also under instruction to clamp down on time-wasting at the World Cup.

Meanwhile, veteran United States star Kelley O'Hara was close to tears

as she contemplated the upcoming World Cup being Megan Rapinoe's last, vowing Tuesday to send the women's football icon out "on a high".

The 38-year-old Rapinoe, who is also well known for her off-field activism, will retire at the end of this season, bringing the curtain down on a 17-year career in which she has twice won the World Cup.

"It is hard to put into words," an emotional O'Hara said of her teammate from the 2015 and 2019 World Cup-winning sides, ahead of the tournament in Australia and New Zealand starting Thursday.

"The 'Pinoe' that the world sees is an incredible person, and that is her also up close and personal," O'Hara, who has won 157 caps, told a press conference in Auckland.

"She brings a sense of humour and lightness, but intensity and empathy, and just is one of a kind."

"There has never been one like her, there is probably never going to be one close to her."

"It is sad to think about this being her last, but she has done such incredible things for this team."

"I hope we all send her out on a high."

Rapinoe and the United States are chasing an unprecedented third World Cup crown in a row.

The forward is a former winner of the Ballon d'Or and the Best FIFA Women's Player awards.

She has been a high-profile campaigner on social issues including LGBTQ+ rights, racial inequality and gender and pay equality.

She was also a leading voice in the US women's team's successful fight for equal pay and conditions which resulted in a lawsuit and eventual new collective agreement being struck in 2021.

The United States on Saturday face outsiders Vietnam to open their title defence.

AFP

Norway's Hegerberg eager to make up for lost time at World Cup

SYDNEY

THE prolific Ada Hegerberg wants to cap her return from the international wilderness by firing Norway back among the elite at the Women's World Cup starting this week.

The former Ballon d'Or winner stepped away from the international scene in 2017 citing concerns over the inequality of treatment given to women's teams by the Norwegian football federation.

The striker's self-imposed exile lasted five years and meant she missed the 2019 World Cup, where Norway reached the quarter-finals, before she returned in time for Euro 2022.

That was a forgettable tournament however -- Hegerberg failed to score as Norway lost 8-0 to hosts England on the way to a group-stage exit.

Now the 28-year-old, the all-time top scorer in the Women's Champions League, is determined to make up for lost time when Norway kick the World Cup off against co-hosts New Zealand on Thursday.

"There is always work to be done with the national team but it feels good to be with them again," she told AFP ahead of the tournament from Lyon, where she plays for the French champions and record eight-time Champions League winners.

"It gives me more of a chance to make a contribution to women's football, on and off the field."

- Injury nightmare -

Aside from her international exile, Hegerberg -- who helped her country reach the last 16 at the 2015 World Cup -- has also spent much of the last few years out injured.

She suffered a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee in January 2020 and in September that year underwent surgery on a stress fracture to her left tibia.

She did not return to action until October 2021, then missed a large chunk of the season just finished due to injury too.

"I finished the season well with

Lyon. I was getting better as it went along," she said, after helping her club retain the French title.

"There was quite an intense period because I came back during the run-in to the end of the season when we had some really important matches," she added.

"It was a tiring season because I needed to put a lot of work in to get back to my best. I am proud. I never doubted I would."

- 'Caught napping' -

And so what of Norway's chances in New Zealand and Australia?

They will be expected to progress out of a Group A which also includes Switzerland and the Philippines, and will hope to get to the last eight at least.

Hegerberg is cautious.

"I don't think we can say we are one of the favourites," she said of a team also featuring the likes of Chelsea's Maren Mjelde and Guro Reiten, and the Barcelona pair of Ingrid Syrstad Engen and Caroline Graham Hansen.

"We have lots of quality and desire. We need to be ambitious but also realistic -- our most recent results have not been very good, so we want to give off a better image of Norway."

They were powerhouses of the women's international game a generation ago, reaching the first Women's World Cup final in 1991 and winning the trophy four years later.

Twice European champions, they also won Olympic gold in 2000.

"We have quite a history, having won the World Cup and been Olympic champions, but things have become a bit harder in the last few years," said Hegerberg.

"We got caught napping. That doesn't mean we can't achieve anything anymore because we have some quality players, but we need to get them all playing together to get the best out of the team."

"It's really interesting. I can't wait."

AFP

Women's World Cup started out with shorter games, outsized kits

SYDNEY

ASAKO Takakura played in the first Women's World Cup in 1991 and recalls with a hint of disdain how the matches lasted 80 minutes instead of the usual 90.

"At the time football was still thought of as a man's sport," Takakura tells AFP, casting her mind back to a tournament in which only 12 teams took part.

Fast forward and the ninth edition of the Women's World Cup kicks off on Thursday in Australia and New Zealand with 32 teams and global interest at an all-time high.

Takakura has seen that development firsthand. After playing for Japan at the 1991 and 1995 World Cups, she coached the national side at the 2019 edition.

The 1991 World Cup took place in the Chinese province of Guangdong and the United States beat Norway 2-1 in the final in front of 63,000 spectators. They have won it three more times since.

Attendances were boosted by free tickets given to the public.

Back then, games were two halves of 40 minutes.

"Goodness gracious, the girls can't last 90 minutes," US star striker Michelle Akers once said in a sneeringly sarcastic riposte.

The length of matches changed for subsequent Women's World Cups after many teams said there should be no difference.

"There was an atmosphere where people wondered if women could play," Takakura says of attitudes in 1991.

"At least they didn't make the pitch smaller."

Governing body FIFA's technical re-



The United States won the first Women's World Cup when it took place in China. Agencies

port after the tournament highlights some of the wider issues women's football faced.

Many of the teams said they generally struggled to find football boots and goalkeeping gloves to fit women.

"The players' need for good quality equipment... in small sizes had so far only rarely been satisfied," the New Zealand delegation was quoted as saying in the report.

- Paying lip service -

Leslie King was captain and goalkeeper for New Zealand at the 1991 World Cup, where a squad made up mostly of part-time players exited in the group stage.

Now 59, she has fond memories of the tournament -- big crowds, especially when they played China, a grand hotel, mountains of good food and an opulent banquet hall.

But King believes at that point, FIFA was far from convinced about having a Women's World Cup.

The first World Cup was officially called the "FIFA Women's World Championship for the M&M's Cup". FIFA was reluctant to call it a World Cup.

"I don't think they put a lot of stock in it, I think it was to a certain extent lip service for the women's game at that point," she recently told AFP from Philadelphia in the United States.

World Cup glory the missing piece for Australia's 'inspirational' Kerr

SYDNEY

SAM Kerr says the only thing missing in her life is a major trophy with Australia -- and the Chelsea forward plans to change that by winning her home World Cup.

Kerr made her Australia debut aged just 15 and has gone on to become one of the best players in women's football.

Now 29, she is set to be the face of the World Cup when it kicks off on Thursday, her profile having soared to new heights since moving to Chelsea in 2020 and steering them to the domestic double this year.

"She is a nightmare to defend. Her energy levels are like a 12-year-old. She is infectious," Chelsea manager Emma Hayes said recently.

"I don't know a striker in world football who can do what she does. She's the best."

Kerr is Australia's all-time leading scorer, surpassing Tim Cahill last year as the nation's most prolific among men or women with 63 goals in 121 appearances.

She has been shortlisted for the women's Ballon d'Or and nominated for the Best FIFA Women's Player consistently since 2017.

In 2019 Kerr became the first Australian, man or woman, to score a hat-trick at a World Cup, but winning a major trophy with her country has eluded her.

"I just want to win a major tournament with the national team," the Australian skipper said in a documentary, "Matildas: The World at Our Feet", released in April.

"It's the only thing missing in my life right now... if we win the World Cup, that would just be everything."

The tournament in Australia and New Zealand will be Kerr's fourth -- but easily her biggest -- World Cup.

- 'I struggled a lot' -

Born to an Indian father and Australian mother, Kerr played Australian Rules as a youngster and was convinced she would one day represent her beloved West Coast Eagles, like her brother.

She switched though to football aged 12 and made her debut for the Matildas as a substitute against Italy in 2009.

Kerr admits that shifting from Australian Rules -- where there was little hope of earning a living as a woman -- was not easy.

"I remember I struggled a lot," she previously said.



Sam Kerr

"I'm really thankful for my time in the AFL, but I'm also thankful I had to make the switch because there was no pathway for me at that time in AFL."

By now a footballer, she made her debut for the W-League's Perth Glory aged 15, spending four years at the club before moving to Sydney FC.

Known for her pace, agility and heading ability -- as well as her trademark backflip goal celebrations -- Kerr left for the United States in 2013.

She went first to Western New York Flash, then Sky Blue FC in New Jersey and finally Chicago Red Stars.

- 'Mature' -

It is since moving to Chelsea that Kerr has risen to a whole new level.

She has scored more goals than any other player in the Women's Super League since moving there in 2020. Moreover, she has a sense for the big occasion with her goals often proving decisive.

While her onfield achievements have grabbed attention, she has also won plaudits for her work behind the scenes as an advocate for women's sport.

Named "Young Australian of the Year" in 2018, she was hailed as "inspirational, well-grounded, professional

Takakura, who now coaches Shanghai in the top-tier women's league in China, said that back then "no one wanted to put on a Women's World Cup".

"A few years before 1991, a Norwegian woman asked during a FIFA congress why there was a men's World Cup but not a women's World Cup," she said.

"The feeling then became that they had to have one."

- 'Something to dream about' -

On the pitch, women's football has developed significantly too.

"Physically, I think the players are taller, stronger, in better shape and technically better," King said.

"I think a lot of that you can attribute to the professional leagues that are certainly popping up around Europe."

Takakura believes that having a World Cup has helped push women's football along.

"Having the World Cup has made things more organised," she said.

"At first, lots of countries, including in Europe, were negative about women's football."

"But having the tournament meant that each football association had to do something about it."

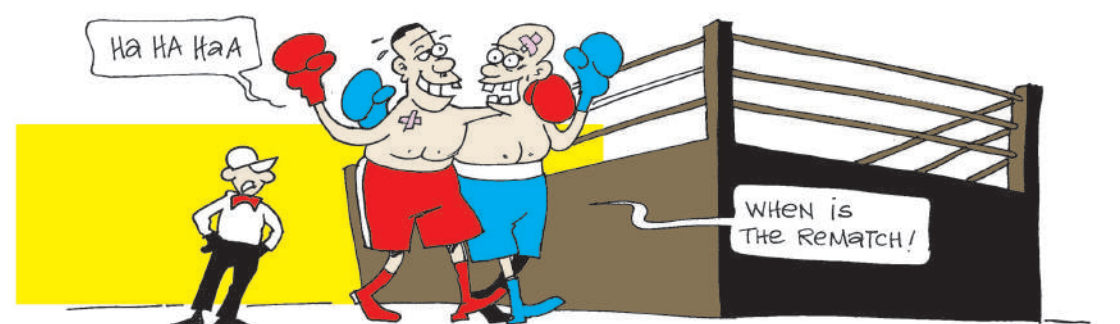
But much work remains to be done, she cautioned, including increasing wages so they are more in line with what the men earn.

"It's not just about getting paid lots of money -- it's about the value of sport and giving children something to dream about, something that they can make an effort in," she said.

"It started as a man's sport, but there is a different enjoyment and value to be had in the women's game."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Women's World Cup started
out with shorter games, oversized kits

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Mariam Mjapanizi, an acrobat with a Dar es Salaam music troupe Mjomba Band, showcases her skills when the troupe performed at the 18th Higher Education, Science, and Technology exhibitions coordinated by Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) at Mnazi Mmoja ground in the city. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Samatta joins Greece Super League 1 giant PAOK FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN forward Mbwana Samatta has joined Greece Super League 1 giants, PAOK Salonika, from Turkey's Fenerbahce on a two-year contract with an option of an additional year.

Samatta, who was last season playing on loan at Belgium's KRC Genk, had one year left with his Fenerbahce with a permanent move more of a reality with the Turkish side not ready to leave him free.

KRC Genk was stalking Samatta, hoping to rope him in for free next year, PAOK Salonika though intervened and completed his deal and directly included him in the club's squad to start preparations for the Europa League preliminary stage matches.

Recently PAOK Salonika played a friendly match against KRC Genk and won 3-2 while preparing for the Europa League qualifiers which will be played on July 16

PAOK Salonika will come up against Westerlo in the first fixture and the former will then take on Beitar Jerusalem in the second game scheduled to take place on July 27.

Samatta spent two past years on loan away from a Turkish side after failing to impress, having scored just six goals for the Istanbul club.

The Tanzania senior national team's skipper was sent on loan to Belgium's Royal Antwerp FC in 2021/22 and was then back to his old stomping ground of KRC Genk last season.

Last season Samatta scored six goals in 30 outings for KRC Genk while missing out on the Jupiler Pro League title in the last match.

As he gets ready for the new season, the Tanzanian attacker spoke to his new club's fans in a short video.

He said: "Hello, guys, I'm Ally Samatta, as you can see, I'm already wearing white and black, and I'm ready to fight, I can't wait to see you out there, come on, PAOK!"

Samatta was born on December 23, 1992 in Dar es Salaam. He initially joined African Lyon's junior squad but his professional career started with Simba SC.

In 2011, he moved to DR Congo football big gun, TP Mazembe, and turned out for the outfit for five seasons.

The attacker played 133 games and scored 85 goals for the Congolese outfit, winning the CAF Champions League and was awarded the 2015 African Player of the Year prize.

His performance did not go unnoticed by KRC Genk, which acquired him in January 2016. In four years in Belgium, he experienced it all.

He played in 191 matches, scored 76 goals, provided 20 assists, became the Jupiler Pro League top scorer for the 2018/19 season, and helped KRC Genk win the top flight's silverware.

The way to the next step has been opened, as England's Aston Villa paid \$12 million to KRC Genk in January 2020 and brought Samatta to the most competitive league in the world.

In six months, he became the first Tanzanian to play and score in the English Premier League, wearing an Aston Villa shirt in 16 games. The Tanzanian globe-trotter then embarked on a loan to Fenerbahce in 2020, which was made permanent a year later.

However, just six goals for the Istanbul club were not enough, and Samatta was sent on loan to Royal Antwerp FC and back to his old stomping ground of KRC Genk.

Now, with free agency secured, he could listen to any offer and it came from the passionately-supported PAOK Salonika. The white-blacks finished fourth in the Greek Super League last season.

“

Hello, guys, I'm Ally Samatta, as you can see, I'm already wearing white and black, and I'm ready to fight, I can't wait to see you out there, come on, PAOK

Azam FC faces Esperance Tunis in pre-season friendly

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC is gearing up for the club's second friendly match during its training camp in Tunisia, where the club is due to face stiffer competition in Espérance Sportive de Tunis today in the evening.

"We expect to play the second friendly match of our preparation for the new season against the Tunisian giants, Esperance Tunis, on Wednesday at 1.30 pm East African time," the club confirmed in a statement.

This encounter follows a successful first match, which saw Azam FC secure a convincing 3-0 victory against Sudan's Al Hilal SC.

Azam FC's victory in the friendly against Al Hilal came courtesy of goals netted by new-signing left-back Cheikh Sidibe, who headed a cross floated in by midfielder Feisal Salum to open the scoring in the first half.

Newly signed striker Alassane Dia, and Prince Dube added two more goals for Azam FC in the friendly.

During Monday's training session, Azam FC head coach Yousouph Dabo focused on implementing specific tactical strategies that will be utilized in today's match.

The training program covered various aspects, including physical conditioning, technical skills, and tactical drills, to prepare the players and achieve the desired level of readiness throughout the camp.

Initially, the match was to be held at Espérance Sportive de Tunis' training ground but, due to the importance of the game to the home team, it has opted to host the match at the National Stadium in Rades, subject to government approval of the outfit's request.

The match serves as a crucial preparation ahead of Espérance Sportive de Tunis's participation in the Arab Champions League.

The Tunisia Premier League runners-up will play against Al Ittihad Jeddah of Saudi Arabia in the Champions League of the Arab nations on July 27.

Al Ittihad Jeddah has signed former Chelsea midfielder, N'Golo Kante, and former Real Madrid striker, Karim Benzema, as well as Jota, who arrived from Celtic earlier this month.

The pre-season tour has become a significant moment in any club's calendar.



Azam FC players are pictured taking part in training in Sousse, Tunisia early this week preparing for various showdowns including the 2023/24 NBC Premier League slated to kick off next month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

While some coaches might pine for more serene preparation behind closed doors with an emphasis on fine-tuning the bodies of athletes to handle the upcoming months of relentless competition, match preparedness is here to stay.

While Azam FC is in Tunisia, Simba SC has pitched camp in Turkey. NBC Premier League defending champion, Young Afri-

cans SC (Yanga), opted to keep pre-season preparation local by staying at the Kigamboni base, the same way the club did last season.

There is no better way to test a team's readiness than to simulate a real 90-minute match, which is why for clubs, pre-season friendlies become such an important part of the overall plan.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



Nafasi Art Space cherishes participation in 2023 ZIFF

By Guardian Correspondent

A Dar es Salaam contemporary art center and creative hub, Nafasi Art Space, has expressed gratitude for its participation in the 2023 Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF) that took place in Zanzibar from June 24 to early this month.

The center said in a statement that its collaboration with the ZIFF organizers turned out to be a joyful experience, which is growing stronger each year.

The incredible festival brought together filmmakers and people from around the world to celebrate diverse cultures and stories of emerging filmmakers through exciting movies from Africa and beyond.

According to Nafasi Art Space, the center's team that took part in the 2023 ZIFF had the privilege of capturing the essence of the extraordinary event.

Members representing Nafasi Art Space in the festival included Nafasi Film Coordinator True Hinds, Performing Art Coordinator Rajabu Habibu, Digital Art and Communication official Haizer Hizzer, and Gallery Manager Sandra Mpelumbe.

Nafasi Art Space had, during the 2023 ZIFF, organized various workshops and pop-up film screenings through the Nafasi Film Club.

The team, the center revealed, also curated a wonderful exhibition at the Maru Maru Hotel showcasing the diverse projects of Nafasi Art Space members.

The center stated it was honoured to have Bahati Female Band, Wamoto Band, and Tanzania Dar Music Group grace the stage with their electrifying live performances.

One of the highlights of the festival was the Ousmane Sembene Award, won by Nafasi Art Space's previous Director and Nafasi Film Club co-founder Rebecca Correy, and Walt Mzengi, respectively for their captivating short film titled 'Katope'.

'Katope' was also among the six selected films from Netflix African Folk Tales reimagined short-film competition by UNESCO and Netflix spotlighting up-and-coming African directors.

The film brought together creative minds from various backgrounds, including those engaged in the Nafasi Film Club programs.

Moreover, during the festival, the center's in-house Gallery Manager and Curator, Sandra, curated a remarkable exhibition titled 'Swahili Modalities'.

The exhibition featured talented artists from Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, exploring coastal stories and the environment.

The exhibition aimed to delve into the artists' thoughts, experiences, and expressions of both reality and imagination.

The center stated people that interested in either supporting the exhibited works or connecting with any of the artists should contact the center's officials.

The center stated it extends its heartfelt gratitude to ZIFF Chief Executive Officer, Martin Mhando, who has contributed and participated, embracing the spirit of exchange and learning during the festival for many years.

Nafasi Art Space noted that Mhando's support and involvement are truly appreciated and the center looks forward to continued collaboration with the ZIFF.

Meanwhile, Nafasi Art Space is this month hosting Tanzanian artist Nasma Mzee for the Artist in Residency (AIR) program.

Nasma that has a Bachelor's degree in Arts and Design from the prestigious University of Dar es Salaam is a contemporary artist whose work is deeply influenced by her surroundings.

Drawing inspiration from nature, people, and anything that sparks wonder, Nasma's artistic vision aims to convey a profound sense of calmness.

The center disclosed that through skillful use of colour and form, she creates artworks that emanate peaceful energy, providing viewers with a serene and harmonious experience.

Nafasi Art Space revealed that during the residency Nasma will have the opportunity to explore her work in a stimulating environment where inspiration and innovation intertwine.

She will delve deep into her artistic practice, experimenting, and exploring, into the exploration of nature through the various medium of painting styles with one being impressionism style.