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Kinana is back, Membe gets card

Ex-secretary general to replace Philip Mangula as vice chairman



CCM national Chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan chairs the party's Central Committee meeting in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

FORMER ruling CCM secretary-general Abdulrahman Kinana has been endorsed by the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) to vie for the party's vice chairmanship (Mainland). He is expected to take over the post after the resignation of long-serving cadre Philip Mangula, who submitted a letter to that effect to the party's national Chairperson, President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Delegates resolved to reinstate the party's membership to former foreign minister Bernard Membe and former House of Representatives member, Abdallah Maulid Diwani. The two had earlier submitted letters of apology to the party secretariat. Shaka Hamidu Shaka, the NEC secretary for Ideology and Publicity, told journalists in Dodoma that the committee received the vice chairman's resignation letter directed to the party leader, held some discussion before, the committee endorsed the move. He cited Section 19(e) of the party's constitution of 1977 as well as Section 116(b) of CCM election regulations as revised in 2017, where the vice chairman's post (Mainland) was deemed vacant. Sections 105 and 106 of CCM election regulations, 2017 and Section 114(1) of the party's constitution revised in 2020 state that the CCM Vice Chair will be elected by the National Congress. "This has been done to meet the requirements of the constitution," he said, elaborating that the central committee is the organ empowered to nominate one candidate for that position, whereupon it had approved the former secretary

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African penguins 'to be extinct within decades'

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN penguins, whose population have been decreasing in the past century, may become extinct in the next few decades. Dr Katrin Ludynia, a marine animals demographer and research manager for a South African marine biology institution in Capt Town, in an update for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) towards its 'red list' of species threatened with extinction said that just two per cent of the African penguins population at the beginning of the past century remains. Its natural habitat, the southern tip of the continent, is besieged by challenges from industrial fishing to fuel spills, continually decimating the birds' numbers, she said, underlining that from millions of penguins in the region early last century, just about 10,000 breeding pairs were left in South Africa.

About 20,000 couples lived on a single island in the region around 20 years ago, now cut down to a half and spread over whole of the South African southern coastline. This decline is so dramatic that the models we have indicate that the species will disappear in just a few decades, she emphasized. The key reason for their decline is the lack of fish, owing to overfishing of sardines and anchovies, which are the main nutrients of penguins, given the pace of development of the fishing industry in South Africa, she stated. Other factors for the rapid decline include climate change, fuel leaks, underwater noise pollution caused by heavy sea traffic and some marine epidemics, setting the stage for possible extinction of the African penguin. IUCN resource development director Ronnis Daniels said that more volunteers are needed for the rescue of penguins, inviting everyone around the world for volunteer work on the challenge. "Those who want to save African penguins can join our six week international volunteer program. Also, unqualified ones can join our three month internship program." The most important feature sought for those who will participate in the internship program is to take a firm stand to protect the African penguin species, he added.

Key EU bank, local lenders discuss 700bn/- loans fund

By Getrude Mbago

THE European Investment Bank (EIB) is in discussion with three commercial banks in Tanzania on credit lines totaling euros 270m (over 700bn/-) to boost lending to medium and small-scale enterprises. The three credit lines will support the banks in providing the much needed longer term financing to small enterprises on affordable commercial terms in line with EU and national development priorities. Ambassador Manfredo Fanti, the EU head of delegation, made this observation on



...so the funds will be issued in phases as per small enterprises' loan applications or demand in the banks

Wednesday after the launching of the 2022 report on EU investments in the country. In a sideline interview with reporters, he said the first credit line will be euros 100m, followed by euros 150m, capped by euros 20m disbursement. Lending from the funds will focus on small enterprises run by women and those working in the blue economy, he stated, explaining that small scale enterprises face hurdles in accessing funds, so the EIB is seeking to support the group to grow. In the next three to four months, the EIB

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Govt planning large ferry for Magogoni

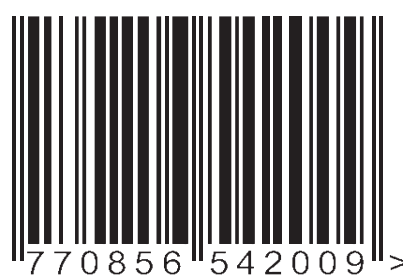
By Guardian Reporter

THE government has pledged to build a new ferry capable of carrying 3,000 passengers and 80 vehicles for the Magogoni-Kigamboni transit points in Dar es Salaam. Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (pictured) made this announcement during an inspection tour of the ongoing refurbishment of MV Kazi at Songoro shipyard at Kigamboni, noting that there is great need for a passenger ferry for the city centre transit point. This minister's remarks take up a pledge by



President Samia Suluhu Hassan last December 6 when addressing Kibada residents in Kigamboni at a brief stopover to inaugurate a factory at Kisarawe, promising a new ferry to ply the Kigamboni Creek, to ease transport challenges facing the residents. The president said at that time that dilapidated ferries used on the Magogoni-Kigamboni transit need to be replaced with a big ferry taking more passengers, cutting down the round trips of smaller ferries. The minister told journalists after inspecting the ferry that Kigamboni and its environs

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Kinana is back, Membe gets card

FROM PAGE 1

general to contest.

President Samia lauded Mangula for his distinguished services to the party, holding the position for 10 years since being nominated in 2012, despite his

advanced age. The poll will be held later today, he stated.

He vice chairman is leaving the post upon his 81st birthday, spending the past two decades as a top functionary in the CCM Secretariat, he added.

Govt planning large ferry for Magogoni

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were growing at a rapid pace; the government intends to provide a much bigger ferry for the Magogoni transit point.

The ferry being refurbished has been carrying 2,000 passengers maximum

while the new one will take up to 3,000 passengers at a time, he stated.

The government expects that the 2022/23 Budget will include funds allocated for the new ferry, thus its construction start immediately, he added.

Key EU bank, local lenders discuss 700bn/- loans fund

FROM PAGE 1

will open its first credit line with the euros 100m, with the bank seeking to support public and the private sector initiatives. The new credit lines are stretched to 10 and up to 15 years," so the funds will be issued in phases as per small enterprises' loan applications or demand in the banks," he specified.

The Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) affirms that small firms contribute up to 27 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and employ around 5.2m people. The majority of small firms face limited access to finance and effective use of financial products and services, thus failing to grow.

The EIB has long term lending disposition, targeting sound investments in line with set policy priorities, both in the EU zone and its external operations. It has been operating in Africa for more than 50 years and operates in Tanzania since 1977.

The EIB report highlights the EU's trade and investment partnership with Tanzania, with the trade volume

sanding at euros 856m in exports from the EU and euros 456m in EU zone imports from Tanzania in the past year.

Investment inflows from the ten most active EU member states reached \$1.5bn from 2013 to 2020, making a substantial contribution to the economy. It is estimated that EU firms currently provide 151,000 jobs, with 38 percent being women, while the largest companies paid \$1.45bn in taxes from 2015 to 2021.

David Kihenzile (Mufindi South), who chairs the parliamentary standing committee on Industries, Trade and Environment, commended the EU for its investment efforts and supporting projects contributing to social and economic growth.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has invested heavily in opening up the country, improving the business environment to attract more investors and stimulating investment an inclusive economy, he stated.

The legislature will continue working with the EU in providing needed support towards implementing various initiatives, he added.

European Union funding boosts COVID-19 vaccination in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) is supporting the work of the World Health Organisation (WHO) to boost COVID-19 vaccination campaigns and increase coverage in 15 African countries.

With a total of €16 million from ECHO, WHO is supporting operational and technical aspects of the vaccine rollout over 18 months in the following countries: Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Guinea; Liberia; Madagascar; Mali; Mozambique; Niger; Nigeria; Somalia; South Sudan Republic, and Sudan.

The grant is also helping to reinforce the capacity of health workers to plan, coordinate and deploy the vaccines as well as monitor and document the results of the rollout and adequately investigate and report any adverse events following immunization.

The funding is part of the European Union's (EU) humanitarian initiative for COVID-19 vaccination in Africa which aims to ensure increased access including for the most vulnerable as well as those living in hard-to-reach, remote and conflict-affected areas. It is also one of the many contributions from the EU and its Member States to the COVID-19 response. The EU also supports the COVAX Facility, the vaccines part of the

Access to COVID-19 Tools-Accelerator created to develop and deliver tools to fight the pandemic.

"Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, the EU, its Member States and European financial institutions have come together as Team Europe, contributing to the fight against the pandemic around the world, supporting in particular the African continent," said Paraskevi Michou, Director General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection in the European Commission. "In addition to being a leading donor to the COVAX Facility, the EU supports local manufacturing of medicines and vaccines, the strengthening of research, analysis and sequencing capacities, as well as the improvement of health systems at regional and national levels in Africa. The EU has also provided a total of €100 million in humanitarian assistance to specifically support the rollout of vaccination campaigns in Africa, to help ensure equitable access to vaccines for vulnerable people, including in conflict-affected or hard-to-access areas. Our strong cooperation with the World Health Organisation is instrumental in implementing this programme successfully."

Efforts are ongoing to scale up COVID-19 vaccine coverage in Africa, where only 15% of the population is fully vaccinated so far. Around 404 million of the more than 716 million doses the continent has received to date have been administered.



Academicians pay their last respects to renowned Tanzanian economist Prof Honest Prosper Ngowi (54) of Mzumbe University's Dar es Salaam Campus and his driver, Innocent Mringo (30), who died in a road accident in Kibaha District on Monday. This was during a requiem mass held at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

'President Samia a great role model for women in leadership'

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S professional women need to rise to the occasion and play a more significant role in taking the country to the next level, Dr Betty Kwoko Mginga, Equity Bank Tanzania's Head of Customer Service and Experience has urged.

Dr Betty, a 2021 WIMA awardee, was addressing the Women in Management Africa (WIMA) award 2022 winners' ceremony in Dar es Salaam recently. She said women in leadership can learn a lot from President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

In political leadership, the president has broken the ceiling and set a formidable pace on what a woman can do and achieve.

"In our beloved President Samia Suluhu Hassan, we have a great role model to look up to," she noted. She commended women in the corporate world at WIMA awards who have broken the ceiling but noted that they could not afford to be complacent

as there was still so much work to be done.

"WIMA seeks to close the gender gap by increasing visibility, training and honouring women in leadership in Africa. It has become an important annual platform for recognising and appreciating women leaders who have, through extraordinary circumstances, made it to the prestigious awards" she noted.

Dr Betty challenged the women in the corporate world to wake up to the immense expectations that lie in front, which, if met, will give them a platform to better role models and achievers in their rightful positions of being supporters of national development.

"As women leaders, we owe it to our future generations to show them that being a woman doesn't represent weakness, retreat to the back dark corner during executive or board meetings, or silence when decisive discussions are being held; that it does not represent vulnerability but power

and decisiveness, showcasing by example and willpower," she said.

"Despite women, in many instances, being marginalized and put in a disadvantaged position through culture, inequality or bias, time and time, we have proved that we can achieve beyond expectations," she added.

Dr Betty noted that WIMA has been loud and clear about the women in leadership to wake up and join forces. She highlighted that it is time for women leaders to wake up because it is a lesson that there is much more that lies ahead of each woman and to recognize the immense expectations that lie in front of women that need to be delivered in a 'woman's style' of being foresighted, strategic and resilient.

In her keynote address, she said Tanzania had made broad gains in women's entrepreneurship, but more needed to be done. Quoting Women Entrepreneurship Development in Tanzania Report, she called on

women to be involved in effective policy leadership and coordination to promote women's entrepreneurship development.

"We have made some strides in access to gender-sensitive financial services - like the Fanikisha Account in Equity Bank or other women-centric accounts, but it is a work in progress," she noted.

She advised women to lobby for gender-sensitive business development support services and access to markets and technology which will redefine their businesses and give more support to the national economy and workforce.

WIMA awards celebrate top women and the companies behind them. "These annual awards honour and applaud outstanding leadership, inspiration, vision and innovation, in organisations that play a role in advancing women to the forefront of the economy. Covering all major economic sectors, and awarding business from SME- to national-level.



Children with autism and other brain disorders who are cared for at Gabriella Children's Rehabilitation Centre in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region, pictured yesterday moving a cake to the venue of an event to be held on tomorrow (April 2) in marking World Autism Awareness Day. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

By Special Correspondent

150 African participants benefit from virtual training on SME development

A TOTAL of 150 participants from 15 African countries have benefited from virtual training on SME development organised by SME Corp Malaysia in collaboration with Foreign Ministry and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

The training held recently is dubbed: "The Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) 2022 on SME

Development for African countries," adding that was meant to foster regional and sub-regional technical cooperation, particularly among developing countries.

SME Corp Malaysia chief executive officer Rizal Nainy emphasized that it was crucial to recognise the integral role of SMEs in shaping the future as well as the need for new and alternative

ways to address challenges.

JICA chief representative Takizawa Masahiko highlighted that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Look East Policy announced by the Malaysian Government.

It is also the 30th anniversary of cooperation in joint international training programmes between Malaysia and Japan.

To build on the successes in the last three decades, JICA aims to strive further in enhancing joint endeavours with the ministry and SME Corp Malaysia.

SME Corp Malaysia chairperson, Datuk Seri Syed Hussien Al Habshee reiterated that successful cooperation was only possible with the collective efforts of stakeholders.

Ministry's International Cooperation and Development Division undersecretary Hafizah Abdullah expressed hope that the training programme would strengthen friendly exchanges and create opportunities for more mutually beneficial engagements and people-to-people ties across a wide range of sectors.

The capacity-building training

programme under the ambit of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme involved the sharing of Malaysia and Japan's experiences in SME development, with special emphasis on Covid-19 recovery measures.

Participants from Kenya, Mauritius and Uganda joined the TCTP alumni this year.



L-R: Bank of Tanzania's deputy governor (Economic and Financial Services), Dr Yamungu Kayandabila, Kagera Sugar Ltd (KSL) board chairman Seif Ali Seif, BoT deputy governor (Administration and Internal Controls) Julian Banzi Raphael and BoT deputy governor (Financial Stability and Deepening) Dr Bernard Kibese listen as KSL senior agronomist Erica Mwakisinini (R, gesturing) makes a briefing on the company's activities when the central bank executives toured the firm in Kagera Region on Wednesday. Photo: Chief Photographer Selemani Mipochi

CJ emphasizes need for legal practitioners to be at forefront in pleading for regional integration

By Getrude Mbago

CHIEF Justice (CJ) Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma has emphasized need for lawyers and all legal practitioners to be at the forefront in advancing regional integration and utilise opportunities available in the East African Community (EAC) thus enhancing justice delivery.

He made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he met with the President of the East Africa Law Society (EALS) and his counterpart the President of the Tanganyika Law Society who visited him in his office.

The meeting discussed programmes undertaken by the national bar in Tanzania and the regional bar around the independence of the judiciary, rule of law, human rights and access to justice.

The chief justice noted the important contribution of both the national and regional bar in the development of Tanzania and the region. "Lawyers must also be ready to adjust their practice models to be in-line with advancements globally," he said.

He expressed his readiness to welcome new opportunities for Tanzanian lawyers including those from the newly admitted member of the community, the Democratic Republic of Congo and his willingness to assist in the opening up of the Tanzanian legal market.

Speaking after the meeting, EALS President Bernard Ound expressed his gratitude to the Chief Justice for setting aside time out of his busy schedule to discuss matters that are vital to Tanzania and East Africa.

"I look forward to working closely with the office of the Chief Justice together with the Tanganyika Law Society to ensure that as lawyers we play our part in propelling regional

integration, access to justice and the role of the legal fraternity in our country's prosperity."

He said today, they will be attending a conference to discuss issues on the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and see how lawyers can use opportunities available in the pipeline instead of leaving it to people outside the region.

On his part, the President of the Tanganyika Society, Prof Edward Hoseah noted that Tanzania will be hosting the next EALS Annual Conference and General Meeting in Arusha in November 2022 and producing the next president of the regional bar.

He urged members of the Tanganyika Law Society to take regional integration and the opening up of legal markets across the region as an opportunity to scale up rather than a challenge.

The East Africa Law Society is the umbrella regional bar association of the respective national law societies in East Africa (the Law Society of Kenya, Tanganyika Law Society, Uganda Law Society, Zanzibar Law Society, Rwanda Bar Association, Burundi Bar Association and the South Sudan Bar Association) together with their individual members now totaling over 21,000. It is one of the apex bodies of the East African Community and has Observer Status officially conferred upon it by the East African Community.

"I look forward to working closely with the office of the Chief Justice together with the Tanganyika Law Society to ensure that as lawyers we play our part in propelling regional integration, access to justice and the role of the legal fraternity in our country's prosperity."

BoT to award Kagera Sugar for timely repayment of debts

By Guardian Reporter, Kagera

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has pledged to award Kagera Sugar Company (KSC) due to its repayment of loans in time.

BoT deputy governor (Administration and Internal Control) Julian Banzi Raphael made the remarks here yesterday during the visit by BoT Board of Directors to the KSC factory in Misenyi District, Kagera Region.

"BoT Board of Directors has decided to award the company due to its self-discipline in repaying its loans in time, without delay.

"This will act as an example to other firms that have been stalling in the repayment of their own debts," he said.

BoT board members inspected various investment areas done by the company in the country's sugar sector.

BoT governor Banzi said the central bank has been mobilising financial

institutions to extend low interest loans - under 10 per cent in order to motivate production.

KSC has a huge investment in the sugar sector in the country as well creating over 60,000 both direct and informal employments to residents of Kagera Region.

In addition, the number of sugarcane out-farmers has been increasing each year thereby increasing incomes to both individual farmers and Misenyi

District in general.

KSC Board Chairman, Seif Ali Seif said his firm is proud because BoT are big stakeholders for the country's economic growth.

Meanwhile, KSC has praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for providing a good vision for the country's economic growth.

In its third plan, KSC has increased its farmers at Kitengule area aimed at boosting sugar production.

Co-funded by the European Union

implemented by: giz

GRANTS FOR THE MANUFACTURING OF COVID-19-RELEVANT MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, the European Union (EU) and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany are jointly supporting the "COVID-19-relevant Medical and Pharmaceutical Products" (CMPP) Component.

The CMPP Component is now calling for project proposals from private companies, state-owned companies and institutions (including universities and research centres) located in the SADC region. These project proposals shall increase local production capacity of affordable and innovative COVID-19 relevant medical and pharmaceutical products. Specifically for this call, these project proposals shall focus on any of the following: (i) items relevant for COVID-19 vaccine administration (e.g. syringes, needles, plasters, gloves); (ii) items relevant for COVID-19 vaccination management (e.g. cold chain equipment, dry ice, vaccine carriers, deep freezers, vaccination monitoring tools); and (iii) items relevant for COVID-19 clinical management (antivirals such as molnupiravir, COVID-19 tests, dexamethasone, oxygen concentrators, oxygen flasks, nasal cannula; (iv) items/machinery relevant for COVID-19 vaccine production (e.g. production machinery, adjuvants, stabilisers, preservatives, vials, stoppers, packaging). The CMPP Component will allocate grants ranging from EUR 50,000 to EUR 200,000 to selected eligible proposals. Eligible companies and institutions are expected to finance at least 25% of the project's total costs and to complete the project within twelve months, which must be reflected in the proposal. The detailed call for proposal, which has a link to the application form, can be found on the SADC website: <https://tinyurl.com/SADCSIPSCall2>. The submission of applications deadline is 25th of April 2022 18:00hrs (Botswana time).

CMPP Component is part of the joint action "Support towards Industrialization and the Productive Sectors in the SADC region (SIPS)." It is co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is being implemented by the SADC Secretariat and the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Promoting disability inclusion

Leonard Cheshire | ADD International | Sense International |

CALL FOR CONSULTANCY

EVALUATION STUDIES FOR THE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROJECT IN SHINYANGA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SHINYANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL AND MISUNGWI DISTRICTS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA

Background
Leonard Cheshire, ADD International and Sense International are consortium partners implementing a three years project (2022 – 2024) funded by the UK governments Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The project seeks to address the barriers to education to ensure **Girls and boys with disabilities have equal access to participation and learning in quality pre-primary and primary education through the strengthening of collaborative and supportive systems and structures in the Shinyanga and Mwanza Regions of Tanzania.**

Prior to implementation, there is a need for a baseline assessment to ascertain the existing conditions and therefore set a standard to measure change within the three domains of change and key outcome areas, as identified in the Task Order's Results framework and a final evaluation to measure the impact of the interventions at endline

Expression of interest
The consortium partners are therefore seeking the long term services of a competent consultant(s) to conduct a comparative baseline (2022) and final evaluation (2024) to measure the progress, outcomes and impact of the programme as mentioned in the TOR (see contact details below)

Overview:
The purpose of the consultancy is to provide the project consortium partners with a detailed baseline information on the situation relating to the project outcomes, conduct a small comparative study to measure the impact of the interventions on attendance, transition and learning of children with disabilities and make recommendations to the programme to ensure achievement of the desired project outcomes.

The consultant will design a suitable methodology for collecting/analysing data from a representative sample of comparative schools, children and key stakeholders. implement and report on a baseline study within the project sites of Shinyanga Municipal Council, Shinyanga District Council and Misungwi District Council within and around a sample project and non-project schools.

Objectives of the Evaluation studies
This baseline evaluation will be guided by the following broad objectives:

- To establish the current (baseline) situation and targets in relation to the three domains of change and outcomes with specific input and completion of the Task Order results framework and to assess progress against the targets over time at endline
- To identify a small cohort of children with disabilities as identified by child functioning module Washington Group questions in both project and non-project schools that can be tracked for attendance, transition and learning outcomes at baseline and at endline.
- At baseline to provide greater understanding and insight into the reasons why the identified situations exists including: exploring the interlinkages between different government sectors and different key stakeholders, exploring existing structures, systems and tools, identifying the barriers, enablers or potential opportunities for change to strengthen greater disability programming and at endline how the project has been able to influence and strengthen these structures and systems over time to improve support for children with disabilities in school.
- To conduct a gender analysis to understand the existing gender norms in relation to disability and access to mainstream education in the project districts and assess how this may have changed at endline.
- Assess the existing knowledge and practices in schools in the target districts on safeguarding that enhance educational access and retention and how this can be improved over time.

Application process
Interested consultants should contact +255755270596 or through email menance.mhombwe@leonardcheshire.org for further information. The closing date for applications is by 5pm (UK time) on **11th, April 2022**

To view the Terms Of Reference (TOR) Please go to the link
<https://leonardcheshire.org/our-impact/our-international-work/international-consultants-and-suppliers>



THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF HALOPESA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Note	2021 TZS	2020 TZS
Operating expenses	7	(14,180,373)	(13,579,650)
Operating loss		(14,180,373)	(13,579,650)
Finance income	8	2,747,568,725	2,169,978,535
Finance costs	8	(2,458,631,479)	(1,939,401,031)
Profit before income tax		274,756,873	216,997,854
Income tax expense	9	(274,756,873)	(216,997,854)
Profit for the year		-	-
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		-	-

THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF HALOPESA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note	2021 TZS	2020 TZS
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and bank balances	10	67,025,353,151	48,987,307,428
TOTAL ASSETS		67,025,353,151	48,987,307,428
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Amounts due to agents and customers	11	66,990,722,645	48,964,235,799
Other liabilities	12	34,630,506	23,071,629
TOTAL LIABILITIES		67,025,353,151	48,987,307,428

The financial statements on pages 10 to 25 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 22 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

<p><u>CHARLES S. KIMBE</u> Name of Trustee</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Signature</p>		<p><u>ISSA NGWEGWE</u> Name of Trustee</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Signature</p>
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THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF HALOPESA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Note	2021 TZS	2020 TZS
Operating activities			
Profit before income tax		274,756,873	216,997,854
Adjusted for:			
Interest income	8	(2,747,568,725)	(2,169,978,535)
Working capital changes:			
Increase in amounts due to customers		18,026,486,846	15,381,761,456
Increase/(Decrease) in other liabilities		11,558,877	11,593,257
Increase in restricted bank balances		(18,038,045,723)	(14,345,528,358)
		(2,472,811,852)	(1,952,980,681)
Income tax paid		(274,756,873)	(216,997,854)
Interest paid to beneficiaries		-	(1,047,826,355)
Interest received		2,747,568,725	2,169,978,535
Net cash flows used in operating activities		-	-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	10	-	-

TAWA spends over 1bn/- on infrastructure development in Swagaswaga forest reserve

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TANZANIA Wildlife Authority (TAWA) has spent more than 1bn/- for construction of infrastructure in Swagaswaga Forest Reserve as part of the efforts to enhance tourism in new reserves.

The remarks were made here Wednesday by Swagaswaga Forest Reserve Manager Joseph Reuben when briefing members of the Parliamentary Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism Committee during their visit projects implemented by TAWA.

Reuben said in the past 38 workers of the Forest Reserve were residing in the City of Dodoma but through the staff housing project costing 334m/-, four workers now live within the reserve area for better service provision.

"TAWA has also implemented

development projects of infrastructures, water, visitors' hostel, firearms room and four houses for TAWA workers," he added.

In another project, he said the authority has built visitors' rest hall with 18 rooms costing 344m/-.

He said due to the reserve's bordering villages in Chemba, Kondoa and Hanang districts there have been invasions of destructive wildlife to these villages hence TAWA has been educating villagers on how to protect themselves against the beasts.

He added that in the period of 2017-2021 TAWA prevented 84 invasions by killing two hyenas that had attacked and wounded eight people.

Earlier, speaking during the inspection visit, TAWA Acting Commissioner for Conservation Mabula Nyanda appealed to the Bunge

panel to increase their budget for implementing infrastructures projects in young forest reserves, such as Swagaswaga.

Nyanda said many reserves in the country are faced with infrastructures challenges thereby making TAWA to spend between 9bn/- and 12.9bn/- each year from the natural resources ministry for upgrading infrastructures.

The Committee Chairman, Ally Makoa, called on the reserve wardens to maintain good relations with the local people.

He said many reserves in the country have poor relations with surrounding communities contributing to conflicts especially for ones' claiming land ownership; hence they should go to the people and educate them on the need for them to identify the official boundaries.



Zaituni Njovu, director of Dar es Salaam-based Zaina Foundation, makes a presentation in Arusha city yesterday during a two-day capacity-building online security seminar for Arusha Region women journalists. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Capitalise on 'Kilimo Ajira programme', women and youths farming in Kilombero valley advised

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa,

Ifakara

WOMEN and youth practicing agriculture in the Kilombero valley in Morogoro Region have been advised to utilize the Kilimo Ajira programme that provides technical and practical skills to support farmers expand their agricultural products' value chain and market.

Kilimo Ajira is a part of Ifakara Innovation Hub (IIH) pilot project started in April 2021, supporting small-holder farmers on best farming practices and value addition in the crops like mushroom, rice and vegetables as well as livestock.

IIH in collaboration of the Sokoine University Graduates Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO), Tanzania Entrepreneurs Motivation in self-Employment (TAMISE) and Fintrac. Inc, has supported the increase in production of horticulture products last year through injecting women and youth with specialized in rice production have gained skills of processing wine and yogurt from rice-grain while time before was an animal meal.

He said 50 youths and women will be ambassadors to Ifakara residents who were not selected in the programme calling them to assist other small-holder farmers with the skills and techniques.

Project manager, Jessica Kimosso, congratulated Ifakara township council as the biggest partner through the department of community development office had simplified the identification of committed youths and women who were able to identify challenges faced by them to reach

larger-scale farming. "After weekly capacity building seminars in 2021, farmers agreed to shift from small to larger-scale farming, facilitating their dreams, a project assisted them with materials support worth 8m/- that was accompanied by participating at a farmers trade show," he explained.

She said there is a women's group that consists of retired public officials who have experienced positive changes where their mushroom production capacity increased from 30 kilograms at 165 farms in 2020 to 48 kilograms at 100 farms in 2021. This is due to the training provided to them.

Feed The Future's senior Agronomist, Ayubu Meteli, called for the youth to increase production of horticulture products like Irish potatoes and vegetables so as to grab markets in Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, and Malawi.

Winfrida Ngasoma, a vegetable and tomato grower hailed the current innovation of modern irrigation technology that introduced solar irrigation machines compared to the previous time where they were using petrol machines that were too costly.

USAID presents set of crop processing machines, equipment worth 166m/- to youth groups in Iringa

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Feed the Future programme has handed over crop processing machines and equipment worth 166m/- to 16 youth groups engaged in entrepreneurship in Iringa region.

The programme which is implemented under the Tanzania Advancing Youth project will help entrepreneurs to process their products and facilitate market availability.

Speaking at the handover ceremony Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) Iringa Regional Business Development and Training Officer, Nico Mahinya said the machines and equipment were provided by USAID through its youth

empowerment project managed by the SIDO in 4 Iringa Regional Councils.

Mahinya said that the groups for the youth beneficiaries of the AY project (Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth) are from the Municipal Councils of Iringa, Kilolo DC, Iringa DC and Mafinga TC in Iringa Region.

Mahinya added that 16 youth groups in each council were provided with machinery and equipment, among those beneficiaries to have the modern machines include wine processors, sunflower oil, nutritional food flour and honey.

He said that the SIDO in Iringa Region is implementing the AY project with the aim of raising incomes and reducing poverty through interventions to support the food value chain.

"The investment in these groups is focused on the value chain of food

crops, for example, honey, milk, sembe and sunflower," said Mahinya.

Acting Director of Iringa Municipality Gerald Mwachumama said the machines and equipment were provided by USAID through its Youth Empowerment project managed by the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) in four councils.

Stambuli asked the government to provide them with capital so that they could grow their business to complete the registration process and be able to open a shop for the sale of honey.

According to the donor representative USAID Feed the future Tanzania, Advancing Youth Project, Adela Mshanga thanked the government for the co-operation where they have been able to successfully implement the project.

Dodoma registers rise in sustainable development, research by IHI shows

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DODOMA has recorded improved sustainable development in the past few years; a research by the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) has shown.

The research report on sustainable development in urban Tanzania, a case study of Dodoma indicates that on living and housing conditions, majority of residents, being 49 percent are living in private houses while 45 percent live in rented houses.

At least 72.4 percent of residents use septic tanks as the most common approach of storing faecal waste while only 11 percent of households are connected to public sewage system.

Presenting the research findings here, Dr Francis Levira, a researcher from IHI, observed that Tanzania is making great progress in catching up increasing urban population however, the fast developing urban areas are not clearly regulated and this might even cause more problems than what is experienced in established cities like Dar es Salaam.

He said the research is part of the Sustainable Health Learning Cities (SHLC) programme aimed at strengthening capacity to address health and education challenges in neighbourhood across some growing

cities in Africa and Asia.

The targeted countries include Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa, Bangladesh, China, India and the Philippines.

He noted that in Dodoma, at least 63 percent of houses have toilets and 36 percent of households share toilets. Water supply, he said at least 30 percent of households have access to water piped inside their houses and 37 percent access water piped to the household yards.

More than half of city residents have exclusive room for cooking while some 45 percent of them cook outside their houses and 33 percent within their house corridors.

"Dodoma is one of the cities in the country that have recorded notable sustainable development with progress in health, education and housing conditions," said Dr Levira.

He noted that the city has recently realized increasing migration and urbanization with internal migration leading by 63 percent in the past five years.

On education he said, "Overall gross and net enrolment ratio are higher in Dodoma compared to the national average".

Factors associated with low enrollment include households head

employment status, single-parent families, presence of employed adult household members and location of household in the city.

Gross and net enrollment in ordinary level secondary aged 14 to 17 years are 86 percent and 58 percent respectively, shows the report.

On travel time to school, the report shows that half of pupils attend schools within 20 minutes of travel and 50 percent of pupils may reach school tired or failed to return home for lunch and return to school for further studies.

On health, the report shows that less than half (49 percent) of all residents aged 18 years and above don't comply with the three or more recommended exercise per week.

Officiating at the opening of the stakeholders meeting that brought together local government authority leaders, government representative and others, Dodoma City Mayor, Prof Davis Mwamfupe thanked the researchers for the good work that depicts the reality of the city.

He said the findings will help in review of different policies and regulations and see how the city has grown. "We are happy of the findings of such a great research that shows development of the city"



Southern Africa Embrace Foundation CEO Dr Sindy Zemura-Bernard addresses a Women Lead Forum meeting organised by the foundation in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. The thrust was on ways to stimulate sustainable economic success and create gender equality in Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TANZANIA Gender Equality Forum (GEF) Chairperson Angella Kairuki has said it is of great importance to have in place robust strategies for gender equality in both parts of the Union in order to make it easy to attain a gender and economic equality generation and the national development in general.

Kairuki made the remarks early this week when she spoke to the Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives (ZHR) Zubeir Ali Maulid during the visit by members of the Forum to the House of Representative Hall at Chukwani, here.

She said the forum that aims to deal with 11 burning issues has its Five-year Task Plan of which stakeholders will also have the opportunity to contribute thereto so as to make sure it gets a good plan with a wide perception.

The forum with 26 members from both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar was established through concerted global efforts to bring about gender equality and which

GEF wants robust strategies on gender equality across Tanzania

was formed and unveiled last year by President Samia Suluhu Hassan by champions gender and economic equality issues in Africa.

Kairuki cited some of the 11 issues as including childcare centres to allow mothers to work without bother to serve her children, access to clean and safe water, electricity, simple technology, enhancing employment opportunities, production of goods that compete in the market, investing in education, particularly in regard to science subjects.

She named others as strengthening of women savings, mobilising for change in regard to misleading customs and traditions and identifying domestic unpaid jobs.

She said that these areas need to start with statistics in each sector as well as annual development reports thereof whereby stakeholders in all

sectors from both the government and private including Members of the House of Representatives who are needed to fully participate.

For his part ZHR Speaker Maulid said they have received the forum and advised to allocate time to meet with members in order to fully explain to them the said strategies for the attainment of gender equality in the gender generation.

In regard to Zanzibar, Forum members include ZHR Deputy Speaker Mgeni Hassan Juma, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Gender Ministry Abeida Rashid, Managing Director of TAMWA-Zanzibar, DR Mzuri Issa, chairperson of the association of Zanzibar women Traders, Najma Hussein and the Director of the Association for Non-Governmental Organisations Zanzibar (ANGOZA), Abdallah Duchi.

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

NGO based in Moshi trains officials on ways to attain inclusive education

brains disorders to end a tendency which is common in most African communities to hide children particularly those suffering from brain disorder.

"As the world is celebrating the World Autism Awareness Day week in this week, children with autism and hyperactive brain disorders are less acceptable in the society due to lack of inclusive policies and awareness, that's why we started this training programme," she said.

Autism children often have intellectual disability requiring specialist support, though some can have normal intelligence and live a relatively normal life.

According to her, the disability may impact the child's ability to

communicate and interact with others effectively and may have Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), a situation that makes the child or youth's brain to be active above normal.

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) aims to put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism and others living with autism face every day. As a growing global health issue owing to its increasing exposure in the press and common knowledge, autism is an issue that is only gaining more understanding and WAAD activities are planned every year to further increase and develop world knowledge of children and adults who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD).



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND TRADE

TANZANIA BUREAU OF STANDARDS (TBS)



ISO 9001:2015 Certified

Member of the International Standardization (ISO), Codex Alimentarius Commission (WHO/FAO), Agent for ISO and other National Standards Bodies

TRAINING COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

COURSE TITLE: REQUIREMENTS ON ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMPETENCE OF TESTING AND CALIBRATION LABORATORIES.

Duration: Five (5) days (09th May to 13th May, 2022)

Targeted participants: Laboratory Analysts, Laboratory Technicians, Chemists, Microbiologist, Quality Control and Quality Assurance Officer, Laboratory Quality Manager, Graduates from Science field.

Note: Training course is designed for only testing and calibration laboratories not for medical laboratories

Course Outline:

- Introduction to ISO/IEC 17025:2017
 - Concept of risk-based thinking
 - Scope
 - Normative References
 - Definitions
- Requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard
 - General Requirements
 - Structural Requirements
 - Resources Requirements
 - Process Requirements
 - Management Requirements
- Benefits of implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017
- Evaluation: group work, exercise and test.

Training requirements

- An option: laptop

Benefits of the course

After completion of this course, candidate shall be able to: -

- Understand how to interpret the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 and its benefits
- Understand process and resources required for implementation of ISO/IEC 17025
- Importance of participation in the proficiency testing
- Understand concept of impartiality, confidentiality and risk based thinking in the process

Candidate who attend course, participate group work, exercise, test and score **60% and above** of final course evaluation shall be awarded with certificate of successful completion. Otherwise candidate who scores **less than 60%** of the final course evaluation shall be awarded with certificate of attendance. In addition, candidate will be provided with training material for further reference. **80%** attendance of participant is required during the course.

Course presentation and methodology

- Course will be presented in Swahili- English language.
- Also, the course will be delivered in mode of interactive tutor-led and trainee led discussions, interaction sessions, and experience from trainees, group participation, power point presentation, individual exercise, group work and test.

Course registration

- Course will cover 25 maximum participants. Each applicant shall register in the email addresses: researchandtraining@tbs.go.tz, cell phone No. **+255 784 571 370, +255 655 646 934 before 10th April, 2022.**

Course fees

- Course fees for 5 days training is **TZS 400,000/=**. The fees shall cover training materials, food and refreshment, stationaries and facilitation fees. Each applicant shall be responsible for his/her own travelling and accommodation expenses.

Mode of payment

- Course fees shall be paid in full and once. Control number will be issued to applicant and payment shall be made before **25th April, 2022.**

Training venue

- The training will be conducted at Test House 5th Floor Wing A in TBS Ubungu Area, Morogoro Road/ Sam Nujoma Road, Dar es Salaam.

Postponement and cancellation of Training course

If one fails to attend the training for any reason, the paid course fee will not be refunded. In case, the Bureau postpones the training the applicant will be informed ten (10) days before commencement of the training course together with re-scheduled date.

Gladness H. Kaseka

Issued by
Gladness H. Kaseka
Public Relations and Marketing Manager

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Simbachawene calls for improved access to justice across Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

CONSTITUTIONAL and Legal Affairs minister George Simbachawene has called for a debate to facilitate establishment of strong institutions to provide legal aid services for improved access to justice across Tanzania.

Speaking in Dodoma yesterday during the launching event of the Legal Aid Symposium 2022 Simbachawene said he expected the symposium will come up with opportunities for participants to learn new or different ways of enhancing this vital sector for the overall development of the country.

The symposium is co-hosted by the Legal Services Facility (LSF) in collaboration with the ministry.

The symposium with the theme, 'Legal Aid for a Just and Inclusive Society' aims to probe implementation of the Legal Aid Act, 2017 by analyzing its successes and challenges in the last five years.

Simbachawene said that the important event brings together stakeholders in the legal aid sector in the country to discuss how to improve implementation of the Legal Aid Act, 2017.

Essentially, the symposium involves engaging deliberations that allow participants to exchange experiences on various aspects of legal aid in the country in a bid to enhance the establishment of strong, sustainable institutions for the provision of legal aid services in efforts to improve access to justice across Tanzania.

A public exhibition at the event features, amongst other things, a one-stop centre for free legal aid services are also part of the event to enable the visiting public to receive legal assistance at their convenience.

The legal aid services are provided by officers from the police gender desk, paralegals, lawyers from the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) and social welfare officers from the

Ministry of Social Welfare. Along with these services there are also women entrepreneurs who showcase and sell their products and handicrafts as a means of empowering women.

"We expect to hear directly from these stakeholders and others about the situation since the enactment of the Act," said the Minister.

The minister added that the symposium also aims to hear from legal aid providers from the neighbouring countries of Kenya, Uganda and Malawi about implementation of their versions of the Act.

LSF's Chief Executive Officer, Lulu Ng'wanakilala, said that this year's symposium is one of LSF's successes that it has garnered through collaborating with other stakeholders especially the government in enhancing access to justice across the country.

"From the beginning LSF has been a formidable partner of the government in ensuring that we work closely in the justice realm including contributing to the materialization of the Legal Aid Act.

"The existence of this Act has been a vital component to us in seeking to broaden accessibility of legal aid services through our partners and paralegals who have been pivotal in providing these necessary services for all particularly for women and girls," said Ng'wanakilala.

Registrar of Legal Aid at the Ministry of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Felistas Mushi said that in the last five years the most pressing challenge has been the registration fees for paralegals; however, the government has decided to waive the fee to enable paralegals to register in large numbers.

"To date we have 757 registered paralegals, operating as legal aid providers and furthermore we have 202 organisations that provide legal aid services which have been formally registered after meeting the prerequisite conditions," he said.

Horn of Africa experiencing one of its worst droughts in recent history

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

SCATTERED on the five-acre farm in Bandari village, Kidemu sub-location in Kenya's coastal Kilifi County, were withered maize crops.

"I planted the crops as soon as the rains started, but they stopped soon after. The crop has failed completely. We are facing hunger, I don't have anything to eat," Zawadi Msafiri, the farm owner said at her farm recently.

"I had 40 cows, 32 of them died because of drought. I also planted maize and the crop failed. We are barely surviving. I don't know what my children will eat next or if I will be able to take them to school," said 45-year-old Caroline in Kilifi, adding her cows were the main source of income for her family.

Caroline observed that getting food has become harder, with her family mainly relying on relief food. "Most of the time we only drink porridge," she said.

For Eliud Karisa, another Kilifi resident, he lost three of his cows and several goats to the ongoing drought.

"I now have only four goats. There is neither food nor water. I can't even feed my children or take them to school," he said.

If animal prices were good, he observed, he would sell the goats to cater to his needs but traders are buying at very low prices. "I can't sell, I better feed them some of the rations we receive hoping that it would rain and the price would increase once again," he said.

Adam Ndamunga, an officer with Kenya National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) in Kilifi, said the drought situation in the region started in August 2021 and has been progressing due to inadequate rains.

"We have lost some 9,500 animals due to lack of pasture and water. People require relief food. The situation is getting worse, if it does not rain we might experience severe drought," he said.

Ndamunga noted up to 219,000 people in the area are currently facing acute hunger, up from 145,000 people last year.

According to NDMA, the latest crisis has been fomented by failed October to December 2021 short rains,

leading to poor crop production and low pasture and water resources for livestock. Sunny and dry weather conditions prevailed over most parts of the country during February.

"We are not receiving adequate rains to plant crops like maize, which take seven months to mature. For the current forecast for Kilifi, we might get around 330mm of rainfall, down from 550mm in the past. We are, therefore, asking farmers to plant drought-resistant and early-maturing crops," said Ndamunga.

About 3.1 million people in Kenya were in need of urgent food assistance and at least 1.5 million livestock had died, according to Short Rains Food and Nutrition Security assessment released by NDMA in February this year.

To alleviate the hunger crisis, the Kenyan government has been distributing relief food, building water pans, trucking water for livestock and sending cash to vulnerable families.

The United Nations relief agency said the Horn of Africa is experiencing one of its worst droughts in recent history, with more than 13 million people severely food insecure in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

"This drought risks becoming one of the worst climate-induced emergencies seen in recent history in the Horn of Africa," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned in its latest humanitarian update on March 23.

It said families are taking desperate measures to survive, with thousands leaving their homes in search of food, water and pasture.

According to the OCHA, the October-December 2020, March-May 2021 and October-December 2021 seasons were all marred by below-average rainfall, leaving large swathes of Somalia, southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, and northern and eastern Kenya facing exceptional drought.

"Latest forecasts indicate that the March to May rainy season is likely to be average to below-average. If this season fails, it would result in an unprecedented (in the last 40 years) sequence of four below-normal rainfall seasons and major increases in food insecurity would be expected," OCHA warned.



Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister George Simbachawene (C) displays a Stakeholders Mapping Report prepared by the Legal Services Facility (LSF) with funding from the Danish Institute for Human Rights shortly after launching it during the inauguration of this year's edition of the Legal Aid Symposium in Dodoma city on Wednesday. Others are LSF chief executive officer Lulu Ng'wanakilala (2nd-R), LSF programme manager Deogratias Bwire (R), the ministry's legal aid registrar, Felistas Mushi (2nd-L) and Zanzibar Legal Aid Department director Hanifa Soud. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbulu

HYDOM Hospital owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT), Mbulu Diocese in Manyara Region expects to reach at least 5,000 children and pregnant women through the Safer Births Bundle of Care (SBBC) in five regions for three years.

Speaking about the project at the stakeholders and sponsors meeting the Managing Director of Hydom ELCT Hospital, Dr Paschal Mdoe said the regions to benefit from the project include Manyara, Tabora, Shinyanga, Mwanza and Geita, supervised by the hospital under EU, Norway and US sponsorship.

Dr Mdoe said SBBC concentrates

Five regions to benefit from 'safer births bundle of care'

in providing modern equipment to enable women to give birth, training and monitoring.

He said they work together with the government, the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government PO-RALG and village executives.

He said every region in the project has six service provision centres at district hospitals which, through SBBC have brought about great transformation to the centres.

In addition, he said SBBC helps in

getting statistics for service providers to know the number of those they served every month and whether they had any complications in order to improve the services.

"A quarter of pregnant women die because of excessive bleeding when giving birth, hence in this project we have improved this service to save them," he added.

He said that on average, each region has saved the lives of 10 pregnant women.

Meanwhile, the coordinator of

children's health from the Ministry of Health, Dr Felix Bundala said the aim of the government and stakeholders is to reduce mother and children deaths at birth.

Dr Bundala said come 2030 they aim to have less than 70 deaths in every 1,000 births.

Manyara Regional Medical Officer, Dr Damas Kayera said the region has been the first to implement the project whereby babies will be assisted to breathe and monitor their conditions after birth.



Zanzibar's Trade and Industry minister, Omar Said Shaaban (C, gesturing), makes remarks during a visit to the Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) electric meter laboratory at Misugusugu in Kibaha District yesterday. Others include Industry, Trade and Investments deputy minister Exaud Kigahe (2nd-L) and WMA chief executive officer Stella Kahwa (2nd-R). Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Ndumbaro pledges govt support to tourism investors

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Damas Ndumbaro has assured investors that the government will continue to ensure availability of a conducive environment for investment for better services in the sector.

According to the minister this will go along with easy issuance of licenses for tourism services including accommodation systems.

He made these remarks yesterday when he handed over certificates to

investors who have reached criteria for Special Wildlife Investment Concession Areas Regulations (SWICA) under the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA).

The companies which have secured the certificates are Grumet services and Mwiba Holding Limited.

Dr Ndumbaro said the ministry will continue offering opportunities to conserved areas by prioritizing national interests.

The minister called upon investors in the country to promote Tanzania's

tourism destinations especially in the areas which they are given in collaboration with the government.

Minister Ndumbaro used the opportunity to call upon investors to invest in Tanzania mentioning Tanzania as a peaceful and secure country suitable for investment.

"The ministry for natural resources and tourism has a slogan which is 'a customer is a king' so we are operating under this slogan," he said.

The board chairman for Tawa Maj. Gen (rt) Hamis Semfuko thanked

the ministry for giving the authority 12.9bn/- to implement development projects.

He said the projects are being implemented in various areas saying Tawa has put in place strategies to ensure all the projects which have been earmarked are completed on time.

The Managing Director for Grumeti Reserve Limited Graham Ledger hailed the government for handing over the certificate adding that his company will work tirelessly to ensure they work together.

SAGCOT, non-state actors hold meetings on development work plan for Morogoro

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

SOUTHERN Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) in collaboration with government and non-state actors are holding strategic meetings this week to implement resolutions that seek to make Morogoro region remains the biggest grain basket for Tanzania.

The meeting is also in line with implementation of the Morogoro Regional Agricultural Development Strategy 2020/21 - 2025/26.

Mid-March, 2022, about 170 experts from the government and private sector met in Morogoro and discussed bottlenecks standing in the way of commercialising production activities of smallholders in farming, livestock and fisheries in the region and improve their disposable income.

Under the chairmanship of Morogoro Regional Commissioner (RC) Martine Shigela, the two days of negotiations ended with signing what was described as compact agreement

for a transformed commercially-viable agriculture sector in Kilombero cluster. This aimed to enhance food security, improves livelihoods and ensure sustainable environment. The meeting, affectionately referred to as Fresh Morogoro holistic agro-production initiative, made touching resolutions that seek to stimulate productivity in the three sectors.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday non-state actors chairman Alexander Mpwaga, said that three meetings are being held until tomorrow to thrush out ways of implementing the resolutions adopted by the last meeting.

The resolutions cannot be implemented without an action plan. So, the SAGCOT Centre Limited is cooperating with the World Wide For Fund and the African Wildlife Foundation are rolling out preparatory meetings that will help us develop the envisage action plan. Yesterday, (Tuesday) members of the private sector are critically reviewing every issue, and today service providers

(NGOs) are doing the same and on Thursday the same will happen for the government officials, he explained.

Mpwaga, who is the agri-business advisor and chairman of NGOs working in Kilombero district, said in implementing the resolutions the focus will be on environment protection, better land use and respect for research findings so that productivity can go up and raise the disposable income of smallholders in the three sectors.

As the push for commercial farming gathers momentum within the context of implementing the national agro-industrialization agenda, he explained, we want to see the wellbeing of smallholders in the three sectors increasing and Morogoro remains a dependable food basket for Tanzania, he said.

In February, this year, the SAGCOT received research reports of various world universities, including Morogoro-based Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), on appropriate land use to promote commercial farming

and ensure smallholders engage in profitable farming. Shigela promised that the government shall do all in its power to implement the resolutions and called on other parties to play their part in order to increase the amount of agricultural products and pull farmers from poverty.

These are our resolutions. Every stakeholder should implement what we have agreed on in order to increase the pace, amount and quality of products in the three sectors. These resolutions are likely to bring about

big reforms in agriculture, livestock and fisheries in our region because we are endowed with good land and climate, the RC said, calling on district commissioners cooperate with stakeholders in implementing the resolutions. The government will build requisite physical infrastructure, he pledged.

SAGCOT has six clusters countrywide so far and in all the six clusters Sagcot aims to meet the following objectives-350,000 hectares in profitable production, 420,000 new

employment opportunities, 100,000 commercial smallholder farmers, 2,000,000 people permanently lifted of poverty and 1,200,000,000 US-dollar annual value of farming revenues.

Emphasis will also be on irrigation and according to the Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba; the government wants to see 50 percent of Tanzanians are utilizing 29 million-hectare arable land irrigated to increase agricultural productivity.



Winners of Vodacom promotion dubbed 'Shangwe Lipo Pale Pale' from Songwe Region display their prize televisions and smartphones shortly after receiving them from the firm's regional sales manager, Humphrey Mutabiirwa (4th-R) at Tunduma earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Jafo directs TFS to establish tree nurseries at schools nationwide

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State in the Vice President Office responsible for Union and Environment Selemani Jafo has directed the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) to establish tree nurseries at primary and secondary schools countrywide.

He made the remarks on Wednesday when speaking at the launch of the 'Urithi wa Kijani' campaign which is implemented by the government in Gairo District, Morogoro Region. He commended the district leadership for coming up with the campaign that aims at conserving the environment.

Jafo said that establishment of tree nurseries will help the school as well as the community to get better seedlings to be planted around their areas. He said the seedlings will be distributed to district councils as part of efforts to restore the destroyed natural vegetation.

"I would like to congratulate TFS for supporting the tree planting exercise in most parts of the country, I have toured a number of your projects across the country and I am satisfied. I would also like to commend our environment ambassadors for promoting tree planting in their specific areas," said Jafo.

Minister Jafo urged the agency to start distributing tree seedlings to schools so that all the 184 district councils have access to better tree plants. He said that if all the district councils plant one million trees, there will be over 200 million trees planted annually.

He said that environmental conservation is now a national agenda and that the government has issued directives to all its agencies and institutions to take part in environment conservation.

He insisted on the need for authorities in Morogoro to enhance environmental conservation efforts because the region is geographically positioned strategically with various national projects being implemented such as the Kidatu and Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project which requires water throughout the year.

Gairo District Commissioner, Jabiri Makame said the 'Urithi wa Kijani' campaign is geared at ensuring a greener and clear environment.

Makame told the minister that Gairo is among the districts with high environmental destruction rates, the thing that resulted in increased temperatures.

"We want to restore the greenish environment; through this campaign we are also mitigating the impacts of climate change. We are implementing it in collaboration with stakeholders," he said.

According to DC, the demand for tree seedlings have increased as most of the residents is now aware of the importance of tree planting. He said the district government will continue emphasizing stakeholders to produce more tree seedlings which will be distributed to citizens.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA PRESIDENT'S OFFICE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MSIMBAZI BASIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Government of United Republic of Tanzania, through President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) and the Ministry of Works and Transportation, intends to implement Msimbazi Basin Development Project.

The main project objective is to mitigate floods within the basin, especially on the lower part of the basin, and optimize opportunities which will result from flood mitigation interventions. The project will recontour the lower basin to increase conveyance capacity of storm water resulting into having flood plains and safer lands which will then be used for urban redevelopment and city park. The project will also implement erosion control measures in the upstream, solid waste management programmes and associated interventions and construct a new bridge at the Jangwani area.

One of initial activities of the project is to resettle communities that reside in flood prone areas in the sixteen (16) identified sub-wards "mitaa". The resettlement will be guided by Tanzanian law and regulations in line with World Bank Resettlement policies.

PO-RALG hired a Consultant (i.e., NORPLAN (T) Ltd) to prepare Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the flood prone communities. The Consultant commenced the assignment on November 10, 2021, by identifying Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and their properties. This is to inform the public that the Government prohibits any kind of development in the identified area from the said cut-off date onwards.

In proceedings of RAP preparation, PO-RALG, in collaboration with the Consultant, intends to carry out verification exercise to all PAPs and their properties as well as confirming preferred resettlement option for each PAP, whether it is "cash compensation" or "in-kind compensation". The exercise will be done for two (2) weeks from April 04, 2022. Please consult your respective sub-ward "mtaa" offices for the exercise schedule.

PO-RALG is requesting necessary cooperation from the PAPs for achieving timely and successful implementation of the verification exercise.

PERMANENT SECRETARY

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCES UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received applications for Licences under the converged Licensing Framework from the following applicant:-

APPLICANT NAME	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS/NATIONALITY	SHARES
Geeznet Technologies Limited	Application Services Licence	Monica Justine Mchomvu (tanzanian)	25.000000000
		CHRISTOPHER EBIAT KOMBA (tanzanian)	75.000000000

Pursuant to section 8 of Electronic and Postal Communication Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of the licences to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration. Comments should be submitted to:

Director General
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority P.O.Box 474
14414 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2
Fax: +255 22 241 2009
Email: dg@tcra.go.tz

Industrialisation of agriculture still of great value to Tanzania

IT is no hard task explaining why the government commonly finds it difficult fighting to talk the National Assembly into subscribing annual Budget estimates, the Agriculture ministry being easily among the bones toughest to chew.

With the fate of the proverbial 'backbone of the national economy' at stake, it is small wonder for legislators to demand a substantial boost in financing for the sector's development.

It will be recalled that scores of Tanzanian and foreign agricultural experts, policymakers and donors met in Dar es Salaam a decade or so ago.

They were out to exchange views, ideas and experience relating to what best could be done to step up Tanzania's food and cash crop production capacity in the face of ever-changing climate, shrinking arable land, environmental concerns and the need to ensure that the country's farmers benefit.

Agriculture sector and other development stakeholders deliberated on - and identified - priority areas for a five-year research drive for implementation in the country.

The initiative's ultimate goal was to devise, develop and promote improved integrated farming systems able to sustainably bolster production and profitability while preserving the natural resource base.

The idea was for the research project to have its focus and thrust on management practices better integrating cereals, legumes, vegetables, livestock, and trees in mixed-farming systems and allowing for more judicious and efficient use of resources, enhanced food production and the earning of higher farm incomes.

It was also designed - and expected - to introduce innovations to more effectively link farmers to reliable markets and hopefully ensuring them juicier revenue opportunities.

Experts said that the results of the research would also be applied in other East and Southern African countries with agro-ecological conditions similar to those obtaining in Tanzania. Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia were cited as ready examples.

The research was described as one of three regional programmes in Africa funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) under the US government's Feed the Future initiative.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), which was to lead the initiative, was on record as expecting the Dar es Salaam meeting

to ensure that the project was aligned to - as well as complemented and strengthened by - similar efforts by the Tanzanian government and other agricultural development partners and agencies in the country.

IITA reiterated the obvious, saying agriculture was pivotal in efforts leading to success in getting rid of poverty. However, it saw finding ways to support farmers with new knowledge and appropriate technologies as a major challenge.

Expert further saw the intervention as highly likely to help farmers realise a decent rise in their production and, by logical extension, an improvement in their lives "in ways that do not harm natural resources such as soil and water on which farmers depend on".

IITA later explained that it was largely owing to the demands of the situation that experts concluded that it was of fundamental importance to bring on board a focused project implemented and overseen using a wide spectrum of mutually enriching expertise.

Partners in this research initiative were cited as including the Africa Rice Centre, the International Livestock Research Institute, International Food Policy Research Institute, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture.

The others are the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the World Vegetable Center, US-based universities, and national research and development institutions in Tanzania.

With so many highly regarded experts placing so much emphasis on the need to support the improvement of agriculture across the world, developing countries including Tanzania must truly appreciate the importance of directing more funds and other resources into the development of the sector.

As noted, though, Tanzania has for decades looked top agriculture as the engine driving its economy - be it crop cultivation, fishing, livestock development, etc. - with industrialisation adding lustre and value to the undertakings.

With this, it is always understandable when the people's representatives in the form of lawmakers demand that the government ensure agriculture utmost attention and care.

It is as understandable when the government turns its ears to the ground and does what most it can to heed the MPs' demands.

Cooperation by patients, larger society remains crucial in the fight against TB

SOME six years ago, we (The Guardian) conducted a random survey some six years ago in connection with reports that the specialised Moshikibongoto national TB hospital had run critically short of essential drugs.

The reports had it that the situation was so bad that some in-patients were demanding to leave and seek treatment elsewhere.

However, the National TB and Leprosy Programme management intimated that things were generally good and there was really no cause for alarm.

The management said things had improved considerably over time and it was chiefly owing to lack of knowledge on the debilitating disease that patients were complaining that the new drugs they had been put on were "just too strong".

Authorities at the hospital meanwhile said the health of most patients had improved vastly, thanks to the taking of medicines under expert supervision.

But they underlined the need for patients to take the right amounts of food as recommended by experts, adding that it was perfectly safe to intermingle with TB patients undergoing treatment and that, by

observing expert advice, the patients could recover fully.

However, even while the course of treatment now takes much shorter than obtained only a few years ago, some patients default on the taking of the required drugs.

Doctors said it was both puzzling and saddening seeing patients with a serious but curable disease abandoning expert-supervised therapy doses followed by home-based treatment - and all this at no cost to the patients!

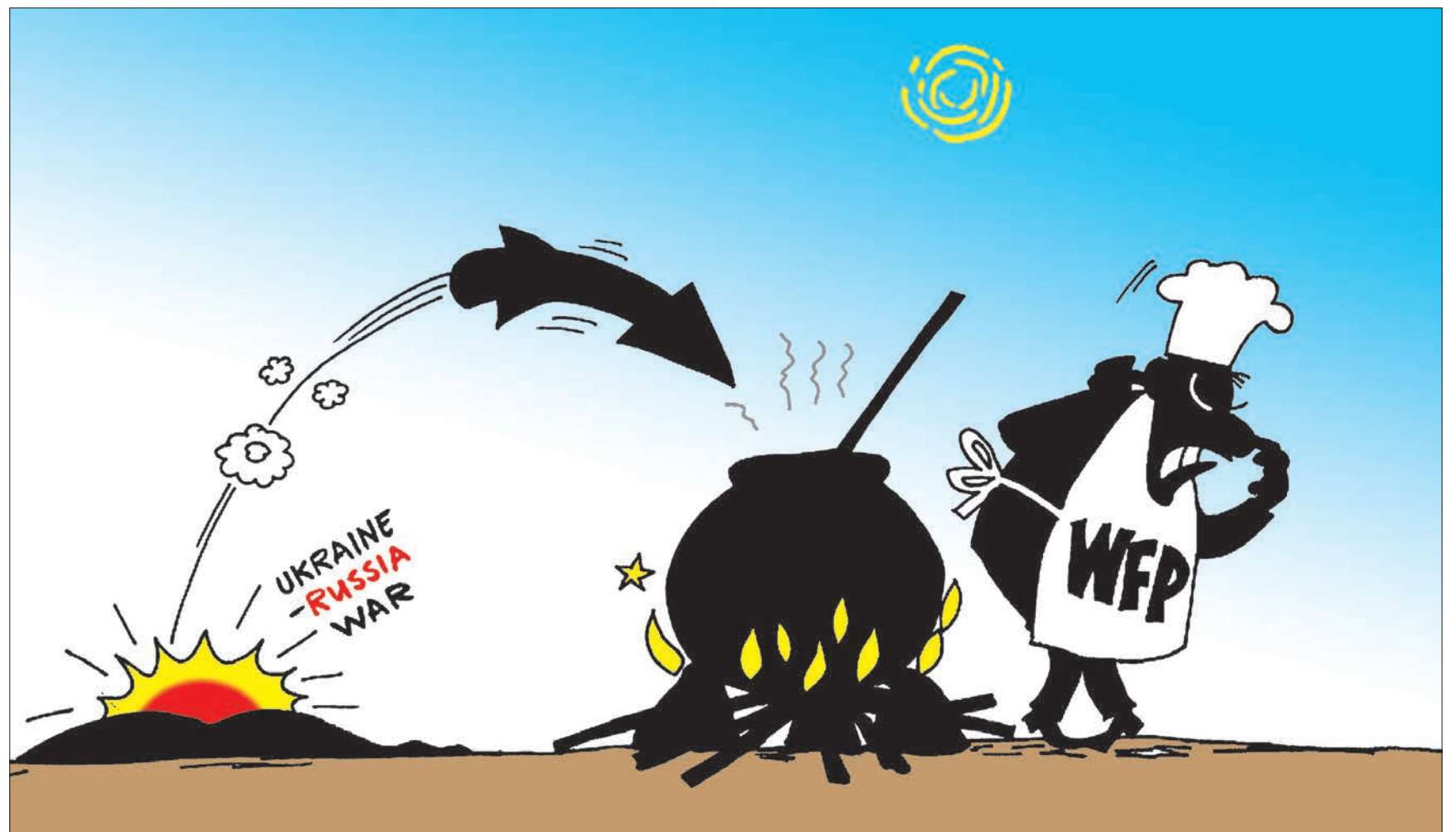
They said the handling of TB patients discharged from hospital on completion of in-patient treatment can prove challenging indeed in that most soon stop taking doses, some claiming that they have already been miraculously healed and others lacking the means to find themselves the right kind of food.

Yet, some patients are too weak to engage in any income-generating venture, their energy sapped by the disease, and just can't find the needed funds.

Thus, society should feel obliged to take good care of such patients once they rejoin their families.

This is crucial, as experts are emphatic that a person down with TB can be declared fully healed only after taking the appropriate doses for the prescribed period.

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By Special Correspondents

WEALTHY states colluded with corporate giants in 2021 to dupe people with empty slogans and false promises of a fair recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, many people from Africa were denied life-saving vaccines, in what amounts to one of the greatest betrayals of our times.

This is according to Amnesty International, as it launched its annual assessment of human rights around the world on Tuesday.

Amnesty International Report 2021/22: The State of the World's Human Rights finds that these states, alongside corporate titans, have in fact driven deeper global inequality.

This has left most African countries struggling to recover from Covid-19 owing to high levels of inequality, poverty and unemployment exacerbated by unequal distribution of vaccines.

"Covid-19 should have been a decisive wake-up call to deal with inequality and poverty. Instead, we have seen deeper inequality and greater instability in Africa exacerbated by global powers, especially rich countries, who failed to ensure that Big Pharma distributed vaccines equally between states to ensure the same level of recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic," said Deprose Muchena, AI's International's Director for East and Southern Africa.

The director said: "As things stand now, most African countries will take long to recover from Covid-19 due to high levels of inequality and poverty. The after-effects of Covid-19 have been most damaging to the most marginalised communities, including those on the front lines of endemic poverty from Angola to Zambia, Ethiopia to Somalia and the Central Africa Republic to Sierra Leone."

AI reported that the year saw multiple waves of the Covid-19 pandemic tear through Africa, having a devastating impact on human rights.

It said governments' efforts to stem the tide of pandemic in countries such as Somalia, South Africa, Zambia, Senegal and Sierra Leone were hindered by the global vaccine inequality created by pharmaceutical companies and wealthy nations.

By the year's end, less than 8 per cent of the continent's 1.2 billion people had been fully vaccinated, it added.

Nearly nine million cases and more than 220,000 deaths were recorded during the year. South Africa remained the epicentre of the pandemic, in terms of reported cases and deaths.

Meanwhile, wealthy countries such as EU member states, the UK and the US stockpiled more doses than needed, whilst turning a blind eye as Big Pharma (international pharmaceutical giants) put profits ahead of people, refusing to share their technology to enable wider distribution of vaccines.

In 2021, Pfizer, BioNTech and

'Millions deprived of vaccines, worsening inequality, human suffering from conflicts'

Moderna projected eye-watering profits of up to US\$54 billion yet supplied less than 2 per cent of their vaccines to low-income countries.

Vaccination distribution continues to be painfully slow across the continent, igniting fears of deepening poverty and a prolonged economic recovery.

"Rich and powerful countries used money and their political influence to procure hundreds of millions of doses, shutting poor countries out of the market," said Samira Daoud, AI West and Central Africa director.

The director stated: "The result was inequitable distribution of these much-needed vaccines, meaning that most people in low-income countries would become the last to be inoculated, as if one's financial status or nationality was the qualifying criteria to get vaccinated."

The devastating consequences of collusion between corporate giants and western governments were compounded by health systems and economic and social support crumbling under the weight of decades of neglect.

The result was a rise in poverty, inequality and food insecurity, with AI noting that nowhere was this felt more clearly and cruelly than in Africa and saying that was why it launched its report from South Africa.

With less than 8 per cent of the continent's population fully vaccinated by the end of 2021, it holds the lowest vaccination rate in the world, beleaguered by insufficient supplies provided to the COVAX facility, the Africa Vaccine Acquisition Trust and through bilateral donations.

Too often, supplies were insufficient or their arrival times were unpredictable, making it hard for governments to build trust among their populations and structure effective rollout campaigns.

In countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi and South Sudan vaccine deliveries arrived with short expiry dates, forcing authorities to destroy supplies or return the bulk for reallocation to other countries.

The Covid-19 pandemic also highlighted the region's chronic lack of investment in health sectors over many decades. The already inadequate healthcare systems in most countries were severely strained, especially during the pandemic's third wave.

In Somalia, only one hospital in Mogadishu, the capital, handled all Covid-19-related cases across south central regions for much of the year.

Allegations of corruption, including in relation to Covid-19 funds, meanwhile further undermined health sectors in many countries, among them Cameroon and South Africa.

The pandemic has also resulted in many people across Africa being left behind in terms of education, including Uganda, which will result in cementing inequality going forward.

In South Africa, roundabout 750,000 children had dropped out of school by May, over three times the pre-pandemic number.

The global failure to build a global response to the pandemic mirrored the global failure to address human rights violations in conflicts on the African continent.

Human rights abuses in the conflicts on the continent continued unabated across the year partly because of the inaction of the African Union Peace and Security Council.

In the wake of new and unresolved conflicts, civilians were made collateral damage, millions were displaced, thousands killed and hundreds subjected to sexual violence, while already fragile healthcare and economic systems were brought to the brink.

In the conflict in northern Ethiopia, the Ethiopian government forces alongside the Eritrean Defence Forces (EDF), and the Amhara police and militia continued to fight against the Tigrayan forces in a conflict that started in November 2020, affecting millions.

During the conflict, members of the EDF as well as Ethiopian security forces and militia committed serious human rights violations, including sexual violence against women, unlawful killings and forced displacement.

Millions of people in Tigray were denied humanitarian aid, this resulting in many facing life-threatening conditions. Detainees in West Tigray were subjected to torture, extrajudicial execution, starvation, and denial of medical care.

In Mozambique, civilians continued to be caught between three armed forces in the conflict in Cabo Delgado, in which more than 3,000 people have died since the conflict began in October 2017.

In Central African Republic, unlawful attacks, including killings and other violations and abuses of international humanitarian and human rights law, some amounting to war crimes, were committed by all parties to the conflict.

Global trends to stifle independent and critical voices gathered steam in 2021 across sub-Saharan Africa as governments deployed a widening gamut of tools and tactics.

Measures to curb the spread of Covid-19 provided additional pretext for the repression of peaceful dissent across the region. Countries which witnessed the first instinct of governments to ban peaceful protests, citing health and safety concerns, included in Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Lesotho and Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, in countries like Eswatini and South Sudan, organisers were arrested, and the internet was disrupted to derail planned protests.

Security forces used excessive force to break up peaceful protests of

hundreds or thousands of people who defied bans. In at least 12 countries, including Angola, Benin, Senegal, Chad, Eswatini, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Sudan, many people died when security forces fired live ammunition.

In Eswatini, the violent dispersal of pro-democracy protests resulted in 80 deaths and more than 200 injuries over five months. In Sudan, at least 53 people died when security forces used live ammunition to disperse protests against the October (2021) military coup.

In Chad, at least 700 people protesting against the electoral process and later against the establishment of the transitional government were arrested.

In DRC, three activists arrested in North Kivu for organising a peaceful sit-in to protest mismanagement in a local healthcare administration remained in detention. In Eswatini, at least 1,000 pro-democracy protesters, including 38 children, were arbitrarily arrested.

"Instead of providing room for discussion and debate so sorely needed on how best to meet the challenges of 2021, many states redoubled efforts to muzzle critical voices," the AI report says.

Nevertheless, 2021 was not all doom and gloom. Some key human rights wins were recorded across sub-Saharan Africa after persistent campaigning for freedoms.

Following months of relentless pro-democracy protests by the people of Eswatini, King Mswati III conceded to calls for dialogue to negotiate the future of the country with pro-democracy protesters. This offers new hope for a country where political reforms were not up for negotiations with the monarch.

In Sudan, people's power was in full display when civilians took to the streets in October to reject a military takeover of power by soldiers as well as reversals of human rights gains made during the transitional period.

In Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea, dozens of members or sympathisers of opposition parties as well as members of civil society organisations who were arbitrarily arrested for having exercised their freedoms of expression or peaceful assembly were released.

In 2022, if governments are intent on building back broken - then we are left with little option. We must fight their every attempt to muzzle our voices and we must stand up to their every betrayal. It is why, in the coming weeks, we are launching a global campaign of solidarity with people's movements, a campaign demanding respect for the right to protest. We must build and harness global solidarity, even if our leaders won't.

• An Amnesty International dispatch filed from London.

Academic certificate isn't the magic you need, what you can do matters



GRADUATING with a top grade bachelor's or master's degree doesn't guarantee you direct employment. Neither does an MBA certification means you know how to run a business nor does the name of the institution you went to speak a thing.

Your degree doesn't matter. At least not as much as you think it does. Can you practically show it? What can you bring on the table with a degree or master's certification? Well, that's what matters.

One Mr Ellison, an HR professional and veteran in tech industry, once crystallized something I had always felt but wasn't able to put words to—a degree simply doesn't matter.

In as much as it's true your degree is an important record of your training on the fundamentals and learning how to think critically, it is important to step into lifelong learning as well because learning is a perpetual action not a means to an end. It simply doesn't matter as much as what you have learned since you graduated is tucked away in a drawer some 50 kilometers away. You have to keep tabs and embark on a learning journey, blend into new trends of the world's workplace and the future of work.

What if your professional qualifications today might be replaced by a robot in the near future? Will your skills still be relevant?

Your BA isn't as valuable as your recent learning in determining readiness or qualifications for a job. Nevertheless, your MBA doesn't make you a better manager than someone who has helped grow a business and stays current with reading on entrepreneurship and leadership.

Simply put, your degree doesn't matter as much as you are a lifelong

learner, a student of life.

This HR guru summed it up well at a recent career boot camp: "Increasingly, I hear this mantra 'skills not degrees'. It's not skills at the exclusion of degrees. It's just expanding our perspective to go beyond degrees."

Having started her career in HR and having built and scaled global customer success teams at several fast-growing companies, he has had the opportunity to interview thousands of people. One of his favorite questions as he says has always been: "Why did you go to college, what did you study and how that lead did to where you are today?"

A three-part interview question? This can catch one off guard but it is the question that really does matter for the workplace today.

This has nothing to do with the school, the level of degree or even the subject an individual has passed through or is currently pursuing.

Personally, it did matter

to me a while ago until the professional world taught me a lesson on skills and not papers. It had never mattered to me that much in the past just like today.

Elison talks about how he finds it interesting to look into the insights of an individual and how he has leveraged that foundation to learn and grow through his career not even with his company but those of the individuals he worked with.

"Oh, I have a degree in Public Relations and because I didn't know what I wanted to do and I have always been interested in running my own business...But after graduating, I ..." or "I have a degree in Procurement because I love store management but after graduating I found that I hate being stuck in invoices all day so I ..." Such rumbling replies are just a tip of the iceberg and Elison explained so candidly how such sincere discussions reveal true potentials of prospective employees as

unique individuals who desire to make ends meet and live their dreams.

Pretty much, the honesty in many of the answers can lead to an interesting discussion.

The way candidates connect higher education to their career and lifelong learning is a great indication of what they are bringing to the table. It is an interesting insight into the Why of their career. It is almost rare to find someone who went to college and received a degree in the same area as their current profession.

Even if your degree is perfectly aligned with the job you want, the hiring team wants to know what you have been doing since then and what you are willing to share and bring along for the benefit of their company.

The problem is several recruiters are still measuring skill acquisition with how attractive your GPA looks because that's the standard they have had to measure learning.



Concern as microplastics found in human blood for first time

By Damian Carrington

MICROPLASTIC pollution has been detected in human blood for the first time, with scientists finding the tiny particles in almost 80 per cent of the people tested.

The discovery shows the particles can travel around the body and may lodge in organs.

The impact on health is as yet unknown but researchers are concerned as micro plastics cause damage to human cells in the laboratory and air pollution particles are already known to enter the body and cause millions of early deaths a year.

Huge amounts of plastic waste are dumped in the environment and micro plastics now contaminate the entire planet, from the summit of Mount Everest to the deepest oceans.

People were already known to consume the tiny particles via food and water as well as breathing them in, and they have been found in the faces of babies and adults.

The scientists analyzed blood samples from 22 anonymous donors, all healthy adults and found plastic particles in 17.

Half the samples contained PET plastic, which is commonly used in drinks bottles, while a third contained polystyrene, used for packaging food and other products.

A quarter of the blood samples contained polyethylene, from which plastic carrier bags are made.

"Our study is the first indication that we have polymer particles in our blood - it's a breakthrough result," said Professor Dick Vethaak, an Eco toxicologist at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

"But we have to extend the research and increase the sample sizes, the number of polymers assessed, etc." Further studies by a number of groups are already under way, he said.

"It is certainly reasonable to be concerned," Vethaak told the Guardian.



"The particles are there and are transported throughout the body," he said.

He said previous work had shown that micro plastics were 10 times higher in the faces of babies compared with adults and that babies fed with plastic bottles are swallowing millions of micro plastic particles a day.

"We also know in general that babies and young children are more vulnerable to chemical and particle exposure, that worries me a lot," he said.

The new research is published in the journal *Environment International* and adapted existing techniques to detect and analyse particles as small

as 0.0007mm.

Some of the blood samples contained two or three types of plastic. The team used steel syringe needles and glass tubes to avoid contamination and tested for background levels of micro plastics using blank samples.

Vethaak acknowledged that the

amount and type of plastic varied considerably between the blood samples adding that this is a pioneering study.

He said the differences might reflect short-term exposure before the blood samples were taken, such as drinking from a plastic-lined coffee cup, or

wearing a plastic face mask.

"The big question is what is happening in our body?" Vethaak said. "Are the particles retained in the body? Are they transported to certain organs, such as getting past the blood-brain barrier?" And are these levels sufficiently high to trigger disease? We urgently need to fund further research so we can find out."

The new research was funded by the Dutch National Organization for Health Research and Development and Common Seas, a social enterprise working to reduce plastic pollution.

"Plastic production is set to double by 2040," said Jo Royle, founder of the Charity Common Seas. "We have a right to know what all this plastic is doing to our bodies," he said.

Common Seas, along with more than 80 NGOs, scientists and MPs, are asking the UK government to allocate £15m to research on the human health impacts of plastic.

The EU is already funding research on the impact of micro plastic on fetuses and babies, and on the immune system.

A recent study found that micro plastics can latch on to the outer membranes of red blood cells and may limit their ability to transport oxygen.

The particles have also been found in the placentas of pregnant women and in pregnant rats they pass rapidly through the lungs into the hearts, brains and other organs of the fetuses.

A new review paper published on Tuesday, co-authored by Vethaak, assessed cancer risk and concluded "More detailed research on how micro- and nan-plastics affect the structures and processes of the human body, and whether and how they can transform cells and induce carcinogenesis, is urgently needed, particularly in light of the exponential increase in plastic production."

"The problem is becoming more urgent with each day," he cautioned.

Profound effect of COVID - 19 on women and girls in Asia-Pacific documented

Tokyo

Women and girls in the Asia-Pacific region were adversely impacted due to COVID-19 pandemic responses - with marginalized women and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) and gender-based violence (GBV) services profoundly affected.

These were the findings of a study by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The research conducted from 2020 to 2021 reviewed SRHR and GBV laws, policies, and implementation practices during the pandemic response in six countries in the Asia-Pacific region, namely Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines.

On the upside, UNFPA and APDA research also identified promising practices that emerged during the pandemic. The report makes extensive recommendations to governments to mitigate the impact of emergencies like the pandemic.

"The failure to classify appropriate sexual and reproductive health rights and gender-based violence services as essential, in line with international human rights law, compounded challenges to accessing such services during the pandemic," the report states. The Asia-Pacific region's findings mirrored the global trend which, according to the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, non-COVID-19 related healthcare services had been less available during the pandemic, including sexual and reproductive healthcare services.

Maternal Health

"Reduced access to ante- and postnatal care and skilled birth attendance during the pandemic has led to increased maternal mortality," the study found. For example, in July 2021, Nepal reported a considerable increase in maternal deaths, with 258 women dying due to pregnancy or childbirth between March 2020 and June 2021 - 22 of whom had COVID-19. In the year before March 2020, Nepal recorded 51 maternal deaths.

The barriers women met included not being able to access ante- and postnatal care and safe delivery health services. Women feared getting COVID-19 at hospitals or health centers. There was a lack of transport, and financial and human resources were diverted from SRHR services to manage the COVID-19 outbreak.

"Midwives and birth center workers reported an increase in the number of pregnant women considering delivery options outside hospital settings owing to a fear of infection, overcrowding, supply shortages, and visitor restriction," according to the findings. This resulted in unsafe and unskilled birthing practices, which could lead to maternal and infant deaths.

This trend was especially problematic for women and girls in disadvantaged and hard-to-reach



Joint Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) research documented the impact of the COVID-20 pandemic on women and girls. The research also found promising practices emerged during the pandemic. Credit: UNFPA

areas. There were several promising practices.

Bangladesh developed guidelines for essential maternal health services and provided virtual training for healthcare professionals. It also implemented midwifery mentoring to establish and monitor safe maternity services for women.

There was public interest litigation to establish access to maternal health rights for pregnant women in India and Nepal.

Indonesia improved and expanded midwifery care.

The Philippines implemented cash voucher assistance and established obstetric triage tents for pregnant women.

The report suggests that governments regard antenatal care, skilled birth

attendance, and postnatal care as essential services.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

The report recommends that workers in the SRH and maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent care shouldn't be re-deployed to other areas. Surveillance systems should alert health ministries of increases in deaths so emergency preventive measures can be put in place and information systems updated to capture declining or missed antenatal and postnatal care appointments. These efforts would prevent maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.

The research found an "unmet need for family planning and contraception because health facilities are closing or limiting services, and women are refraining

from visiting health facilities due to fear of COVID-19 exposure or because of travel restrictions."

Vital supplies for SRH, including modern contraceptives, were less readily available given the closure of production sites and global and local supply chains disruption.

In Fiji, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines, advocacy prompted governments to develop guidelines on contraceptive availability and continuity of family planning services during the pandemic.

The Philippines also set up virtual family planning and delivered contraceptives.

Nepal created community-based family planning services in remote quarantine centers.

Indonesia developed a model policy to include women and girls with disabilities in

the COVID-19 response, and Bangladesh set up mobile phone messaging known as m-health for family planning.

Apart from declaring family planning an essential service, the researchers recommended that governments move services from clinical settings to communities, such as community-based family planning services.

HIV and STI prevention

HIV and other STI prevention also suffered setbacks during the pandemic. Testing and treatment stalled due to travel and transport restrictions, the prohibitive cost of courier services for delivering antiretroviral drugs, and inadequate stock due to global supply chain disruptions.

Gender-Based Violence

"Restrictions in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 not only increase the risks of gender-based violence but also limit the ability of survivors to distance themselves from their abusers and access GBV response services," the research found.

There were a range of problems, including accessing help if women were locked down with their abusers, while support services struggled to meet demand.

"Judicial, police, and health services, which are the first responders for women, are overwhelmed, have shifted their priorities, or are otherwise unable to help. Civil society groups are affected by lockdowns and the reallocation of resources. Some domestic violence shelters are full; others have had to close or have been repurposed as health centers," the research found.

Despite the dire consequences of lockdown on gender-based violence, numerous examples of innovative solutions included revising GBV referral pathways.

Fiji created one-stop service centers, and the Philippines made the clinical management of rape an essential service.

Bangladesh created one-stop service centers in their hospitals and multiple free 24-hour psychosocial counseling hotlines.

In Jammu and Kashmir, India, empty hotels and education institutions were designated safe spaces for violence survivors.

The researchers recommend that information on operational multisectoral gender-based violence response services and referral mechanisms is available and adapted to the COVID-19 context.

They also recommend that the clinical management of rape is classified as an essential service.

Trained counselors should also operate multiple free 24-hour psychosocial counseling hotlines.

Finally, the report noted that it was necessary to "ensure that no one is left behind; for example, people with disabilities; indigenous people; ethnic minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex people; internally displaced people and refugees; people in humanitarian settings; and people facing multiple intersecting forms of discrimination, by ensuring that vulnerable groups have the information they need to respond to GBV and have access to essential life-saving services."

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Three research centres develop banana breeds

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Mbeya

TANZANIA Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) centres of Uyole, Maruku and Tengeru in collaboration with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) have developed four new improved banana hybrids for food and money-making.

The developed banana breeds have coded TARIBANI, TARIBAN2, TARIBAN3, and TARIBAN4.

TARI Uyole centre director Dr. Tulole Bucheyeki said these improved hybrids are first-ever, improved banana hybrids to be officially released in the country that are resistant to the important pests and diseases ravaging the current varieties that millions of farmers across the country are growing and therefore herald a new, exciting era for banana cultivation in the country.

He said the research was a collaborative work between Tanzania agricultural research institute, local and international institutions.

TARI director general Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo who is visiting TARI centres to inspect progress of research and production said the current priority of the research institute is to scale up production, achieve agricultural productivity, food and nutrition and spur the nation's economy.

The hybrids that meet farmers preference were officially released after five years of evaluation in major banana growing region of Tanzania Kagera, Kilimanjaro and Mbeya.



TARI director general Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo and TARI Uyole centre staff looking at the new improved hybrids of an important commercial and staple cooking banana at TARI Uyole Mbeya. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu.

Mkamilo said the new varieties are resistant to black Sigatoka leaf disease as well as banana weevils, helping farmers to achieve high yields ranging from 35 to 60 tons per ha per year. Currently, farmers average productivity is below 10 tons per ha per year, he explained.

Enabling the farmers achieve

higher yield of up to 70 tonnes per hectare is a major achievement for the country's efforts to improve its food security and the incomes of rural farmers. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all farmers and investors to visit our TARI centres at any time and during this year's Nananane exhibitions to get

this new technology for increased production and productivity," he said.

He said the Ministry of agriculture high agenda on the table is to generate and promote application of knowledge, innovation and agricultural technologies to enable farmers

and the nation achieve sustainable agriculture and ensure food security.

Dr. Mkamilo said TARIBANI is tolerant to nematodes—these are invisible worms that cause root rotting and toppling and it is also tolerant to Banana Weevils that reduce plantation longevity and

resistance to black Sigatoka (black leaf spot that reduce area for photosynthesis).

He named other attributes as escape insect transmitted Banana Bacterial wilt. It has a medium plant stature (2.5M to 3.0M), medium maturity (500 days to 600 days from planting to harvesting), provides good food when cooked, big bunch with many hands and big fingers and yield of 50 to 60 tons per ha per year.

Explaining the attributes of TARIBAN2, Dr. Mkamilo said that the variety is tolerant to nematodes (These are invisible worms that cause root rotting and toppling), they are tolerant to Banana Weevils that reduce plantation longevity, resistance to black Sigatoka (black leaf spot that reduce area for photosynthesis), escape insect transmitted Banana Bacterial wilt, it has tall plant stature (3.0 to 3.5M), late Maturity (550 days to 650 days from planting to harvesting), provides good food when cooked and its yield range from 50 to 60 tons per hectare per year.

The attributes for TARIBAN3 are tolerant to nematodes, tolerant to Banana Weevils that reduce plantation longevity, escape insect transmitted Banana Bacterial wilt, it has medium sized plant stature (2.0M to 2.8M), medium maturity (500 days to 600 days from planting to harvesting), provide good food when cooked, has big bunch, hence good for business and its yield range from 35 to 50 tons per hectare per year.

Dr. Mkamilo said TARIBAN4

has the following attributes. Tolerant to nematodes, tolerant to Banana Weevils that reduce plantation longevity, resistance to black Sigatoka, escape insect transmitted Banana Bacterial wilt. It has medium sized plant stature (2.0M to 2.8M), early maturity (450 days to 550 days), provide good food when cooked, has big bunch, hence good for business and yield up to 70 tons per hectare per year.

TARI Uyole in charge of technology transfer and partnership Nyimila Kalindile said the centre's mandate on crop research include maize, beans, round potato, pyrethrum, and agricultural mechanization as mandate programme.

"TARI Uyole is conducting research and identifying highly productive and resilient hybrids that are well adapted to different ecological farming systems and that can be more quickly integrated into such systems. This year, we are showcasing and disseminating such technologies to the farmers so that they can improve production and productivity," she said.

The farmers can benefit from recent technologies at all agricultural exhibition grounds across the country. They can also learn the new technologies through agricultural technology transfer hubs at Nyakabindi in Baridi, Simiyu region, at Mwalimu Nyerere agricultural exhibition ground in Morogoro, at John Mwakangale in Mbeya, at Ngongo in Lindi, and many others.

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE government has launched sunflower project that aimed at achieving increased seed accessibility, availability, affordability and stimulate seed demand.

By Guardian Correspondent WOMEN's rights are human rights, and investing in women is not only a right thing to do but the smartest to do if they want to speed up their results towards FYD 23, Africa Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals, according to the UNDP Tanzania Resident Representative, Christine Musisi.

Speaking during the Women in Management Awards Gala dinner event held over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, Christine highlighted the importance of gender equality in creating a sustainable world.

The representative said UNDP is committed to making gender equality, a basic human right and a necessity for a sustainable world, a reality.

"Women's empowerment and gender equality are vital to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which envisions a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity in which every woman, and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed," she said.

Christine said to succeed on the above, UNDP works on inclusive governance, illusive growth, climate change and environmental sustainability to ensure that Gender Equality and Women Empowerment is integral to all of their activities with Government Leadership and collaboration with all partners, civil society and the private sector.

"As we celebrate these women, we believe their voices will give a big push for other women to have a voice, stand up to what they believe in and not be afraid to soar higher no matter

Dar hosts Women in Management Awards gala



Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda (4th L), UNDP Tanzania Resident Representative, Christine Musisi (3rd L-front row) and Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Liberata Mulamula (4th R-front row) pose for picture with Top 50 Women In Management winners and other guests during the Women In Management Awards gala dinner event in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

the barriers they face every day," Christine disclosed.

WIMA's founder and CEO, Naiké Mosh described the event as key in recognizing and awarding women and companies that excelled in their notable and outstanding performance in filling the gender gap in their communities through the work they're doing in different sectors.

"This is our third awarding ceremony

event, and for this year we've raised the bar by convening a Pan-African summit in the morning," she said.

The summit attracted more than 300 participants, both men, and women, from inside and outside the country, whereby we had intense discussions and dialogues on the strategies to #Break_the_bias aligning to women's day 2022 theme.

"We also had interactive panel discus-

sions on how we can increase women financial inclusion in this era of digital economy," she said.

During the event top 50 women have been awarded. They're women in management Africa, WIMA SDG Female Champion, Women Leaders in NGO's, WIMA Abilities award, WIMA Nextgen Award, WIMA Stem Award, He for She Award, WIMA Brand Champion Award and WIMA lifetime achievement award.

Most of them have demonstrated and excelled at performing impactful work in their leadership positions in Tanzania, Liberia, South Africa, Mozambique, Ghana, Nigeria, Jordan and UAE.

WIMA possesses a unique value proposition, and aimed at improving gender balance and diversity on boards and in leadership roles in line with the international benchmark for sustainable business practices, and Goals 5 & 10 of

the United Nations Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDG 2030).

In 2019 and 2021, we successfully awarded more than 85 women with outstanding performance in corporate leadership.

And we're doing it through increasing women's visibility, training professional women, and recognizing them for their leadership event.

According to the Gender Diversity Report of Tanzania which was done by WIMA and PWR Nigeria, none of the 28 registered public listed companies on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange has a female board chair. On the other hand, there is only one female CEO among the 28 companies. What's more shocking is that out of 227 board seats in total, only 49 seats, or merely 21.6% are held by women.

Naiké pointed out: "We are confronted with several challenges. WIMA intends to reach the entire African continent, but we lack the resources and visibility to reach women in local communities."

"We also face difficulties in attracting sponsors that can support women in these essential empowerment programs. There is a necessity of having a strong network that can enhance unity in propelling women agendas in Tanzania and Africa as a whole," she revealed, noting:

"Before concluding, I take this golden opportunity to assert that, despite the efforts made to promote gender equality, there is much work to be done, to raise awareness and policy reforms in the national and international context."

Naiké applauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for being a woman leader. "We're all witnesses that within one year of her presidency, opportunities have been unleashed for the country and women have been empowered in diverse ways in leadership, entrepreneurship, technology, and beyond."

"In January, women broke the ceiling and we have a strong woman leading the Tanzanian parliament, our very own Speaker, Tulia Ackson."

"Our President has candidly proven that women are strong pillars in fostering development in social, economic, and political aspects", said Naiké noted.

Zimbabwe elections rekindle voter apathy concerns

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Activity in the streets of Zimbabwe's second city is testimony to a thriving informal sector where thousands of people eke out a living selling all sorts of wares.

From vegetables to soft drinks to television sets, mobile phones and anything in-between, all are peddled here, where being self-employed means putting in more hours to ensure food on the table.

It is here where 41-year-old Gilbert Mabutho works as an itinerant vendor, peddling whatever commodity he can sell. Today he is selling boiled maize (corn) because he says, "maize is in season."

"There are no jobs. This is where my bread comes from," Mabutho told IPS.

Amid the hustle and bustle, Mabutho is among many who have not taken time off their daily grind to register to vote or check their names in the voter's roll ahead of the forthcoming primary elections.

Voter registration opened in January and closed on February 28 ahead of the by-elections. Registration will resume after the by-



People take time to go to the bank, but not to register to vote. Lower voter turnout and registration are a cause for concern in Zimbabwe. Credit: Ignatius Banda/IPS

elections from April 10 to 30. "I haven't had time to register. I am just too occupied trying to make ends meet," Mabutho said.

By-elections, considered harbinger of the country's 2023 elections, were held earlier this month, and analysts are raising concerns about the low response to

voter registration and participation. Yet besides being too busy to make time for voter registration, residents such as unemployed Samson Basvi say they do not see any benefit in voting.

"The country's hardships have been going for years now, showing me no reason to vote," Basvi told IPS.

"If voting truly changed anything, surely the people who are voted into power would improve our lives," he reasoned, expressing a common sentiment here, where the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) (ZANU-PF) has been in power since 1980. According to the Zimbabwe Electoral

Commission, the country's second-largest city has the lowest number of registered voters.

In the 2018 elections, where President Emmerson Mnangagwa claimed disputed victory, about three-quarters of about 5.5 million registered voters cast their vote - which was considered a high turnout.

"It is not clear yet if voter turnout in the by-elections is an indicator of the 2023 polls," said Piers Pigou, southern Africa analyst at the International Crisis Group.

Analysts note that a lack of trust in electoral processes has led to voter apathy.

"The prime cause for apathy is fears of a possible rigging of elections in favour of the ruling ZANU-PF, a longstanding sentiment among voters," said Stanley Mabuka, an analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), a government-appointed body tasked with running the country's elections, has also been criticized for what is seen as poor voter education and voter registration campaign, with some residents claiming they have not heard about voter verification or registration.

"A lacklustre approach by the ZEC on registration exercise in remote areas might also accelerate voter apathy among first-timers. Already the registration exercise is running late due to delays imposed by the coronavirus pandemic," Mabuka told IPS.

Zimbabwe has for years

witnessed a cycle of disputed election outcomes, with opposition political parties accusing the ruling party of manipulating electoral processes. At the same time, some observer missions raised concerns about the credibility of the 2018 poll results.

"We have not seen the number of people registering rising compared with the number of people qualified to vote even if they meet all the requirements," said Effie Ncube, a political analyst and independent researcher in Bulawayo.

"You then have people registered to vote but don't vote because of despondency that elections have not been delivering the kind of lifestyle they desire," Ncube told IPS.

The ruling party says it is targeting 5 million votes in the 2023 elections, while the Citizens for Change Coalition (CCC), led by Nelson Chamisa, says it is targeting 6 million voters. But with the current pace of voter registration and the inspection of the voter's roll expected to pour into 2023, there is little to show that either party will garner such numbers.

By-elections were called to fill vacant municipality and legislative seats, but some analysts note that by-elections have generally attracted few voters, a phenomenon seen across the continent.

"There is usually less interest in by-elections, but there is also the issue of young people who have turned voting age who are failing to get registration documents that will allow them to vote," said Pigou.

"Low voter participation has been a general trend across the region (southern Africa), and this has been particularly the case with younger people," Pigou told IPS.

More is required to be done if voters are to be convinced of a "possibility of change spearheaded by a democratic opposition," says Stephen Chan, a professor of world politics at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies who has written extensively about Zimbabwe.

"By and large, by-elections attract a low turnout around the world. In Zimbabwe, however, there are added factors of disillusionment with the fragmentation of the opposition and the sense among voters that ZANU-PF is at this point not able to be dislodged from power," Chan told IPS.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 256 00--

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

WORD-FIT

CROSSWORD

3 letters: BUA, KAA, BEN, TRY, ONE, AIL, DUE, ADD

4 letters: ROBE, NOUN, MAST, LEER, DELE

5 letters: ROGUE, ABEAM, AGENT, THANA, BEMBA, ENEMY, YOUNG, ASIDE, STAIN,

6 letters: GRABBY, LUGGER, HOMAGE, BOTTLE

7 letters: TAMALE,

8 letters: GRABBLE, KATANGA, ONESELF,

CLUES: Across

1 First President of Kenya

5 Tripoli is her Capital

8 behave uncontrollably and disruptively

9 a fertile spot in a desert

11 set the value of a tax

13 assert to be the case

16 progress through life

17 the sixth month of the year

19 United Nations University

21 indicating the point in space or time at which a journey starts

22 someone who does surprise attack on people

24 a derogatory term for a white man

25 crush with a sharp blow from a flat object

26 matt

CLUES: Down

1 highest mountain in Africa

2 mountain where Moses saw the promised land from afar

3 gather

4 tempt sexually

5 a defeat in sport

7 a friendly form of address in India

10 the religion of the Muslims

12 direct vehicles in a correct side

14 listlessness and dissatisfaction arising from boredom

15 a brass musical instrument

18 give property to

20 Union of European Football Associations

23 mouse

SOLUTIONS

U H U R U F R E E M A N D E L A M

Z N O V O Y E M O A

E L E V E N O E S H A R I A A N

S A V A M E N C S U N B L A T

C C U R I O U S N O R A N G E T L

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S E V E R E D P A S T O R E

G O D A T T A R P E N H Y A N K

R A O R A R E L E D G E O C

A S C R E A M A U O R A N G E S

P L A T E E C S T A R L O

E D S T U D H H E D I C T T

By Magezi : 0755429240 felixmagezi@gmail.com

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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TBL LINES UP USD100,000 FOR TANZANIAN START-UP INNOVATORS

By Property Watch Correspondent

Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) has invited innovators from across the country to apply for the 100+ Accelerator programme, which is meant to contribute towards addressing the country's sustainability challenges.

The programme, which was launched in 2018, will this year be looking for innovative solutions that can scale quickly and make a significant impact on one or more challenge areas, a TBL statement released yesterday said.

The 100+ Accelerator has over the years focused on start-ups that have a product in the market or are prepared to go to the market.

"It is also particularly interested in supporting great teams, companies led by passionate entrepreneurs who have surrounded themselves with diverse talent that are in the best position to succeed," the statement said.

Applications are being accepted for Cohort 4 for the Accelerator 100+, a global incubator programme powered

by AB InBev and partnering organisations. TBL is a member of the Anheuser-Busch InBev group of companies.

Accelerator 100+ works with has worked with several leading global corporates in mobilising start-ups towards solving global sustainability challenges related to water, circular economy, climate, agriculture, inclusive growth and biodiversity.

Once selected, participants will receive mentorship, training and up to US\$100,000 for implementing a pilot project with some of the most well-loved brands in the world.

"We have seen the work the 100+ Accelerator has done to help passionate entrepreneurs solve pressing global challenges and bring their solutions to the market faster," TBL's country director, Jose Moran, has said.

"This partnership is an opportunity to come together to accelerate progress for a more sustainable world, even as each company continues to strive for their independent sustainability goals," he added.

TBL has noted that no company or organisation can solve today's sustainability

challenges alone, adding: "The 100+ Accelerator has always been key to the establishment of partnerships with scientists, innovators, entrepreneurs and companies around the world to identify and scale new sustainability solutions."

"Together with the local community in Tanzania, we have been collecting food waste to be turned into animal feed and organic fertiliser," said Andrew Wallace of Chanzi Limited.

He added: "The 100+ Accelerator campaign has played a huge role in supporting businesses in finding solutions for some of the most pressing environmental and social challenges of our time."

According to the TBL news release, all applicants will be evaluated on a rolling basis. Scoring will be assessed based on four values, including relevance to identified sustainability challenges, market expertise and team, and capacity to carry out the pilot project in the selected global zone.

Applications for the fourth cohort opened on Monday (March 28) and will close on April 30.



A beer production segment at TBL factory in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania should use its critical minerals more to meet zero emission by 2050

By Correspondent Daniel Sembeya

THE world requires the use of clean energy technologies to transform carbon-based energy such as coal, diesel and other hydrocarbons.

Experts say that the development of clean energy technologies is heavily dependent on the use of critical minerals.

However, they say, critical minerals have been broadly defined or described as minerals with limited geographical presence but critically associated with industrial use during the current and future global transition to clean energy and renewable energy.

Critical minerals include: Metals and non-metals elements with limited geological presence, stressed mineral commodity supply chains, minerals required for clean energy technologies, abundant minerals but used in clean energy, aluminium, copper, fluorspar, helium, graphite, magnesium, nickel, potash, tin, uranium and zirconium.

Other clean energy technologies include solar PV, wind turbines, batteries for electric vehicles, geothermal energy, tidal energy and nuclear power.

Presenting a paper during Policy Forum breakfast debate last Friday in Dar es Salaam focusing on "Minerals Extractive Sector Governance: Critical Minerals Potential and Implications for Tanzania", Former Commissioner for Minerals, Dr. Dalaly Kafumu said that in 2019 Tanzania estimated graphite reserves of 18 metric tons.

Quoting the International Energy Agency [IEA 2020] statistics, on the world critical demand, he said that the share of clean energy technologies in total demand of critical minerals will increase dramatically.

Furthermore, Kafumu said that IEA estimates that critical minerals demand for electrical car batteries will be 200kg per vehicle in an electric car compared to 30kg per vehicle in a conventional car. "This is over six times higher."

Regarding power generation and transmission, in offshore wind turbines, there will be 13, 500 kg/MW; onshore wind turbines-10'000 kg/MW; and solar PV-7000 kg/MW.

All compared to a normal gas or coal fired plant that requires only between 1000 and 2000 kg/MW of mineral. This is over thirteen times.

He asserted that due to the critical minerals exploration boom in Tanzania, the world trend has increased the internet in investing in critical minerals in Tanzania.

In 2010 gold licensing dominated the exploration portfolio. There were 90 per cent gold licences compared to 5 per cent critical minerals and 5 per cent other minerals.

But in 2020 critical minerals licensing accounted for over 70 per cent total licenses.

Regarding energy transition in Tanzania, Dr Kafumu said that Five Year Development Plans (FYDP I) of 2011/12 - 2015/16; (FYDP II) of 2016/17 - 2020/21 and (FYDP III) of 2021/22 - 2025/26 all states (without making reference to Energy Transition or Critical Minerals) the importance of Titanium (Ti) Vanadium (V) and Iron (Fe) resource at Liganga (Rudewa District) as strategic and classifies and describes them as Flagship Projects to stimulate local industries.

The Government Policy and Legal Framework in Mining are insensitive to Energy Transition and Climate Change Goals.

The Government only considers Critical Minerals as strategic minerals in the context of aiding National Economic Development (Develop value addition and technical skills within the country).



Former Commissioner for Minerals Dr Dalaly Kafumu pictured in Dar es Salaam on Friday makes a point on the importance of critical minerals in the country's development. Photo: Daniel Sembeya

Tanzania Mining Policy of 2009 does not make any reference to Energy Transition or Critical Minerals in Strategy or Policy statement.

However, section 5.5 of the Policy directs the Government to participate strategically in the mineral sector in mineral exploration, mining and value addition.

For his part, the discussant to the breakfast debate Eng. Assa Mwaipopo, a Senior Engineer Geologist and an Independent Mining Consultant with MM Consult Tanzania Ltd, said "We need to be part of the world by adopting critical minerals policy which should promote production."

He said that climate change is driving the world into cleaner energies to mitigate climate change. The principles that define critical energies are the needs and the risks for supply.

Mwaipopo further noted that it is high time for the government to borrow a leaf from major economies like US, Canada and Australia which declared several minerals to be critical.

"So we need to follow suit of all the critical minerals defined by these major economies."

According to the World Bank, International Energy Agency and the United Nations Environmental bodies, the impact of climate change and the drive to transition from fossil fuels to clean energy is happening faster than earlier predicted.

The WB estimates that overall demand for at least some critical minerals vital for industrial energy transition will increase significantly over the next 30 years-by 2050.

Governments must set clear policy objectives and regulations if critical materials supply is considered essential.

This may include development of strategic materials stockpiles and active support for the development of specific secure supply routes where this is deemed essential.

A structured global dialogue, facilitation of free trade and diversification of suppliers are constructive and fruitful responses to geopolitical challenges.

According to latest study by Natural Resource Governance Institute-Tanzania, entitled "Critical Minerals and Energy Transition: Findings from Tanzania's Scoping Study of Criti-

cal Minerals Potentials and implications for Tanzania..

"Preliminary reports show that Tanzania has a wide variety of what are considered critical or strategic minerals relevant to the future global energy transition. Yet for some of these minerals, the quality, quantity and location of these deposits is still unknown"

However, the discussion has not picked momentum within Tanzania to interrogate the potential contribution that these minerals could make to Tanzania's economic development and own energy transition.

The level of knowledge and engagement of Tanzania's citizens and civil society on energy transition is limited and critical minerals are non-existent.

The government policy and positioning is silent. Civil society would be interested to engage but lack adequate data.

With an estimated 5th largest reserve globally of critical minerals such as graphite-about 18 million tons, Tanzania could be a potential game changer in the next energy transition.

Graphite and lithium are critical in supporting wind turbines and electric batteries technology. Governance challenges and risks however, exist and if not addressed Tanzania could miss out.

According to their findings, Tanzania has close to 24 documented critical minerals whose potential if fully exploited can be a game changer in the country's economic development from the mining sector-considering the increasing demand for critical minerals and domestic energy transition.

Between 2005 and 2020, there was an exploration boom for Tanzania's critical minerals. The interest surpassed the gold and other major minerals. There are 26 exploration projects.

Majority of actors with mining interests or operations so far are foreign companies-low domestic participation, despite the occurrences of these deposits in rural areas and high potential for increasing profits and revenue potentials.

Australian companies top the list of the active players with 20 companies and two joint registered. There are five Tanzanian companies involved.

Other countries such as the US, Australia and Canada have already developed national critical minerals strategies, national and provincial public policies on critical minerals.

Including leveraging financing to local companies interested in investing and securing the critical minerals supply chain.

There are gaps in the current Tanzania development strategies and mineral policies. And independent or separate policy on critical or strategic minerals may not be necessary but aligning the current framework to tap in the energy transition opportunities is essential.

Government can benefit more from encouraging or investing in processing of the critical minerals at home, thus capturing and retaining high values from the resource extraction of the value chain.

Where the local volumes cannot economic viably support, Tanzania can explore partnering with other countries in the region.

Full or expanded public discussion about energy transition and its potential impact on Tanzania is required.

Thus, the government and civil society have been urged to increase awareness about energy transition and Tanzania's critical minerals potential considering the looming energy transition.

Again, government, civil society, and academia, have also been urged to increase or expand knowledge and public discussion about Tanzania's critical minerals and how it can leverage its critical minerals potential to harness or benefit from the energy transition value chain.

Government needs to proactively take actions to address some of the gaps identified by the findings.

It also needs to put in place a conducive environment for increased local stakeholder engagement, including promoting local companies to invest in this new mineral subsector.

'Tanzanian banks have opportunities to exploit in insurance sector, spur national growth'

By Property Watch Reporter

TANZANIAN banks and other financial institutions have plenty of opportunities to exploit in the insurance sector and spur immensely national socio-economic development.

Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) Commissioner Dr Baghayo Saqware made the call yesterday when he visited the headquarters of the CRDB Bank Ltd. He praised the bank for not only supporting the agriculture sector but also for conceiving an insurance product for farmers in order to protect them from agonizing effects of unforeseen losses and damages.

"We have assured all our stakeholders of our determination to ensure there is attractive working environment in the insurance sector. So when you think it is pertinent to make changes in your regulations give us your proposals so that we can work on them. We (TIRA) are around for a simple reason, which is, to ensure the insurance sector grows steadily," he told his hosts.

CRDB Bank is giving the agriculture sector a "great push", Dr Saqware said. He also said TIRA has put in place a strategy that will ensure insurance services and products reach targeted insurance stakeholders.

CRDB managing director, Abdulmajid Nsekela, called for re-introduction of "direct sales force or representative system" in order to broaden the scope for creating jobs for young people.

"If this system will be re-introduced, it will help increase jobs for college graduates in the insurance sector and also contribute to the sector's growth," he said. CRDB Bank has a subsidiary called CRDB Insurance Broker Limited.

CRDB Bank was started in 1996 with the help of Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) in response to the government's 1994 call to support the bank's forerunner.

"A major turning point was reached in 2009, when CRDB Bank Ltd listed on Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange. The listing dramatically improved our capacity to fund growth, following a successful initial public offer, which saw the bank renamed for the second time to CRDB Bank Plc.."

"In 2012 CRDB Bank Group became the first Tanzanian Bank to venture outside the country and established a subsidiary in Burundi (CRDB Bank Burundi SA)," according to the bank 2019 annual report.

CAG: CARGO SHIPS OVERSTAY AT DAR PORT DENIES GOVT REVENUE



By Property Watch Reporter, Dodoma

THE Controller and Auditor General (CAG), Charles Kichere has discovered that cargo ships stay for long periods of time at the Port of Dar es Salaam thus making the port fail to compete with those in neighbouring countries thereby denying the government of its much needed revenue.

Kichere made the observation Wednesday this week when handing the Audit report for financial year ending June 2021 to President Samia Suluhu Hassan at Chamwino State House.

He said the strategic plan for the Port of Dar es Salaam aimed to reduce ships' stay by three to two days after berthing thereby reducing the time for goods clearance from 10 to 5 days.

"I discovered the time for ships to stay at the port was three to six days and time for unloading of cargo from eight to ten days, some of things that contributed to this include difficult procedures in filling up documents, little use of ICT at the port, the situation that undermines the proper operation of the Port of Dar es Salaam," he said, and called for greater use of ICT to simplify the work.

In regard to delay in electricity connection to new TANESCO customers, Kichere said the delay is between 21 to 481 days, which he said is against the stipulations in the customer's contract that requires connection to be done from seven to 14 days, and added that the delay denies the government of its revenue.

In regard to water bills he said: "A total of 655m/- was charged to customers without meter reading by the Dar es Salaam water and sanitation Authority (DAWASA), in addition it charged 1,207 customers and collected 755.65m/- without monthly meter reading."

He said the suspension of the contract of Symbion - power generating firm caused the payment of USD 153.43 million.

"In May TANESCO stopped Symbion not to inject the power it produces to the national power grid due the dispute emanating from the contract's legality, and made the firm to institute a civil case involving 1.57bn/- at the International Court of Arbitration (ICC)," Kichere said.

He said the lack of seriousness on the part of the country's power caused the government to suffer USD 153.43 million loss.

Latest developments on city of Austin's project connect, Texas

AUSTIN

THE US\$ 7.1bn City of Austin's Project Connect, which was approved by Austin voters in the election of November 2020, has moved forward with its latest groundbreaking on the Pleasant Valley MetroRapid Line, one of the 4 MetroRapid lines that connect the north-east and southeast regions of the city.

The new Pleasant Valley MetroRapid Line, which is among a series of projects under the Project Connect transit plan, will feature all-electric buses, along a route that cuts across East Austin from Mueller all the way to the future Goodnight Ranch Park & Ride. The bus corridor project will add 15 new stations, with bus stops positioned at key destinations, which include Riverside, ACC Eastview, Dove Springs, and McKinney Falls.

Capital Metro, which has been working together with the city on the Project Connect transit plan, said the new MetroRapid Line will enhance the frequency and quality of public transit services and also provide more options for neighborhoods in East and South Austin.

The CEO of Cap Metro, Randy Clarke, also mentioned that the all-electric, zero-emission fleet of buses used for this new line, shows the company's sustainability commitment to the city. Other facets of Project Connect are also in progress and with the engineering teams nearing the project's 30% design threshold.

Design changes to the City of Austin's Project Connect

The City of Austin's Project Connect heads reviewed some of the roadway design changes that drivers, pedestrians, and other users should expect as the project progresses.

These design changes have been approved following the collaboration between CapMetro, Austin Transit Partnership (ATP), the city, and the community's feedback. The project-wide elements will be added to areas along with the Orange and Blue light rail projects, which are also under Project Connect.

Some of these modifications along the Orange and Blue light rail routes include the addition of U-turns at some signalized intersections, to enable drivers to access private driveways and other destinations; on-street parking changes, which will involve either modifying or removing the back-in angled parking along with South Congress between Milton

Street and Gibson Street, plus the removal of parking areas along Guadalupe Street between 41st Street and 43rd Street, as well as The Drag.

Other design changes in store for the City of Austin's Project Connect include the addition of pedestrian crossings at stations and some lane alterations. Signalized pedestrian crossings will be provided for every station along the Blue and Orange rail line routes. The crossings will be added at both ends of each station to accommodate incoming and outgoing traffic.

In addition, the lanes between I-35 and Hwy. 183 along Riverside Drive, will be modified and one lane will be removed in each direction; this will allow the insertion of the light rail lines and enable more reliable safe transit.

Federal Funding for the project

Cap Metro has partnered with the Federal Transit Administration to work on Project Connect and is seeking federal funds to finance part of the project's cost. This was discussed recently in a meeting between the CapMetro leaders; Nuria Fernandez, an administrator of the Federal Transit Administration; and U.S. Rep Lloyd Doggett.

Lloyd Doggett mentioned that the partnership between CapMetro and the Federal Transit Administration was crucial for the success of the Project Connect transit plan, as the plan was for nearly half of the project's US\$ 7bn price tag to be covered by federal funds.

Randy Clarke also pointed out that the US\$1 trillion infrastructure bill signed by Joe Biden would go a long way in advancing various phases of Project Connect.

Project overview
 Project Connect is a transit expansion project that is being carried out by the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, a public transportation provider in the city of Austin, Texas.

With this project, Capital Metro will add two light rail lines (MetroRail Blue Line and MetroRail Orange Line), one bus rapid transit line, and one commuter rail line (Green Line) to the already existing Red Line, which will also undergo major improvements as part of the project.

The MetroRail Blue Line will operate on a 24 km stretch from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport to North Lamar, with a total of 20 stations, while on the other hand, with a total of 22 stations, the MetroRail Orange Line will be approximately 34 km long linking slaughter and North Lamar/Tech Ridge.

Insurance firm launches product for small traders

By Property Watch Reporter

HOWDEN Puri Insurance brokers limited yesterday launched a special insurance known as Hifadhi Biashara for entrepreneurs, meant to protect small business owners from risks.

Through Hifadhi Biashara, a trader can start paying 7,000/- per month to enable him to protect his business in the event of a fire, theft and other catastrophes by getting compensation of up to 5m/- so that he can continue doing his business.

Howden Puri CEO Umesh Puri said that they have decided to keep it affordable to enable more entrepreneurs to be insured and have hope to continue their businesses. He said that insurance costs are usually very expensive, causing small businesses to fail to protect themselves from various disasters.

He explained that their company has noticed this problem and came up with a solution for the small business owners through major technological advances and made the issue of getting insurance easier and more accessible.

A businessman does not need to go to the office to buy Hifadhi Biashara, they can easily do it using a mobile phone via TigoPesa USSD code * 150 *



A side view of Machinga Complex in Dar es Salaam.

01 #, the app.direct and Selcom app through various agents in the country.

Head of Tigo Pesa's Financial Services Mshamma Mshamma said that they have decided to enter this service with the aim of enabling small businesses to make and receive payments through the best internet.

Mshamma said they are proud of their national cover-

age in the country and give opportunities to entrepreneurs and others to access insurance service more easily.

Selcom Executive Director Sameer Hirji said: "The significance of insurance is lost on most business owners in Tanzania. Stopping short of stating the obvious, this needs mass-market training and education to expose businesses to

the safety net insurance cover provides.

"Selcom sees insurance as a necessary cog in the financial inclusion wheel, and we would like to play a role in not just bringing insurance products as a source of revenue for our agents but more importantly as something that they see value in subscribing to.

If the pandemic has taught

us anything it's that tomorrow is unpredictable and we need to make allowances for the unseen. The end goal is to financially include and cover as many small and informal businesses as possible such that they can operate knowing that they are protected."

Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) director general Dr Baghayo Saqware said they were pleased with Howden Puri's strategic plan to launch the service and expand the insurance service in the country.

He said that TIRA will more closely monitor the service and other services in order to promote compliance with the law.

Dar es Salaam's Petty Traders Association Chairman Yusuph Namoto said that many traders were shaken and some went bankrupt during the Covid-19 pandemic due to overuse.

Namoto said that apart from Covid-19, there were fire incidents that forced many traders to restart searching for their capital after their trading booths and property were destroyed. He explained that Hifadhi Biashara is the solution to all disasters for traders and urged them to join. Apart from Howden Puri other partners that give services of Hifadhi Biashara are Sanlam and CRDB Bank PLC.



A design of Austin's project connect, Texas.

CONSTRUCTION

KENYAN SOCIAL-COMMERCE VENTURE TUSHOP SECURES US\$3M TO EXPAND

NAIROBI

KENYAN social-commerce platform Tushop has secured US\$3-million in a pre-seed funding round, led by 4DX Ventures and with participation from JAM Fund, Breyer Capital, Chandaria Capital, TO Ventures, Golden Palm Investments, FirstCheck Africa, and DFS Lab.

According to a statement released to the media, Wasoko (formerly Sokowatch) also joined to make their first strategic institutional investment into Tushop, signalling confidence in the team's ability to capture the community group-buying opportunity in Africa.

The oversubscribed round included additional participation from a number of angel investors including GB (CEO, Flutterwave), Raja Kaul (President, Sundial Group), Eli Pollak (CEO, Apollo Agriculture), and Ida Mannoh (Director of Growth, Chipper Cash).

The companies said the funds will be deployed to grow Tushop's team, invest in tech to make its platform as easy to use as possible, and to further expand across Nairobi before rolling the service out to other cities in Kenya.

Founded in 2021, Tushop works with "Community Leaders" who collate orders from their neigh-



bours and manage door-to-door deliveries. Similar community group-buying companies in other markets have achieved significant success, such as Nice Tuan in China and Favo in Brazil.

The statement reads: "The problems that this model solves in Africa are significant. For example, Kenyans on average spend 46% of their income on food (compared to 6% in

America, 22% in China, and 16% in Brazil), and while community group-buying is still nascent, the market has enormous potential:

Africans spend \$260B yearly on food. Currently, the status quo is shopping at dukas, "mama mbogas", supermarkets, open-air markets, or wholesalers, which are often less convenient and more expensive compared to community group-buy-

ing."

Commenting on their rapid growth and strong customer retention, Cathy Chepkemboi, Founder & CEO at Tushop, said, "Tushop is unique in this market because we know the customer - we are our own customers! We have grown up experiencing the problem of unaffordable food on the one hand and the need to have additional 'side hustles' on the

other because of persistently low incomes.

We also have first-hand experience of the difficulties manufacturers face when moving goods through a fragmented supply chain, which creates distance between them and the customers they serve. We are therefore hyper-focused on delivering a superior experience for suppliers, 'side-hustling' Com-

munity Leaders, as well as our end-customers in an integrated manner."

"We are stoked to be working with some of the leading investors globally and locally who really understand the African space from a logistics, tech, and payments perspective, and look forward to justifying their faith in us with future growth, commercial success, and meaningful social impact;

Wasoko's investment in us is also a validating signal of the work we've done so far and we look forward to working closely with them to scale Tushop."

Peter Orth, Managing Partner at 4DX added, "We think that the market opportunity for Tushop is incredibly large, and that Cathy is the right founder to go after it given her deep understanding of the market, and impressive execution and growth thus far. We're thrilled to join such a strong team of other investors and advisors to help Tushop become the dominant player in group-buying across Africa."

Daniel Yu, CEO of Wasoko commented, "It has been great witnessing Tushop's incredible growth, driven by strong leadership and a team that embodies a true understanding of consumers and their communities. We are excited to work with a team that shares our vision of affordability and equitable distribution of goods across Africa."

How govt can protect water sources from oil-related pollution activities

KAMPALA

WATER, for now, remains a pristine resource in the ecologically sensitive Albertine Graben.

The Petroleum Authority of Uganda estimates oil and gas flagship projects such as Tilenga, Kingfisher, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, and the refinery will have high water requirements.

The estimated peak water requirements for upstream projects and crude pipeline is 42,000 cubic metres per day, an equivalent of 42 million litres.

The refinery's water requirements is estimated at 30,000 cubic metres per day, an equivalent of 30m litres, leading to a total of approximately 72,000 cubic metres per day as an aggregated peak.

This is just less than 0.067 percent of the average outflow of Albert Nile, which is estimated at 107 million cubic metres per day.

Gloria Sebikari, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda corporate affairs manager, says water will be required for upstream and midstream development, during both construction and production phases.

Upstream activities include drilling of wells, construction of facilities, production and processing of crude oil, while midstream includes refining and export and mainly concentrates on processing, transportation and storage.

In the two years, there has been a high water risk recorded over prolonged and intense rainfall that saw flooding and rising water levels in lakes, rivers and some low-lying areas in the country.

The Ministry of Water noted water levels in Lake Albert, which is within the



Albertine Graben area rose rapidly, surpassing the 1964 maximum level of 14.20 metres.

Reports indicated some oil wells in the Albertine Graben had been submerged and posed a danger of oil spillage.

However, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda in a statement refuted the claims, indicating that the zones that contained oil in the different wells, were plugged and sealed off to ensure there was no leakage.

Of concern, however, according to Amanyanganyika, the coordinator of Bunyoro Petroleum Network on Environmental Conservation oil related activities such roads have already affected protected water sources such as dams yet the issue has been haphazardly addressed.

Government, he says, must equip local governments to put in place a mechanism that deals with large to small challenges.

Similarly, Dickens

Kamugisha, the Africa Institute for Energy Governance chief executive says, the blowout of oil waste water into Lake Albert and the Nile River must be addressed since it may affect water quality for a region that remains 'water stressed'.

However, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda indicates that it is undertaking efforts that seek to minimise and prevent direct and indirect impact of oil and gas activities on ground and surface water resources within the project areas.

"It is important that water needs for these projects are

met sustainably," Sebikari says, noting that the efforts include comprehensive hydro-geological and surface water studies, environment and social impact assessments, where comprehensive water quantity and quality baseline data for ground and surface water resources has been collected.

According to Sebikari, the hydro-geological surveys were undertaken to assess ground water potential, sensitivities, and connectivity in the Tilenga project area, which informed the decision to meet part of the water requirements during construction works using

ground water, especially for infrastructure that is far from Lake Albert.

The use of ground water in the construction phase, she says, is temporary as there are plans to construct permanent water abstraction stations on Lake Albert and related water distribution networks.

Additionally, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda has undertaken an evaluation of water requirements for each project, emphasizing optimized use and re-use, and assessment of potential impacts to water resources.



Lesotho highlands water project construction site.

Lesotho embarking on highlands water project

MASERU

AFTER the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) granted the building tender to the Polihali Village Joint Venture (JV) in December 2021, work on permanent dwellings, a visitors' lodge, and associated infrastructure at the Polihali Village is slated to begin in January. The deal, worth around M454 million, is slated to be finished in October 2023.

The Polihali Village JV comprises Lesotho-based LSP Construction and South African construction firm WBHO, which worked together on the civil works and bulk utilities at Polihali and Katse, which were finished in late 2021.

The permanent homes will become a Phase II legacy estate, according to LHDA Phase II divisional manager Ntsoli Maitetso. Its design is based on energy efficiency, sustainability, and sensitivity to the rural setting. The 96 units comprise single quarters, one-, two-, and three-bedroom residences for Polihali dam and Polihali transfer tunnel consultants and LHDA workers during and after completion of Phase II major works.

The proposed four-star visitors' lodge will be built on a vantage point overlooking the future dam and reservoir to maximize views of the Polihali dam. The architectural composition and layout will be affected by the nature of the terrain and site orientation. The facilities built around the Katse and Mohale dams under identical contracts for Phase I of the LHWP are still in use today and have aided the country's tourist sector growth.

A recreational facility and a temporary five-classroom school are among the other infrastructure projects planned under the Polihali Village building contract. Under the conditions of Article 10 of the Phase II Agreement, the Phase II home building contracts were structured to allow local involvement, particularly by small and medium-sized contractors.

They were separated into four work packages: the Polihali Village, the Polihali Commercial Centre, the Polihali Operations Centre, and the

Katse Village renovations contract, all given to Unik Construction in December 2021. The procurement processes for the final two contracts are well underway.

Established through a Treaty signed between the Governments of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa in 1986, the LHWP is recognized as one of the world's most successful transboundary water resources management schemes.

The LHWP is expected to put in place the physical and managerial capacity for Lesotho to harness the surplus water of the Senqu/Orange River and its tributaries in order to affect the delivery of specified quantities of water to the designated outlet into the Republic of South Africa and by utilizing such delivery system to generate hydropower in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Funding the project
The South African government is responsible for the infrastructure development costs associated with the water transfer component, including livelihood restoration and compensation costs, as well as the costs of the environmental and public health programs.

The Lesotho government, on the other hand, is responsible for the infrastructure development costs associated with the hydropower component, including livelihood restoration and compensation costs, as well as the costs of the environmental and public health programs.

In October, The Treaty on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) between the Government of Lesotho and the Government of the Republic of South Africa whose purpose is to provide for the establishment, implementation, operation and maintenance of the Project, was signed in Maseru, Lesotho.

The LHWP was originally designed to include four phases implemented over a period of 30 years and expected to transfer about 70 m³/s of water to the Gauteng Province in South Africa. However, the Parties committed to Phase I only, with subsequent phases subject to agreement between the Parties.

WORLD

Ukraine confirms partial withdrawal of Russian troops

KYIV/WASHINGTON/ROME/CAIRO

RUSSIA is redeploying its troops from Kiev and Chernihiv directions, in the central and northern Ukraine, to Ukraine's eastern regions, Ukraine's security chief said on Wednesday.

Some personnel, who were in Chernihiv and Kiev directions, are being redeployed. Some of them appear in the Kharkiv and Donetsk directions," the Ukrinform news agency quoted Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council Oleksiy Danilov as saying.

Russia's new offensive on Ukrainian forces is also possible in the eastern Lugansk area, he warned.

Earlier in the day, Ukrainian Defense Ministry spokesman Olexandr Motuzanyk confirmed to the media that Russia has been withdrawing some troops from Kiev and Chernihiv directions, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported. "The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine notes a certain partial relocation of individual units from the Kiev direction, as well as from the Chernihiv direction."

However, there was no mass withdrawal of Russian troops from those areas, he added.

Motuzanyk suggested that Russian forces may renew their offensive against Kiev and Chernihiv after replenishing the units that suffered the biggest losses in the battles.

On Tuesday, Russia's Defense Ministry an-

nounced that Russia has decided to significantly reduce military activity in the Kiev and Chernihiv directions.

US to give Ukraine \$500m

US President Joe Biden told his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky, on Wednesday that Washington will provide Ukraine with \$500 million in "direct budgetary aid," the White House said in a readout of the pair's telephone conversation.

The call lasted about an hour to end at 12:03 pm ET, according to a pool reporter covering the White House.

"The leaders discussed how the United States is working around the clock to fulfill the main security assistance requests by Ukraine, the critical effects those weapons have had on the conflict, and continued efforts by the United States with allies and partners to identify additional capabilities to help the Ukrainian military defend its country," the readout said.

Following the call, Zelensky said on Twitter that he and Biden "shared assessment of the situation on the battlefield and at the negotiating table. Talked about specific defensive support, a new package of enhanced sanctions, macro-financial and humanitarian aid."

Italian PM urges ceasefire

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi said in



A soldier walks the amid the destruction caused after shelling of a shopping center last March 21 in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Wednesday. AP

a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday that a ceasefire in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine should be established "as soon as possible," according to a statement from Draghi's office.

The conversation "centered on the negotiations between Russia and Ukraine and the latest developments," said the statement.

Draghi "stressed the importance of establishing a ceasefire as soon and possible," and that Italy remained willing to "contribute to the peace process" if there were "clear signs" Russia would de-escalate the conflict, it said, adding the leaders agreed to remain in close contact.

Italy's statement said that Putin explained his country's plan to require Italy and other countries critical of Russia in the crisis to pay for Russian natural gas exports in rubles, the Russian currency. Traditionally, such payments are made in U.S. dollars or euros.

Egypt, Ukraine leaders discuss peace talks

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-

Sisi on Wednesday received a phone call from his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky, the second in one week, during which they discussed "the developments of the Ukrainian crisis," said the Egyptian presidency.

Zelensky briefed Sisi on the latest developments of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine peace negotiations in a bid to end the current conflict, said Egyptian presidential spokesman Bassam Rady in a statement.

The Egyptian president "emphasized the importance of addressing all means leading to calm and a peaceful solution to the conflict". He also stressed Egypt's keenness to make all efforts, whether at the bilateral, regional or international levels, to achieve a peaceful settlement to the crisis, according to the Egyptian presidency.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict started on Feb 24 when Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized a "special military operation" against Ukraine. The two sides have recently been engaged in Turkey-sponsored peace negotiations, but no breakthrough has been reached yet.

Nuke deal: Iran urges US to forgo excessive demands

TEHRAN

THE Iranian foreign minister said Wednesday that the United States must give up its excessive demands so that "strenuous efforts in Vienna to get all sides to return to their commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal will pay off."

Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the remarks in a meeting with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani on the sidelines of a gathering of foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighbors in China, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry's website.

Elaborating on the present situation of the negotiations in the Austrian capital, the Iranian foreign minister said the achievement of an agreement in the talks hinges on Washington's adoption of a realistic approach.

In terms of bilateral ties between Iran and Qatar, Amir Abdollahian called for expanding bilateral economic cooperation, and following up on the implementation of the previously signed agreements.

For his part, the Qatari foreign minister underlined the need for further activation of bilateral relations, praising Iran for its active participation in Doha Forum international conference.

Iran signed the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, with the world powers in July 2015. However, former US President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the agreement in May 2018 and reimposed Washington's unilateral sanctions on Tehran, prompting the Islamic republic to reduce some of its nuclear commitments under the agreement in retaliation.

Since April 2021, eight rounds of talks have been held in the Austrian capital between Iran and the remaining JCPOA parties, namely China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany, with the United States indirectly involved, to revive the deal.

South Koreans flock overseas for 'revenge travel' as virus rules ease

SEOUL

AFTER spending two years being socially distanced in his home country of South Korea, Kim Hoe-jun booked a last-minute flight to Hawaii, where he had enjoyed his honeymoon six years ago, giving in to his craving for overseas travel.

"I bought the ticket just a week ago, but it was rather a no-brainer. It felt like I was making up for those two years not being able to go abroad often as I used to before COVID," he said, before boarding the plane from Incheon International Airport on Friday.

Vaccinated and boosted, Kim and his wife are among South Koreans joining in a rush for "revenge travel" - a term that has been trending on social media as people scramble to book overseas trips that were delayed by coronavirus restrictions.

The boom started after March 21 when South Korea lifted a seven-day mandatory quarantine for fully vaccinated travelers arriving from most countries. The restriction had been eased last year but was reimposed in December as the highly infectious Omicron variant spread.

The country has largely scrapped its once-aggressive tracing and containment efforts despite a record COVID-19 wave, joining a growing list of Asian countries which have eased quarantine rules, including Singapore, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Koreans now appear more ready to travel. Polls showed people are less worried about the implications of catching the virus, and increasingly see its prevention as out of their hands.

Sales of overseas flight tickets on 11st, an e-commerce unit of SK Telecom Co Ltd, South Korea's top mobile carrier, rose more than eight-fold compared with a year before between March 11, when the lifting of quarantine was announced, and March 27, the company said.

Kim Na-yeon, 27, was excited to return to Hawaii where she used to live.

"I couldn't dare to travel even in Korea because of COVID," she said. "But now I feel a bit freer with the exemption, so I've decided to go meet old friends and do some sightseeing."

Exploding demand

Airlines and travel agencies have reported exploding demand for routes to Hawaii, Saipan and Guam, as well as some destinations in Europe and Southeast Asia where tourists submitting a vaccination certificate or negative test result are exempted from quarantine.

Saipan and Guam, both of which have travel bubble pacts with South Korea, also offer free COVID-19 testing and pay for quarantine expenses if a traveler tests positive. Each South Korean national visiting Saipan even receives \$100 in "travel bucks" incentives to spend at businesses there.

The tour arm of online retail giant Interpark Corp reported a 324 percent growth in flight bookings for Oceania between March 11-22 from the same period of 2021, a 268 percent increase for Southeast Asia and 262 percent more bookings for Europe.

Agencies

Xi stresses neighbours' role in supporting Afghanistan

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday called on the neighboring countries of Afghanistan to do their best to support the Afghan people to create a brighter future.

Xi made the remarks in a written message to the third meeting of foreign ministers of the countries neighboring Afghanistan, in Tunxi, east China's Anhui province.

Xi pointed out that having gone through so much in the past, Afghanistan is in urgent need of development in many areas. The country has come to a critical point of transition from chaos to order.

"Afghanistan is a common neighbor and partner of all participating countries, and we form a community with a shared future linked by the same mountains and rivers who would rise and fall



People carry relief assistance donated by World Food Program in Kandahar city, Afghanistan, Oct 7, 2021. File photo

together," said Xi.

He also noted that a peaceful, stable, developing and prosperous Afghanistan is the aspiration of all the Afghan people, and it is also in the common interests of regional countries and the international community.

Xi underscored that amity and good neighborliness are invaluable to a country.

"China always respects Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and has committed to supporting its pursuit of peace, stability and development," Xi said.

The coordination and cooperation mechanism among neighbors of Afghanistan, since its launch last September, has endeavored to bring into play the strengths of neighboring countries, thus playing a constructive role in promoting the steady transition in Afghanistan, he said.

Turkish prosecutor wants Khashoggi trial stopped

ISTANBUL

A Turkish prosecutor asked a court yesterday to halt the trial in absentia of Saudi suspects over the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, and transfer the case to Saudi authorities.

The court said it would ask for the Justice Ministry's opinion on the request. It set the next hearing for April 7.

Khashoggi (pictured), a critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was last seen

entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct 2, 2018. Turkish officials believe his body was dismembered and removed. His remains have not been found. In September 2020, a Saudi court jailed eight people for between seven and 20 years over the killing in a trial critics said lacked transparency. None of the defendants was named.

Following the Saudi trial, the Turkish court asked the Justice Ministry in November to send a letter to Riyadh asking about those who had been sentenced



in the kingdom, to avoid the risk of them being punished twice.

The Turkish prosecutor said Saudi authorities responded by asking for the case be transferred to them and for the so-

called red notices against the defendants to be lifted.

Riyadh also pledged to evaluate the accusations against the 26 defendants if the case was transferred, the prosecutor said.

The prosecutor said the request should be accepted because the defendants were foreign citizens, the arrest warrants and red notices could not be executed and their statements could not be taken, leaving the case in abeyance or suspension.

A US intelligence report released a year ago said Prince Mohammed had approved the operation to kill or capture Khashoggi. The Saudi government has denied any involvement by the crown prince and rejected the report's findings.

The crown prince told The Atlantic monthly in an article published this month that he felt his own rights had been violated by the accusations against him as any person should be considered innocent until proven guilty.

Huawei releases 2021 Annual Report: Solid operations, investing in the future

SHENZHEN

HUAWEI released its 2021 Annual Report, revealing that the company had maintained solid operations throughout the past year.

As per the report, Huawei achieved CNY 636.8 billion in revenue in 2021, and CNY 113.7 billion in net profits, an increase of 75.9% year-on-year.

The company's R&D expenditure reached CNY 142.7 billion in 2021, representing 22.4% of its total revenue, and bringing its total R&D expenditure over the past 10 years to over CNY 845 billion.

Moving forward, the company also plans to continuously increase investment in R&D. Guo Ping, Huawei's Rotat-

ing Chairman, stated at the press conference,

"Overall, our performance was in line with forecast. Our carrier business remained stable, our enterprise business experienced steady growth, and our consumer business quickly expanded into new domains. In addition, we embarked on a fast track of ecosystem development."

Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's CFO, also spoke at the event,

"Despite a revenue decline in 2021, our ability to make a profit and generate cash flows is increasing, and we are more capable of dealing with uncertainty."

Thanks to the enhanced profitability

of its major businesses, the company's cash flow from operating activities dramatically increased in 2021, amounting to CNY 59.7 billion.

Its liability ratio also dropped to 57.8%, and its overall financial structure has become more resilient and flexible.

In 2021, Huawei's carrier business generated CNY 281.5 billion in revenue and helped carriers around the world deploy leading 5G networks.

Third-party test results have found that 5G networks built by Huawei for customers in 13 countries, including Switzerland, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, South Korea, and Saudi Arabia, provide the best user experience. By working with carriers and

partners, Huawei has signed more than 3,000 commercial contracts for industrial 5G applications.

These kinds of 5G applications are currently seeing large-scale commercial use in sectors like manufacturing, mines, iron & steel plants, ports, and hospitals.

Thanks to continuing digital transformation trends, Huawei's enterprise business also grew rapidly, generating CNY 102.4 billion in revenue during 2021.

In the past year, Huawei launched 11 scenario-based solutions for key sectors such as government, transportation, finance, energy, and manufacturing.

The company also established mul-

ti-ple dedicated teams, including a Coal Mine Team, a Smart Road Team, and a Customs & Port Team, to combine resources in a way that more efficiently serves the needs of its customers.

Over 700 cities and 267 Fortune Global 500 companies have chosen Huawei as their digital transformation partner and Huawei now works with more than 6,000 service and operation partners around the world.

Huawei's consumer business zeroed in on consumer wants and needs, further building out the global ecosystem for a smart, all-connected era, as part of the company's Seamless AI Life strategy for consumers around the world. This business generated CNY243.4

billion in revenue in 2021 and continued to see steady sales growth in smart wearables, smart screens, true wireless stereo (TWS) earbuds, and Huawei Mobile Services (HMS).

In particular, the smart wearable and smart screen segments both saw 30%+ year-on-year growth.

In total, HarmonyOS was used in over 220 million Huawei devices as of 2021, becoming the world's fastest growing mobile device operating system.

During the past year, Huawei also focused on building out its openEuler, MindSpore, and HarmonyOS ecosystems based on the principles of open collaboration and shared growth. Agencies

US has inescapable responsibilities for Ukraine crisis

AFTER experiencing profound changes and a pandemic unprecedented in a century, the globe today is confronted with another major issue - the Ukraine crisis. Solving existing and future challenges and pursuing a ceasefire is a common aspiration of all peace-loving nations and peoples.

Major countries should particularly play a constructive role in this. However, the U.S., which has inescapable responsibilities for the crisis, is failing to take actions to resolve it.

The country is on the one hand portraying itself as a so-called "guardian of peace" and a "protector of rule-based international order," while on the other hand fabricating political stories of democracy combating authoritarianism and justice fighting the evil. It is trying to foment camp confrontations and instigate ideological conflicts, in an attempt to shift responsibilities, make contradictions and contain the development of other countries.

The Ukraine crisis further exposed the essence of American hegemony and the pernicious consequences of Cold War mentality.

The eastern expansion of the U.S.-led NATO is the root cause of the crisis, and the U.S. is the initiator of the crisis. As an international expert pointed out, it's possible to stop the war only when the background of the war is known to all.

Ukraine's intricate historical backdrop is the consequence of the interaction of several causes. However, when it comes to the causes and development, as well as the rights and wrongs of the issue, the eastern expansion of the NATO is an inevitable topic.

According to an article recently published by Spanish media organization *Rebelion*, the insatiable desires of the NATO are the root cause and cancer cells of all these conflicts.

It highlighted that the NATO would continue to upgrade among "Western countries" to send the orders of the fake "free world" to farther places, and wage wars against all the countries that oppose its plans.

The NATO is a Cold War hangover. As the Soviet Union dissolved and the Cold War ended in the 1990s, there was no reason left to retain the NATO. However, the alliance, led by the U.S., has been constantly expanding its sphere of influence.

Under the disguise of consolidating democracy, ensuring stability and promoting common values, it has again and again broken its promise and expanded eastward five times, pushing its borders eastward by more than 1,000 kilometers. It has deployed massive advanced strategic offensive weapons and promised Ukraine and other countries NATO membership, stabbing the NATO knife to the border of Russia.

American geo-strategic theorist even claimed that an expanding and democratic Europe has to be an open-ended historical process, not subject to politically arbitrary geographic limits. However, rational American academics have long recognized the

danger of NATO's eastern expansion, with one stating that "expanding NATO would be the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post-cold-war era."

NATO, as a military alliance, has long been used by the White House to further expand American hegemony. The U.S.-led alliance instigated "color revolutions" and has been causing havoc near Russia by repeatedly opening Pandora's boxes.

The NATO bombed Belgrade without the approval of the U.N. Security Council, destroyed Serbia, and launched wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. All of these contributed to Russia's feeling of being surrounded, said Academician Andrei Makine of the Institut de France. The West, especially the U.S. shall be responsible for the Ukraine crisis, noted professor John Mearsheimer at the University of Chicago.

From a historical and global point of view, the Ukraine crisis is another world security upheaval directed by the U.S. Since the end of World War II, the U.S. has always been guiding its diplomacy with geopolitics, perceiving the world as a chess board on which a looting game is played.

Incited by such a Cold War mentality, the U.S. remotely staged the Arab Spring in Sub-Saharan Africa, the color revolutions in Europe, the Monroe Doctrine in Latin America, as well as coups and assassinations in a number of countries, wrecking havoc on the international order and jeopardizing world peace.

Alice Weidel, joint leader of the Alternative for Germany party, noted that adhering to the outdated Cold War mentality and arrogantly denying Russia's major country status, the West has made a promise to Ukraine that'll never be fulfilled.

She called it a catastrophic historical mistake. What's needed by all parties is a realistic and clear view of geopolitics, and to make utmost efforts to establish a security mechanism for Europe that transcends the West-East camps mentality.

"Why, with all the hopeful possibilities engendered by the end of the cold war, should East-West relations become centered on the question of who would be allied with whom and, by implication, against whom in some fanciful, totally unforeseeable and most improbable future military conflict?"

This question raised by former U.S. Ambassador to Soviet Union George Kennan in 1997 is still waiting for an answer from the U.S. government.

As the starter and the biggest driving force of the Ukraine crisis, the U.S. should have some moments of introspection on its dishonorable roles, completely abandon the Cold War mentality and hegemonic practices, and make some meaningful contributions to maintaining global and regional peacekeeping.

People's Daily

US top diplomat wraps up Mideast tour in Algeria

ALGIERS,

THE U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken concluded a one-day visit to Algeria on Wednesday, where he met with President Abdelmadjid Tebboune and Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra, discussing bilateral security and economic cooperation.

This is the last leg of his tour to the Middle East amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The top U.S. diplomat also visited Israel, Palestine, and Morocco before landing in Algiers, capital of Algeria.

Blinken told a press conference held at the U.S. Embassy in Algiers that security and counterterrorism cooperation remained "the cornerstone" of bilateral relations between Algiers and Washington. "Algeria plays a key role in improving peace and security in the region," he said, adding "cooperation with Algeria in the Sahel is important for us."

Blinken pointed out that Algeria continues to play a key role in the stability in Mali as well as Libya, which is locked in a political impasse as factions cannot reach an agreement on holding a presidential election.

In addition to the security cooperation, he hailed the "strong" relations that bind Algeria and the United States, stressing his country's desire to work for deepening economic, educational, and cultural ties. As for the Western Sahara issue, Blinken said "our position did not change; we fully support the efforts of the Special Envoy of the UN aiming at resolving the situation."

Former U.S. President Donald Trump decided in 2020 to recognize Western Sahara as part of Morocco after the kingdom agreed to normalize relations with Israel under the so-called Abraham Accords.

The decision has prompted shrill criticism from Algeria, which has supported the independence of the whole of Western Sahara since 1975. The Biden administration has voiced its full support for the Abraham Accords while remaining largely silent on the Western Sahara matter.

Blinken also said he discussed with Algerian officials the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, noting it has had an impact on food and energy prices. The U.S. official arrived in Algeria on Wednesday morning.

Construction of China's 'City of Future' in full swing

SHIJIAZHUANG

CHEN Lixin, a digital intelligence innovation manager with China Mobile, has worked in Xiong'an for over three years, witnessing the city from a blueprint to reality.

Dubbed China's youngest city and a "city of the future," Xiong'an New Area marks its fifth anniversary on Friday. China announced plans to establish Xiong'an New Area on April 1, 2017, to relieve Beijing of functions non-essential to its role as the national capital and advance the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

Xiong'an in north China's Hebei Province is about 100 km away from Beijing. Over the past few years, Chen's team started with only a dozen to more than 400 people, over 90 percent of whom come from Beijing.

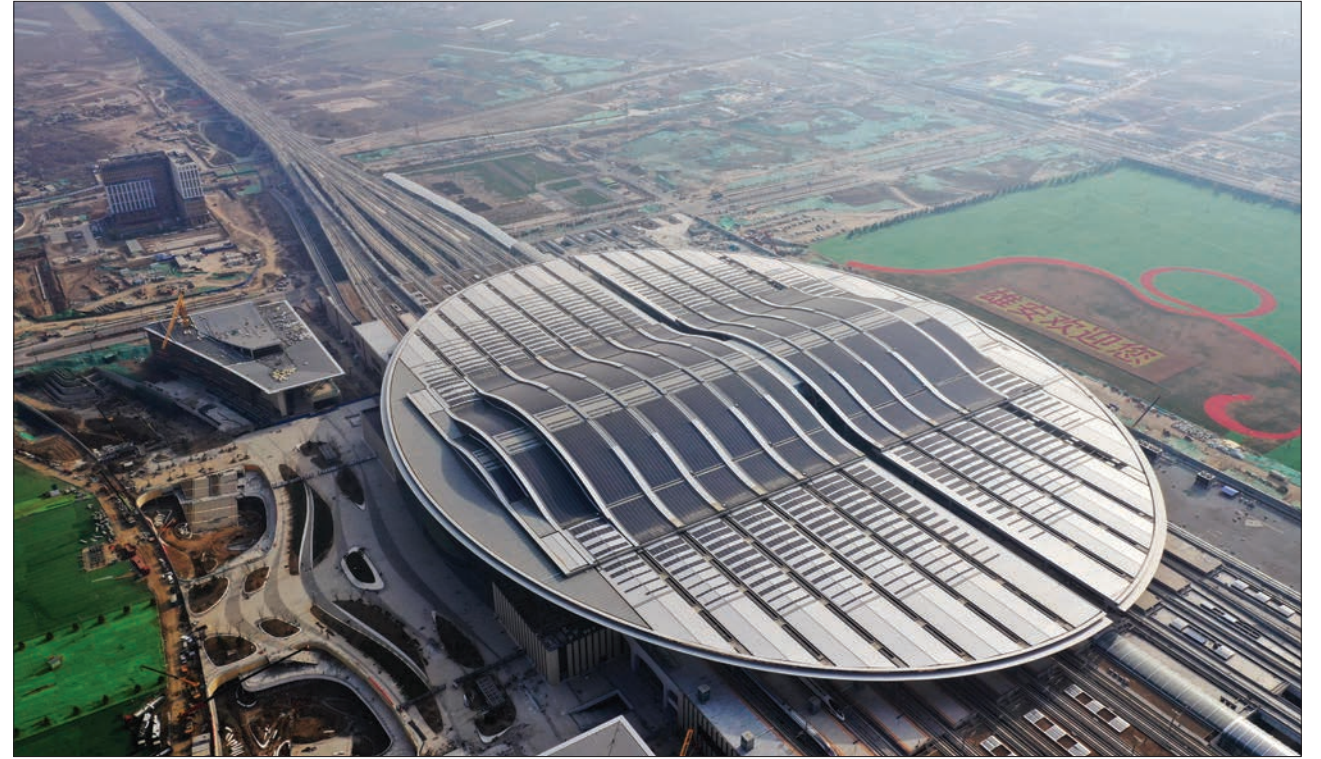
"We are building a smart city operation and management platform dubbed "OneCity", with 5G, Internet of Things, and big data applications as the core," said Chen, director of the digital intelligence innovation department of China Mobile Xiong'an ICT Co. Ltd.

The team has undertaken projects of building the network of the Intelligent Operations Center in Rongdong District, which is a start-up zone of Xiong'an, with a total area of 38 square km.

By the end of 2021, construction had begun on 177 key projects in Xiong'an, with a total investment of 618.4 billion yuan (97.2 billion U.S. dollars). Sixty of them have been completed. So far, the major roads to the city, the main streets in the city, the Ecological Corridor, and the urban water system have taken shape.

China's centrally-administered state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are actively taking part in the construction of the Xiong'an New Area and have set up more than 100 subsidiaries and branches in the area, according to the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council.

Data from the state assets regulator shows these subsidiaries and branches



Aerial photo taken on April 1, 2021 shows the Xiong'an Railway Station of the Beijing-Xiong'an intercity railway in Xiong'an New Area, north China's Hebei Province. File photo

have entered sectors including infrastructure construction, frontier information technologies, advanced biological technologies, modern service, energy, and new materials.

So far, more than 3,000 enterprises have registered in Xiong'an, with 80 percent of these being scientific and technological enterprises from Beijing.

To provide quality public service, Beijing-based universities, hospitals, and schools are building or will build branches in Xiong'an, or entering into partnerships with Xiong'an counterparts.

China's leadership has pledged to build Xiong'an into an innovative, green, smart, and world-class city with blue skies, fresh air, and clean water, and every inch of land in the area will be carefully planned.

Transport has become more convenient as the Beijing-Xiong'an intercity railway opened to traffic in December 2020. Travel time from Beijing West Railway Station to Xiong'an was cut from one and a half hours to about 50 minutes.

It takes only 19 minutes to travel from Beijing Daxing International Airport, another key project for the regional coordinated development strategy, to Xiong'an. In the first quarter this year, construction began on 43 projects in industries, public services, infrastructure and ecological preservation in Xiong'an, with a total investment of 60 billion yuan.

Through 2022, 232 major projects are planned for launch in Xiong'an, with a total investment of 700 billion yuan, and over 200 billion yuan of it will be spent this year alone.

Wang Jianjun, a native of Pingwang Village, Rongcheng County, has moved to his new house after the place was transformed into the urbanized district of Rongdong.

Near to his new home is the newly-built Yuerong Park, where he and his wife often takes his granddaughter. "In the past, there were not many scenic spots here."

There are many new parks in Rongdong now, and the environment is good. Everyone loves to hang out in the parks," said Wang. Meanwhile, the protection of Baiyangdian Lake, the largest wetland ecosystem in northern China, has been reinforced since Xiong'an New Area was set up.

At the beginning of this year, the Hebei provincial department of ecology and environment re-

ported that the water quality of Baiyangdian and its upstream rivers with water entering the lake all reached the Level III standard. It marks a leap forward from Level V since 1988.

The "Pearl of North China" is now shining again. According to the latest observation data, there are 230 species of wild birds in the lake area, 24 species more than before the establishment of Xiong'an.

About 30,000 hectares of afforestation has been carried out in Xiong'an since November 2017, increasing its forest coverage rate from 11 percent to 32 percent.

According to the urban planning outline, citizens of Xiong'an will be able to find greenery anywhere in the city, and visit a park within 300 meters of their homes.

Xinhua

China's Tianwen-1 orbiter beams back high-resolution images of Zhurong rover's inspection area on Mars

THE orbiter of China's Tianwen-1 Mars mission, the country's first artificial Mars satellite, lately sent back new images of the inspection area of the Zhurong Mars rover with a resolution of 0.5 meters when it traveled past the area again at the periairion, the point in the orbit that is closest to Mars. Track marks left by the Mars rover are clearly visible in the pictures.

On March 7, the orbiter also captured images of the Perseverance Mars rover sent by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

China's Tianwen-1 Mars probe conducted precise braking near Mars and successfully entered orbit around the red planet on Feb. 10, 2021. Then, on May 15, 2021, it touched down at its pre-selected landing area on the northern hemisphere of Mars. Seven days later, the Zhurong Mars rover drove down from its landing platform to the Martian surface to search for signs of water and life.

As of March 24, 2022, the Tianwen-1 orbiter had been operating in orbit for 609 days at a distance of 277 million kilometers from Earth, and the Zhurong Mars rover had worked on the surface of Mars for 306 Martian days and traveled over 1.78 kilometers. Both the Mars orbiter and rover are functioning normally.

Zhurong also sent back selfies from Mars. Compared with the images taken

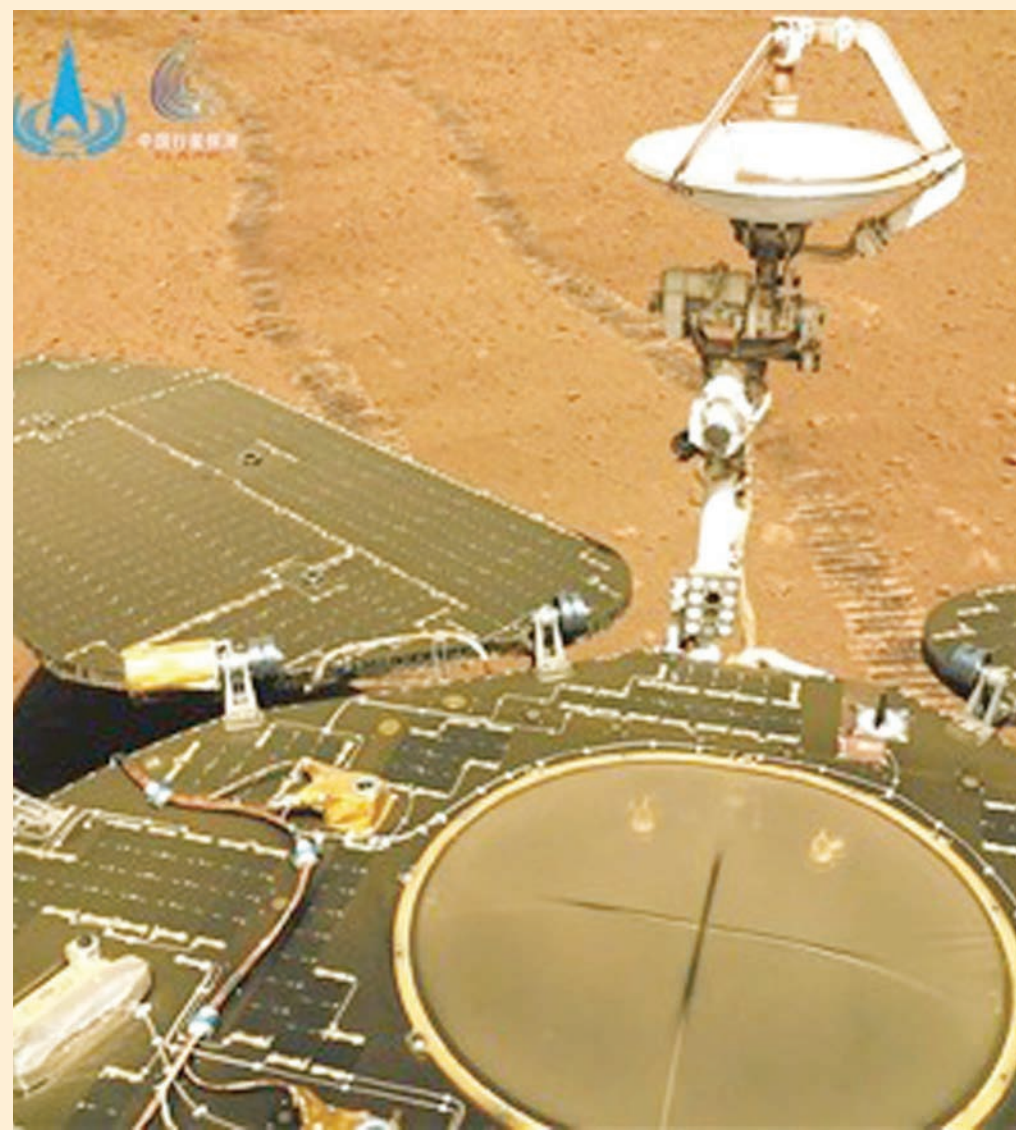


Photo shows China's first Mars rover Zhurong on Jan. 22, 2022, the 247th Martian day after its landing on the planet. A layer of dust can be seen on its surface. (Photo/China National Space Administration)

shortly after it landed on the planet, the new photos showed a thin layer of dust had accumulated on its surface.

Considering that dust can reduce rovers' power supplies, Chinese scientists specially designed the rover's

solar wing so that it can take multiple measures to offset the decline in its power generation efficiency caused by dust coverage.

The China National Space Administration said there is no need to employ such measures yet as the rover

has sufficient energy to continue its exploration on Mars. The Martian northern hemisphere is entering the autumn season, during which there will be frequent dust storms, as previous Mars exploration data suggested.

The engineering team of

the Tianwen-1 mission has been constantly monitoring dust storms on Mars through images captured by the medium-resolution camera of the Tianwen-1 orbiter, which has detected dust activities above 60-degree latitude north of Mars since late January this year.

Pictures sent back by the orbiter showed that a local sandstorm occurred in this area in February 2022, during which typical surface features of the red planet were covered by a large amount of sand and dust and became indistinguishable.

According to the administration, no obvious dusty weather has been observed in the Zhurong rover's inspection area.

So far, countries across the world have launched over 50 Mars probes, among which only 18 successfully landed on the planet, including Tianwen-1.

The orbiter of Tianwen-1 will continuously carry out remote sensing of Mars, focusing on obtaining high-resolution images of craters, volcanoes, canyons, dry riverbeds and other typical landforms and geological units.

By around 2030, China will carry out asteroid exploration, Mars sample return, Jupiter system exploration and other missions, with Mars exploration as the main task, according to the overall planning of the Planetary Exploration of China (PEC).

People's Daily



Emmanuel Elibariki, alias 'Nay wa Mitego'

Tanzanian rapper opens up on decision to shun politics

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TANZANIAN rapper Emmanuel Elibariki, alias 'Nay wa Mitego', has said he is not a member of any political party and does not want to be a politician.

The artist claimed he will fail to sing his activist music if he opts to get into politics.

He said he was not like other artists who opted to venture into politics and found themselves singing songs that praise leaders.

The musician insisted, instead, he would continue to sing music that focuses on problems in society and criticize wrongdoers.

"I'm not a member of a political party but an artist that cherishes activism, I believe a lot of people know my music is not to be praised by leaders or anyone, I sing and I fearlessly criticize," the artist revealed.

"Nay wa Mitego" was adamant an artist is a mirror of society and the artist therefore should fearlessly criticize when he sees something going wrong whether such evils are either in the community or in the various authorities.

"I say that because almost all new gen-

eration music artists who have entered politics have been the ones showering praises on certain leaders even if they see there is something wrong," he said.

The artist revealed he does not want to be silenced, and that is why he has not joined a political party to avoid being a man of praise, instead, he should be free to make activist music.

"If you look at it, politics makes artists disintegrate because of differences in their parties' ideologies. I do not want to be among the artists at the parties, I am free," he said.

He said differences in party ideology have led some artists to hate each other, a situation that makes him reluctant to enter politics and instead continue to uphold what he believes.

The musician pointed out he does not believe in politics but believes in activism for the sake of the majority rather than a small group of selfish people with a tendency to disregard the needs of the larger group.

"Should either leader or politician does something that I think is good for the community, I will praise him, not like some artists who praise even the most trivial issues," he said.

Maua Sama sheds light on new song

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TANZANIA'S new generation music 'Bongo Flava' artist, Maua Sama, has spoken of her new song 'Thanksgiving', saying she has composed it to thank God for allowing her to continue to do well in the music industry without giving up.

"I thank my God for His great deeds to me, that's why I released the song 'Thanksgiving' which I sang in R n'B and Bongo Flava," Maua noted.

The singer made the remarks at an awards ceremony for this year's edition of a competition, known as 'Malkia wa Nguvu', held at Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam recently.

The 'Bongo Flava' songbird was among the musicians invited to perform at the ceremony.

The singer pointed out that music has many challenges that can sometimes be frustrating.

Maua revealed she has nevertheless continued to stand firm thanks to God's good deeds.

"The truth is, when I look back to where I came from and where I am now, it is clear that God has blessed me so much."

The singer pointed out: "I have to thank Him because those who wanted to see me fail have failed, thanks to God's blessing."

The artist said God has continued to open doors for her and enable her to make headway in her career without encountering obstacles along the way.



Maua Saleh Sama

The singer added everything she asks of Him always comes true and that she will continue to rely on Him.

Maua said that music is her mainstay, so she has to do it carefully and honestly while putting God first because He is omnipotent, and without Him, nothing can be accomplished.

How national teams animation committee graphically illustrates 'Articles of Union'

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

DISCUSSION has been intimidated in several media outlets on the composition and partially, tasks of a newly created committee to animate interest and support for national teams, firstly in soccer for both men and women, athletics, and other fields.

It is an area where the country can only go up from where we are, as apart from boxing and soccer, not much of life is observable in athletics for instance, while a whole series of sports and games have been forgotten. It is hard to imagine Tanzania competing there.

That does not mean there is no talent as it has never really lacked, and at some point, young simmers were being picked from primary schools around the city center and doing wonders when dispatched to the United States.

Even in soccer, some improvement is being noticed as the senior national squad's head coach, Kim Poulsen, makes an effort to connect with potential young players some of whom passed through his hands during his fertile period as national youth sides' head coach.

That was also how Romanian tactician Victor Stanculescu enabled Dar Young Africans to come up with a new generation of players in the early 1970s, a major legacy.

The starting point of discussion was that the newly unveiled committee with bigwigs from the government and the private sector does not have any members from Zanzibar, that it is entirely



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports, Hassan Abbas, has been appointed as chairman of the committee for ramping up backing for local athletes' preparations for the Commonwealth Games, slated for July 28-August 8 in Birmingham, England.

a Mainland Tanzania committee but is charged with national sides, which by definition includes the other side of the Union.

While the matter was not being raised as a problem, it at least looked curious, based on the view that a national teams committee ought to have members from both parts of the union.

The matter was being discussed purely in a public relations context rather than as a legal issue, thus it was left at that.

Yet when one looks at sports organization structures, the idea of a union either more or less evaporates, and instead there are convivial events that involve teams from both sides, the best known of which is the Mapinduzi Cup.

It usually has aspirations

of being a regional tournament but its sponsorship appears to be weak, and often incapable of attracting the best club sides from around the region as it used to do in the past.

Thus it is emerging as a sort of union 'super league' of the best club sides from Mainland Tanzania and the Isles.

In that case, the formation of a national sides' animation committee has followed the sports organization format where there is a clean separation of identity, membership, and responsibilities of the two sides, often overlapping both the professional bodies and umbrella agencies like sports councils.

It is thus such bodies that can pick functional committees or other task forces because of enabling either this or that federation to

meet its objectives, as a goodwill mission to unlock resources.

It is to assist the government in pursuing this or that objective, whether it is just to participate or to obtain honours there.

Based on what we keep hearing concerning governmental matters where Union and non-Union issues are pointed subjects that come up time and again, it can be figured out what would be the situation if the committee was reformulated as some discussant imagined.

What is feasible is if a specific individual was included, but moving to recognize the presence of Zanzibar specifically would invite a whole host of problems, starting with its composition and membership, reporting systems, or sharing of responsibili-

ties. Chances of working cohesively without bickering over equitable membership or responsibility allocation were virtually nil, and this may have come out simply by a reflex, without needing deliberation.

Looking at the wider constitutional format, this interpretation or say the practice of sports organization is not just helpful but bespeaks of a major intention in the specific provisions, to a certain extent compromised by political habits, or just the idea of goodwill, benevolent intentions.

There is a provision in the Articles of Union that all matters of Union and matters of (the Mainland) are matters of the Mainland, which thus reconstitutes itself into the Union government. Disputants wanted a third entity, shared between the two.

As it is visible from the way the sports arena is organized, when each side is on its own and conducts its activities without 'big brother' watching over all the time, there is something positive about it.

Yet, unlike sports which is 'cool' unless a problem arises, politics is different and needs a more profound engagement of the two parts, and implicitly, unending disputes on the same, as millions of dollars are at issue when this or that decision is taken.

Sport has more limited resources and nobody seems to be fighting about it. That is at least the sort of impression that one gets from the 'splendid isolation' of Zanzibar in that area.

Betting firm set for renovation of five basketball courts in Dar

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

AN international online betting company, Betway, a subsidiary of Super Group companies, has taken steps to renovate five basketball courts in Dar es Salaam including the Leaders Club basketball court.

The Leaders Club basketball court's renovation was launched over the weekend.

Speaking during the day, Betway Tanzania Marketing officer, Calvin Mhina, said the firm in collaboration with Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF) is renovating all public basketball courts into public sports centers aimed at increasing basketball worth.

He said to make sure that all renovated basketball courts are being taken care of effectively for continuous use, the TBF will be responsible for supervising the facilities.

"TBF will make sure all these courts remain in good shape and standard for basketball games and other related sports," he said.

"Betway took the responsibility of renovating Leaders Club basketball court by regarding the value of basketball and this is among famous courts and we believe in community's development through games and sports is a part of our responsibility".

Mwenze Kabinda, TBF Secretary-General, applauded



Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) basketball squad players (in red kits) confront their Army Basketball Club (ABC) counterparts in a past showdown organized by Basketball Dar es Salaam (BD) at National Indoor Stadium.

the step taken by Betway to renovate basketball courts in Dar es Salaam by noting that the move will add value to basketball.

"Tanzania Basketball Federation is happy with the action taken by Betway to invest in renovating the basketball courts which is very important for the development of

basketball."

"Hence we would like to thank them for supervising this project which will give us an extra push to introduce more basketball tournaments," he said.

On launching day, there was a sports bonanza that brought together about 250 people and basketball

stakeholders.

The attendants witnessed the launching of the court, with women's basketball teams namely Dar Queens and Dar Divas taking part in a match, aiming to mark Women's Day, a cash prize of 500,000/- was handed over to winners.

3 African coaches bring instant World Cup joy

CAIRO

CAMEROON, Ghana and Tunisia fired their coaches after unsatisfactory Africa Cup of Nations results this year, and the bold moves paid off this week with qualification for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Hastily appointed Cameroon boss Rigobert Song saw Karl Toko Ekambi score in the 124th minute on Tuesday to snatch a 2-1 win over Algeria in Blida and victory on away goals.

Ghana coach Otto Addo endured many anxious minutes before a 1-1 draw against Nigeria in Abuja took the Black Stars through, also on away goals.

It was equally uncomfortable for Tunisia boss Jalel Kadri, whose side were held 0-0 at home by Mali but squeezed through thanks to a solitary-goal first-leg win last week.

With the World Cup play-offs coming just over a month after Senegal won the Cup of Nations in Cameroon, none of the new coaches were able to organise warm-up matches.

But they are now instant heroes in their nations as Cameroon look forward to an eighth appearance at the World Cup, Tunisia a sixth and Ghana a fourth.

Senegal and Morocco were the other qualifiers, in contrasting ways. Senegal edged Egypt on penalties while four-goal Morocco outclassed the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Soon after guiding Cameroon to a creditable third place as Cup of Nations hosts, Portuguese Toni Conceicao was sacked following the intervention of President Paul Biya.

Former Liverpool defender Song, the most capped Cameroonian with 137 national team appearances, was called up having never coached a senior team.

Losing at home to Algeria was a huge blow as the return match was in Blida, whose stadium is called the "slaughterhouse" given the frequency with which the Desert Foxes win handsomely there.

- 'Learnt our lessons' -

But Song convinced a team composed of professionals based across Europe that they could achieve the seemingly impossible.

"We learnt our lessons from the first match," Song said. "Deploying two forwards rather than one was important."

"While tactics played a role in our second leg triumph, it was the mental attitude of the team that was most important."

Former Borussia Dortmund assistant manager Addo combined with ex-Newcastle and Brighton boss Chris Hughton to give Ghana an unexpected triumph, especially after a 0-0 first-leg stalemate at home.

AFP

Qatar's eight World Cup stadiums

DOHA

AFP Sport runs the rule over the eight stadiums which will host matches at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar from November 21 to December 18:

- **LUSAIL, LUSAIL ICONIC STADIUM (80,000 capacity)**

Qatar's biggest stadium will host the final on December 18 as well as, amongst other matches, the first semi-final. Built in Lusail, a planned city for a population of 200,000 people situated 15 kilometres north of central Doha, there are plans for the stadium to be transformed into a community hub after the World Cup, with most of its seats being removed and donated elsewhere.

- **AL KHOR, AL-BAYT STADIUM (60,000)**

The venue for the tournament's opening match as well as the second semi-final is constructed in the form of a Bedouin tent. There are plans for the upper tier to be removed after the competition. Situated on Qatar's north-east coast, around 35 kilometres from Doha, it is therefore beyond the reach of the capital's metro system, making it one of the harder venues to access for supporters.

- **AL RAYYAN, EDUCATION CITY STADIUM (40,000)**

Situated among university campuses in Al Rayyan, just to the west of Doha itself, and reachable by metro, the stadium will notably host one of the quarter-finals. Its capacity will be reduced by half after the tournament with plans for the seats to be donated to developing countries.

- **AL RAYYAN, AHMAD BIN ALI STADIUM (40,000)**

The home of one of Qatar's most successful clubs, Al Rayyan, the stadium has been built on the site of the old venue of the same name and is one metro stop beyond the nearby Education City. Located where the city meets the desert, its capacity will also be reduced by half after the tournament.

- **DOHA, KHALIFA INTERNATIONAL STADIUM (45,416)**

Built in 1976, it is the only venue which already existed before Qatar was awarded the World Cup, although it has since been transformed. Hosted the 2011 Asian Cup final and also the final of the 2019 Club World Cup between Liverpool and Flamengo.

- **DOHA, AL THUMAMA STADIUM (40,000)**

Situated to the south of central Doha, close to the city's Hamad International Airport, the stadium is built in the form of a gahfiya, the traditional cap worn by men across the Middle East. It will host one of the quarter-finals while its capacity will be reduced to 20,000 after the tournament.

AFP

Qatar's World Cup gets real as Doha hosts tournament draw

DOHA

THE countdown towards the most controversial World Cup in history really begins today as the draw for Qatar 2022 takes place in Doha, less than eight months before the start of the tournament itself.

As pandemic restrictions ease, some of football's biggest names will be there for the draw at a Doha convention centre among the skyscrapers of the city's West Bay district, as holders France and their rivals find out who they will face in the group stage of the first World Cup to be held in November and December.

The dust has still not settled on qualifying, with final matches in the North, Central American and Caribbean zone only concluding late on Wednesday and three berths to be decided in play-offs in June.

Seedings for the draw are based on the latest FIFA world rankings published on Thursday, and the seven highest-ranked qualifiers, including France, are in Pot One along with the host nation, despite Qatar being one of the lowest-ranked participants.

The tiny Gulf state of under three million people stunned the planet when it won the right to host the World Cup at a vote in 2010, leading to accusations of vote-buying -- which were hotly denied -- and questions over the country's suitability.

- Off-field issues -
The obvious issue was the extreme heat in June and July, when the World Cup is traditionally held, and so the decision was taken to move the tournament to the



The Al Janoub Stadium is one of the first stadiums completed for the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup. The 40,000-seat Al Janoub features new air-cooling technology to combat Qatar's notorious temperatures. (Agencies)

northern hemisphere winter.

Then there has been the criticism of the working conditions of hundreds of thousands of migrant labourers in the country, including those who built the stadiums. That led to the threat from some countries of a boycott.

"It's ridiculous that we are going to play in a country, how does FIFA say it? To develop football there? It's about money, commercial interests, that's

the main motive of FIFA," said Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal recently.

The chief executive of Qatar's World Cup Supreme Committee, Hassan al-Thawadi, called Van Gaal's comments "ridiculous", and FIFA president Gianni Infantino is fully embracing Qatar's World Cup.

"It will not only be the best World Cup ever, but also a truly unique one," claimed Infantino, who has even temporarily moved to

Doha.

"I have never seen a country so ready to host the World Cup as Qatar."

For all the issues, there is excitement as a World Cup approaches, and FIFA announced on Wednesday that over 800,000 tickets had been snapped up so far.

Seven of Qatar's eight World Cup stadiums are brand new. Most will be reduced in size after the tournament, while one will even be dismantled alto-

gether.

This week organisers have been eager to show off the gleaming infrastructure as the world's media descend on Doha.

There will though be inevitable questions about the fate of the migrant workers, however much FIFA and local organisers would prefer the talk to be solely about football.

"It is critically important to ensure that migrant workers who made the tournament possible

and were harmed in the process are not forgotten," said Michael Page, deputy Middle East director at Human Rights Watch.

- The last 32-team tournament -

Even the draw itself cannot be separated from bigger issues beyond football.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine threw the European play-offs to decide the final three of UEFA's 13 qualifying places into some chaos.

Russia were suspended from all international football until further notice, preventing them from featuring in the play-offs.

Ukraine's play-off semi-final against Scotland was postponed until June, with the winner of that match facing Wales for a place in Qatar.

England will certainly be there, with their manager Gareth Southgate dismissing talk of a boycott.

"It would of course be a big story but this tournament would go ahead," he admitted last week.

Canada will be there too, for their first World Cup since 1986, but Italy are the biggest absentees from the draw after their disastrous defeat by North Macedonia last week ruled them out again, just like in 2018.

Their next chance to qualify will be in 2026, by which time the World Cup will have been expanded to a bloated 48 teams.

For all the controversy surrounding Qatar's World Cup, at least it features 32 sides, split into eight groups of four, surely the perfect number for football's global showpiece.

AFP

World Cup flags spark noisy celebrations as FIFA now announces ticket bonanza

DOHA

TRAFFIC police nervously watched a World Cup crowd make a mark in Qatar's capital Wednesday as FIFA set the scene for even bigger gatherings at the event by announcing that 800,000 tickets had already been sold.

Security conscious Qatar authorities had wanted to keep big groups from nine newly-qualified countries -- Cameroon, Canada, Ecuador, Ghana, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, Senegal and Tunisia -- away from a flag raising ceremony on a seafront plaza where a World Cup countdown clock showed 236 days to kick off.

"The embassy regrets to inform Canadian soccer fans that due to space constraints, we have been advised that spectators will not be allowed to participate in the flag raising ceremony," the Canadian embassy said in a social media post.

But organisers and ambassadors were given a noisy surprise when more than 200 chanting, banner waving fans from Qatar's migrant worker communities -- and 50 media -- took over the plaza in a boisterous but peaceful and happy show of World Cup fever.

Football songs heard in stadiums around the world, but rarely in Doha, rang out as the flags went up. Nobody held back the fans.

"It is a day of joy," said Adnan Zakaria, one of the 20,000 Moroccans in Qatar, who strutted



Flag day: A general view shows flags of the qualified countries for the 2022 World Cup in the seafront in Doha (AFP)

about with a Moroccan flag and national team shirt around his shoulders.

"We are going to win, we are going to win," he shouted. "It is the first World Cup in an Arab country and we are Arabs so we are celebrating," added one of his fellow supporters.

"There are only 250 Senegalese here," said the African country's ambassador Mouhamed Habibou Diallo.

"But our people will come from Senegal and the other Gulf states. People will hear us when the tournament starts."

There are about 700 Poles, 9,200 Canadians, 3,200 Cameroonians and 600 people from Ghana in Qatar, according to their embassies, and all expect a

huge influx for the tournament which runs from November 21 to December 18.

Qatar is predicting that

more than 1.2 million people will visit the energy-rich Gulf state for the first World Cup to be held in an

Arab country.

Nasser Al Khater, chief executive of Qatar's World Cup organising committee,

said the crowd was a sign of the growing expectations.

"There is a lot of excitement, a bit of apprehension as well, but that is healthy," he told AFP. FIFA said meanwhile that 804,186 of the three million World Cup tickets had gone in the first round of sales. Fans in Qatar the United States, England, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, Germany, India, Brazil, Argentina and Saudi Arabia were the top 10 buyers.

A second round of sales will open on April 5. Demand is expected to be higher as supporters will know the groups and match schedule after the World Cup draw is held today. AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Qatar's World Cup gets real as Doha hosts tournament draw

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Polisi Tanzania seeks to complete double over Ruvu Shooting



Polisi Tanzania FC's midfielder, Said Juma (R), keeps Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's forward, Charles Ilanfy, in check as the two squads locked horns in this season's NBC Premier League match in Arusha on September 27 last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KINONDONI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE 2021/22 NBC Premier League will resume today after the international break, and teams will play the 19th round of matches this weekend.

In Moshi, Polisi Tanzania could earn their second double in the League if they beat visiting Ruvu Shooting at their Ushirika Stadium in the afternoon.

After shocking Azam FC at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam in their last league encounter to complete a double over the ice cream makers, Polisi Tanzania

will be targeting a second double in the league with a victory over Ruvu Shooting.

The last time the sides met in the league, Vitalis Mayanga's second-half strike handed Polisi Tanzania a 1-0 victory.

The law enforcers who are coached by Malale Hamsini

currently sit eighth on the log with 22 points from 17 games.

The Kilimajaro outfit had only lost five times along with seven draws and five wins so far. They could leapfrog Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC and Kagera Sugar to sixth place with a victory.

In an interview with the media, Polisi Tanzania coach Hamsini said they are targeting a win on Sunday.

Mayanga is the danger-man in the Polisi Tanzania side, with the attacker having so far scored six league goals.

The forward sits joint third

on the goalscorers' ladder behind Fiston Mayele, Reliants Lusajo who have 10 strikes apiece, and George Mpole with eight goals.

Meanwhile, Ruvu Shooting will have other ideas after some good form with a five-match unbeaten run that goes back to January when they last lost away to Mbeya City FC.

They will draw inspiration from the type of performance that saw them beat hosts Coastal Union 3-1 in their last league match a week and a half ago to register their first double of the season.

The last time they won two matches in a row was last October when they followed up a win over Biashara United with a victory over Coastal Union.

Their recent form has earned them a six-point buffer above the drop zone and triumph against Polisi Tanzania could see them jump to the seventh position in a very crowded league table.

Rashid Juma who is the club's joint-top scorer with three goals and Pius Buswita who has two goals and three assists and will want to put one against their former bosses who sacked them at the end of last season.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kati Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzaji (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 #SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skongu
19:30 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



Taifa Stars' head coach Kim Poulsen

Tanzania climbs up two places in FIFA rankings

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's senior national football squad has climbed two places to 130th in March's edition of the FIFA World rankings, released yesterday by the world football's governing body.

The national team improved by five points from their previous ranking, and they now have a total of 1123 on the table after they won 3-1 against the Central African Republic in an international friendly tie in Dar es Salaam last week.

The side also drew 1-1 against Sudan in the city on Tuesday in the two friendly games they played in the FIFA international break.

The next competitive commitment for the Taifa Stars led by Kim Poulsen is the African Nations Cup qualifying games in June where the two games are likely to be played back to back in the first and second week of the month.

Meanwhile, Uganda is still the top-ranked East African region despite dropping to 86th position.

They are followed by Kenya at 104th while Djibouti, Somalia, and Eritrea make up the bottom three members.

In the world rankings, Brazil ranks first as Belgium dropped to second for the first time since October 2018.

Belgium is followed by France, Argentina, England, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, and the Netherlands, making the top 10.

At the continental level, the Teranga Lions of Senegal are number one in Africa and now the 20th best team in the world.

Behind Senegal is Morocco, the second-best team in Africa, while Nigeria is the third-best team in Africa.

Behind Nigeria are Egypt, Tunisia, and Cameroon in fourth, fifth, and sixth place, respectively.

In a related development, FIFA has ratified the suspension of the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) following a landslide poll by the FIFA Council Members on Thursday. Kenya had been banned back in February for government interference.

The suspension remains indefinite as it will be lifted once the Football Kenya Federation Caretaker Committee is ousted and the previous FKF regime reinstated in office.

Two tough games force Coastal Union to set early training camp

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TWO upcoming matches involving Coastal Union that will take place at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga have forced the Tanga-based squad to go for a special training camp early.

The first of two tough games which would be played in the northern region will witness Coastal Union confront Simba SC in NBC Premier League on April 7.

The other tough match would have Coastal Union locking horns with Kagera Sugar in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) tournament's last eight that would take place on April 11.

The difference of four days between one match and another has Coastal Union viewing the fixtures the challenging ties and the squad ought to win both games.

The situation has for that matter forced the squad to go into special training camp early.

According to the outfit's officials, apart from fitness, the team has players nursing injuries.

The club's caretaker coach, Joseph Lazaro, moreover wants to see shortcomings in his squad's fullbacks, midfielders, and strikers and address them.

An official that requested anonymity noted: "After last NBC Premier League match against Ruvu Shooting, tactician Lazaro no-



Coastal Union's midfielders, Abdull Suleiman (L), and Victor Akpan, jubilate after the former scored in the club's NBC Premier League tie that took place in Tanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION

ticed some mistakes in three key positions, defense, midfield, and striking force."

"After that match, there was no any game, players rest for some time, bringing them together as early as possible will be a solution to prepare for upcoming tough

games," the official disclosed.

Coastal Union's spokesman, Miraji Wandi, revealed one of the squad's most dependable midfielders, Mtenje Albano Juma, will continue missing both matches because he has yet to recover.

The official said other players

are doing well and have joined the squad participating in training programs conducted by tactician Lazaro.

"Juma will continue missing the two important matches because he has not yet recovered, as for other players, they have joined the

team and are continuing with our tactician's training programs."

Juma sustained the injury during the match between Coastal Union and Azam FC which took place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam, having been found to have got a fracture on his right leg.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

AVOID MAJOR DECISIONS ON APRIL THE FIRST...



...PEOPLE MIGHT NOT TAKE THEM SO SERIOUS!