

MPs applaud Samia over public servants' welfare By Felister Peter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament vesterday applauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for investing more in human resources to enhance efficiency in service delivery and stimulate economic growth.

They were contributing to the fiscal2023/2024 estimates for the President's Office (Good Governance and Public Services) tabled in the National Assembly yesterday state minister George Simbachawene.

Rashid Shangazi (Mlalo) said President Samia was doing a great job in improving civil servants' welfare including promotions and paying their arrears or benefits on time.

"Let's give her a thumb. President Samia is doing a great job for civil servants, praising the work of the Governance and Public Services ministry. "All policies, laws and various guidelines are based in the public service," he stated, noting that for these things to be done they must be managed properly.

Esther Matiko (Special Seats-Opposition) praises the sixth phase government for hiring teachers and medical personnel, advising the government to do better in the area of human resources as it does in development projects.

Adequate human resources capacity is crucial economic growth, thus strong management of human resources to ensure efficiency at work is vital, he said.

Underlining that sufficient human resources are key to growth, she was of the view that the serious shortage of public servants in most sectors results in poor service delivery and embezzlement of public funds.

She said the government was not prioritizing the employment of civil servants, especially in the health and education sectors

ATCL, KQ explore links in cargo transport, training



Air Tanzania Company Ltd CEO and managing director Ladislaus Matindi (R) presents a dummy of a Boeing 767-300F to Kenya Airways Ltd group managing director and CEO Allan Kilavuka, signalling the beginning of commercial cooperation negotiations between the two airlines. This was shortly after they held landmark talks in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo:

By Guardian Reporter

AIR Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) and Kenya Airways Ltd (KQ) are seeking to reach an agreement to increase efficiency in operation of the two airlines, it has been learned.

Allan Kilavuka, KQ chief executive officer (CEO), recently led a delegation for extensive talks with ATCL managing director Ladislaus Matindi and other officials.

The KQ top official said the airline sees many areas where the two airlines can cooperate, especially cargo transportation.

As Kenya is a cargo transportation center in Africa KQ and ATCL can enter into an agreement with ATCL to ensure that the Boeing 767-300 cargo plane with the capacity to carry 54 tonnes at once is fully used.

"We're fully aware that very soon ATCL will receive a Boeing 767-300F cargo plane, airlifting 54 tonnes at a go," he said, noting that the new addition will enable East African airlines to solve the challenge of cargo transporting, by and large. "We believe we can cooperate in this area," he stated, elaborating that in passenger transport, the two airlines can cooperate by operating on a mutually beneficial framework.

The presence of the Boeing 787-8 (Dreamliner) and the arrival of the Boeing 767-300F cargo plane will open up more commercial opportunities, he stated, while his host said the meeting looked options enabling

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Treasury Registrar unveils bailout plan for parastatals Newly appointed registrar Nehemia a national investment advisory board to

By Henry Mwangonde

THE office of the Treasury Registrar has announced a transformation plan aimed at enhancing performance and competence in public institutions, where supporting cash trapped parastatals is billed at 1.1trn/- in capital assets.

Mchechu said at a meeting with board chairmen and CEOs of those institutions, that the aim of the plan is to strengthen oversight roles of the registrar's office as an advisor, custodian and supervisor of public institutions and statutory corporations.

The plan will see his office establish

advise the government on how best to invest and transform the management of public institutions and parastatals, he said.

To improve the management of these institutions, special funds are needed for reinvestment "so that we can reap more

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Sudan conflict: 'Govt working on safety at embassy, for students'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government said yesterday that it is working on modalities of evacuating all the 210 Tanzanians living in Sudan, as the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) engage the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) for control of the capital, Khartoum.

Dr Stergomena Tax, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, said in a statement yesterday that the ministry was in frequent communication with Tanzanian Embassy officials on developments, and the

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Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Dr Stergomena Tax presents a statement in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday on the pervasive insecurity in Sudan. However, she said there were no reports of Tanzanian casualties so



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The supplement will be published on 26th April, 2023.

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ATCL, KQ explore links in **Cargo transport, training** can be obtained in a neighboring

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the prosperity of the airlines and their countries "considering the great needs of the global market."

Guardian

Areas intended for collaboration include the exchange of experts, conducting practical training without relying on distant countries, along with cargo transportation, to enhance efficiency in operation of the two airlines, he said.

The ATCL top executive said the African market alone is very large and requires cooperation in making a wider presence, for transporting passengers and cargo.

In practical training, it is often done by sending experts to European countries for two or three months, thus if this training

country, "it will be better to raise the capacity of the two companies and bring more productivity to the society around them," he declared.

The CEO lauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for opening up business and investment opportunities in the country after her state visit to Kenya, asserting that the visit by the KQ CEO enhances the spirit of cooperation.

The visit has been received with a new awareness by ATCL executives who admit that it is a good sign of enhanced commercial, economic and diplomatic links between these two countries, especially for nationals of the East African Community partner states, he added.

Sudan conflict: 'Govt working on safety at embassy, for students'

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safety of Tanzanian nationals there. In remarks to the legislature that were picked up by international media channels, the minister expressed Tanzania's condemnation of outbreak of violence, urging the two sides to move to ceasefire, echoing worries by United Nations agencies that the violence impedes their relief work in Sudan.

A total of 210 Tanzanians are known to be in Sudan, where 171 are students and the others embassy officials and their families, it said. So far no Tanzanian has been reported as affected by the fighting, the statement noted.

Observers noted that the country's efforts in that direction relate to the fact that Sudan has for the past few years been seeking to join the East African Community (EAC) while it is part of the more informal Inter-Governmental Agency for Development (IGAD) grouping countries in the conflict ridden north eastern Africa, under informal leadership of Kenya.

Tanzania was working with neighboring countries, regional communities, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations to seek a ceasefire, with a temporary halt to hostilities decided late on Tuesday and breaking down in early

been affected," the minister noted, urging the warring parties to stop the fight and return to negotiations for the welfare of Sudan, Africa and the world.

Fighting broke out in Khartoum and other flashpoints for control of military installations and major communications facilities late last week between the army and a renegade division, the RSF. While UN agencies confirm 185 deaths and more than 1000 injured people, a statement by the Sudanese Doctors Union, a leading civic organisation, said the numbers could be far higher as many of the dead and wounded weren't being taken to hospitals.

The fighting is thwarting efforts to restore peace in Sudan, she said, affirming that Tanzania as a member of the AU Peace and Security Council supports the declaration issued by the council

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union stated at the weekend its condemnation of the eruption of hostilities in Sudan, appealing for ceasefire.

Tanzania wants the conflicting parties to resolve the conflict peacefully, thus ensuring provision of humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese as well as citizens from other countries.

In the weekend statement, the

Nick Reynolds alias Bongo Zozo (2nd-L) gifts Dr Jakaya Kikwete a jersey with Tanzania's national colours when the former president met Tanzanian professional long-distance runners Gabriel Gerald Geay (2nd-R) and Wence Tarimo (L) in Boston, the US, earlier this week. The duo had just taken part in the 2023 Boston Marathon, with Geay finishing second. Right is the Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Finance and Economy), Dr Saada Mkuya. British national 'Bongo Zozo' is a popular fan of Tanzania's national soccer team (Taifa Stars) and was in 2020 named Tanzania Tourist Board's Goodwill Ambassador in the UK. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Treasury Registrar unveils bailout plan for parastatals

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and this strategy will also involve categorizing the institutions in terms of profitability, liquidity, efficiency, solvency and fiscal stability," he said..

Mchechu said the plan will see capital uplift for parastatals reaching more than 3trn/- in the next three years to make institutions, declining in recent years, be placed on a new footing as some institutions had completely relationship managers to enable

failed to conduct viable operations. The plan involves analyzing an evaluation of the kind of business that they are doing if it is commercial or service provision, he said, noting that transformation envisaged involves sacking failing boards to increase performance/

"Then there will be restructuring to give them the power and freedom to make decisions," he affirmed, elaborating that each company needs to have

the registrar's office "understand what is going on within institutions where the government holds shares."

The plan will also allow established investment boards to $have {\it special funds for reinvestment}$ should some institutions suffer financial challenges, he stated, specifying that the overall aim of the plan is to strengthen accountability and performance of public institution and statutory corporations.

This will ensure the organizations' effectiveness to increase revenue, reduce unproductive expenditures and gain profit, he said.

The role of the new advisory board will be to advise the government on investment and management of public institutions and statutory corporations, to safeguard and oversee government investments through collective responsibility of all stakeholders, he added.





morning, with the gap in violence African Union (AU) Commission used to deliver humanitarian assistance.

condition in Sudan as citizens have civilians.

expressed deep concern about the situation, appealing to the head of "The government is deeply the Sudanese armed forces and of concerned with the deteriorating the insurgent division to protect

Government calls on all district councils to increase ten pct of domestic revenues

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has called on all district councils in the country to increase the ten percent of domestic revenue that goes to women, youth and people with disabilities depending on collected revenues.

Deputy minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administrations and Local Government, Dr Festus Dugange made the appeal in the House yesterday, stating the amount set for the groups should increase as also revenue increases.

He maintained that the funds are aimed at helping women, youth and disabilities to access loan for them to build their economic capabilities through agriculture and development issues.

The deputy minister made the remarks in response to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Martha Mariki (CCM), who had wanted to know what the government was doing to increase loans to women in Katavi region.

"Does the government plan to increase loans to women entrepreneurs in Katavi region in effort to uplift them economically?" she asked.

In response, the deputy minister explained that loans to women at district councils are provided through the district council empowerment plans.

He said the plan that cuts across all district councils in the country states those authorities to set a side ten percent of domestic revenue for women, youth and people with disabilities.

"Women loan schemes fall under the empowerment plan and increase of the funds depend on the increased revenues" said the minister, calling on local government authorities to increase revenue collections.

Dr Dugange also noted that district councils in Katavi have been issuing the empowerment loan to women, youth and people with disabilities from the ten percent of accrued revenues as required by the law and policy.

According to the deputy minister, in 2021/22, district councils in Katavi region disbursed a total of 980m/-, equivalent to 105 per cent to 124 groups with 850 beneficiaries.

At the same, he added that the councils have planned to disburse 1.45bn/-, being 471m/- increment in 2022/23

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presents a prize car to the winner of a Quran reading competition in Zanzibar yesterday. Looking on (3rd-R) is PBZ Bank's Director of Banking Services, Said Mohammed Said. Photo: Zanzibar State House

MPs applaud Samia over public servants' welfare

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In the 2020/2021 financial year, the National Assembly endorsed a budget for the employment of 10,800 people in the two sectors, but only 7,000 were recruited, she recalled.

The recently released report of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) showed that newly constructed dispensaries and health centers worth more than 4bn/- are not functioning for lack of staff.

The shortage of employees in health, education and central government is massive with the country's population standing at more than 61m, she stated, noting that medical staff shortage stands at over 82,000 personnel.

Shortages in primary and secondary schools has the teacher-

student ratio being put at 1:500 for primary schools while in secondary schools the ratio is 1:20 at present, she stated.

Primary schools need 223,000 teachers, she stated, pointing out that some schools with more than 2,000 pupils had three to five teachers, with anything up to 100 pupils being taught by one teacher, she stated in frustration.

The government has only employed 18,000 teachers from 2015 to 2020 m the basis of the ruling party's 2020 election manifesto, she further noted.

Isaay Paul (Mbulu Urban) said the shortage of civil servants in Mbulu District is huge, affecting service delivery in agriculture and livestock sectors. The constituency has 34 villages but just three extension officers while 47 are needed to meet the demand.

There is a shortage of over 50 village and ward executive officers, which affects the provision of services and the performance of the government, he stated/

Public service recruitment job interviews need to be conducted at a zonal level to reduce travel costs for young Tanzanians compelled to travel long distances to Dar es Salaam for the purpose, he said.

Dr Alice Kaijage (Special Seats) said having sufficient, properly supervised human resources would increase efficiency in sectors like minerals, land and water as with good management there would be few complaints or loss of public funds.

Jenista Mhagama, the Policy, Parliament, Labour, Youth, Employment and the Disabled state minister for PMO, said the government was addressing activities, he added.

challenges of human resources, with various interventions being made to ensure a positive balance of employees in all sectors.

The government has introduced the human resource assessment program that will help measure the magnitude of the problem and appropriate measures that must be taken, she said.

Tabling the budget estimates, minister Simbachawene said efforts of public servants in development enabled Tanzania to be included in the lower middleincome countries.

The country's economy would grow further in the coming year in implementing of the National Five-Year Development Plan III (FYDP III), he stated. Tanzania is ranked third in sub-Saharan Africa in the use of ICT in running government

Guardian

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa exchanges ideas in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday with Newala Urban legislator Capt (rtd) George Huruma Mkuchika (L), a Minister of State in the President's Office. Photo: PMO

Minister: Govt made big mistake in canceling ten-cell leadership system

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DR Damas Ndumbaro, Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs has admitted that the government made a mistake in canceling the ten-cell leadership system, a situation that has now led to the increase of moral decay in the society.

Dr Ndumbaro said this on Tuesday in Dodoma, when opening the meeting of the Attorney general (AG) office workers' council.

"The biggest mistake we've ever

leadership when getting into the multi-party system, but the truth is that they were very important in our communities," Dr Ndumbaro said, adding: "Because they used been many complaints in the to know everyone in their area and know everyone's habits, even if a foreigner moves to another area, they know his habits, but now we ignored it and stopped using ten me to do a study to find out what house ambassadors, a situation is the problem in this situation that is costing us now."

He also stated that his ministry has already started to implement

made was to cancel the ten-cell Parliament to do research to determine the reasons that contribute to the increase in moral erosion in the country.

> "Right now there have community about the great increase and erosion of morals and the Speaker of Parliament Dr Tulia Ackson recently instructed of increasing moral erosion," the minister said.

The minister had formed a the instructions given by the commission that will conduct procedures, guidelines as well as

the research and come up with Tanzanian norms and customs. recommendations that will help to deal with the increase in moral offenses in the country.

no law that will be drafted or amended if it has not been legally researched by the Tanzania Law Reform Commission" stressed Dr Ndumbaro

workers' council to fulfill their responsibilities and carry out their duties in accordance with the country's constitution, laws,

COUNTRY — MEN—

"The workers' council should not be part of encouraging things that are not in the interest of our nation, you must do your part by defending the interests of the employees, considering the country's constitution, laws, customs, professions and various guidelines," said Dr Ndumbaro.

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

veteran

Mara region.

village.

school

THE body of the Tanzanian

businessman, Nimrod Mkono who died in the United States (US) on

Monday is expected to be brought

Mkono who died while receiving

medical treatment will be buried at his home village of Busegwe in

Speaking with this paper

Zadock Mkono, said at the

relatives' meeting had decided

that the body be transported from

Florida in the US to his home

is supervised by his wife and

daughter. We expect the body to arrive in the country in next two

Zadock said the transportation

process will take time because

the late's daughter also wants to come to bury her father with her

children she needs to be given special permission from their

"Family members and relatives

will get time to pay their last respects to the deceased once

to three weeks," he said.

"The transportation process

to the country next month.

politician

and

Attorney General (AG) Dr Eliezer Feleshi said the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the implementation of the office's budget for the year 2023/2024.

TPDF Lugalo Golf Club & the Family of The Late Brigadier General (Retired) Ernest John Galinoma Invites you to

"But this session will also be employees," he said.

GALINOMA

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Body of Mkono died in US returns home next month the Magomeni Adventist Church in Dar es Salaam," he elaborated.

He further said that the late's daughter is calling on Good Samaritans to support the family to transport the body to Dar es Salaam. 10 members of the will be travelling to the deceased village.

"So, with this number, the expenses will be high, we are calling for fellow Tanzanians and other people to support us," he added.

According to Zadock, the former Member of Parliament who was born on August 18, 1943, traveled to Florida in the US in 2018 for treatment after developing Alzheimer's disease.

He was also a practicing advocate at Mkono and Advocates. He was also a philanthropist who engaged in various developmental initiatives in the education and health sectors.

Since he left the country for medical treatment in the US, Mkono did not return and the Butiama constituency remained vacant until the 2020 General Elections.

Abbas Mkono, one of the late's children, said the late advocate the body arrives at the late's Mkono is survived by five children residence in Masaki and then at and wife.

> used to continue to encourage employees to evaluate their work performance which we have been doing every week," he said.

However, he said that in the financial year 2022/2023, his office has successfully hired 50 employees, of which 48 are government lawyers and two are IT professionals.

"We also expect to hire another 13 employees and according to our requirements, we should have more than 400 employees and the current shortage is 295





"But also right now there is The minister urged AG office

Safeguards Consultants

The World Bank's Social Sustainability and Inclusion Global Practice (SSI) is recruiting Short Term Consultants (STCs) as Social Development, Social Risk Management and Safeguards Consultants. The positions are national STCs covering Tanzania under the SAES2 Unit which handles social development, social risk management, social safeguards, social inclusion, and social sustainability in the country's portfolio. The consultants will address the day-to-day social development and social risk management and safeguards aspects of projects in preparation and under supervision/monitoring using appropriate knowledge of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework - ESF.

Duties and responsibilities

Working under the guidance of the Senior Social Development the STCs will assist SSI to provide continuous and timely support to the Tanzania Portfolio on social risk management and social inclusion and sustainability with a focus on ensuring compliance with the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and integrating the social development elements into projects. Consultants will support both project design, preparation, and implementation. Specific tasks will include:

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- Review and input to various project preparation and implementation documents;
- Participate in missions and input to Mission Aide Memoires;
- Social Risk Rating and Social Performance Rating of projects, Tracking Social Performance;
- Review of various social safeguard related documents (including ESMFs, ESIAs/ESMPs, RPFs, RAPs, SEPs, LMPs, GRMs);
- Review social compliance in bidding documents;
- · Prepare ESSAs for PforR operations, organize and participate in ESSA stakeholder consultations and validations.
- · Supervise and monitor projects through field visits, timely identification of social risks and provision of mitigation measures and where required provision of on spot guidance on social screening and due diligence;
- Train project implementation teams and any other support as requested on behalf of the Bank.

Selection Criteria

Any successful Candidate should be a holder of at least a master's degree or its equivalent in Sociology, Social Studies, Social Development, Development Studies, Community Development, or similar/relevant social sciences field with At least 5 years of demonstrated experience in social development, social risk management and safeguard compliance. Consultants should be familiar with the Bank's Environment and Social Framework. Ability to work in teams essential, and especially cooperation with Task Team Leaders, government officials and development partner organizations.

Duration of Assignment

The consultants will each work for 150 days within the period July 1st, 2023, to June 30th, 2024. The contract is subject to renewal based on business needs and performance.

How to Apply

To apply send an expression of interest and a CV detailing academic gualifications, experience and description of similar assignments performed to the email address sistcjob@worldbank.org. Note that this is not a request for financial and/or technical proposals. Consultants shall be selected in accordance with World Bank procedures. The World Bank Group is committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, nationality, culture, and educational background. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview. Closing date is 30th April 2023

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4 miners die after were trapped in Igomaa mine

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

FIVE people have died in two incidents including four who were trapped in a mine collapsed at Igomaa village in Mufindi district, Iringa Region.

Another death involved a 38-yearold journalist Rashid Msigwa who died on April 19 after a car he was driving was involved in an accident with a motorcyclist.

Regional Police Commander (RPC) Allan Bukumbi said that

Msigwa while in his car with registration T995 (Alteza) on Iringa-Mbeya Highway near Ipogolo bus stand was speeding and trying to avoid the motorcycle driver but failed thus hitting him.

"The car driver was speeding and when he tried to avoid the motorcycle driver identified as Joel Mgundula (23), he failed hitting a tree. He was seriously injured and died on the way to hospital," explained RPC

In the other incident, Commander

Bukumbi said that three people were rescued when the mine collapsed and four of them died.

"The incident occurred in the midnight on April 19, when the miners were conducting their activities at Grace Chura mine, names of the deceased and casualties are vet to be identified as most of them are not residents of the area," he said.

RPC Bukumbi said investigation was ongoing which include searching for the bodies establish the owner of the mine if he had a permit to operate the mine.

He said the ongoing heavy rain in the region is one of the causes that led the mine collapse.



Rehema Omary (L), who is CCM Youth wing national Vice Chairperson while also chairing the Youth Discussion Forum, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking at the launch of a national dialogue forum involving several political parties. This is a project aimed at enhancing the participation of youths in political and electoral

Premier urges clerics to stand by justice and maintenance of peace **By Guardian Reporter** region.

to stand by justice, and peace for the benefit of the present and future generations.

The remarks were made on Saturday by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in the speech read on behalf by Dr Angeline Mabula, Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development at prayers to raise funds for the construction of a school for the Evangelical Church of Tanzania (ELCT) Eastern Lake Victoria

"I beseech you to frequently remind us CLERICS in the country have been urged on the importance of standing by justice and maintain the country's peace as well as praying for the country and its leaders," Majaliwa said.

At the fundraising event ELCT raised 119.563m/- including cash, pledges and building materials.

He called on clerics not to tire out to teach and up-bring youth in good moral behaviour and engage in legal activities.

"During these times, it is evident that Diocese at Imani, Ilemela district, Mwanza there is moral decay in our community,

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with evil deeds and things that do not please God increasing, things that in the past were rarely heard," he said.

According to Majaliwa, the plummeting of good moral behaviour is an issue that is bad for the community and the nation in general and has adverse effects to the nation's development efforts, making poverty alleviation a difficult task.

He said he sincerely believes that government, religious and political leaders abide by religious teachings and fear God, many of evil deeds in the country will drop.

In his speech, the Prime Minister also stressed on the issue of education saying education was essential for the development of any country and called on clerics to urge parents on the need to educate their children. He showered praise on ELCT Eastern Lake Victoria Diocese and the adherents in general to offer themselves in making sure the school building is completed, taking into consideration that the money was contributed by church followers. Earlier ELCT Eastern Lake Victoria Diocese Bishop, Andrew Petro Gulle said the construction of the school is estimated to cost 2.3tbn/- adding that so far 430m/- has been spent to build 10 classrooms and the administrative building. At the fundraising Majaliwa event, contributed 5m/while, the minister contributed 2m/-.

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contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policy will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contact.

Guardian



Brenda Msangi (5th-R), CEO of Dar es Salaam's CCBRT hospital, pictured yesterday symbolically presenting neonatal resuscitation kits – including 52 medical oxygen cylinders and accessories – to Dar es Salaam Regional Medical Officer Dr Rashid Mfaume in a gesture of support to 14 public health facilities in the region. Through funding by German development agency GIZ, CCBRT hospital now compresses enough oxygen for its own use and to spare. Its on-site oxygen plant also provides much-needed start-up oxygen cylinders aimed at boosting critical care for mothers and newborns at health facilities in several other regions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt reiterates commitment to improve road networks in the country to enhance economic development and improve lives

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has reiterated its commitment to improve the road networks in the country to enhance economic development and improve people lives.

Deputy minister for Works and Transport, Eng. Godfrey Kasekenya told the lawmakers that the government will continue improving and constructing roads and improve communication networks across the country.

He also noted that at least 668.35m/- has been set aside for regular maintenance of Fulo-Nyambiti-Malya road in Sumve.

He made the assurance when responding to questions raised by legislators who had wanted to know when the government would improve road networks in their areas.

In the main question, the Sumve MP, Kasalali Mageni, queried what plans the government had in place to conduct feasibility study and construction to tarmac level on the 73 kilometer road from Fulo-Nyambiti-Malya.

In his response, the deputy minister noted that the government

was looking for funds to conduct feasibility study for the construction of the road to tarmac level.

However, he noted that the ministry through, Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS), will continue maintaining the road to ensure it is passable throughout the year.

"The government has been improving roads in the country on phases depending on the availability of funds," he said.

Last year, the government through the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) revealed plans to spend 3.6tri/- in the next five years to widen its road network countrywide.

With the plan, the government envisages to increase the distance of upgraded roads to tarmac level from the current 2,404,90 to about 3, 855.65 Km.

TARURA came up with the Second Five-Year Strategic Plan, following the expiration of the First Five-Year Strategic Plan 2016/2017 - 2020/2021. It revealed the Second Strategic Plan 2021/2022- 20252026, which details how the government is fully committed to implement infrastructure projects in efforts to spur the country's economic development.

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyoni

VILLAGE executives in Manyoni district have been directed to make sure they supervise parents' contributions towards meals for their children whilst at school to support government efforts.

The instructions were issued by the acting Manyoni District Executive director, Abubakar Kisuda at the event for receiving 89.9m/- food assistance for eight schools in Solya division, Manyoni district, Singida region.

Village officials called on to supervise parents' contributions on school meals

He said many schools lack adequate students' attendance owing to many of them not being cause is the lack of mid-day meals, supplied with meals at schools, hence when the contribution exercise is announced, village executives are supposed to make sure parents contribute.

He said many schools have poor examination results and the main which makes students distracted while in class, and called on parents' cooperation on the issue.

World Vision Tanzania manager for central zone, Pudensiana implemented in collaboration with the government to improve the lives of the people including students at schools.

She said the expectations of her institution is to see the food provided benefits students and stressed for

Rwezaula said the project is being having other procedures for the provision of meals to students.

Rwezaula said the food provided will benefit 5,227 students for a period of three months and stressed that students should be provided with the food according to their needs.

The headteacher of Solya primary school, Naomi Mduma, on behalf of fellow teachers thanked World Vision Tanzania for providing the food that she said will be evenly distributed to all students at the school.

She added that the food will contribute to improve students' attendance, and attentive in class.

She also appealed to other institutions to emulate World Vision Tanzania in assisting the government in ensuring that meals are provided to schools.



Tata International Africa breaks ground on development project in Kibaha, Tanzania

Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, 18th April 2023: Tata International Africa is pleased to announce the commencement of a development project in Kibaha, Tanzania.

The project, spread over approximately five hectares of land, will include the construction of a bonded warehouse for commercial vehicles, agricultural and construction equipment, a shop floor for tractor assembly, a facility for commercial vehicle body building, pre-delivery inspection areas, a wash bay for the vehicles and associated facilities.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 18th, 2023, at the Kibaha project site, which is in the Kibaha-Pwani Region at Machinjioni Mtaa, Tangini Ward, within the popular area of TAMCO Industrial Estate of the National Development Corporation, Kibaha (near Dar Es Salaam), Tanzania.

The event was attended by the High Commissioner of India, in Tanzania, Hon. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, who was the chief guest and Mr.Alfred Mapunda, Director strategic projects, NDC who was the guest of honour at the event.

Len Brand, CEO of Tata International Africa, who also attended the inaugural ceremony, said: "The ground breaking ceremony, a much anticipated event, is an example of a long and productive partnership between Tata International Africa and the Tanzanian National Development Corporation in the Kibaha area.

"We are excited to commence with this



From left Mr. Aravind Yaramati(Sales Head – Tanzania Auto Business), Mr. Rajiv Bhushan (Business Head – Tanzania Auto Business), Mr. Manoj B. Verma (Deputy High Commissioner of India, in Tanzania), Mr. Mr.Alfred Mapunda (Director strategic projects - NDC), Hon. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan (High Commissioner of India, in Tanzania), Mr. Len Brand - Managing Director (Distribution) Tata Africa Holding Ltd, Mr.Shantanu Nagar (Head - Speciality, Voltas and Projects), Mr.Johnny Fourie(Business Head- John Dheere Tanzania), Mr.Egbert Begumisa, Mr.Kishan Patel.

project and look forward to following its progress to fruition late next year. We stand by our commitment to strengthening our already solid footprint on the African continent, with the development of this site," concluded Brand.

Shantanu Nagar (Head – Speciality, Voltas and Projects), who is overseeing this overall project, together with Rajiv

Bhushan (Head - Tanzania Auto Business) presented an overview of the project to the guests attending the event.

The project, which is expected to be completed by the end of October 2024, hopes to create new business opportunities and stimulate economic growth in the region.

For further information on the project,

please contact:

Shantanu Nagar

Head - Speciality and Voltas Business and Projects

shantanu.nagar@tatainternational.com

Rajiv Bhushan Head - Auto Business Tanzania rajiv.bhushan@tatainternational.com

About Tata International Africa

The Tata group began its relationship with the African continent in 1977 with the establishment of Tata Zambia. In 1994, the Tata group inaugurated Tata Africa Holdings in Johannesburg, South Africa, which now serves as the group's headquarters in the continent. Tata International Africa is present in 12 African countries namely South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Mozambique Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It operates in automotive, agricultural equipment, farming and farm equipment, chemicals, and healthcare products.

Today, Tata is a brand that's synonymous with quality products and ethical business operations in Africa. It is committed to its vision of building and sustaining relationships in Africa with cooperation and trust, creating employment opportunities and making its contribution to the social development of local communities. Tata companies in Africa promote the social and economic development of local communities through education, entrepreneurship and health initiatives.

For further information please contact:

Issued on behalf of: **Tata International Africa** Thandeka Hlatswayo **Communications and Branding** thandeka.hlatswayo@tatainternational.com

Guardian

'Zanzibar is determined to promote investments'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government has vowed to continue creating conducive environment to facilitate local investments for job creation.

Regional Commissioner for Rural West Regional Unguja, Idrisa Kitwana made the remarks during the launch of a shop belonging to a businessman Fred Ngajiro (Vunja Bei) located at Raha Leo in the Isles.

Kitwana said the government is determined to promote investments, saying his office was open to collaborate with local investors willing to invest in the area.

He said the shop has been opened at the right time when people are in need of clothes due to the Eid el Fitri festival.

Speaking during the launch, the RC said the launch of the shop will offer room for citizens in the region to get services during the festive season.

He said despite the fact that they will get services; the shop will also offer employment to youth in the area.

He added that the shop will reduce the number of youths in streets with no employment with many joining criminal gangs. "I thank the owner of this shop because these are some of the efforts by the president to boost the private sector so that it generates the capital for investments.

He said the new shop will bring to an end the huge population at Darajani to buy various items.

The owner of the shop Fred Ngajiro hailed the government for allowing them to invest into the region to serve the people of Zanzibar.

"This came after seeing that the people of Zanzibar need such goods, we decided to bring the services closer to them," he said.

He said the shop has been constructed to consider people with disabilities adding that the shop will also ensure that it contains all the needed products.

"We care for all the people and our promise is to serve them all," he added.



We care for all the people and our promise is to serve them all



Dina Mndasha (2nd-L), head teacher of Dodoma Region's Msangalalee English Medium Primary School, takes visiting journalists around the facility on Tuesday. The 750m/- school was built with Tanzania Education Authority funding. Photo: Correspondent

Police set to start crackdown on unqualified driving schools

The CoarGola Company

FURAHIA MAISHA NA MAJI ASILIA

By Correspondent Ambrose Wantaigwa

RAMADHANI Ng'anzi, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SACP) Traffic Police Commander has said the force was preparing to conduct inspection to all driving training colleges in the country and those that do not meet the criteria will be closed.

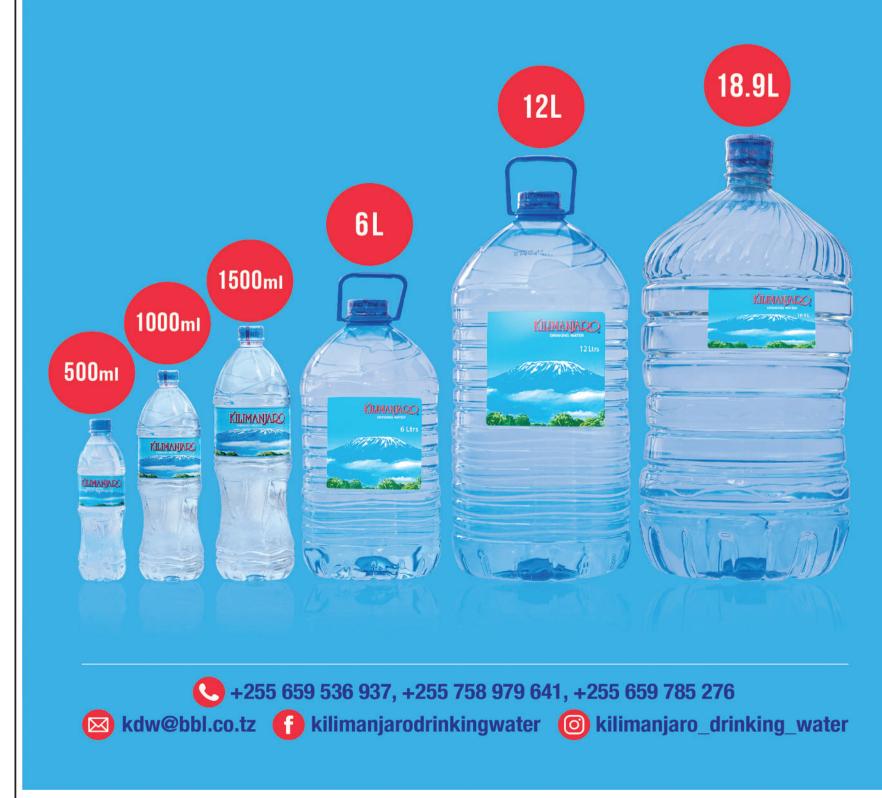
Commander Ng'anzi told DW during an interview on Tuesday that the inspection will look at the capabilities and qualifications of the instructors as well as the curricula to ensure that they provide training that enables qualified drivers before being granted a license.

"These are some of the measures taken by the road safety force to deal with the increase in accidents in the country right now, including the cancellation of the licensing desk unit," he said.

He noted lack of competence of some drivers on the road is one of the major causes of the increase in road accidents as there are some drivers who did not pass their training properly while driving schools.

He said that the force has started an investigation to identify all the drivers and colleges that committed fraud and resulted in the issuance of licenses to people who failed the driving inspection exams.

"The head of the police force in the country, IGP Camilius Wambura, instructed the road safety force to conduct an investigation to identify all the perpetrators who commit fraud during the issuance of licences so that appropriate measures can be taken,," Ng'anzi said.



He said that the investigation is currently ongoing, including the replacement of executives in the licensing desk to bring efficiency in the daily operations of the force.

Commander Ng'anzi said the force is also investing heavily in the use of technology, including the installation of closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras in major roads in the country after the tests of the installations have been completed recently.

He said that there were some drivers who have been so hesitant in adhering to road safety regulations and laws especially during night, so with the installation of the CCTV cameras all of them will be trapped.

"The system will enable the force to monitor the behavior of drivers 24 hours a day throughout the country and will be able to identify speeding and other offenses such as the use of mobile phones and passing unauthorized areas," he said.

Commander Ng'anzi also warned some road safety officers who have been engaging in corrupt practices, saying that the unit was well prepared to fight the unethical servants.

Ramadhani Ng'anzi, Tanzania's traffic police commander, on Tuesday announced that preparations are in the final stages to launch a crackdown on unqualified driving schools across the country.

Ng'anzi said poor training of drivers is one of the causes of accidents on the East African nation's roads. "All driving schools in the country will be inspected. Schools that will be found failing to meet required standards will be closed down."

During the inspection, the inspectors will look at the qualifications and competence of instructors and the curricula they were using, said Ng'anzi. "We want to make sure that drivers are qualified enough before they are granted driving licenses."

According to Ng'anzi, most of the road accidents in the country are caused by unqualified drivers who have been trained in driving schools that do not meet the required standards.

In March, Jumanne Sagini, deputy minister for home affairs, said human errors were the leading cause of road accidents that claim people's lives and cause property loss in Tanzania.

Sagini added that human errors, including driving under the influence, driving at an excessive speed, and violations of road safety rules and regulations, as well as bad road infrastructure were among the causes of accidents in the country.

"All driving schools in the country will be inspected. Schools that will be found failing to meet required standards will be closed down."

Güardian



Asma Mwinyi Foundation representative Hassan Kambangwa (C) pictured yesterday presenting to Ummy Juma, matron of Mkuranga District's Malaika orphanage, Ramadhan-time iftar foodstuffs extended through the Tanzania Healthcare UK Diaspora Association – a charity organisation. Photo

Govt advised to set 18 years as the right age for marriage

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

The government has been advised to speed up the amendments to the 1971 Law of Marriages Act through the current Budget session in order to insert 18 years as the lowest age for marriage as well as to add a section thereto the couple must have completed primary and secondary education.

director of Padeko Organisation, a private Non-Governmental years," he said. Organisation (NGO), Wilbard Mwinuka in an interview with this paper here, saying legally the age of an adult is 18 years and above,

"As an institution we recognise that an adult person is the one who has completed both primary and secondary education who has attained 18 years of age, hence we

The advice was given by the recommend that such people can kind of training even if outside the marry, and not below the age of 18

Mwinuka said it has been normal that a girl finishing STD VII and failed to proceed to secondary school ends up getting married.

"In rural areas, if she can't proceed to secondary education is regarded as an adult and can get married, I think the law should not permit this, as she still needs some

secondary education system, she is not yet adult," Mwinuka added.

He added: "Even biologically and health considerations, it is advised that the body of woman above 18 years of age is right for giving birth safely."

However, he explained that the existing customs and traditions contribute to child marriages

Government called on to invest in quality early childhood education

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE government has been urged to invest in quality early childhood education so as to lay a good foundation for children's socialeconomic development.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the in-country training ceremony for project volunteers under the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Bakari Mangube, a teacher from Oysterbay pre-primary school said that the government need to invest energy in early childhood education because that is the first stage where children are starting to comprehend skills around them.

He noted that in early childhood education builds on the evidence and such early investments provide children with advantages that are improved and strengthened over time.

"Early childhood is the most critical time for positive intervention because children's development during this stage is strongly affected by their environment and that the effect continues to exert a strong influence on the rest of their lives," he said. Anna Massawe of Bongonyo pre and primary school said that it was important for the government to invest in early childhood education because it is where children start to grasp things and so giving them good education.

KOICA country director, Manshik Shin said that the agency is working to support people's prosperity through partnership with the government and other development partners by dispatching Korean volunteers to come and work in Tanzania.

Since KOICA started sending volunteers to Tanzania to-date, it has sent more than 200 volunteers, hence this should be discouraged. most of them working in schools

and hospitals, in different towns of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

"In July 2022, KOICA fully resumed the volunteer programme, and currently there are 28 KOICA volunteers in Tanzania whereas seventeen are working in the education sector; 6 in health, and 3 in the social welfare services," he explained.

He further noted that volunteers arrived in the country on February 28, this year, and went to Morogoro for six weeks, for an intensive orientation course where they have mastered culture and Kiswahili language which will be used as a medium of communication in the host school where they will teach for two years.

This batch volunteers come under KOICA "Project for quality pre-primary school education in Tanzania "which started in 2022 and will end in 2024 where by the end of the project, we expect to have dispatched a total of 30 volunteers for this project only.

The project is aimed at benefiting 250 children through provision of quality early childhood education programs and improving classroom environment; 15 teachers who will participate in the teaching competency programme, and over 100 parents and caregivers who will improve their parenting skills. It is my hope that your volunteering will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the project, he noted.

Jenna Kim, one of the volunteers to be assigned to Bongonyo pre and primary school said: "This is going to be a great experience where we will be able to show Korean early education concept to the Tanzanian where we will make children enjoy learning as well playing through different demonstration that will used to make them understand better."



PLAN INTERNATIONAL TANZANIA



Saving lives. Improving health. Transforming futures.

Request for Proposals

RFP-23228

Prequalification of suppliers for bulk printing services

Due Date and Time for Receipt of Proposals: Tuesday, 2nd May 2023 at 1:00 PM EAT

Jhpiego (pronounced "ja-pie-go"), is an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University.

For almost 50 years and in over 155 countries, Jhpiego has empowered front-line health workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families. By putting evidence-based health innovations into everyday practice, Jhpiego works to break down barriers to high- quality health care for the world's most vulnerable populations. Jhpiego's focus is on training and support for health care providers-including doctors, nurses, midwives and health educators working in limited-resource settings throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jhpiego Tanzania supports the President's Office of Local Government Authorities and the Ministries of Health of Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar to improve access, and quality of health services in a sustainable and resilient health system (inclusive of pre-service education of health care providers) with a focus on reproductive maternal newborn health, child and adolescent health, nutrition, malaria, HIV, COVID-19, digital health, community health, social behavior change, and laboratory services.

Jhpiego invites eligible suppliers to submit proposals for provision of bulk printing services in Tanzania. Bulk printing services that Jhpiego Tanzania requires include: National Guidelines, Monitoring and Evaluation Tools, Program and Annual Reports, Promotional Materials, Training Materials, Social Behavior Change Communication materials. Interested eligible bidders may request for bidding documents from the following email address: TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org

A prospective bidder having any question regarding this RFQ shall send an email to the address above before the due date and time for submission of proposals. All proposals must be delivered as instructed in the bidding document on or before Tuesday, 2nd May 2023 at 1:00 P.M. EAT.

Jhpiego reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the bidding process and reject all proposals at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to bidders. Late proposals, electronic proposals, proposals not received shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

> Country Director, Jhpiego Tanzania, House No. 7, Serengeti Street, Mikocheni, P.O. Box 9170, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Tel: +255 756 888 388



Request for Proposals

Provision of Legal and Tax Services

RFP No. PIT/C0/102/FY23

- Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan's mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of vulnerable children through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan Tanzania has a physical presence and implements projects in the following Regions: Dar Es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Katavi and Kigoma regions (Refugees Emergency Program in Kibondo, Kasulu districts). Plan Tanzania directly supports more than 2.4 million people in the program areas. Plan Tanzania also works with other stakeholders in various projects countrywide
- 2. Bidders are requested to submit Technical and Financial Proposals each to be enclosed in a separate envelope and marked "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" respectively. The two envelopes shall then be enclosed in a single envelope. The Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders@plan-international.org Attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan International Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing or submission of the bid documents.
- 3. Bidders must submit the proposals in a sealed envelope by hand or post to: The Country Director, Plan International Tanzania, Plot no. 496 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam before 5PM Thursday 04th May 2023, marked the respective RFP number. Not to be opened before 5PM Thursday 04th May 2023. Electronic and Late bids will be rejected.

Country Director Plan International Tanzania Central Technologies House Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA P 0 Box 3517 Dar es Salaam

Guardia.com THURSDAY 20 APRIL, 2023 **Taking A New Look** At The News **ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Samia's specialist drive makes a real difference on the ground, saving lives

that over 400 medics have been enrolled in the wake of a super specialist programme initiated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan. MPs were told on Tuesday in the capital, with Health minister Ummy Mwalimu pointing at this initiative when responding to an MP who wanted to know government plans to solve the shortage of medical specialists at the Kitete Referral Hospital in Tabora. It is an effort of alleviating, not really ending medic shortages.

How far the 400 recruited medics for training and allocation to needy hospitals suffices the need is one thing, but it would appear it is a number that has to do with available resources. The wider effort has been in the physical infrastructure, actual presence of hospitals and health centres, and subsequently their staffing, as well as quality of staffing especially in the number of specialists, will follow. It is an effort similar to the ward secondary schools programme, later ceasing be 'ward' listed.

The only problem that comes up from an organisational point of view and perhaps it is also in the same line of reasoning, is how a hospital becomes a referral level hospital without a viable presence of specialists. Looking into the MP's question, it did not apparently question whether Kitete was indeed a referral hospital, which implies it has the rudimentary or workable level of facilitation to be so designed. But it was also apparent that the level of staffing and expertise needed still wants.

Efforts at improving the health and education sector facilitation are in high gear and have been so for a number of years, much as in

THE Health ministry says agriculture and some other areas. It is evident that the critical problem is the capacity of the government to employ, not so much for medics as for teachers, where there is a distinctive over supply as is the case with other 'liberal professions.' That hence brings the knotty problem of whom to prioritise in filling the vacancies unveiled for teachers, with an explicit directive that those whose graduation dates before 2015 need not apply.

In that case the National Assembly Speaker asked the minister to set out a clear and transparent set of criteria on the way the filling of positions is to be conducted, with MPs wishing that it targets more those who were already working at a voluntary level. This insistence was vital because of human weaknesses, that someone has volunteered for a number of years on paltry allowances and then when vacancies appear, someone inserts names of people known to himself and those around him, using whatever plausible criteria to iustify such omissions.

That is why the Speaker's directive will be helpful in properly handing the issue.

Admittedly there will be drawbacks even with the clear and transparent criteria that the legislators have asked for, while in addition those graduating before 2015 who are now being sidelined are likely to benefit significantly as well if those working on a voluntary basis will be considered, if we may put it that way, first and foremost, Equity issues are hard to sort out in situations of scarcity, as jobs are an issue of welfare at an individual capacity, so administrators seek to privilege that aspect, as different acknowledging from where preference is more warranted.

The purpose of education should make people meaningful contributors to society

EDITORIALS.OPINION

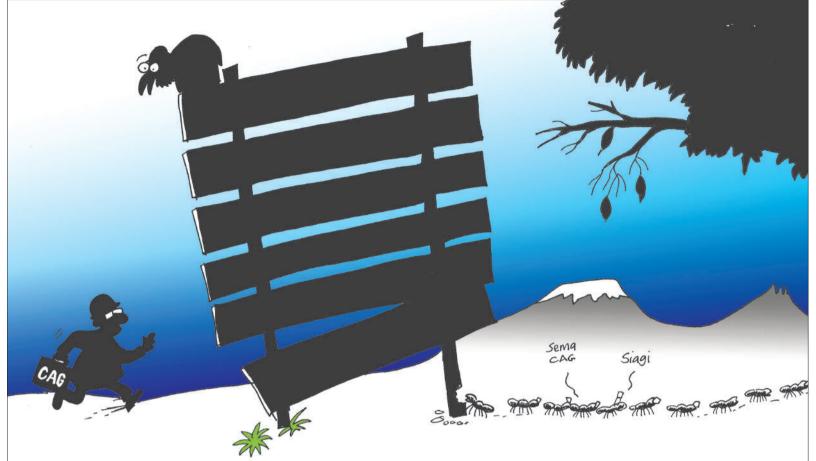
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By Ehi Braimah

E can stand together, even if we stay apart. Let us remain united, in spite of

our political differences. Are you still trying to understand why we should not have a dog in their fight? Don't be fooled, politicians wine and dine together when their interests align. There are no permanent friends or enemies in the game... It is better for us to remain as a "team," because, "together, everyone achieves more." We also do not have any other country to call our own.

When the general elections begin to divide us in ways we have never seen before, it is because there's so much at stake for political actors and it was not surprising that the 2023 elections turned out to be most consequential in recent history, as predicted. But we do not have to burn down the country because we

Let's calm down and stand together

In the gubernatorial elections, some results are also being contested by those who lost. We must allow the rule of law to prevail as civilised people, as the disputants seek redress through legal and constitutional means; we cannot afford to take the laws into our hands.

All aggrieved individuals and groups - under any guise - should shun violent protests and subversive activities. This is my plea, no matter the degree of provocation from any quarters. Sometimes, we do not get the results we want or expect, resulting in a mismatch of expectation and reality. It is a fact of life. Isn't that what we call disappointment?

Unfortunately, the false narratives being propagated in the social media are toxic and unhelpful. Fake news, hate speeches and ethnic baiting

But this time, five sitting governors lost their senatorial bids. This should count for something as we make incremental progress with every election. Democracy is about making choices freely and making our votes count.

It gladdened my heart to note that Samuel Ortom, the Benue State governor who lost his senatorial election as a PDP candidate, has withdrawn his petition challenging the APC candidate who beat him. This is good news and sweet music to my ears. Politics should not always be a do-or-die affair.

Indeed, the time has come for us to build a culture whereby losers congratulate their opponents who secured victory at the polls. In every contest, only one person can be declared the winner.

In 2015, former President Goodluck Jonathan conceded victory to President Muhammadu Buhari before the final vote tally was released. Winning the election, Jonathan told a bewildered nation, was not worth the blood of any Nigerian. He immediately congratulated Buhari at the time and he was celebrated around the world for being magnanimous in defeat. Governor Okezie Ikpeazu of Abia State and member of PDP served two terms and lost his senatorial bid. His former Chief of Staff and anointed PDP governorship candidate, Okechukwu Ahiwe, lost to the Labour Party candidate, Alex Otti. You know what happened? In spite of the controversial nature of the election, in view of the delayed results from Obingwa local council that created anxious moments, Ikpeazu, an ally of Nyesom Wike, governor of Rivers State, congratulated Otti, the governorelect of Abia State. This should be the new tone in our politics: no more politics of bitterness. I watched Bishop Sunday Onuoha, governorship candidate of the Africa Democratic Congress (ADC) in Abia State announce on Arise News' The Morning Show that the opposition parties are ready to work with Alex Otti. This development promotes the spirit of "give and take", which is good for our politics. What was remarkable about the Abia State gubernatorial polls was that the integrity of the ballot was upheld, despite all the alleged attempts by the state-controlled PDP to win it at all cost for Ahiwe, the nominee of the sitting governor. The returning officer in that election, Professor Nnennaya Oti, vice chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO), was praised for ensuring that the will of the people of Abia State prevailed. She was subsequently received in a rousing welcome by her students for her "five-star" performance.

The expectation is that all returning officers should follow her example and defend our democracy. No matter the temptation of cash inducement, cyber bullying or threats, which are the stock-in-trade of desperate politicians and their agents, all INEC officials are required to live above board.

"Standing together by staying apart" was the campaign slogan of TD Trust Bank in Canada when public places began to re-open in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The message was clear: We are customers of the same bank but we must stay alive to fight COVID-19 together.

To be honest, this can only be in theory. In practice, it would be difficult for presiding officers in all the polling units to play by the rules. Some INEC representatives have biases because of their political affiliations. Clearly, this is a conflict of interest scenario which must be avoided going forward. In Oyo State, the APC gubernatorial candidate, Teslim Folarin, lost to the incumbent, Seyi Makinde of the PDP, another Wike ally. Folarin congratulated Makinde. Again, this is the new direction our politics should follow. We can stand together, even if we stay apart. Let us remain united, in spite of our political differences. "Standing together by staying apart" was the campaign slogan of TD Trust Bank in Canada when public places began to re-open in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The message was clear: We are customers of the same bank but we must stay alive to fight COVID-19 together. I know husbands and wives who live under the same roof but voted for different political parties. It didn't stop them from saying to each other, "Honey, I love you", after casting their votes, followed by the "love-of-my-life" kiss. Isn't that a good thing? Politics should not tear down our homes, neither should we allow politicians to use us. Are you still trying to understand why we should not have a dog in their fight? Don't be fooled, politicians wine and dine together when their interests align. There are no permanent friends or enemies in the game.

THE Founding Father Mwalimu Julius Nyerere in the 1970s said if you think "Education is expensive try poverty". He went further saying "Education is not a way of escaping poverty; it is a way of fighting it."

Education is a purposeful activity directed at achieving certain aims, such as transmitting knowledge or fostering skills and character traits. These aims may include the development of understanding, rationality, kindness, and honesty. Various researchers emphasise the role of critical thinking in order to distinguish education from indoctrination. Some theorists require that education results in an improvement of the student while others prefer a value-neutral definition of the term. In a slightly different sense, education may also refer, not to the process, but to the product of this process: the mental states and dispositions possessed by educated people. Education originated as the transmission of cultural heritage from one generation to the next. Today, educational goals increasingly encompass new ideas such as the liberation of learners, skills needed for modern society, empathy, and complex vocational skills.

Well ahead of other African countries, Tanzania introduced a universal primary education programme in 1974 in keeping with its "education for self-reliance" policy. The government then estimated that 85 per cent of the population was illiterate and extremely poor. Hunger, widespread disease and a low average life expectancy of just above 40 years, were also major obstacles. Periodic droughts, food shortages and limited access to international aid further complicated matters.

What Tanzania still needs to do in order to achieve quality and inclusive education, is to prioritise disadvantaged and marginalised children in schools, and a human rights-based approach with commitment to recognising and respecting the rights of children while they are attending school.

A Chinese proverb says "wisdom is knowing that you don't know, and that you know what you know ... '

There is no human society that does not have a system of education to nurture members of the community so they can be responsible and value-adding citizens. Every human community has its unique structure, system, process and procedure to educate its members from childhood. This is for good reason so aptly put by Aristotle. It is also necessary to educate members of the community because the cohesion and survival of the community is sustained by an adherence by its members to extant comprehensive code of behaviour.

There are, of course, purposes of education; but there is the great purpose of education. People acquire education for such purposes as the desire to know, to earn recognition, to be certified fit for a job and to earn a living. Education is about teaching, learning skills and knowledge.

Education is a refining process with, as opined by former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan, "immense power" to transform the whole being.

In truth, one who is 'education processed', meaning in learning and in character, cannot be the same thereafter, There should be no end to our education because we never fully come into complete knowledge or into full light.

It is said that to know more is to be more. In the history of mankind, the 'ignorance choice' is not the norm. Instead, the desire-nay, the yearning- to know in order to enlarge perception and understanding of the self and the world is instinctive to man.

disagree with the outcomes - both at the state and national levels.

Since 1999, we have been experimenting with our "nascent" democracy, which has now survived for 24 years. The expectation is that we would improve with every election cycle, in spite of the antics of desperate politicians who are generally bad losers.

Has our democracy matured? I don't think so. Moreover, the presidential system of government is too expensive. We should look for a home-grown model that would meet our requirements.

The main problem with the 2023 electoral exercise in February and March was that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) made a promise it could not keep. The electoral umpire said it was fully ready for the voting exercise and assured everyone that the use of technology would ensure transparent conduct from the accreditation of voters to uploading the results in real time, and the announcements that would follow. Most commentators are quick to tell you that their problem with the general elections is not the outcome, but the process that led to the outcome. Apart from complaining about an alleged flawed process, they also believe strongly that INEC officials were compromised.

It is for INEC to defend (planning, operations its implementation, outcome and evaluation) and explain what really happened. But we can stretch the argument further by asking this question: In how many polling units out of 176,606 units nationwide were there anomalies and what is the statistical significance?

Now that there are several election cases in court by the opposition challenging the victory of the President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, we must be patient and await the verdict of their Lordships.

will damage the moral fabric of society and threaten our unity. It is a dangerous game.

The caution by the Department of State Services (DSS) on the alleged plot to form an interim government by the bad losers in our midst, in order to derail the transition to a new administration that would be headed by President-elect Bola Ahmed Tinubu on 29 May, should therefore be taken seriously.

Nigeria is the biggest democracy in Africa and we have a duty to lead all the countries in the continent from the front.

We must understand that when the rain begins, it will fall on everyone; where the person comes from would be immaterial. Tribe or religion will not matter, and we don't need the kind of rain fall that we shall regret afterwards. I agree that we should seek reconciliation anchored on truth, justice and fairness, but it does not mean that we should cut our nose to spite our face.

In 2015, former President Goodluck Jonathan conceded victory to President Muhammadu Buhari before the final vote tally was released. Winning the election, Jonathan told a bewildered nation, was not worth the blood of any Nigerian. He immediately congratulated Buhari at the time and he was celebrated around the world for being magnanimous in defeat.

Maybe it has not occurred to you but the elections under reference were highly competitive, largely because the dominant parties, the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), faced an unusual challenge from Labour Party (LP) and its presidential candidate, Peter Obi.

The challenge, as it turned out, is good for our democracy and it created major electoral upsets. For example, incumbent governors in Nigeria are not used to losing elections into the Senate, their "retirement home."

It is better for us to remain as a "team," because, "together, everyone achieves more." We also do not have any other country to call our own.

Meanwhile, security agencies were also blamed for what was described as their "inglorious" roles during the general elections. There are allegations that some police officers aided and abetted voter suppression, ballot box snatching and electoral violence in many polling units. It would also appear that law enforcement officers were picking and choosing those arrested for electoral offences.

FEATURES

Guardian

For our education to tick, its service side must outweigh the business one

S education a service or business? Well, ideally, education is regarded as a basic social service alongside primary health care, clean water and proper sanitation. However, practically, it depends on who provides it. If it public, then it qualifies as service but when it is offered by a private investor, it becomes a business and that has implication on its cost.

Regardless of the provider, quality education is expensive. A value must be purchased by a value and if luckily you embrace a value at no cost, then someone must have paid for it. The value of education is justified by a number of objectives that we hope our education to enable us attain.

If education is a value which must be purchased by another value and this is obviously money, then who should foot the bill? The opinion is divided. There are those who hold that the government has to finance education as a social service with taxpayers' money it collects as taxes.

On the other hand, there are those who argue that the burden of fighting ignorance is so heavy such that if it is left to the government alone, it can be overwhelmed. They propose private sector to aid in the provision of education.

The latter say that the government has to create environment for individuals to

work for their development. It should act as a catalyst but not the sole controller of each and everything. In this case, the government remains concerned with supervision of provision of education by ensuring that standards are met.

Provision of quality education in a country is meant to benefit the entire society. For, even individuals who attend private schools, colleges and universities later work for the government and those who attended public institutions can excel in private sector.

Regardless of ownership of institutions of education, both private and government institutions serve all Tanzanians. This reality shows that education provision should be taken as a universal agenda. Anyone with qualifications to provide it should be facilitated to do so in order to speed up the pace of development.

But once individuals or private entities are allowed to provide education, by default, they are already allowed to do a business because they expect returns on their investments. That is where the question of reasonable amount arises. How much is reasonable is depends on one's income hence inconclusive.

Nevertheless, I am one of those who hold that we should purchase quality education at a reasonable price. For, as a country, we stand to lose big time if we



allow business side of education to outweigh its service side. If the government does not invest heavily I public education, the outcome can be dire.

One of the possible consequences is result orientation instead of competence orientation. Our schools should produce competent individuals and not people with certificates depicting As but when we want to see those As in real life situations, nothing comes out.

When education sector is turned into business, competence may be endangered in the sense that investors may be tempted to sell what people want. They want As. Parents seek schools with As and this forces owners of schools to find As wherever they are.

Another effect of promoting business in education is locking out or expelling some pupils from certain schools due to performance. There are a number of

privately-owned schools that kick out pupils who do not meet the set performance score. This tendency is accelerated by the fact that such schools do not want to record poor performance in the final national examinations which might affect enrolment of new clients.

The third effect of promoting business in education is nurturing indiscipline. There are some schools which are afraid of punishing pupils who violate school rules and regulations because they are worried that such clients may choose to transfer to other schools.

Also, over promotion of such schools which carries fake promises may result from entertaining of business in education. Schools may promise more than what they can offer as a way of retaining pupils or

getting new ones. The result of this may be social unrest. Parents may be in conflict with school owners on unfulfilled promises.

Quality education demands financing. Private schools rely on money from parents to finance provision of education. Such businesses get in trouble when results are not good as enrollment in the coming season may be affected and hence face collapse.

Oftentimes, we have witnessed some tough talks by politicians, including parliamentarians condemning private schools that charge colossal amounts in fees. Some politicians go as far as threatening such schools with deregistration.

But let's be fair here, these are private investments. Managers of these institutions are given targets by investors and that is why some go as far as buying advert spaces in the media.

So what should the government do? The government should invest heavily in public education such that parents who choose private schools for their children do so because they have disposable money to spend not quality of education.

CLASSROOM MATTERS By Thomas Lyimo Lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

Circular economy: Sustainable future African countries should plan for

By Prof Raphael Mwalyosi

IMPLY stated, a circular economy is an alternative to the traditional linear economy. In the latter case, resources are taken from the environment then turned into products and subsequently disposed of in landfills.

A circular economy on the other hand, reuses and recycles goods into new products rather than throwing them away. In this model, products are reused and recycled such that resources are kept in use for as long as possible so that maximum value is extracted from them whilst in use.



Despite the odds, the possibility for Africa to leapfrog to circular economy has been disapproved by many critics on grounds of the too rapidly growing population, lack of manpower, lack of financial resources, lack of technology and lack of skilled manpower.

To the contrary, a stepwise transition to circular economy is possible if we do the following among others: First, African governments should invest in developing own technologies instead of preferring imported ones; second, African governments should aggressively engage the private sector into the productive sector as a way to develop skills, manpower and build up technology and third, African governments should consider the use of economic incentives as a tool for development. Fourth, African governments should turn the growing population challenge into an opportunity (as China did); fifth, African governments should learn to share industries and technologies and avoid duplication as was tried by the former East African Community and Employ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to plan the sharing. Sixth, at policy level African governments need long-term planning as opposed to current shortterm planning for quick gains; and seventh, African governments should seriously plan for energy generation and sharing. It is therefore strongly recommended that African governments should support the aforementioned initiatives financially and be keener on investment in applied research for the continent to transit towards circular economy.

Subsequently, materials are recovered and products regenerated at the end of each life. Briefly, circular economy is about green practices that reduce waste and minimize ecological toll. In fact, it is all about sustainability.

The current trade relations between Africa and the developed world is such that African consumers are increasingly gaining access to the goods and livelihoods that have long been characteristic of the developed world. Thus at the same time, increasingly, and rapidly a growing middle class of Africans with all sorts of western lifestyles are emerging.

This implies that the demand for new products will continue to increase. Unfortunately, the African continent is facing an uncertain environmental future whereby it remains highly vulnerable to degradation than any other due to climate change.

Critics are beginning to question whether or not a sudden expansion of industry and consumption could destroy Africa's fragile ecosystems. These critics point out that transition to a modern economy would likely entail significant disruption due to dramatic increase in waste management, energy demand and transportation cost.

Moreover, we are becoming more aware that a culture of ever-increasing consumption and 'take, make, dispose system' creates pressure on resources such as land, and water. This leads to even more pollution and waste accumulation, impacting on the health of humans and the living systems we depend on.

Then the question is, "could circular economy be the critical link in avoiding ecosystem degradation, expensive or scarce resources depletion, and unethical, unsafe employment practices in Africa?" A number of circular economy studies have been undertaken in Europe and USA and more recently in a few African countries to answer this question.

Results of a research by McKinsey Global Institute suggests that in Europe alone, a circular economy could generate a net economic gain of €1.8 trillion per year by 2030, whereby goods are reused or recycled into new products rather than being thrown away. However, transitional costs have proved to be enormous. The British government for example estimates that creating a fully efficient reuse-and-recycling system would cost around €14 billion. The price tag for doing so throughout Europe could reach €108 billion.

In Africa, the added costs of Research and Development (R&D), asset investments, subsidies and spending on digital infrastructure would likely go beyond the means of many countries, which are only just finding their footing on the global economy.

Experiments with the circular economy model in South Africa has thrown into sharp relief the challeng-

es and difficulties of the concept in terms of manpower, skills, financial resources and management. Yet if governments can plan ahead and concentrate resources into sustainable, efficient initiatives, circular economy could represent an encouraging response to the continent's immense environmental and development challenges.

Such initiatives have been documented in a few African countries. For example, In South Africa, Barloworld Equipment have established a repairing and refurbishing Caterpillar machinery parts, which manufacturers guarantee; In Tanzania, a Mazzi Can durable plastic container for milk to reduce cost and spillage; In Kenya there is the Eco Post biomass and recycled plastic to make plastic lumber while in Nigeria there is Hello Tractor Services via SMS and Mobile money. There are many similar but unrecorded projects all over Africa.

The author is an environmental ecologist based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0754 270 196.

FEATURES

Guardian

Pacific Island countries to develop advanced warning system for tuna migration

By Neena Bhandari

LIMATE change and warming ocean waters are causing tuna fisheries to migrate to international waters, away from a country's jurisdiction, thereby putting the food and economic security of many Pacific Island countries and territories at risk.

Now a Pacific Community (SPC) led regional initiative will help ensure that these countries are equipped to cope with climate change-induced tuna migration.

"All the climate change projections indicate that there will be a redistribution of tuna from the western and central Pacific to the more eastern and towards the polar regions, that is not Antarctica or the Arctic, but to regions outside of the equatorial zones where they primarily occur at the moment," says SPC's Principal Fisheries Scientist, Dr Simon Nicol.

"This has really important implications for the Pacific Island countries. Our projections suggest that about onefifth or about USD 100 million of the income derived from the tuna industry directly is likely to be lost by 2050 by these countries," Nicol tells IPS.

The total annual catch of feature in the western Pacific equatorial zone, which moves

tral Pacific Ocean represents around 55 percent of global tuna production. Approximately half of this catch is from the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of Pacific Island countries.

The recent USD15.5 million [NZD25 million] funding by New Zealand for SPC's 'Climate Science for Ensuring Pacific Tuna Access' programme will enable Pacific Island countries to prepare and adapt the region's tuna fisheries to meet the challenges posed by climate change.

Nicol says that the investment that New Zealand has provided for the programme will allow for more rigorous and timely monitoring of the types of changes that are occurring, both due to the impacts of fishing and climate change, at a very fine resolution. Secondly, it will also provide the additional resources that are needed to increase the ocean monitoring capacity to remove the anomalies and biases to particular local conditions, which often occur in global climate models.

"We have noted, for example, that the boundary of the that warm pool in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Nauru can have an element of bias associated with it. It's an important oceanographic feature in the western Pacific ofte equatorial zone, which moves when



Pacific Community-led regional initiative aims to assist countries in the region with mitigating the impacts of climate change-induced tuna migration. Credit: Pacific Community/SPC

in association with the El Nino Southern Oscillation. Sometimes its eastern boundary is right next to Papua New Guinea, and at other times, it extends all the way past Nauru. It is a key driver of recruitment for skipjack tuna, so we need to be quite precise where that boundary is for any prediction of skipjack recruitment that occurs in any given year,"

w he tells IPS. The analysis at the ocean to basin scale does not provide s EEZ scale information for c particular countries, and it is c often not precise in predicting s when the impact of climate change is going to manifest itself.

Under the programme, a Pacific-owned advanced warning system will be developed by SPC to help countries forecast, monitor and manage tuna migration, which is set to become more pronounced in the coming decades.

"The advanced warning system will allow us to zoom in on what the likely changes are in each particular country's EEZ and also zoom in more accurately and precisely on when those changes are likely to occur, which is particularly important from

a Pacific Island country perspective," Nicol tells IPS.

Whilst Pacific Island countries manage the tuna resource collectively to ensure its biological sustainability, the income that they derive is very much a national-level enterprise. A recent study in Nature Sustainability estimates that the movement of tuna stocks could cause a fall of up to 17 percent in the annual government revenue of some of these countries.

The study notes that more than 95 percent of all tuna caught from the jurisdictions of the 22 Pacific Island coun-

tries and territories comes from the combined EEZs of 10 Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) - Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu. On average, they derive 37 percent (ranging from 4 percent for Papua New Guinea to 84 percent for Tokelau) of all government revenue from tuna-fishing access fees paid by foreign industrial fishing fleets.

"The advanced warning system would allow for more refined predictions of the changes in tuna stock, abundance, distribution and the fisheries around them. This is very important to what each country gets as access fees, which relates to how much tuna is typically caught in their EEZ," says Dr Meryl Williams, Vice Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the International Seafood

Sustainability Foundation. "Access fees usually form part of the general consolidated revenue that the government has to spend on hospitals, education and infrastructure, and hence it is a very important source of revenue for people's economic development in many of the Pacific Island countries," she adds.

Currently, the program is focused only on the four dominant tuna species - Skipjack (Katsuwonus pelamis), Yellowfin (Thunnus albacares), Bigeye (Thunnus obesus) and the South Pacific Albacore (Thunnus alalunga) - caught in the Pacific Island countries.

SPC's Director of Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability, Coral Pasisi says, "Without successful global action to mitigate climate change, the latest ecosystem modelling predicts a significant decrease in the availability of tropical tuna species (tuna biomass) in the Western Pacific due to a shifting of their biomass to the east and some declines in overall biomass. Negative impacts on coastal fish stocks important for local food security are also predicted".

Curbing greenhouse gas emissions in line with The Paris Agreement could help limit tuna migration away from the region. "We have to ensure sustainable fishing levels for the Pacific Islands. To reach this goal, developed countries should act quickly and increase their ambition to stay below 1.5 degrees centigrade, and Pacific countries should maintain sustainable management of their fisheries resources," Pasisi tells IPS.

IPS UN Bureau Report

We can achieve SDGs but it will take courage and urgent transformations

By Navid Hanif

HE world is at a crossroads. This week, the United Nations Secretary-General, government ministers and senior leaders are gathered in New York at the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum. (scheduled to take place April17-20).

This follows the recent World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings of heads of international financial institutions leaders, finance ministers, and other leaders. These discussions are a timely chance to decide on urgent action to address the global crises we face.

Among others, the war in Ukraine, the resultant food and energy crisis, the effects of COV-ID-19, climate change impacts and rising global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and climate targets out of reach and further exacerbate financing challenges down the line.

The Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023 calls for: (i) a new generation of sustainable industrial policies to chart national green transformations; (ii) immediate international action to scale up development cooperation and SDG investments to support this investment boost, the SDGs, and climate action; and (iii) reforms to the international financial architecture that are needed to support this boost in investment, and to make the system more equitable and fit for purpose.

The possibilities of green industrialization



Ain Beni Mathar integrated combined cycle thermo-solar power plant, Morocco. Credit:

Failure is not an option

Given current trends, 574 million people - nearly 7% of the world's population - will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030. Without urgent and scaled up action on sustainable development financing, the prospects for achieving the SDGs grow dimmer.

In fact, the already great gulf between developed and developing countries could widen to become a permanent sustainable development divide. It will take deliberate and coordinated action to ensure that reforms serve the needs of developing countries - and thus help deliver the SDGs. But it must be done. There must be a recognition that we all share a common future as we share a common earth. With global financial assets of almost \$500 trillion, there is no shortage of money. The world has the means: all that is lacking is the will. Navid Hanif is a United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, and Acting Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. He is also the UN sous Sherpa to the G20 finance and main tracks. The 2023 Financing for Sustainable Development Report: Financing Sustainable Transformations is a joint product of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, which is comprised of more than 60 United Nations Agencies and international organizations.

interest rates - all have contributed to increased hunger and poverty.

Many hard-hit developing countries have slow growth, high inflation, and unsustainable debt, which undermine development prospects and prevent them from investing in health, education, infrastructure, and the energy transition.

We recently released the Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023: Financing Sustainable Transformation, the 8th report from the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development.

Given the scale and number of crises, it won't be a surprise to learn that financing needs for the Sustainable Development Goals are growing. Unfortunately, development financing is not keeping pace.

We estimate that by 2027 LDCs and other lowincome countries will need US\$220 billion in external financing, 30% higher than the US\$172 billion they needed in 2021. Many countries are falling behind, or even going backwards on the SDGs.

Faced with food and energy shocks, there may be a temptation to concentrate resources on urgent short-term problems. But FSDR 2023 emphasizes that delaying long-term investment in sustainable transformations would put the There is hope.

We have seen in recent years a sharp and swift uptake in new technology and in the transition to green solutions. Energy transition investments rose to US\$1.11 trillion in 2022, surpassing fossil fuel system investments for the first time. The green economy became the fifth largest industrial sector, totalling US \$7.2 trillion in 2021.

A new green industrial age is not only possible, but it can be the breakthrough needed to bring the SDGs back on track. Industrialization has historically been an engine for progress. Sustainable industrialization–which would include low-carbon transitions–can lead to growth, job creation, technological advancement, and lay the foundation for poverty reduction and enhanced resilience. Industrialization must also be made equitable and sustainable, aligned with the SDGs, and deliver climate action.

Unfortunately, most developing countries are not yet able to benefit from the new technological advances. Many, especially least developed countries, have insufficient resources to invest in the needed transformations, including green energy and sustainable agriculture. Developing countries cannot make the necessary progress on their own, though their advancement would Bana Simile / World Bank, Filoto ID; D3-FIATT World Bank

t benefit all countries.

An SDG investment push

The international community must scale up investment to support sustainable transformations, the SDGs, and climate action. The push for greater investment is in line with the UN Secretary-General's call for an SDG Stimulus, aimed at scaling up affordable long-term financing for countries in need by at least US\$500 billion a year.

The SDG Stimulus calls on the World Bank and other multilateral development banks (MDBs) to massively expand lending and offer it on better terms. Development banks can do this through both increased capital bases and better leveraging of existing paid-in capital.

This includes urgently rechanneling special drawing rights through the MDBs, which can then leverage the impact by borrowing on capital markets, building on the model developed by the African Development Bank.

Debt challenges faced by developing countries are among the obstacles to progress. Already, about 60% of poorer countries are in or at a high risk of debt distress, twice the level from 2015. The international community must work together to urgently develop an improved multilateral debt relief initiative.

Reforms to the international financial architecture

Fixing the debt architecture is just one element of needed architecture reforms. The international financial architecture system, which guides how global funds are invested, is in a state of flux, with multiple reform processes taking place simultaneously.

We are undergoing the biggest rethink of our international systems since the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944. But unlike Bretton Woods, which was done as one under the UN umbrella, the current multiple reform processes are piecemeal, fragmented, and lack inter-institutional coherence.

From debt architecture to international tax norms, to trade rules, to revamping investment agreements, the reform processes must aim for a coherent international system that takes the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action fully into account. We must have targeted action to make the architecture fit for purpose to serve the needs of the world, and developing countries in particular.

IPS UN Bureau

CAPITAL RADIO



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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO 📷 📑

EABC urges EAC partner states to reduce costs of digital tax stamps to manufacturers

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has called for a review and reduction in the cost of the Digital Tax Stamp (DTS) system, which has been implemented in the region to improve revenue collection on excisable goods.

John Bosco Kalisa, EABC executive director said in a statement that the main challenges faced by manufacturers in the implementation of DTS are the cost of stamps, equipment installation, and operation of the system.

He urged the governments of East African Community (EAC) partner states, through the revenue authorities, to take quick action to reduce Digital Tax Stamp (DTS) costs by reviewing existing DTS contracts with a view to reducing the high excise stamp fees imposed on manufacturers.

EABC recent analysis shows: Despite the solution provider of DTS being the same across the region, the cost of the stamp differs significantly in each soft drinks.

country. The stamp fee is additional to the excise duty tax payable under the country's respective Excise Act - this is double taxation for manufacturers.

authority.

technology.

boost revenue collection.

uniform price for DTS

would make it easier for

firms to adopt the new

A recent study commis-

Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) model to limit capital flight. In the long The also analysis reveals: the cost of excise stamps is run, the DTS system should disproportionately appornot impose any financial tioned to different prodburden on manufacturers. ucts with no justification. "Wider public stakehold-The cost of the stamps paid ers' engagement and in-

clusion of manufacturers' by the manufacturers goes to the 'foreign' DTS proinput in the re-negotiation process of a better digital vider/supplier and not to the government's revenue tax stamp system is important," said Mr. Kalisa, EABC Kalisa said that the re-CEO. This would ease the duction in costs would endevelopment and rollout hance compliance of smallof alternative DTS solutions that are more acceptscale manufacturers with able to all stakeholders. DTS regulations, improve sustainability, and further including SMEs," Kalisa explained. A relatively lower and

He urged revenue au-

thorities to explore ownership of the digital tax

stamp system through

The revenue authorities should also sensitize the public on the validation of tax stamps to improve compliance and discourage counterfeiting in the region.

sioned by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries In principle, consumers (CTI) shows the average acof excisable goods should quisition cost for the digibe able to verify the autal print system was apthenticity of the stamps proximately USD 634,000 through the applications for beer and USD 21,567 for provided by the revenue authorities.

Evelyn John (R) of Mikwamba village in Magila ward, Muheza District, knows that the crushing of stones by hand to get gravel for sale is back-breaking drudgery circumstances have forced her into for her very survival. She says she also knows that even some cheap machine would have made her work much simpler, less energy-sapping and more paying, only that she finds that a remote dream. Correspondent Steven William caught up with her at her roadside 'station' yesterday.

South Africans fear energy crisis could hinder investment pledges

JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa met with investors as part of the fifth South Africa Investment Conference. The Chief Executive Officer of the South African Breweries, Richard Rivett-

vestment pledge is expected to create forty thousand jobs in the country.

"We are committing R5.8 billion and will invest the full amount by the end of this year. It's primarily for the expansion of our brewery in Gqeberha. It was a project

will be completed this year. And this is at the back of last year's investment commitment to invest in 4 point five."

While President Ramaphosa has put forward his multibillion-dollar US investment target, South Africans on the street believe that he needs to ity blackouts in order to boost investor confidence.

"I feel like President Ramaphosa should be focusing on sorting out our electricity problem because in terms of business, we are losing more than we are profiting because of the extra provisions we have to make for first thing they need to look

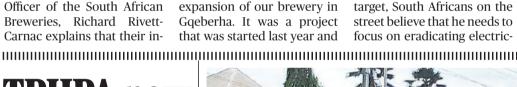
electricity," explains Miles Thomas, a South African citizen. Kavish Ramanand, also a South African citizen raises concerns regarding the expenditure of the funds injected by investors.

"If people are willing to invest then that's great. The at is the issue of corruption and protecting the funds. I think also load-shedding." said Ramanand. Cebo Ngema, a South African citizen insists turn around the country.

electricity crisis will be al-vestors to the country.

right meaning they can continue with the business. Not everything is about electricity. We do have generators now to boost businesses."

TPHPA now



that President Ramaphosa's energy investment plan will "They can invest and the

The South Africa Invest-

ment was first introduced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2018 to help attract more in-

bans use of harmful pesticides

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TANZANIA Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) has suspended the use of 44 harmful pesticides to crops, plants, human and animal health while insisting on regular inspections in warehouses and pesticide stores.

Deputy minister for Agriculture, Anthony Mavunde told Parliamentarians yesterday in the House when responding to a question posed by Asha Abdullah Juma (Special Seats) who wanted to know when the government will finalise review of various pesticides and crop drugs that are causing effects to crops.

Mavunde said TPHPA has been working to control the pesticides by ensuring that those with dangerous threats to crops, animals and people's health are banned.

"This is conducted as per Plant Health Act, 2020 which gives the registrar of pesticides the power to revoke registration of pesticides that are found causing negative impacts to people and the environment," he said.

In addition, he said that in 2018 to 2021, the government carried out a review to identify pesticides that have serious effects on human health and the environment which are identified as highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) and found 44 types of pesticides with active ingredients that are harmful to human health as well as the environment.



A motorcycle rider negotiates through the flooded road at Ukonga Majumba Sita area in Dar es Salaam following yesterday downpour. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

FEATURE

Abrupt heavy gunfire, hovering warplanes end hopes of ceasefire in Sudan

KHARTOUM

HOUSANDS of residents fled Sudan's capital Khartoum yesterday as fighting between the army and paramilitaries, that has killed around 200 people, raged for a fifth day after a 24-hour truce collapsed.

Heavy gunfire and roar of warplanes shattered plans for a ceasefire as fighting was reported around the army headquarters and the airport which is surrounded by residential areas.

Two rival generals at the heart of the conflict had agreed to a 24-hour humanitarian pause. Nearly 200 people have been killed in the fighting which began on Saturday.

Residents were reportedly low on food and water as clashes between the army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group continue.

On Tuesday, UN Secretary General António Guterres' spokesman said, "The fighting in Sudan, including Khartoum and various other locations, is continuing. No sign of real abatement of the fighting."

Earlier in the day, a woman living in Khartoum told the BBC that she had no more drinking water left in her home.

Duaa Tariq said only one bottle remained, which she was saving for her twoyear-old child, as her family crammed into a "tiny corridor" to avoid gunfire.

"Most of the people [that] died, died in their houses with random bullets and missiles, so it's better to avoid exposed places in the house" like windows, Tariq said.

At the University of Khartoum, a student was killed after being hit by a stray bullet.

"We were going to get food for the rest of the students," law student Mosaab Sharif, who is sheltering in a building near the campus, told the BBC.

A Facebook post, verified by the BBC, said the body had been buried on campus after safe passage off site could not be secured.

"There were three of us, and then he was hit in the chest. We couldn't even help him. As we were burying our colleague, one of us was hit with a bullet in his hand," Sharif added.

He said that "snipers have been targeting anyone with flash lights".

Half an hour before the ceasefire was due to start, Khartoum residents were shocked

to hear that three children - brothers living in the east of the city - had been killed in a bombardment.

Residents broke their Muslim Ramadan fast just after 18:00 local time to the sound of gunfire, with eyewitnesses in Bahri, in the north of the city, saying aircraft were flying overhead.

Another woman in Khartoum told the BBC that heavy weapons fire had continued well after the ceasefire was due to come into effect.

She described how earlier in the day she had escaped with her one-year-old child from her home as it was being struck by missiles.

Even if the fighting does die down in the next 24 hours, it is unlikely to be enough time for civilians to seek help, with the Red Cross saying the health system is on the verge of collapse.

The aid group said it has been receiving multiple calls for help from people trapped in their homes in a city that has an estimated population of 10 million residents, with most struggling to cope without electricity.

Fighting has also been taking place elsewhere in Sudan, including in Darfur to the west.

The UN aid chief has warned of reports that say humanitarian workers are being attacked and sexually assaulted.

"This is unacceptable and must stop," Martin Griffiths tweeted, after the time the ceasefire was expected to have been implemented.

The fighting is between army units loyal to the de facto leader, Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the RSF, a notorious paramilitary force commanded by Sudan's deputy leader, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, better known as Hemedti.

Life in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, and in many other parts of the country, has taken a sudden, very dramatic turn for the worse.

At the heart of it are two generals: Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the leader of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, better known as Hemedti, the head of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The two worked together, and carried out a coup together - now their battle for supremacy is tearing Sudan apart.

The relationship between the two goes

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 414 00-have given you a list of words an



A fourth day of fighting raged as residents of Khartoum remained trapped in their homes. Photo Credit BBC

back a long way.

Both played key roles in the counter-insurgency against Darfuri rebels, in the civil war in Sudan's western region that began in 2003.

Gen Burhan rose to control the Sudanese army in Darfur.

Hemedti was the commander of one of

the many Arab militias, collectively known as the Janjaweed, which the government employed to brutally put down the largely non-Arab Darfuri rebel groups.

Darfur conflict: A bloody stalemate

Majak D'Agoot was the deputy director of the National Intelligence and Security Services at the time - before becoming deputy defence minister in South Sudan when it seceded in 2011. He met Gen Burhan and Hemedti in Darfur, and said they worked well together. But he told the BBC he saw little sign that either would rise to the top of the state.

Hemedti was simply a militia leader "playing a counter-insurgency role, helping the military", while Gen

Hemedti's power grew massively once he began supplying troops to fight for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.

Sudan's then-military ruler, Omar al-Bashir, came to rely on Hemedti and the RSF as a counterweight to the regular armed forces, in the hope that it would be too difficult for any single armed group to depose him.

In the end - after months of popular protests - the generals clubbed together to overthrow Bashir, in April 2019.

Later that year, they signed an agreement with the protesters to form a civilian-led government overseen by the Sovereign Council, a joint civilian-military body, with Gen Burhan at its head, and Hemedti as his deputy.

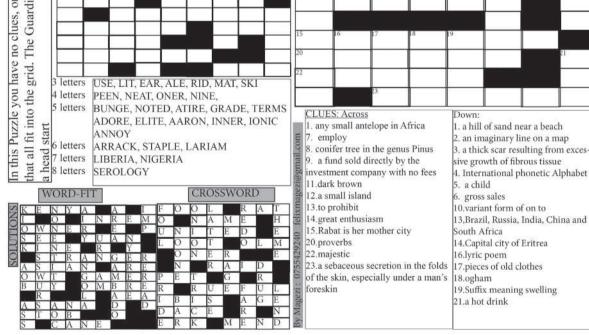
from the ethnic groups based around Khartoum and the River Nile.

Hemedti comes from Darfur, and the Sudanese elite often talk about him and his soldiers in pejorative terms, as "country bumpkins" unfit to rule the state.

Over the last two or three years, he has tried to position himself as a national figure, and even as a representative of the marginalised peripheries - trying to forge alliances with rebel groups in Darfur and South Kordofan that he had previously been tasked with destroying.

He has also spoken regularly of a need for democracy despite his forces having brutally put down civilian protests in the past.

Tensions between the army and the RSF grew as a deadline for forming a



Burhan was a career soldier, though "with all the ambitions of the Sudanese officer corps, anything was possible".

The military has been running Sudan for most of its post-independence history.

The government's tactics in Darfur, once described by Sudan expert Alex de Waal as "counter-insurgency on the cheap", used regular troops, ethnic militias and air power to fight off the rebels - with little to no regard for civilian casualties.

Darfur has been described as the first genocide of the 21st Century, with the Janjaweed accused of ethnic cleansing and using mass rape as a weapon of war.

Hemedti eventually became the commander of what could be described as an offshoot of the Janjaweed, his RSF.

It lasted two years - until October 2021 - when the military struck, taking power for themselves, with Gen Burhan again at the head of the state and Hemedti again his deputy.

Siddig Tower Kafi was a civilian member of the Sovereign Council, and so regularly met the two generals. He said he saw no sign of any disagreements until after the 2021 coup. Then "Gen Burhan started to restore the Islamists and the former regime members to their old positions", he told the BBC.

"It was becoming clear that the plan of Gen Burhan was to restore the old regime of Omar al-Bashir to power."

Mr Siddig says that this is when Hemedti began to have doubts, as he felt Bashir's cronies had never fully trusted him.

Sudanese politics has always been dominated by an elite largely drawn

SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME

civilian government approached, focused on the thorny issue of how the RSF should be re-integrated into the regular armed forces.

And then the fighting began, pitting the RSF against the SAF, Hemedti against Gen Burhan, for control of the Sudanese state.

In one way, at least, Hemedti has followed in the footsteps of the SAF top brass, who he is now fighting over the last few years, he has built a vast business empire, including interests in gold mines and many other sectors. Gen Burhan and Hemedti have both faced calls from civilian leaders and victims of the conflict in Darfur and elsewhere to face trial for alleged abuses.

The stakes are extremely high, and there are plenty of reasons for these former-allies-turned-bitter-enemies to not back down.

RADIO

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME

TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME 05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA 1 76.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 6.30 AM NIPASHE 7.00 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 7.00 AM TAARIFA TA OUNCEMENTS 0 HRS DJ SHOW 1 HRS NEWS BRIEF 3 HRS DEATH EATH MENTS DJA YA LEO RA YA DUNIA BBC DOTUEO OUNCEMENTS D HRS HOJA YA LEO D HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC D HRS SPOTI LEO D HRS NEWS BULLETIN D HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI D HRS MEWS BRIEF D HRS CHAGULLETIN (24 HRS) D HRS GEVEV BRIEF 3 HRS AFRO TIZII 3 HRS AFRO TIZII 3 HRS AFRO TIZII 0 - 0-500HRSMUZIKI JANGANYIKO)

TIME PROGRAMME TIME PROGRAMME

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TIME PROGRAMME

FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME

05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHIU AHILI AM WATOTO SHOW AM NEWS BRIEF AM DEATH DUNCEMENTS AM MIWANI YA MAISHA AM MTAA WA MAGOMA HRS NEWS BULLETIN HRS DEATH J HRS NEWS BOLLE IIN J HRS DEATH OUNCEMENTS J HRS CHAGUO LAKO J HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO J HRS NEWS BRIEF 3 HRS DEATH OUNCEMENTS 5 HRS MIDUNDO OMOTO OMOTO TOMOTO 1KS) 2.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 3.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 3.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 1:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI

SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME

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8.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 9.30 HRS SPOTILEO 0.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 1.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 1.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 1.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 1.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 1.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 2.06 HRS NEWS DRIEF 3.03 HRS AFRO TIZII 1.00-05.00HRS HRS MUZIKI (CHANGANYIKO)

WEDNESDAY

00 AM HALIYA HEWA / MEPAMBAZUKA NA BBC 30 AM ANKA NA BBC 30 AM ANKA NA BBC 50 AM MATANGAZO 00 AM MATANGAZO 00 AM MATANGAZO 00 AM MATANGAZO 30 AM MABARIX ANA MAGAZETI 40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 30 AM KIMADITALK 30 AM BARADITALK 30 AM BADADITALK

AM BRAND TALK AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA

AM RUVIERANIBAZUKA ZW NEWS BRIEF AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS AM YALIYOMO YAMO HRS NEWS BULLETIN HRS DEJSHOW HRS DUSHOW HRS DEJSHOW HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS HRS MOUS BRIEF HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS HRS HOJA YA LEO HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC HRS SPOTLEO



THE **IMPORTANCE OF CREDIT RISK** MANAGEMENT **IN BANKS**

page 14



CREDITS MARKET: Winners and losers on banks' lending in 2022

Thursday 20 April 2023

By Guardia Reporter

OMMERCIAL banks have continued to expand their lending into various sectors of the economy, with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) reports showing they extended loans and bills amounted to 29.2trn/- last year, an increase of nearly 6trn/ compared with 23.5trn/- recorded in 2021 and 21.1trn/- in 2020.

The sharp increase of banks' lending during last year, which is more than double of the increase recorded between 2020 and 2021, or five times of the increase between 2019 and 2020, caused by the recovery of the economy from Covid-19 pandemic, which slowed economic activities from 2019 to 2021.

According to the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) data, the annual growth of banks' lending during last year experienced a slight shift; as dominant personal loans, trade and manufacturing, which were leading with highest growths in 2021, trailed behind agriculture in 2022, which its growth recorded the contraction of 7.7 percent in 2021.

During the last year, annual growth of banks' lending to agriculture was leading among all economic activities at 46.1 percent, the historical highest; with the sector's share to total credit increased to 8.6 percent last year, compared with 7.3 percent in 2021.

The growth was more than double of the growth of total credits to private sector of 22 percent last year, according to BoT data.

Agriculture, which is among of the leading

sectors of the economy, employing the majority of Tanzania through its value chain, won the hearts of banking sector, due to ongoing reforms implemented by the government, although the minister of agriculture Hussein Bashe still unsatisfied with the banks financing to the sector.

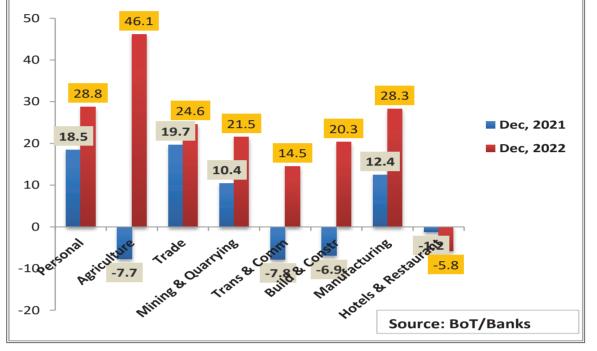
The minister, once spoke to The Guardian, said the government had to review the agriculture financing systems, to ensure an increased banks' lending to the sector, especially on the production activities, rather than currently on the marketing side, specifically crops procurement.

The beneficiaries of expanding banks' lending to agriculture, according to the minister, are crop buyers, who are not directly involved in agricultural productions.

The minister insisted that banks should extend their financing to the early stages of agricultural production, such as land acquisition and preparation, irrigation, agricultural inputs, harvesting and post harvesting activities.

According to BoT quarterly economic bulletin for December, 2022, the second largest of credits growth was recorded by personal loan with 28.8 percent, far behind agriculture, an increase from annual growth of 18.5 percent in 2021.

The share of personal loans to total loans also increased to 38.2 percent by December last year, compared with 36.8 percent in 2021, which indicates increasing banks' confidence Annual Growth of Banks' Credits to Selected Economic Activities -Dec, 2023 - Dec, 2022 in Percentage



which some are also involved in agricultural activities.

The growth of credits to manufacturing also recorded an increased trend during last year with 28.3 percent, highest than the growth of 12.4 percent in to salaried employees and other individuals, 2021, with an increase its share to total credits to 10

percent, compared with 9.7 percent in 2021.

Increased financing, which also boosted industrial activities, resulted into an increase of exports earnings from manufactured goods to US\$1.5 billion during the year ending February, 2023, compared with US\$1.2 billion recorded during the year ended in February 2022.

The credit growth to trade, which was the leading in 2021 with the growth of 19.7 percent, also increased by 24.6 percent during the year ended in December 2022, fourth highest.

According to the BoT report, credits to mining and quarrying doubled to 21.5 percent in 2022, compared with 10.4 percent recorded at the end of 2021

Annual growth of credits to building and construction also recovered to 20.3 percent during the year ended in December 2022, compared with the contraction of 6.9 percent in December 2021, with its share to total credits slightly increased to 4.6 percent from 4.4 percent respectively.

The central bank also shows an annual growth of credits to transport and communication recovered to 14.5 percent in December 2022, compared with a contraction of 7.8 percent in December 2021, while its share slightly decreased to 4.5 percent from 4.8 percent respectively.

However, an annual growth of credits to hotels and tourism sector, which is also recovering from the severe impacts of Covid-19 remained on the bottom of the list, after recoding a contraction of 5.8 percent, from the contraction of 1.2 percent in 2021.

CAPITAL MARKETS CMSA opens door for municipal bonds

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Capital Market and Security Authorities (CMSA) has opened the door



BAD LOANS Biggest US banks write off \$3.4bn bad loans

NEW YORK

it-card loans as it seeks to position its debt portfolio for a slowing economy.

for local government authorities to issue bonds at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) to raise funds for financing their development projects.

A municipal bond is a debt security that is issued by a local government entity commonly used to fund the construction of roads, schools, airports, hospitals, wastewater treatment facilities and other infrastructure projects.

The CMSA Public relation and Education manager Charles Shirima told The Guardian in an interview that the authority had already finalized the preparation of the guidelines for bonds issuance.

Shirima said the advantage of municipal bonds for investors is that they are tax-exempt, meaning that the returns from such bonds are not subjected to taxes, making it a highly attractive investment for individuals who are in a high tax bracket.

He said the CMSA's five year-year National Development Plan III (FYDP) has identified issuance of thematic financial products, including green bonds as among alternative financing strategies, for supporting implementation of projects in the public sector

The manager called on municipal councils to submit their applications to the authority, after having completed all the required procedures.

According to him, municipal councils, local governments and water authorities in respective cities and municipalities are eligible to submit their applications.

"CMSA welcomes applications from all eligible applicants to submit their applications to the authority once they have completed their recommended procedures," he said.

He said CMSA has taken some initiatives including engaging and training leaders in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government.

Municipal bonds can be thought of as loans that investors make to local governments, and they are used to fund public works such as parks, libraries, bridges and roads, and other infrastructure.

According to him, some UN agencies have shown interest in supporting mu-



nicipal bonds, especially all those related to development infrastructure.

After issuing bonds, a legal separate entity will be formed to supervise revenues collected from the project in order to pay back the fund and the sustainability of the project

On January 24 this year, Tanzania announced to partner with the European Union (EU) to develop a framework for issuance, regulation and supervision of green bonds in the country.

The Capital Market and Securities

Authorities (CMSA) executive director Nicodemus Mukama said at the official opening of a three day workshop in Dar es Salaam, that the partnership marks an important milestone in the development of Tanzanians capital markets, financial sector and international cooperation with the EU.

Mukama said that the government needs for financing development projects have been increasing whereas sources of finance are limited.

"Issuance of green bonds is an impor-

tant step in building sustainable financial markets, for sustainable economic development and growth adding that the partnership lays a strong foundation for taking the financial sector and the Tanzanian economy to higher heights," he said.

"EU is partnering with CMSA to strengthen the capacity of capital markets in Tanzania focusing on decision making, supervision, and policy framework and regulator reforms," said Cedric Merel, Head of Cooperation, European Union, delegation of Tanzania

BANK of America Corp. joined its largest rivals in setting aside more reserves as a growing number of consumers couldn't keep up with their loan payments, even as executives dialed down fears of a looming crisis.

The four biggest US lenders wrote off a combined \$3.4 billion in bad consumer loans in the first three months of 2023, a 73 percent increase from a year earlier. That, combined with additional reserves, boosted provisions at all four institutions to levels not seen since the earliest days of the Covid-19 pandemic.

For years, banks benefited from the financial strength of US consumers as credit losses fell to record low levels. Now, with once-in-a-generation levels of inflation whittling away at their savings, Americans are once again beginning to fall behind on payments.

But so far, bank executives have been adamant that the recent increase in provisions is nothing more than losses returning to normal after pandemic-era government stimulus programs kept consumer defaults artificially low.

"We haven't seen any cracks in that portfolio yet," Bank of America Chief Financial Officer Alastair Borthwick said Tuesday on a conference call with reporters. "The consumer is in great shape."

At Charlotte, North Carolina-based Bank of America, firmwide provisions were less than expected, helped by reserve releases tied to corporate loans, according to a statement. Still, the firm was forced to set aside an additional \$360 million in reserves tied to its consumer business, which the bank blamed on higher than expected credit-card balances.

At Goldman Sachs Group Inc., the platform-solutions division that includes the firm's burgeoning credit-card effort saw provisions soar to \$265 million in the quarter. The Wall Street giant partly blamed the increase on a rise in net charge-offs for its credit-card portfolio.

'Gradual Weakening'

Wells Fargo & Co. chalked up its \$1.2 billion in provisions to higher net chargeoffs in both consumer and commercial loan portfolios. The San Francisco-based company said Friday that it's begun to tighten underwriting standards for cred-

"We continue to see some gradual weakening in underlying credit performance, including higher nonperforming assets," Chief Financial Officer Mike Santomassimo said on a conference call with analysts. "We are proactively monitoring our clients' sensitivity to inflation and higher rates and are taking appropriate actions when warranted."

JPMorgan Chase & Co., the world's largest credit-card issuer, said bad card loans soared to \$922 million in the first quarter, up 82 percent from a year earlier. The 30day delinquency rate on those loans – a harbinger for future losses – climbed to 1.68 percent from 1.09 percent a year earlier.

Still, executives at the New York-based bank said they're not taking drastic action in response. Rather, the firm is focused on fine-tuning its real estate portfolio as investors increasingly worry about rising losses on office loans.

"I wouldn't use the word credit crunch," CEO Jamie Dimon said on a conference call Friday. "Obviously, there's going to be a little bit of tightening and most of that will be around certain real estate things.'

Citigroup Inc. reassured investors Friday that the increased credit losses in the first quarter were completely expected. CEO Jane Fraser said the New York-based bank is relying on a vast trove of data to keep track of consumers who borrowed money from Citigroup and how they're handling their debt obligations.

"We can't just rely on FICO scores for assessing the credit of our customers and our portfolio," Fraser said. "There is a tremendous amount of data that we draw upon that goes well well beyond that and that's also, as you can imagine, something that gives us a lot more confidence."



Obviously, there's going to be a little bit of tightening and most of that will be around certain real estate things

Bänker

OPINION: The importance of credit risk management in banks

By Kelvin Mkwawa

REDIT risk refers to the probability of loss due to a borrower's failure to make repayments of any type of credit, and credit risk management is the practice of mitigating the probability of loan loss due to a borrower's failure to make loan payments at any given time. The importance of credit risk management for banks is tremendous. Loans make up the biggest risk for any bank and because of that, the banking industry has been focusing more attention than ever on credit management which highlights its importance to the banks. Credit risk management is one of the core processes for banks hence the ability to manage its process is essential for their success. Banks are constantly faced with risks all the time; risks are always associated with banking activities and taking risks is very common in banking. To ensure their healthy financial status, banks must balance their risks daily by having a formal credit risk management practice in place. In today's article, I will discuss the importance of credit risk management in banks.

14

Credit risk management practices differ from bank to bank based on the type and complexity of the credit activities taken by the banks. Some of the best practices in credit risk management are the consolidation of customer data, active portfolio management, a centralized decisionmaking process, and efficient tools for risk exposures. Even though credit risk management practices are different from bank to bank, there are four pillars the banks should rest on: a suitable credit risk environment, appropriate credit administration and monitoring processes, sufficient credit risk controls, and clear credit criteria of the bank's target. Managing credit risks is the main focus of any banking operation these days as fraudsters and unethical customers have sophisticated methods to deceive the banks. Because of this, the effective management of credit risk has become a critical component and the banks need to monitor, control, and measure their credit risk practices more often to ensure their long-term success.

Mitigating risks is one of the components of managing risks and there are three main strategies banks can consider: eliminate/avoid risk completely, transfer risk to third parties, and actively manage risk. There are so many benefits to banks for having proper credit risk management, including, lowering the capital that is locked with the debtors hence increasing the ability to manage cash flow more efficiently, reducing the possibility of getting into bad debts, improved bottom line (profits), enhanced customer management processes, and increased accountability within the institution



In conclusion, we have seen that credit management is an important aspect of financial management for all banks. The proper management of credit will enhance the bank's profitability, hence increasing the wealth of the shareholder and ensuring that the bank generates sufficient positive credit from its operations to continually fund the deposit and

MONETARY POLICY

lending activities. Therefore, the efficient management of credit will solve problems and save time. Also, we have seen that credit risk management practices differ from bank to bank but all base their practices on four pillars: a suitable credit risk environment, appropriate credit administration, and monitoring processes, sufficient credit risk controls, and clear

credit criteria of the bank's target. Lastly, to ensure the positive growth of the bank, credit risk management must play a role in managing the risks.

Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA is a Seasoned Banker. He can be reached through Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@ gmail.com

Non-bank financial sector vulnerabilities surface over tighten financial conditions

By Antonio Garcia Pascual. Fabio Natalucci. Thomas Piontek

ROVED



ensureNBFIsbettermanagerisks.

and this might be accomplished

through timely and granular

including capital and liquidity

Discretionary market-

intervention should be available

alongside

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be at the discretion of the central bank, at a higher interest rate, fully collateralized, and accompanied by greater supervisory oversight. A

OVERVIEWS:

Disclosure of state of beneficial ownership is important to reduce illicit financial flows

By Elinami John

RECENTLY it was heartening to see that some commendable development is taking place in Tanzania in terms of revealing beneficial ownership of companies. The efforts can be attributed to progress toward improving financial systems, which will play a role in reducing illicit financial flows.

Intergovernmental and civil society organisations have played an important role in establishing standards for countries to adopt to improve their legal frameworks, which could aid in revealing the ultimate owners of the entities. The standards are viewed as a global solution for improving transparency.

In 2020, the government of Tanzania through the Finance Act amended several laws to reflect the Beneficial Ownership concept such as the definition of beneficial ownership and the required information regarding Beneficial Ownership.

One of the statutes amended is the Companies Act 2002 followed by its regulations "The Companies (Beneficial Ownership) Regulations, 2021."

Despite the government's efforts to add rules and a definition of beneficial ownership, the amendment of laws and regulations does not guarantee public access to information regarding the ultimate owners of the companies.

The only institutions permitted by the Companies Act 2020, Section 451B, and its regulation to access information on beneficial ownership are government agencies responsible for combating money laundering and terrorist financing, national competent authorities that have the function of investigating or prosecuting offenses related to money laundering and terrorist financing, or of tracing, seizing, freezing and confiscating criminal assets, the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Tanzania Revenue Authority.

Tanzania's lack of provisions for public access to beneficial ownership information runs counter to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative's (EITI) standards for disclosing information about the ultimate owners in the extractive indus-

information about individuals, the majority of whom may be operating their businesses responsibly and would prefer that their interests not be made public.

Advocates for access to information, on the other hand, argue that the right to privacy is not absolute and has been limited in many cases, particularly when the public interest or national security is at stake.

International law acknowledges that limiting privacy expectations may be required to achieve legitimate policy objectives. Stopping illicit financial flows is an obvious policy goal. Disclosure systems must strike a balance between transparency's accountability goals and rapidly evolving concerns about privacy.

To balance privacy and transparency, for example, it is common in the United Kingdom (UK) to publish enough personally-identifying information to differentiate between beneficial owners and other officers, while withholding sensitive information (birthdate and residential address) for access by law enforcement only for official purposes. The public can only see the month and year of birth, as well as the registered address

According to the Companies (Beneficial Ownership) Regulations, 2021, Tanzania's requirement for the provision of beneficial ownership information is based on the company approach. This is the model that requires the companies to collect and hold information about their own beneficial owner(s) and provide it to authorities when requested.

However, evidence from a global money laundering and terrorism financing watchdog, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) suggests that countries that use this model face challenges in ensuring that beneficial ownership information collected directly from companies is accurate and up to date.

Reliance on this model alone, without any due diligence conducted by an independent party, is not considered effective in guaranteeing accurate beneficial ownership information, as corrupt beneficial owners of shell companies are unlikely to selfreport their ownership interest to

RECENT strains at some banks in the United States and Europe are a powerful reminder of pockets of elevated financial vulnerabilities built over years of low rates, compressed volatility, and ample liquidity.

Such risks could intensify in coming months amid the continued tightening of monetary policy globally, making it especially important to understand and safeguard this broad swath of the financial sector that comprises an array of institutions beyond banks.

Nonbank financial intermediaries (NBFI), including pension funds, insurers, and hedge funds, also play a key role in the global financial system by providing financial services and credit and thus supporting economic growth.

The growth of the NBFI sector accelerated after the global financial crisis, accounting now for nearly 50 percent of global financial assets. As such, the smooth functioning of the nonbank sector is vital for financial stability.

However, NBFI vulnerabilities appear to have increased in the past decade. As we show in an analytical chapter of the latest Global Financial Stability Report, NBFI stress tends to emerge alongside elevated leverage, for example borrowing money to finance their investments or boost returns, or using financial instruments, like derivatives.

Stress is also brought on by liquidity mismatches, where an institution is unable to generate sufficient cash either through liquidation of assets, such as bonds or equities, or use of credit lines to satisfy investor redemption requests.

Finally, high levels of interconnectedness among NBFIs and with traditional banks can also become a crucial amplification channel of financial stress. Last year's UK pension fund and liability-driven investment strategies episode underscores the perilous interplay of leverage, liquidity risk, and interconnectedness. Concerns about the country's fiscal outlook led to a sharp rise in UK sovereign bond yields that, in turn, led to large losses in definedbenefit pension fund investments



that borrowed against such collateral, causing margin and collateral calls. To meet these calls, pension funds were forced public data disclosures and to sell government bonds, pushing their yields even higher. It is useful to take a step back and look at the current environment in which NBFIs find themselves. With the fastest inflation in decades, and with price stability at the core of most central bank mandates, injecting central bank liquidity for financial stability purposes could complicate the fight against inflation. In a low-inflation environment, central banks can respond to financial stress by easing policy such as cutting interest rates or purchasing assets to restore market functioning.

Amid high inflation, however, challenging tradeoffs may emerge for central banks between fostering financial stability and achieving price stability during periods of stress that may threaten the health of the financial system. Policymakers need appropriate tools to tackle turmoil in the NBFI sector that may adversely affect financial stability. Robust surveillance, regulation, and supervision are essential prerequisites. Policymakers must also narrow or eliminate gaps in regulatory reporting of key data, including how much risk firms are taking with their borrowing or use of derivatives.

Policies are also needed to

clear timeline should be established for restoring the NBFI's liquidity and return to market finance.

•Access to standing lending facilities could be granted to specific NBFI entities to reduce spillovers to the financial system, although the bar for such access should be very high to avoid moral hazard. Access should not be granted without the appropriate regulatory and supervisory regimes for the different types of NBFIs.

Clear communication is critical, so that liquidity support is not requirements. perceived to be working at cross-These improvements in private purposes with monetary policy. sector risk management must For example, purchasing assets be supported by appropriate to restore financial stability while standards, continuing with quantitative tightening to bring inflation back to target may cloud intent and better resourced and stricter complicate communication. Announcements of central bank This would help steer the liquidity support should clearly business decisions of the NBFIs explain the financial stability themselves away from excessive objectives, program parameters and risk taking by removing both the timing.

incentive and opportunity to At the same time, cooperation take on too much risk. It would between domestic policy makers also likely reduce the need for and international coordination and frequency of central bank between national authorities is intervention to provide liquidity essential. This helps better identify support during systemic risks and manage crises. Specifically, stress events. If central bank internationally coordinated reforms intervention is needed, they can can reduce the risks of cross-border consider three broad types of spillovers, regulatory arbitrage, and market fragmentation.

Given the growing size and wide intervention should be intermediation capacity of the NBFI temporary and targeted to those sector globally, the development NBFI segments posing risk to of the right toolbox for access to financial stability. The timing central bank liquidity, along with is also critical-a framework the appropriate guardrails limiting should be in place where data- the need for its use, is a priority. driven metrics trigger a potential The need to do so is all that much intervention, while policymakers greater given that financial sector ultimately retain the discretion vulnerabilities could be poised to grow amid the continued tightening •Lender-of-last-resort of monetary policy.

Antonio Garcia Pascual, Fabio when a systemically important Natalucci and Thomas Piontek nonbank institution comes are the International Monetary under stress. Such lending should Fund (IMF) staff.

try, of which Tanzania is a member.

To play a global critical role in the fight against Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs), Tanzania must amend its current legal framework, particularly the Companies Act 2020 and its regulations, to allow public access to beneficial ownership information while maintaining a balance between privacy and transparency, as provided by the Beneficial Ownership Data Standard.

Globally, there is a growing recognition that an effective framework for beneficial ownership transparencyy that is, a disclosure mechanism that is accurate, up-to-date, and accessiblehas the potential to provide enormous value in the fight against corruption. However, as an emerging policy area, there is an ongoing debate about how to achieve those goals in different country contexts.

Beneficial ownership data includes

authorities or a government registry.

A recent FATF report emphasises that a multi-pronged approach to beneficial ownership information disclosure and access has proven more effective in preventing the misuse of legal persons than any single approach.

Given that ensuring the accuracy of the disclosure is a critical component of effective beneficial ownership disclosure, the ability of authorities to cross-check data across different sources or the requirement that licensed intermediaries grant the reliability of disclosed information is clearly more useful than frameworks that rely on company self-reporting.

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Visa's fintech startups competition for 2023 opens

By Henry Mwang'onde

APPLICATION are now open in Tanzania for the 2023 edition of the 'Visa Everywhere Initiative' (VEI), a global open innovation competition that sees start-ups pitch their innovative solutions to solve tomorrow's payment and commercial challenges.

Apart from monetary prices monetary prizes, VEI winners gain access and exposure to Visa's vast networks of partners in the banking, merchant, VC, and government sectors.

The winners also benefit from receiving recognition from one of the world's most trusted and valuable brands.

The Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa (CEMEA) finals will be live streamed on July 27 on TechCrunch - a leading online publisher focused on the tech industry and the startup ecosystem.

The startup that wins at the CEMEA Regionals will partici-

pate in the global finale, which will be held on September 19 at TechCrunch Disrupt in San Francisco.

This year, Visa's VEI CEMEA is set to introduce for the first time an award in the Risk and Security domain - Fintechs Innovating in Risk Excellence, or 'FIIRE', Award.

Through this Special Edition, Visa in partnership with Emirates NBD are scouting for global Fintech players across fraud management, cybersecurity, and credit risk, among others. Following a joint review by Visa and Emirates NBD representatives, the winning Fintech will receive a \$25,000 prize and an opportunity to work with Emirates NBD, a leading bank in the region.

"The Visa Everywhere Initiative is a platform that empowers fintechs and entrepreneurs to showcase the most groundbreaking, impactful solutions in the world of payments and commerce," said Salma Ingabire, Visa Country Manager for



A group photo of last year's VEI global finalists during awards ceremony held in Dubai recently. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania.

"Through their technology-driven, innovative solutions, fintechs have the potential to offer broad social benefits to the markets they operate in - particularly when it comes to providing fi-

nancial services to those who have traditionally been underserved. At Visa, we believe access to the digital economy drives equitable, inclusive growth, and VEI is an important means of supporting the innovators playing a leading role in this space.'

Since its launch in 2015, VEI has helped startups representing more than 100 countries collectively raise more than US\$16 billion in funding, with a network that includes nearly 12,000 startups from across the globe.

Last year, VEI awarded more than \$530,000 USD in prize money over the course of the competition, which saw over 4,000 startups participate from five regions. VEI 2022 saw Nigeria's ThriveAgric take home the VEI Global grand prize of \$100,000 USD. ThriveAgric also won the \$20,000 USD Visa Direct prize.

This year's prizes VEI CEMEA Regionals 1st place: \$20,000, VEI CEMEA Regionals Audience Favorites: \$10,000, VEI CEMEA Regionals Risk Winner: \$25,000

VEI is seeking innovative and ambitious entrepreneurs who are uplifting communities by solving payment and commerce challenges faced by businesses of all sizes and sectors.



Petra reports improved the diamond production

LONDON

LONDON-LISTED Petra Diamonds reported higher diamond production for the quarter ended March 31 - the third quarter of the company's 2023 financial year - following improved run-of-mine (RoM) grades and tailings production at the Cullinan mine, in South Africa, and increased throughput at the Finsch mine, in South Africa, CEO Richard Duffy (pictured) says.

He adds that the company expects to deliver on its revised guidance of 2.75-million to 2.85-million carats for the full-year to end June 30.

With the Williamson mine, in Tanzania, expected to resume production in the first quarter of financial year 2024, Duffy highlights that Petra is well positioned to increase production by about one-million carats to 3.6-million to 3.9-million carats in financial year 2025.

"The key mitigating actions initiated over the last six months have

creased by 3 percent to 653 700 ct as production improved by 14 percent at Finsch following the introduction of new equipment, despite some ground handling challenges.

Production at the Cullinan mine increased by 7 percent, supported by higher tailings and RoM grades. Together, this more than offset the temporary suspension of production at Williamson and the placing of Koffiefontein on care and maintenance, Petra notes.

Ore processed decreased by 25 percent to 1.65-million tonnes, largely owing to the temporary suspension of production at Williamson.

At Koffiefontein, the Section 189(3) labour reduction process was completed during the quarter, resulting in the retrenchment of 382 employees at a cost of about R99million with 80 to 90 employees retained for care-and-maintenance activities in the run-up to a responsible closure.

Support from a weaker rand and

Temeke Municipal Education Officer, Abdul Buhety (left) receives a donation of 30 desks from DCB Commercial Bank Acting Commercial Director, Ruth Mpangala for Sandali Primary School. This is the continuation of the bank's education campaign dubbed 'Elimu Mpango Mzima na Mama Samia'. The event took place at the school's compound at Sandali, Temeke, Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Banks urged to train women to write business plan

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

FINANCIAL Institutions have been urged implement comprehensive programme to train women entrepreneurs on how to write business plans/proposals that will help them to qualify for loans.

Fatuma Riyami, NatureRipe Kilimanjaro Ltd managing director said this recently"a good business plan makes their business attractive to lenders and has a better chance of getting a loa".

She said most of the women entrepreneurs have the challenge of lack of financing for their businesses, but they lack knowledges on how to write good proposals to access loans. According to her, a standard business need.

plan includes a summary of your company, market, products and financials.

"If you're not sure your plan is persuasive enough to influence the lender, consider seeking the advice of a business plan expert who can review it and offer feedback to you that in turn will help you to obtain a comprehensive business plan for what you're planned to do," she said.

"Also if you will be able to have a best business plan, you should also be prepared to explain how you plan to use the money you want to borrow".

She urged women entrepreneurs to make sure that their financial documents are in order and that they understand what lenders

For her part, Jackline Didace, small entrepreneur involved in selling dried fish, has called on banks and financial institutions to educate women entrepreneurs to have a good credit history for the business they carry out because credit reports are one of the tools lenders use to determine a borrower's credibility.

"If your credit report shows a lack of past diligence in paying back debts, you might be rejected for a loan," she said.

'During the implementation, the banks can work in partnership with village leaders or district councils to organize this training to allow more people in rural and urban areas benefit from this training."

StanChart loans to sister banks rise to Sh83bn

NAIROBI

STANDARD Chartered Bank Kenya raised its net lending to its affiliates in foreign markets by 31.6 percent to Sh83.4 billion in the year ended December, expanding its holding of the facilities which are mostly denominated in US dollars.

The bank's net exposure to other businesses owned by its Londonbased parent firm Standard Chartered Plc stood at Sh63.3 billion a year earlier.

This amounts to an increase of Sh20 billion in foreign loans, with the institution having the largest lending to affiliates among Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed banks.

StanChart had provided Sh96.1 billion worth of such loans in the

review period when it owed Sh12.7 the US. billion to the sister banks, leaving it at a net lending position of Sh83.4 billion.

It had issued Sh71.9 billion of loans to the entities a year earlier when it owed them Sh9.6 billion, resulting in net lending of Sh63.3 billion to the affiliates.

The transactions with the sister firms comprise the third largest items in StanChart's asset base after loans to ordinary customers (Sh139.4 billion) and government securities (Sh104.7 billion).

Banks with common majority shareholders often collaborate and may lend to and borrow from one another. StanChart has scores of affiliates operating in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and

Other lenders that have implemented transactions similar to those of StanChart are Stanbic Holdings and Absa Bank Kenya. Banks are required to report

the aggregate exposure to and transactions with related parties to mitigate potential risk from insider dealings.

In a few instances, Kenyan banks have made provisions of millions of shillings to cover actual or potential default by their counterparties.

Stanbic Holdings, for instance, in 2021 disclosed that it had made provisions for Sh286.3 million worth of deposits in foreign banks, which it is related to through their parent company Standard Bank of it deals with other customers.

South Africa. The amounts have been unpaid for years and are owed by Stanbic Bank Tanzania, among other related parties.

StanChart's gross foreign exposure of Sh71.9 billion in 2021 was net of a write-off of Sh13.6 million, according to the latest available disclosures.

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) prudential guidelines require bank boards of directors to approve all loans to related or connected parties.

The terms of the transactions StanChart has with its affiliate firms have not been disclosed but the company is expected to treat the sister companies the same way

been successful and occurred against a backdrop of recently improved diamond pricing, which we largely attribute to a post-Covid-19 recovery in demand from China.

"We continue to expect a supportive diamond market in the medium to longer term as a result of the structural supply deficit, while noting potential volatility in the nearterm owing to recent geopolitical and macroeconomic uncertainty," Duffy outlines.

Compared with the previous quarter, lost-time injuries and the lost-time-injury frequency rate increased to 8 and 0.47, respectively, owing largely to a single incident at the Cullinan mine in which four employees were injured. Petra has renewed its safety focus to address the quarter-on-quarter regression. Total diamond production in-

BANKING

more stable diamond pricing continued throughout the quarter.

Revenue amounted to \$67.8-million compared with \$107.8-million in the previous quarter as higher pricing at the Cullinan and Finsch mines was more than offset by tender cycle timings; the resultant inventory build is expected to be released in the next quarter.

Gross debt increased to \$248.5-million, reflecting the accrued interest charges for the three months to March 31.

Consolidated net debt of \$124.7-million, compared with \$90.8-million as at December 31, 2022, increased owing to the timing of the company's diamond sales tenders, coupled with the previously announced capital expenditure programmes for the expansion projects at Cullinan and Finsch.





Khartoum, Japan plans evacuation

KHARTOUM

AIR strikes and explosions hammered Sudan's capital on Wednesday after the failure of a US-brokered ceasefire between the army and paramilitary forces, forcing residents to stay hunkered down and prompting Japan to prepare to evacuate its citizens.

Continuous bombardments and loud blasts could be heard in central Khartoum in the area around the defense ministry compound and the airport, which has been fiercely contested and put out of action since fighting erupted at the weekend.

Thick smoke billowed into the sky.

Foreign powers including the United States have been pushing for a ceasefire between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) to allow residents trapped by the fighting to obtain desperately needed relief and supplies.

At least 270 people have been killed and 2,600 injured in the fighting, the World Health Organization said, citing Sudan's health ministry.

Both sides agreed to the ceasefire from 6.00 pm local time (1600 GMT) on

Tuesday but firing continued unabated and the army and the RSF issued statements accusing each other of failing to respect the truce.

The army's high command said its operations were ongoing to secure the capital and other regions.

One resident in the eastern edges of Khartoum said heavy fighting resumed early on Wednesday after air strikes and the pounding of artillery near her home on Tuesday. "We couldn't sleep, the only quiet was from 3 to 5 am" she said.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary said authorities were planning to use a plane from its military Self-Defense Forces to evacuate about 60 Japanese citizens currently in Sudan, in coordination with other major countries.

Power cuts, looting

Since Saturday morning, and for the first time in decades, heavy fighting has raged across Sudan's capital, a large metropolis of around 5.5 million people, with millions more living in sister cities Omdurman and Bahri that lie across the White and Blue Niles.

The fighting has derailed the latest



math of fighting between the Sudanese army and paramilitary forces led by rival generals. AFP

internationally backed plan for a transition to a civilian democracy, four years after the fall of Islamist autocrat Omar al-Bashir and two years after a military coup.

The violence risks drawing in actors from Sudan's neighbourhood who have backed different factions, and could also play into competition between Russia and the United States for regional influence.

Widespread disruption of power and water supplies caused by the fighting has left residents struggling in the final days of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast between dawn and dusk, and has put most hospitals out of service.

Khartoum residents were asked to limit their electricity usage, as the state's distribution authority said the servers that manage online purchases of power were out of service.

Engineers cannot reach the area where the servers are located because it is too dangerous, it said in a statement.

Offices and schools have been shut in Khartoum since the fighting began, there have been widespread reports of looting and assault, and long queues have been forming at bakeries that are still functioning.

"Most goods aren't available. People are looking for things but they can't find them," said one resident in Bahri who gave only his

first name, Mohamed.

Humanitarian impact

United Nations agencies say many of their programmes across the vast country, already in a precarious humanitarian situation, have been suspended.

Ahmed Omer, a communications coordinator at the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) based in Al Oadarif in eastern Sudan, said the clashes had quashed his hopes of visiting his parents in Khartoum for the end of Ramadan.

"We were all hopeful that peace was upcoming and a government would be formed," he said. "They dashed all the dreams of Sudanese youth and the Sudanese revolution."

The fighting, which pits Sudan's military leader General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan against RSF chief General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, followed rising tensions over a plan for the RSF's integration into the regular military.

Burhan heads a ruling council installed after the 2021 military coup and the 2019 ouster of Bashir, while Dagalo - better known as Hemedti - was his deputy on the ruling council.

Discord over the timetable for that process delayed the signing of the framework deal to launch a civilian transition that was due to be signed earlier this month.

Agencies

With swift economic recovery, China remains magnet for global firms

BEIJING

WITH faster-than-expected economic growth in the first quarter of 2023, China continues to exert a powerful pull for foreign investment, defying the so-called "decoupling" from the country and providing boons to the global economy

China's gross domestic product grew 4.5 percent year on year to 28.5 trillion yuan (about 4.14 trillion U.S. dollars) in the first three months, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed Tuesday. The pace has accelerated from 3 percent in 2022 and 2.9 percent in the fourth quarter of last vear.

This indicates a promising start for the Chinese economy, proving that China has the full capacity to drive sustained economic improvement through the precise implementation of macroeconomic policies, unlocking the potential of domestic demand, deepening reforms, and opening up.

The robust recovery of the world's second-largest economy underpins its attractiveness for global investors. The attraction is also rooted in China's intrinsic benefits of a huge market, its industrial and supply chains, and its reform and opening up.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, foreign direct investment (FDI) into the Chinese mainland, in actual use, rose 6.1 percent year on year to 268.44 billion yuan in the first two months of 2023. The country's FDI inflow increased to 1.23 trillion yuan in 2022.

China is dedicated to expanding high-standard openingup and domestic demand, as well as improving the consumption environment. This commitment will not only boost its consumption, but also generate fresh prospects for the economic growth of other countries.

With the full resumption of on-site activities, the ongoing 133rd China Import and Export Fair, or Canton Fair, in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, has attracted a record number of participating companies and hundreds of thousands of purchasers from over 220 countries and regions. The third China International Consumer Products Expo, which concluded on Saturday in Haikou, south China's Hainan Province, saw a record-high 320,000 visits and attracted more than 3,300 brands from 65 countries and regions.

Enterprises have a major say in the vitality of the Chinese economy, and international companies are expanding their business in the country.

Airbus, a leading aircraft manufacturer, will establish a second final-assembly line in north China's Tianjin. The first assembly line started operations in 2008, and it has since assembled over 600 aircraft of the A320 family.

U.S. carmaker Tesla Inc. has unveiled plans to build a new mega factory in Shanghai, which will be dedicated to manufacturing the company's energy-storage product Megapack. The factory will initially produce 10,000 Megapack units every year, equal to approximately 40 GWh of energy storage.

Against the backdrop of a gloomy global economy struggling with inflation and slow growth projections, international companies are increasing investment in China to attain mutual benefits and win-win outcomes.

German corporations invested a record 11.5 billion euros (about 12.54 billion U.S. dollars) in China in 2022, according to a German Economic Institute report released in late March.

UN predicts Afghan economy would contract if aid drops 30%

AFGHANISTAN'S economy will contract, inflation will rise and liquidity will fall if there is a 30 percent drop in international aid as feared, according to an analysis by the United Nations' development agency released on Tuesday.

International officials say aid to Afghanistan, the recipient of the world's largest humanitarian program, will drop sharply this in a poverty trap." year as donors assess global cri-

"This will cause an exchange rate devaluation, another contraction in liquidity, banks and informal credit will face more problems ... inflation will go up and domestic demands will go down, leading to more poverty and less growth," Abdallah Al Dardari, UNDP's Resident Representative for Afghanistan, told Reuters. "The country finds itself

Per capita annual incomes ses and because of restrictions could fall to \$306 in 2024 - repre-



forces and development aid withdrew in 2021, but still failing to keep pace with more than 2 percent population growth.

The Taliban administration's order banning most female NGO workers in December followed by a decision to restrict Afghan women from working at the United Nations this month have exacerbated fears that donors would turn away from Afghanistan. The UN has told Afghan staff not to come to the office while it re-

on female aid workers imposed by the Taliban administration.

The United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) anadrop in aid and found gross domestic product for the already struggling economy would shrink 0.4 percent this year.

US guns, many of them exported legally,

are flowing into Latin America in an "iron

river" ending in the hands of drug cartels

and abusive security forces, activists said

Monday, calling for greater oversight from

More than half of "crime guns" recovered

and traced in Central America are sourced

from the United States, according to US gun

control agency ATF. This level nears 70 per-

cent for Mexico and is around 80 percent

"It's called the iron river and it's flooding

countries to the south," Elizabeth Burke of

US non-profit Global Action on Gun Vio-

lence said at an event organized by the Cen-

Burke called for rules preventing manu-

facturers from selling to dealers with lax

ter for American Progress in Washington.

US law and federal agencies.

across the Caribbean.

senting a 40 percent drop since 2020 and placing the country among the poorest in the world. Afghanistan's humanitarian lyzed the impact of a 30 pecent aid plan is only 5 percent funded for 2023, with \$251 million committed out of \$4.6 billion requested.

An Afghan burqa-clad woman walks with children along a street in Argo district of Badakhshan province on April 13, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

cent," said Al Dardari.

Activists: US must stem 'iron river' of guns flowing to LatAm

larger drop in aid than 30 per- was projected to grow 1.3 percent, making up some ground If aid continued at \$3.7 billion, after plummeting since the Tali-"We may find ourselves in a received last year, the economy ban came to power and foreign

views its operations.

Taliban officials have said their decisions on female aid workers are an "internal issue" and that foreign governments should reduce restrictions and unfreeze central bank assets to alleviate the economic crisis.

Agencies

Medvedev cautions South Korea against weapons supplies to Kiev

MOSCOW

Xinhua

THE deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev, has warned of the dangers South Korea's plans to supply weapons to Ukraine are fraught with.

"There have emerged new enthusiasts eager to help our enemies. South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol has said that in principle his country is ready to supply the Kiev regime with weapons," Medvedev said on his Telegram channel on Wednesday.

"Until recently, the South Koreans had vehemently assured that any possibility of supplying lethal weapons to Kiev was completely ruled out," he recalled.

"I wonder what the people of that country will say when they see Russia's latest weapons in the hands of their closest neighbors - our partners in the DPRK?" Medvedev asked.

"As they say, quid pro quo," he described such a situation

South Korea's President Yoon Suk-yeol, in an interview with Reuters published yesterday, did not rule out that Seoul might agree to supply weapons to Ukraine, if there was a serious threat to its population or if the laws of war were flagrantly violated. Agencies



distribution practices. Manufacturers should also stop selling armor-piercing weapons and guns that can easily be modified to shoot hundreds of bullets at a time,

she said.

John Lindsay-Poland, an activist from Stop US Arms to Mexico, added that lax license rules and enforcement helped facilitate the cross-border flow of arms - including military-grade weapons desired by cartels.

"Why would we be arming the very people that we say we are fighting?" he said, calling for more controls at the start of the supply chains.

Sixteen US states and a handful of Caribbean governments last month expressed support for Mexico's appeal in a civil lawsuit against US gun manufacturers, which seeks to hold them responsible for facilitating the trafficking of deadly weapons.

US gunmakers have maintained that they sell firearms legally to Americans who pass

a background check.

US government figures show last year that income from legal firearm shipments to Latin America increased 8 percent, with most sales going to Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala and Colombia.

The National Rifle Association and the State Department did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

"We don't want more tragedies in our families," said Maria Herrera, who founded a national collective investigating the many forced disappearances in Mexico and where the number of gun homicides is surging.

"It destroys lives, breaks families apart, fills communities with pain and panic," Herrera said at the event. "We can't live like this.'

Democracy a common value of humanity, not prerogative reserved to few "noise."

THE United States recently held the so-called second "Summit for Democracy," which was said to be an "ideological" meeting by U.S. media.

At the summit, the U.S. government once again acted to split the world into two camps of what it defined as "democracies and non-democracies." However, the U.S., claiming supremacy over others and following hegemony to serve the interests of none other than itself, has nothing to do with democracy. What it does is to provoke bloc confrontation.

There is no democratic system that can claim to be superior to others. No country is qualified to act as the judge of democracy. All peoples should and are able to independently develop a path of democracy with the characteristics of their own country,

thus contributing their wisdom and are no identical political systems in strength to enriching the diversity of democracy. Democracy means "rule by the peo-

ple" or "sovereignty of the people." It is not abstract, but a concrete phenomenon that is constantly evolving. There is no fixed model of democracy. Every form of democracy is the result of the development of human political civilization under certain historical conditions.

There are more than 200 countries and regions, and over 2,500 ethnic groups in the world. Different histories, national conditions, ethnic groups and customs give birth to different civilizations. Such diversity and differences have decided that there the future and destiny of the country.

the world, and neither is there a political model that fits all.

Each country's political system is unique based on different national conditions. A country's political system is chosen by its people and is the result of a long-term process of evolution and improvement on the basis of its history, cultural traditions, and economic and social development.

History and reality have shown time and again that copying other countries' political systems and democratic models will not work. More importantly, it will even lead to social unrest, national division, deaths and the overthrow of regimes, and ruin

Many non-Western countries developed their democratic systems based on the basic principle of democracy and their national conditions, thus achieving sound governance.

From a historical perspective, the development of democracy in the U.S. was a step forward. However, over the years, its democracy has become alienated and degenerated, and it has increasingly deviated from the essence of democracy and its original design. The halo of its self-proclaimed "global beacon of democracy" has long lost its luster.

The U.S. today is troubled with messy and chaotic practices of democracy, and the nature of money politics and oligarchy is constantly

exposed. According to OpenSecrets statistics, the total cost of the 2022 state and federal midterm elections was nearly \$17 billion, the highest in history, exceeding the annual GDP of over 70 countries in 2021.

Democracy is meant to be used to solve problems faced by the people. However, the governance capability of American democracy has been on a constant decline.

Politicians run on slogans and empty promises, but never make good on their promises. Most ordinary voters are mobilized only in voting, and then they are neglected and cannot have any real influence on political decisions. Their voices and appeals for democracy are even considered a

This has led to a growing disillusionment with American democracy. Americans' pride in their democracy has dropped sharply, from 90% in 2002 to 54% in 2022, according to a joint Washington Post-University of Maryland survey. A Pew Center poll said 65 percent of Americans believe that the American democratic system needs major reforms, while 57 percent of respondents believe the U.S. is no longer a model of democracy.

Democracy is the right of the people in every country, rather than the prerogative of a few nations. Assessing the myriad political systems in the world against a single yardstick and examining diverse political structures in monochrome are in themselves undemocratic. People's Daily

WORLD NEWS

A farmland visitor and the vision for China's food security

BEIJING

ON Sept. 13, 2021, Gao Zhizhou experienced an unforgettable stroke of serendipity. While he was buried amid flourishing crops, busy managing weeds, he was surprised by an unexpected visitor -- President Xi Jinping.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, was on his way to Gaoxigou, a once-impoverished village in the northwestern province of Shaanxi, for inspection.

While driving alongside the road, the sprawling farmland under the early autumn sun caught Xi's attention, prompting him to stop by the fields.There, he picked up earheads of millet and squeezed corn to check the growth of autumn grain.

This is where Xi chatted with Gao and his other fellow villagers."Have you intercropped the grain with soybeans?" Xi asked."Not this year. There was not much rain," Gao replied."The general secretary understood our dialect. And he knows about the lives of us farmers very well," the villager recounted his encounter with Xi.

familiar with the local dialect and the life of a farmer.

In 1969, during his teenage years, Xi moved to Liangjiahe, an impoverished Shaanxi village about 150 km away from Gaoxigou. He lived and worked there for seven years and witnessed firsthand how the villagers struggled to provide for themselves.

At that time, he wanted more than anything to make it possible for the villagers to "have meat on their plates."During his inspection trip to Gaoxigou, Xi expressed great satisfaction in seeing the significant improvements in the lives of rural communities living on the Loess Plateau.

Thanks to the decades-long ecological conservation efforts led by the CPC, Gaoxigou, which was once marred by severe soil erosion, is now covered in lush green vegetation.

Trees, grass and crops now thrive on what was once barren land, and the days of food scarcity for Gaoxigou's residents are now a thing of the past."Today, we can have white flour, rice and meat if we want," the villagers told Xi.

Since assuming the Party's top job in November 2012, Xi had been to visited national political advisors and



Aerial photo taken on Sept. 10, 2021 shows the scenery of Gaoxigou Village in Mizhi County, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, (Xinhua/Tao Ming)

trips across the country, setting an example of conducting fact-finding research. Over the years, his initial goal of ensuring that locals had enough to eat has evolved into a more ambitious vision of securing China's food supply. During last year's "two sessions," Xi It is not at all surprising that Xi is farmlands during multiple inspection called for adopting an all-encompass-

ing approach to food, which was also written into the report to the 20th CPC National Congress last October.

"While ensuring grain supply, we must also guarantee an effective supply of various food items, including meat, vegetables, fruits, and aquatic products. None of them should be lacking," Xi told the political advisors, emphasiz-

ing that food security is an issue that goes beyond the cultivation of crops alone.

Visiting the Yazhou Bay Seed Laboratory while inspecting south China's Hainan Province in April 2022, Xi stressed the importance of pursuing agricultural technological breakthroughs to achieve self-dependence in the seed sector.

"We should rely on Chinese seeds to ensure China's food security," he said.During his inspection to south China's Guangdong Province last week, Xi visited a mariculture base where he called for elaborate efforts in developing the breeding industry as it serves as the foundation for modern agriculture and aquaculture development.

He underscored the importance of making use of both land and sea resources to produce food for the people.

The latest trip followed the launch of a Party-wide campaign to conduct in-depth research and study to identify and resolve major problems that could hamper China's high-quality development and modernization drive.

Xinhua

Zimbabwe marks 43rd independence anniversary Biden calls Black teen who got shot after knocking on wrong door

HARARE

ZIMBABWE marked its 43rd independence anniversary on Tuesday with President Emmerson Mnangagwa saluting liberation and post-independence efforts as the country forges ahead to become a middle-income economy by 2030.

In his speech at the main celebrations in Mount Darwin, about 156 km north of Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, Mnangagwa said this year's independence celebrations were more special as they came against the background of food security and food sovereignty.

"This 2022/2023 season, our country is projecting over 3.2 million metric tonnes of cereals against an annual requirement of 2.2 million metric tonnes. This momentum will be sustained and the successes consolidated," Mnangagwa said.

"Together, as one united and hard-working people, we have attained food security and food sovereignty." He said in spite of the many hurdles that Zimbabwe has faced, including 23 years of illegal Western sanctions, the country remains steadfast and determined to achieve its development goals.

To date, the Zimbabwean government had implemented about 7,000 high-impact, life-changing projects since 2018 as a bedrock to lifting Zimbabweans out of poverty, he said. Economic stability

and inflation control will continue to be fostered to ensure sustained growth, Mnangagwa said, noting that last year's foreign currency earnings were the highest ever for the country.

"Let us continue to fully utilize our internal resources to modernize and industrialize our country for a higher quality of life for all our people," he said.

Zimbabweans, he stressed, should recognize and his family" on Monday night."No parent that they have the onerous responsibility to develop their country, as echoed by the national mantra after ringing the wrong doorbell," he continued. and the theme for this year's independence celebrations: "Brick upon brick."

As it was during the country's struggle for independence from Britain, friends and partners are welcome to assist Zimbabwe but, on its terms, and according to its priorities, Mnangagwa said. "Together in unity, we will guard and defend our independence, we will work hard for the prosperity of the people of Zimbabwe.

Long Live our independence!" Mnangagwa declared before thousands of people gathered in Mount Darwin for the celebrations. This year marks the second time that Zimbabwe held the main celebrations outside the capital of Harare after the government decided to decentralize the event. Xinhua

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that he has called the Black teen who got shot in Kansas City, Missouri, after knocking on a wrong door.

Biden (pictured) tweeted on Tuesday afternoon that he "had a chance to call Ralph Yarl should have to worry that their kid will be shot

"We've got to keep up the fight against gun violence." Biden also suggested that he would invite Yarl, 16, to the White House once he feels better.Yarl was shot twice by Andrew Lester, of Kansas City, on the night of April 13 after the teen approached the wrong house while picking up his siblings.

Lester, an 84-year-old White man, was charged on Monday with assault in the first degree and armed criminal action. He turned himself in on Tuesday afternoon, according to the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Lester reportedly told investigators that he had gone to bed when the doorbell rang, and he went to the door armed with a revolver.

According to the probable cause document obtained by U.S. media outlets, Lester thought

his home was being broken into and he fired twice through the glass door.Officers responded before 10 p.m. that night after receiving reports of a shooting.

When they arrived, they found Yarl wounded in the street.Demonstrators have marched through Kansas City, demanding justice for Yarl who has been released from the hospital after

being treated for gunshot wounds. Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas said that he believes Yarl was racially profiled by the shooter, stressing that "this boy was shot because he was existing while Black. "Clay County Prosecuting Attorney Zachary Thompson has also said, "There was a racial component to this case."

Attorneys for Yarl's family -- Ben Crump and Lee Merritt -- said in a statement on Monday that "gun violence against unarmed Black individuals must stop."

"Our children should feel safe, not as though they are being hunted," the lawyers added.Firearms are the number one cause of death for children in the United States, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation analysis released last year. Xinhua

Third minister in Uganda detained over alleged theft of iron sheets KAMPALA

THE Ugandan police on Tuesday detained a third minister over ongoing investigations into alleged abuse of office and theft of metal roofing iron sheets meant for vulnerable people in the restive northeastern region, also known as Karamoja.

Polly Namaye, the deputy spokesperson for the Uganda Police Force, said in a statement that Agnes Nandutu, state minister for Karamoja, is being held at Kira Division Police Station in the central district of Wakiso.

"The minister handed herself over to the police at the CID (Criminal Investigations Directorate) headquarters in Kibuli, where she was assigned detectives to take her statement," Namaye said.

"The file has been submitted to the office of the DPP (Director of Public Prosecutions) for further guidance and possible sanctioning." Nandutu becomes the third minister to be detained over alleged corruption, fraud, diversion and theft of iron sheets meant for young pastoralists under the Karamoja Community Empowerment Program.

On Monday, Amos Lugoloobi, state minister for finance and planning, was charged with two counts of dealing with suspect property. He was remanded to Luzira Maximum Security Prison in the national capital of Kampala until April 20, when he will return to court for his bail application proceedings.

Mary Kitutu, minister for Karamoja Affairs, was arraigned and charged with corruption and conspiracy to commit a felony on April 7.

It is alleged that more than 14,500 out of 100,000 iron sheets procured for the Karamoja Community Empowerment Programme were diverted to the benefit of third parties, mainly ministers, political leaders, or their relatives.

Uganda President Yoweri Museveni has expressed his commitment to taking political action once the police and anti-corruption agencies complete their investigations.

Guardian

Kiev striving to make most out of grain deal,

Local legislative outreach office in Shanghai puts whole-process people's democracy in great practice demanding bribes from ship owners – MFA

DEVELOPING whole-process people's democracy is one of the essential requirements of Chinese modernization. Shanghai, while building itself into a modern socialist metropolis, has integrated whole-process people's democracy into its urban development, trying to set a great example for practicing whole-process people's democracy.

Recently, a discussion on a draft revision to China's Charity Law was hosted in a community cafeteria along the Hongqiao Road, Changning district of Shanghai, joined by a number of local residents. This cafeteria was designated as a meeting room for view seeking on legislation by the local legislative outreach office of Hongqiao sub-district.

The local legislative outreach office of Hongqiao subdistrict was established in 2015 by the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, one of the earliest in the country. It enables citizens to take part in the country's legislation just near their homes.

The office has solicited public opinions for a number of laws, including a draft amendment to the Individual Income Tax Law and a draft amendment to the Law on the Protection of Minors.

In particular, it heard 64 opinions from the local resi-Tax Law and submitted 25 to its superior department. Three were adopted finally. With regard to the draft amendment to the Law on the Protection of Minors, the office solicited 67 public opinions and submitted 50 of them, including 9 that were adopted.

Zhu Guoping, who runs a community service studio in Changning district, has been working in Hongqiao subdistrict for decades. She became an "information officer" of the local legislative outreach office when it was established, and joined opinion collection for many draft revisions to laws.

Zhu said the local legislative outreach office needs to turn legal terms into easy language, so that residents can make suggestions centering on the laws being discussed. Besides, it also needs to turn public opinions, which are mostly colloquial, into precise legal expressions.

The office is where the public and professionalism merge. Its first discussion was on a draft version of counter domestic violence law. At the beginning of the discussion, participating residents were confused by legal terms involved, such as "statutory agent" and "lawbased.'

"They might not understand legal terms, but they have tive outreach office of Hongqiao sub-



dents on the draft amendment to the Individual Income "Information officers" from all walks of life exchange ideas at the Gubei Civic Center in Hongqiao sub-district, Shanghai. (Photo from Shanghai Observer)

has joined three such discussions, during which her task was to "translate" legal terms into popular lan-

guage. According to her, participating residents would always become talkative as soon as they found, through her paraphrasing, that the legal terms were actually about everyday affairs.

As the view seeking on legislation sees higher and higher public enthusiasm and draws wider and wider participation, the opinions received have become more targeted. Both the number and quality of opinions are on a rise, and the local residents are getting more sense of fulfillment and higher satisfaction of livelihood.

As of this January, the local legisla-

rich life experiences," said Wu Xinhui, district had solicited public opinions director of a law firm in Shanghai. She on a total of 78 laws and submitted 1,926 opinions to its superior department. Among them, 163 were adopt-



As the view seeking on legislation sees higher and higher public enthusiasm and draws wider and wider participation, the opinions received have become more targeted

MOSCOW

THE Kiev regime is seeking to exploit the Black Sea initiative with might and main, not shunning either the abuse of fairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, the rules of procedure or demands for bribes from shipowners. This is stated in the comments by Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, which was released yestersday.

"Currently, the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) in Istanbul is indeed experiencing difficulties with registering new vessels and conducting inspections. They arise solely as a pressed a belief that is striking in its abresult of actions by Ukrainian representatives as well as UN officials who are apparently unwilling or unable to stand up to them," she pointed out.

"Having finally discarded not only humanitarian considerations, but even elementary human decency, they (the Kiev regime - TASS) are striving to make the most out of the Black Sea Initiative stooping to anything from outright abuse of the rules of procedure to demanding bribes from the ship owners, doing all of the above for the sake of maximizing commercial profits," the diplomat added.

As Zakharova noted, the owners of incoming ships who under the grain deal. Washington is no refused to pay a bribe are forced to wait for registration for many months.

"Outgoing dry cargo ships that have paid also have to wait for the inspection, because once they receive the money the Ukrainians lose interest in them. This situation stems from the fact that in line with the current practices (importantly, not the rules of procedure), the process for obtaining applications for registration under the Black Sea Initiative is in the hands of the Ukrainians, while the UN is in charge of the inspection plans (for the entry and exit of ships)," she went on.

Under these circumstances, the registration of ships, which Russian experts carry out strictly within the approved rules of procedure and their respective powers, is the only way to restore order to some extent and to build a fair and transparent basis for participating in the initiative, the diplomat stressed.

"However, our proposal to add to the registration lists the ships which will then sail to the countries in need, in particular Africa, as well as those that have been waiting in line for more than one month, was met with hostility by Ukrainian representatives. Kiev was not ready to jeopardize its commercial corruption schemes. As a result, the Ukrainians first blocked the registration process having disagreed with our proposals, and then suspended all inspections, including in- ing commercial appetites and fulfilling spections of outgoing ships (27 ships with 1.2 million tons of their goals of filling their warehouses cargo on board). It is clear what they are banking on: launch- with cheap Ukrainian grain," the diploing a propaganda machine and playing the food card with the mat concluded. help of Westerners and the UN," she noted.

West's reaction

As the diplomat pointed out, the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Afand then US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced that Russia allegedly broke its promises to the countries in need of grain and blocked 50 ships in the Black Sea.

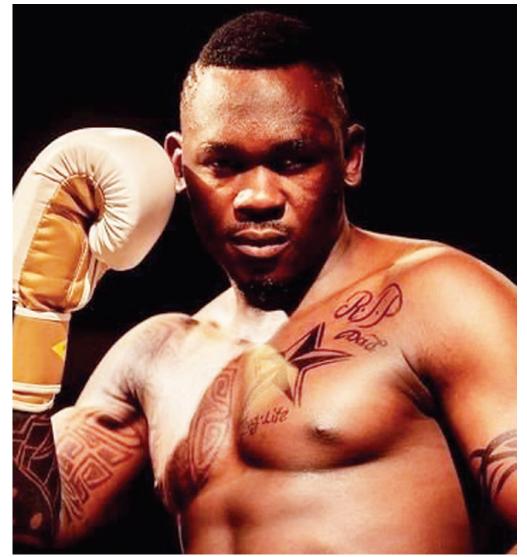
"The EU did not stop there and exsurdity and amateurishness: the sanctions imposed on Russia are so well calibrated and balanced that they do not interfere with Russia's agricultural exports, an example of which is the supply of Russian grain under the Black Sea Initiative," Zakharova said.

"Unfortunately, Brussels still has not figured out that only Ukrainian food is being exported across the Black Sea stranger to issuing valuable tips to other countries about their obligations, completely forgetting about its own," she added

According to Zakharova, the Europeans have shown complete disregard for the countries' needs for grain and fertilizers.

"Clearly, the Ukrainians and Westerners no longer trouble themselves with either analyzing compliance with the Black Sea Initiative (not to mention the failure to act upon the Russia-UN Memorandum), or making any attempts to comply with their own high-flown statements about global food security. Having, in fact, trampled upon the original humanitarian goals of the Istanbul package agreements and shown complete disregard for the countries' needs for grain and fertilizers, the Europeans threw all their weight into satisfying Kiev's grow-





Tanzania's professional Super Middleweight boxer Twaha Kassim.

Morogoro boxer to fight Georgian in international non-title bout

By Correspondent Guardian Correspondent

GEORGIAN professional boxer Iago Kiziria was yesterday expected to head to Morogoro to come up against Tanzanian Twaha Kassim in an international non-title bout slated for Saturday.

Kiziria, fighting in the Light Heavyweight division, arrived in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday for the fight scheduled for eight rounds.

Speaking to reporters in the city on the day, Peaktime Media's Information Coordinator Victor Denis, whose firm has organized the fight, said preparations for the showdown have been completed.

"The boxer will arrive in the country at 10:00 pm and head to Morogoro to prepare for his historic fight," Denis disclosed.

The coordinator said that eight bouts involving male and female boxers have been lined up for the fight day.

In some of the supporting bouts, Denis pointed out, Arusha's Sara Alex will take on Flora Machela of Dar es Salaam in the women's bout.

The official noted that Kiziria has been accompanied by Tanzanian pugilist, Loren Japhet,

SPORTS

Kagera Sugar eyes top 10 finish in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KAGERA Sugar head coach Mecky Mexime has said that he has grand plans for the remaining duels of this season's NBC Premier League aiming to garner top 10 finish.

The Kagera-based team lost its last game against Yanga, conceding a 5-0 loss at Azam Complex Stadium, Chamazi in Dar es Salaam last week to put itself under pressure after experiencing two consecutive losses. The team had also lost 2-0 to Kinondoni Municipal Council FC on March 9.

Maxime said that they realize they committed mistakes in their previous games which gives them focus to prepare for their next fixture.

The gaffer called upon his players to commit themselves to the remaining four games to collect maximum points.

The sugar millers have two home games against Mbeya City FC and Tanzania Prisons followed by two final league fixtures against Mtibwa Sugar and Ihefu SC.

Mexime pointed out that the two games slated to take place in front of their home fans will be very important to ensure that they finish in a good position before experiencing pressure in the last two games.

The former defender revealed: "The next two matches are very important for us to make sure we finish in the top 10 places in the league."

"If you look at the standings, there are many teams with few points difference starting from the eighth-placed to a club placed 16th."

The tactician noted: "We are not yet safe, if we lose two matches, we may find ourselves either in the relegation zone or the relegation/promotion playoff spots, something we do not want to encounter." He stated: "We didn't have a good



Kagera Sugar's footballers warm up before coming up against Coastal Union in a 2022/23

NBC Premier League clash that took place at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga recently.

"It is a lesson for us... now what we are doing is preparing ourselves to be strong for the next matches." He noted: "The players have effort and their competence is great, that's why they are participating in the league."

"We will work to get good results because football is a technique game and sometimes it has different results," he said.

Kagera Sugar is sitting eighth in the 16-club Premier League log with 32 points from 26 games played. The squad boasts eight wins, a draw in eight outings, and 10 losses, scoring 22 goals, and allowing 30 in the process with four games to go.

A struggling Mbeya City FC, which has won one game in the last five losing four games while sitting in the relegation playoffs spot, is Kagera Sugar's next opponent.

Singida Big Star coach defends striker's goal drought

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Big Stars head coach Hans van der Pluijm has defended the club's striker Francis Kazadi following the forward's failure to score a single goal in this season's NBC Premier League since his arrival in the January transfer window.

particularly with a good team with higher standards and he used to play in good stadiums, so here it is a little difficult for him," the Dutch coach noted.

"Any new player needs to get used to the environment quickly so that he can do his job, I have trust in him that he is a player who is dedicated and ready to fight for the team, and with

currently based in Ghana, who will fight compatriot, Dar es Salaam-based Juma Choki.

He called on Tanzanians and the sport's stakeholders to come out in large numbers to witness the entertainment that will take place on the day.

Kiziria's record currently stands at seven victories (five Knockouts), and defeat in nine bouts. He is of late the number one ranked boxer in the Light Heavyweight division in his country much as the boxer is seemingly experienced in professional boxing.

The boxer moreover holds 98th place in the category, consisting of 1,329 pugilists globally, as per Boxrec, a network that holds records of boxers from across the world.

In his recent two bouts, Kiziria won one and lost the other. He registered a Knockout victory over Martin Houben in the seventh round of the scheduled 10-round bout held in Duesseldorf, Germany on November 19 last year.

The Georgian boxer earlier succumbed to loss to Kazakhstan pugilist, Bekzad Nurdauletov, as the latter garnered a unanimous decision win in the eight-round fight held in Lublin, Poland on October 1 last year.

He will come up against a much more experienced fighter in Kassim, alias 'Kiduku', as the latter, a feared Super Middleweight fighter, boasts wins in 21 fights eight of which came through KO, loss in eight, and one bout was declared a draw.

President Samia reaffirms government's support for sports

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has reaffirmed her government's full support for the development of sports in the country.

The President said so in her congratulatory message to Tanzanian marathoner, Gabriel Geay, who ended second in this year's edition of the Boston International Marathon that took place in the USA on Monday.

Geay clocked 2.06.04 in the marathon which attracts the cream of world athletics competitors and it is one of the most sought-after marathon events in the world.

The President stated in her message: "Congratulations to you Gabriel Gerald Geay for finishing second in the Boston International Marathon which was held today (Monday) in the United States of America (USA)."

She pointed out: "Your efforts have brought honour to Tanzania, I'm wishing you all the best in your progressive endeavours."

"The government will continue supporting sports," President Samia stressed in the post on her official Instagram account.

After Geay had taken second place in the Boston International Marathon, many institutions and individuals sent him congratulatory messages, with National Sports Council (NSC) as one of them.

"Congratulations to Gabriel Geay for coming second in the Boston International Marathon, we wish you well, 'Kazi Iendelee'," part of the congratulatory message from NSC noted.

Athletics Tanzania also congratulated the athlete, saying: "Congrats to your coach, your manager, NSC, Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports, we expect a lot from you in the Budapest Marathon, Hungary on August 23 and 2024 Paris Olympics."

Since President Samia came to power two years ago, her government has been supporting sports, it for instance, saw to it that sportspersons from all sporting disciplines representing the country in the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham garnered support from the government.

The Congolese striker started to hit the right notes after starting on a high once he joined the club, only to drop down in the pecking order midway through the season.

Kazadi is the top scorer of the 2023 Mapinduzi Cup, scoring six goals in the tournament that took place in Zanzibar in January.

Despite proving his worth in the Isles showdown, the goalgetter has found himself in a difficult time in Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League.

Pluijm disclosed what hinders the striker is his failure to quickly adapt to the Premier League and the environment, having so far spent four months in the country.

The Dutch instead showered praise on the attacker, maintaining he is a good player and predicting that he will do well when he gets used to the Premier League.

"I think when it comes to players, it's been the case of adaptation. Players learn differently. Some will find it difficult to settle in quickly," the gaffer pointed out.

"Getting used to the environment quickly is the biggest challenge for him, I understand he came from a league and

patience, he will deliver," Pluijm disclosed.

Kazadi joined Singida Big Stars during this season's minitransfer window as a free agent from El Masry of Egypt.

The goal-getter is further experienced in Arab football having played for Morocco's Sporting Club Chabab Mohammédia and Wydad Casablanca, and Egypt's El Masry and El Gaish.

In the 2023 Mapinduzi tournament that culminated with Zanzibar's Mlandege FC lifting silverware with a win over Singida Big Stars, Kazadi scored six goals against Azam FC (four), Yanga and Mlandege FC scoring one goal in either tie.

Singida Big Stars' stellar performances have seen them climb to third place in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League.

The club is nevertheless out of the NBC Premier League title race with Simba SC and Yanga in the front seat for the pursuit of league glory.

The Singida-based squad lately seeks a top-four finish in the league standings and clinch this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup silverware.



Singida Big Stars FC's head coach, Hans van der Pluijm. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SINGIDA BIG STARS

SPORTS

Martial handed chance to salvage Man Utd career on Sevilla return

LONDON

ANTHONY Martial was shipped out on loan to Sevilla last season with his Manchester United career seemingly at an end, but the Frenchman has returned to prominence in time for a Europa League reunion with the Spanish club.

An injury to Marcus Rashford means Martial will likely lead United's attack on his return to the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan today with a place in the Europa League semi-finals on the line.

Two late United own goals in the first leg at Old Trafford have left the tie against the Europa League specialists finely poised at 2-2.

Martial played a major part as United shot into a 2-0 lead thanks to Marcel Sabitzer's double inside the first 21 minutes.

But the Austrian midfielder could be one of a number of players unavailable to Erik ten Hag for the return leg, putting pressure on Martial to step up.

Sabitzer pulled up with an injury in the warm-up prior to Sunday's 2-0 win at Nottingham Forest.

First-choice centrebacks RaphaelVarane and Lisandro Martinez are also missing for the trip to Spain after picking up injuries in the first leg.

The biggest blow of all, though, could be the absence of Bruno Fernandes due to suspension.

Fernandes shone as he was reunited with Christan Eriksen and Casemiro in midfield at the City Ground.

In 17 matches where all three have started, United have won 15 and drawn two.

- Unrealised potential -

Injury problems have also minimised Martial's impact this season and been the story of his United career.

The world's most expensive teenager when he was signed from Monaco in 2015, the 27-yearold has never truly realised his potential despite scoring 86 goals for the club in 288 appearances.

His time at Sevilla was even less fruitful.

Having been pushed down the pecking order by Cristiano Ronaldo's return for a second spell at United, Martial sought first-team football in Spain, but scored just once in 12 appearances in the second half of last season.

Ronaldo's departure last year has given Martial a final chance to rekindle his career at Old Trafford.

But fitness problems have limited his impact to just 19 appearances in United's gruelling 51-match campaign to this point.

United boss ten Hag, though, has remained steadfast in his support as he desperately seeks a firing number nine.

Rashford's 28 goals - his best ever return in a single season have papered over the cracks for United.

However, the England international has spoken of his preference to start from a wide left position rather than through the middle.

Ten Hag's patience with Wout Weghorst has also run out in recent weeks after the Dutch international scored just twice in 22 games.

"When he is fit our team plays better," said Ten Hag on Martial's impact.

"He's an incredibly good player. He can link up, keeps the ball, also the pressing is good. He will score goals, he is capable of scoring goals. He can finish no doubt about that."

Martial has netted seven times at a rate of a goal every 133 minutes under Ten Hag.

Yet, he has plenty to prove if United are to be convinced of extending his contract beyond the end of next season.

Ten Hag's men face a huge week in their quest for a hat-trick of trophies as the League Cup winners face Brighton in the FA Cup semi-finals on their return from Seville.

Few would have imagined 12 months ago that the English giants would be relying on Martial for goals at the business end of the campaign.

But needs must for Ten Hag, offering the enigmatic Frenchman most likely his final chance to become a hero for the Red Devils. AFP

Kahraba stars as Ahly eye African title after surviving scare

BY DAVID LEGGE

EGYPTIAN giants Al Ahly will hope for more goals from Mahmoud Kahraba as they chase a record-extending 11th CAF Champions League title having survived a huge groupstage scare.

Ahly host three-time title winners Raja Casablanca this weekend in the most attractive quarter-final pairing, with the return match in Morocco seven days later.

But in mid March it seemed Kahraba and his teammates would be following the knockout stage of the premier African club competition on TV rather than participating.

The Cairo Red Devils were five points adrift of the second and last qualifying place in Group B, and there were only two rounds remaining.

But four goals from Kahraba helped Ahly to convincing victories over Coton Sport of Cameroon and Al Hilal of Sudan and second place behind Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa.

Hussein el Shahat was another Egyptian to pack a goalmouth punch, scoring twice against Hilal, who missed a penalty in the previous round against Sundowns that would have eliminated Ahly.

Winners of 23 CAF titles in four competitions, Ahly thrived against Hilal partly due to the backing from 50,000 of the most fanatical football supporters in Africa.

Egyptian authorities, who often restrict crowds to 10,000 or less for security reasons, have agreed to a 52,000 crowd for the visit of Raja and the tickets were quickly sold out.

While Ahly had an unexpectedly tough passage to the round of eight, Raja cruised through their minileague, winning five matches, drawing the other, scoring 17 goals and conceding three.

Though vastly superior to Simba of Tanzania, Horoya of Guinea and Vipers of Uganda, the Moroccans did not face as strong a level of opposition as Ahly.

- Multi Raja threats -

What Raja do possess, under Tunisian coach Mondher Kebaier, is many potential scorers with 12, led by five-goal Hamza Khabba, finding the net in the African campaign.

Ahly and Raja also clashed in the quarter-finals last season with the Cairo club winning 2-1 at home and drawing 1-1 away to progress.



Al Ahly star Mahmoud Kahraba (R) fights for the ball during a 2023 CAF Champions League group match against Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa in Pretoria. Photo: AFP

venue controversy.

CAF chose the home ground of Wydad, infuriating Ahly, who appealed unsuccessfully to the Switzerland-based Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) for a change of venue.

It was the second final between the clubs in the past six seasons -Wydad also triumphed in 2017 -- and they could meet again in the upcoming title decider.

Should Ahly overcome Raja, they will meet four-time champions Esperance of Tunisia or two-time title winners JS Kabylie of Algeria in the semi-finals.

Esperance have struggled to score, managing just six goals in six group matches, and Mohamed Ali Ben Hammouda, with three, is the only player to net more than once.

Kabylie have also averaged a goal a game, in 10 qualifying and group games, with two from Dadi Mouaki making him the leading scorer.

Wydad should be too strong for Simba and that would take them to a last-four showdown with Chabab Belouizdad of Algeria, quarter-finalists for the third straight season, or Sundowns.

Before this season, Sundowns reached the last-eight stage five times since being crowned champions in 2016, but have gone further only once, and Wydad are their bogey team.

knockout stage this season.

Coached by former France indoor football international Fernando da Cruz, the Black Devils have won seven and drawn four of 12 qualifying and group matches en route to the quarter-finals.

The 22 goals they scored have been shared among 13 players with the four of Cape Verde international Diney Borges making him the unlikely leading scorer as he is a centre-back. FAR are the only quarter-finalists this season in the African equivalent of the UEFA Europa League who have won a CAF competition.

They achieved two firsts for Morocco by the winning the African Cup of Champions Clubs -- later renamed the CAF Champions League -- in 1985 and the Confederation Cup 20 years later.

But after finishing runners-up in the Confederation Cup a year after winning it, FAR faded as a force in Africa while Casablanca clubs Raja and Wydad won CAF competitions.

Last year, the Rabat club did not even make the group stage of the Confederation Cup, losing home and away to JS Kabylie of Algeria in the second qualifying round.

They return to Algeria this weekend for the first leg of a quarter-final against USM Alger who, along with FAR and Pyramids of Egypt, have

Ivory Coast, Rivers United of Nigeria and Young Africans of Tanzania -- are first-time qualifiers.

Should FAR eliminate USM, whose line-up includes 2022 African Nations Championship leading scorer Aymen Mahious, they would confront Monastir or ASEC for a place in the final.

The Tunisian and Ivorian sides have lost only once each in eight African outings and boast regular scorers in Boubacar Traore and Aubin Kramo respectively.

Pyramids are competing in the Confederation Cup for the fourth straight season having reached the 2020 final, the semi-finals the following year and the 2022 quarter-finals.

Their multi-national line-up includes veteran Tunisian Fakhreddine Ben Youssef, the leading scorer in the competition with six goals, including a hat-trick.

They face Marumo, who have won seven of 10 matches in Africa but only five of 26 in the South African Premiership, leaving them battling to avoid relegation.

Ranga Chivaviro stars for the South African outfit, with his five Confederation Cup goals placing him joint second behind Ben Youssef in the Golden Boot race.

Ghanaian Paul Acquah shares second place with Chivaviro and Rivers will rely heavily on him against

Pioli not thinking about Champions League Milan derby after Napoli triumph

MILAN

STEFANO Pioli said that he isn't thinking about a potential Milan derby in the Champions League semi-finals after his AC Milan team got past Napoli in the last eight on Tuesday.

Milan prevailed 2-1 on aggregate after a 1-1 draw in Naples and are likely to face Inter Milan in the next round as their local rivals are two goals in the lead ahead of Wednesday's second leg with Benfica.

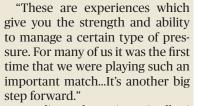
"We're too happy to have overcome such a good team... it's a great feeling," Pioli said reporters.

"Let's take it one step at a time, whoever we get, we get. Whoever we get it will be a great derby and Champions League semi-final."

Milan are in the last four of the Champions League for the first time since they were last crowned kings of Europe in 2007.

They have overcome a post-World Cup slump in recent weeks and Tuesday's performance was another statement display which gives them hope of reaching the final.

"This gives us real faith in ourselves. We already had belief but getting past Napoli and Tottenham will help us grow," added Pioli.



Napoli coach Luciano Spalletti lamented that his team weren't given a penalty for Rafael Leao's tackle on Hirving Lozano six minutes before the Portugal winger sped up the pitch to lay on Olivier Giroud's goal which would decide the tie.

Neither referee Szymon Marciniak nor the VAR officials saw anything wrong with Leao's challenge, but Spalletti was angry at his team not getting a spot-kick while they were only a goal behind.

Spalletti was also annoyed that he had to do without Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa and Kim Min-jae after they received soft bookings during the first leg.

"In the 37th minute there was penalty, it's a clear penalty... he twisted his ankle," said Spalletti to reporters.

"We were punished by what happened in the first game. The players with strength and power were the ones which were taken away from us, unjustly so.' AFP

Let's take it one step at a time, whoever we get, we get. Whoever we get it will be a great derby and Champions League semi-final

However, they failed to add to 10 Champions League titles, losing 2-0 to another Casablanca club, Wydad, in a single-match final marred by a

Meanwhile, Moroccan armed forces club and former African champibeat in the CAF Confederation Cup tir of Tunisia, ASEC Mimosas of the

previously reached the knockout stage. The other hopefuls -- Marumo ons, FAR Rabat will be the team to Gallants of South Africa, US Monas-

Young Africans in their quest to become the first title-holders from Nigeria.

AFP

Chelsea's limp Champions League exit completes season from hell

LONDON

AS Chelsea owner Toddy Boehly surveyed the wreckage of his club's season from hell after their Champions League exit on Tuesday, the American might have pondered just how long it will be before they feature in the competition again.

Chelsea are left with nothing but pride to play for in the final weeks of a disastrous campaign after Real Madrid's 2-0 victory in the quarterfinal second leg at Stamford Bridge completed a 4-0 aggregate success for the holders.

Appropriately, the troubled Premier League side once again paid the price for a lack of cutting edge as they wasted a host of chances before succumbing to a pair of clinical Real moves finished by Rodryg0.

Since Boehly joined forces with co-owner Behdad Eghbali's Clearlake Capital to buy Chelsea last year, the west London club have suffered one self-inflicted wound after another.

They are languishing in 11th in the Premier League, will finish without a trophy and are unlikely to even qualify for the Europa Conference League, leaving Boehly and Eghbali facing a turbulent close-season as they try to repair Chelsea's tarnished reputation.

In a sign of the turmoil enveloping Chelsea, former Blues striker Didier Drogba ripped into Boehly on French television ahead of the Real game.

"I don't recognise my club. It's no longer the same club. There is a new owner and a new vision. A dressing room of over 30 players is difficult for a manager," Drogba said.

The question is how much lower can Chelsea sink after suffering four successive defeats since Frank Lampard returned as manager until the end of the season following Graham Potter's sacking.

"Chelsea have had huge success for 20 years, winning the Premier League, qualifying for the Champions League year after year. Maybe this is the year where we aren't quite where we want to be," Lampard said.

"Manchester United and Arsenal have spent time out of the Champions League. Maybe some clubs are more stable than we are at the minute in terms of the squad. But we can set the building blocks now for where we want to get to."

Boehly's chaotic influence has turned Chelsea into a laughing stock less than 12 months into his reign.

The team that lifted the Champions League trophy under Thomas Tuchel just two years ago is already being broken up.

Of the 11 that started Chelsea's 1-0 win against Manchester City in the final in May 2021, only four were in Lampard's line-up to face Real on Tuesday.

Despite masterminding Chelsea's European triumph, Tuchel was surprisingly dismissed in September amid reports of rows between the German and Boehly over transfer policy.

Perhaps Tuchel had a point because Boehly's £550 million (\$671 million) spending spree on new signings

by David Chikoko



has done nothing to solve Chelsea's problems.

When the fiery Tuchel was axed, Potter was hired as the "collaborative" manager who would work with Boehly to replicate his impressive work with lowbudget Brighton on a bigger stage with Chelsea.

But the former Ostersunds and Swansea boss looked out of his depth from the start of his first job at a major club. It proved impossible for Potter to juggle a bloated squad, with Boehly crucially failing to find a prolific striker in his frenzied spending.

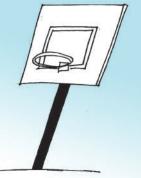
- 'Ruthless approach'

Potter struggled to impose his philosophy on an injury-hit squad that reportedly lacked respect for his modest managerial CV, with some said to have mocked him as Boehly's puppet and nicknamed him 'Harry Potter' and 'Hogwarts'.

As his problems mounted, Potter quickly learned that Boehly's version of collaboration was to kick him to the kerb after just seven months.

After being confronted by angry fans during Saturday's 2-1 home defeat against Brighton, Boehly reportedly went into the dressing room and delivered a speech to the players, during which he called Chelsea's season "embarrassing".

Julian Nagelsmann, sacked by Bayern Munich this season, and former Spain boss Luis Enrique are believed to have spoken to Chelsea as the club searches for yet another manager.





COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Cricketers making Tanzania's women's squad celebrate once their teammate took a wicket as the team came up against the United Arab Emirates in a 2023 Victoria Women's Twenty20 International Series match played in Uganda yesterday and ended in a seven-wicket victory for the former. PHOTO: COURTESY OF UGANDA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

NCBA Bank sponsors Dar junior golf team for All Africa tourney

By Guardian Correspondent

THE NCBA Bank is out to drive the future of golf in Tanzania by sponsoring the country's national junior golf team that will battle it out in the All Africa Juniors Competition taking place in Uganda from April 17-21.

The sponsorship, the NCBA Bank officials disclosed, highlights the bank's commitment to community development and fostering talent in various sectors, including sports.

According to NCBA Bank, the support for the national junior golf team has enabled the youngsters to participate in the esteemed All Africa Juniors competition.

The team, made up of seven promising young players- four boys and three girls, is primed to demonstrate golfing skills and competently vie for the championship title.

Tanzania Golf Union (TGU) Chairman, Gilman Kasiga, expressed his appreciation for NCBA Bank's involvement and recognized the institution's pivotal role in nurturing the nation's future golf team.

Kasiga stated: "We are immensely grateful for the invaluable support from NCBA Bank. Their backing is instrumental in fostering the development of our future golf national team, which we hope to see competing in the Olympics someday."

The TGU leader noted: "The national junior golf team's players are highly motivated and prepared to excel in the competition."

Shufaa Hassan, a national junior golf team player, confidently affirmed: "We have rigorously trained and are prepared to compete at our highest level, with our sights set on becoming champions.'

Solomon Kawiche, Senior Manager, Marketing, Communications, and Citizenship at NCBA Bank, emphasized the bank's dedication to cultivating a thriving community, with sports being an essential component.

He said: "As a bank, we are heavily invested in our community. We believe that their success is our suc-

CAF CC clash against Rivers Utd great opportunity for Yanga to bounce back



Tanzania women's cricket squad thrashes UAE in 2023 Victoria Series

By Guardian Reporter

A spirited batting display put in by all-rounder, Saum Godfrey, propelled Tanzania's senior women's cricket team to a comprehensive seven-wicket victory over the United Arab Emirates in a 2023 Victoria Women's Twenty20 International Series duel played in Kampala yesterday.

Tanzania women's cricket team, therefore, condemned the United Arab Emirates to the first defeat of the showdown, after the latter earlier opened their campaign with a 15-run victory over Kenya a day back.

In the Wednesday encounter, held at Lugogo Cricket Oval, the United Arab Emirates women's squad elected to start batting once the squad won the toss, amassing 138 runs whilst dropping five wickets in the allotted 20 overs.

A notable showing with the bat in the squad was put in by Kavisha Egodage that posted 44 runs not out from 43 balls.

Much as the United Arab Emirates cricketers attempted to put solid showing, they were, to some extent, put under pressure by Tanzania women's cricket team's bowling onslaught.

Sophia Jerome was so far the performer with a standout showing when Tanzania women's cricket team fielded, having ended with 1-21 in three overs.

Needing 139 runs to garner victory, Tanzania women's cricket team showcased their batting virtuosity and went on to post 140 runs for the loss of three wickets in 17.5 overs.

The impressive Saum put her aggressiveness with the bat to show and recorded 40 runs from 33 balls. She in the end received the Player of the Match prize for her batting exploits.

The United Arab Emirates women's team cricketer, Esha Oza, ended with 1-14 in four overs as her squad fought to frustrate Tanzania's women's cricket team chase.

The showdown's opening day had witnessed hosts, Uganda, commanding a seven-wicket victory over Rwanda at the same ground.

Experienced cricketer, Gisele Ishimwe, notched 19 runs as

cess, and sports is a crucial aspect of that. Golf not only strengthens the mind and body but also fosters vital connections."

Kawiche elaborated that their support for the national junior golf team demonstrates the bank's faith in the young golfers' potential.

The official added: "By investing in these players, the bank aims to help them grow, develop their skills, and compete in larger-scale events in the future."

"This initiative also serves to promote Tanzania and the commendable work of the nation's President, Samia Suluhu Hassan," he said.

He added that NCBA Bank's sponsorship significantly contributes to the growth and development of golf in Tanzania.



The NCBA Bank's Managing Director, Claver Serumaga (back row 3rd R), poses for a photo with the national junior golf team's players and a section of the institution's officials during the national flag's handover ceremony in Dar es Salaam recently. The squad is expected to take part in the All Africa Juniors competition slated for later this month in Uganda. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT



The Cruis

Yanga's center-back Bakari Mwamnyeto (C) negotiates his way past Nigeria's Rivers United forward Moses Omoduemuke when the sides took on each other in a 2021/22 CAF Champions League First Preliminary Round clash in Dar es Salaam.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's Young Africans SC (Yanga) manager Walter Harrison says that Sunday's CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal first leg match against Nigeria's Rivers United, which will take place at Godswill Akpabio International Stadium, Uyo provides his outfit with a great opportunity to bounce back to winning ways.

The Tanzanian champions suffered their second league defeat of the season when they were beaten 2-0 by age-old-rivals Simba SC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday afternoon.

The loss has seen Yanga's points lead at the top of this season's NBC Premier League table cut to five by second-placed Simba SC.

The defeat also ended the league leader's record-breaking 12-game winning run in the league

though they are still in a commanding position to retain the crown.

They fly out to Nigeria today at dawn ahead of their clash with Rivers United who will host the former in the first leg with Yanga hosting the second leg a week later in Dar es Salaam.

In an interview with Yanga's official Tv channel ahead of this weekend's fixture, Harrison said that the game presents the team with a great opportunity to get back on track as they fight in three different competitions.

Harrison stated: "As the technical bench, we are well prepared and we know we owe a lot to our fans who came to support us but we did not give them what they were expecting."

The official pointed out: "Therefore, the game against Rivers United is very important to ensure that we bring back a sense of happiness to all people fully behind us and to ensure the targets we have set for ourselves for the season are fulfilled."

He added: "We continue to ask for support from our fans to keep supporting us and we will make sure that we do everything possible to progress from this stage of the CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals to the semi-finals."

Yanga finished on top of Group D with 13 points after they secured a 1-0 away win over TP Mazembe of DR Congo in one of the group's last-round matches.

Rivers United finished runners-up behind ASEC Mimosas of Cote d'Ivoire in Group B to reach the last eight of the continental tournament.

The victorious team from this two-leg encounter will advance to the semi-finals, where they will face the winner of the match between South Africa's Marumo Gallants and Egypt's Pyramids FC.

Both teams have faced each other before in the CAF Champions League's first preliminary round in 2021.

Rivers United came out on top, winning both the first and second legs with a 1-0 scoreline, resulting in a 2-0 aggregate victory that eliminated the Tanzanian team.

Rwanda women's team went in to bat first in the duel and were skittled for 61 runs in 20 overs.

With a modest target of 62 runs in their sight, Uganda women's team hardly wasted time as they smoothly scored 62 runs for three wickets in 11.1 overs to emerge victorious.

Assistant skipper, Janet Mbabazi, put her experience to use having notched 29 runs not out for Uganda women's side and won the clash for the hosts.

In the day's other fixture, Kenya women's squad went down to the United Arab Emirates by 15 runs.

Kenya women's squad won the toss and elected to field, limiting the United Arab Emirates women's squad to 84 runs whilst losing nine wickets in 20 overs.

Needing 85 runs to grab victory, Kenya's women's team, unfortunately, found the going tough in the chase having notched 69 runs in 20 overs.

In yesterday's other fixture, Kenya women's squad was to lock horns with Rwanda women's in a duel that brought together squads that opened their respective campaigns on the wrong foot.

The Uganda Cricket Association (UCA)-organized showdown has brought together women's national squads from the United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and hosts Uganda seeking to raise the standard of the women's sport.

The tournament provides all teams, except the United Arab Emirates, with preparation for the 2023 ICC Women's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifiers that have been scheduled for September 2023.

Zimbabwe women's squad, the winner of the Victoria Series' first edition that took place in 2019, has opted out of defending the title this year due to other commitments.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

